

Friends of Unity
Annual Meeting October 22, 2023

Call to order: 11:37 AM by Board President John Fanta.

Attendees (33): Kathy Harwood Long, Sandy Argas, Joe Barden, John Boulahanis, Anne Marie Brady, Marie-Louise Capote, Leslie Caulfield, Teresa Eberhardt, Mickey Eldridge, Phil Ernzen, Flossie Ernzen, John Fanta, Jane Fanta, Gail Frazzini, Susan Hahn, Michelle Hayes, Vic Huber, Tony Jacobsen, Teemarie Jacobsen, Tom Lagoe, Bob Langeneckert, Nancy Langeneckert, Marilyn MacLennan, Georgia Monroe, Pat Moss, Gail Parker, Anya Scarborough, Norma Simons, Sherry Wells, Debbie Willette, Ashley Willet, Candace and Peg.

Opening prayer: Kathy

Minutes of October 16, 2023 Annual Meeting: Minutes had been on the FoU website, as well as paper copies before the meeting. With no objections, minutes were approved.

Trustee election: There were only three nominees for the three positions. John Fanta was re-elected, and John Boulahanis and Norma Simons were elected unanimously by a voice vote.

John then asked for two people to serve on the nominating team for 2024. Mickey Eldridge and Jane Fanta volunteered.

Board report: John stated our vision for our 13th year: “Energized by spiritual vision we support family health through partnering, inclusivity and mutual learning.” This was manifested by re-establishing ourselves coming out of the pandemic. There have been many new classes.

Partnering: We continued to support: Pride Outside, Plymouth House, Miracle League, as well as EmPower musicians, who chose FoU to present their first live concert post-pandemic.

Technical Grant: We’ve expanded ways for people to know we exist and will continue to find ways to help people find us as a Unity ministry after all the grant money is used.

Financial report: John stated our budget goal for expenses through September and said spending was right on track. Then he referred to a slide of a bar graph showing the average monthly income received through September next to another bar graph stating how much we need to receive monthly through the end of the year to cover those expenses. He also gave us the total needed to meet those expenses.

Outgoing trustees: He acknowledged and expressed gratitude to Sandy and Phil for their six years (each) of service to the Board.

Minister’s report: Kathy began by honoring these outgoing trustees. She called them to the front and gave them each a gift. She said what each had brought to the Board during their

tenure, in addition to expressing her sincere gratitude. She also recognized our staff: Gail, Sherry, Joe, Ashley, as well as all board members and honored them with a gift.

Kathy emphasized our new mission statement, which was voted on by those present just before the meeting: Together, We: Nurture Spiritual Awakening, Cultivate Loving Community, Serve Generously. Kathy also voiced the importance of discerning the vision for our ministry in the coming year. What is our vision, our God "call", that invites us to be and serve in ways unknown to us at this time?

Kathy also referred to the four focus groups that are active meeting four distinct needs within FoU: improving physical health, well- being, relationships and life work. She indicated that space for our youth to meet is still a challenge and will need to be addressed. Last, Kathy celebrated the six new members who joined this morning: Leslie Caulfield, Teresa Eberhardt, Tony Jacobsen, Teemarie Jacobsen, Debbie Willett and Ashley Willett.

Closing prayer: Flossie closed the meeting with a prayer by the Dali Lama.

Meeting ended: 12:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Langeneckert, Board VP