



**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## UOL Annual Meeting Agenda

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January 30, 2022

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Determination of Quorum
5. Approval of Minutes from Annual Meeting, January 31, 2021
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Announcement of Board Candidates
9. Youth and Education Program Report
10. Vote on By-Law Waiver for New Board Member
11. Election of New Board Members
12. Election of Congregational Representatives for 2022 On Nominating Team
13. Congregational Representative for Finance Team
14. Recognition of 2021 Board Members
15. Closing Prayer
16. Adjourn

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## UOL Annual Meeting Minutes for 2020

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### Unity of Lawrence (UOL) Annual Meeting January 31, 2021 Held via Zoom at 12:00p

**Board members:** President Diane Silver, Vice President Kathy Pryor, Treasurer David Geyer, Secretary Janet Morgenstern, John Pryor, Karen Langsford, and Cheryl Miller with Rev Edna Moser as Spiritual Support.

**Members present:** Patricia Collette, Linda Dean, Vicki Douglas, Sharon Dwyer, Marsene Feldt, Elizabeth Ann Furlong, David Geyer, Kris Hicks, Gail Ishmael, Robin Joseph, Robbin Loomas, Lavonna Lorimer, Polly McCall, Cheryl Miller, Lisa Miller, Cathy Moreland, Janet Morgenstern, Carla Mumma, Patricia Phillips, Jay Pryor, Jessica Pryor, John Pryor, Katherine Pryor, Diane Silver, Holly Taylor, Bettie Wilson, Amy Yi, Bonita Yoder

#### 12:11p Pray In

Karen prayed in the meeting.

Links to the following documents were made available in the chat box: agenda, budget, music information from Holly

#### Determination of Quorum

Diane stated that we needed fifteen active members to meet the requirements of a quorum and there were 27 members in attendance.

#### Approval of Agenda

Diane amended the agenda to add the budget. Members voted by raising their hands. The agenda was approved.

#### Approval of Minutes

Minutes from last year were approved. Members voted by raising their hands.

#### President's Report

Diane pointed out that the year was very different from other years. Members did not meet in person for most of the year. In this interesting time, not only did Unity of Lawrence survive, but it thrived! UOL is still serving the community as it has in the past and is now reaching an even larger community with our new online presence. Highlights of the year included

- Moving from in person to Zoom
- School of Love renting our basement
- Formation of a Speaker's Committee
- Formation of a Social Justice Committee

- Improvement to the building with installation of better gutters
- Outreach team continuing to help us in the community
- Excellent adaptation of our Music Team doing “many gorgeous and wonderful things” this year in the new format

Members of the meeting expressed gratitude for those who have made our community strong: Jay Pryor, Sharon Dwyer, Reverend Edna. Jay expressed immense gratitude for Avery Wilcoxson, Cathy Moreland, and Holly Taylor for making our adjustment to online format so smooth. We couldn’t have done it without them.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

David Geyer shared that he gets a report every week from Polly McCall, our excellent bookkeeper. The banker has been very helpful getting us through what we needed to do with the Payroll Protection Loan and another small loan and helping us to get those loans forgiven. We have money in the bank and are afloat. Polly added that some of them have not been forgiven but she is working on it. David praised Polly McCall for her services during this stressful year, stating, “She’s the greatest bookkeeper I have ever met in my life.”

Polly repeated the great news that we have money on hand. We are surviving. School of Love, our renter, is keeping us afloat. She didn’t want to raise a red flag, so she raised a “light orange” flag that giving is down. More good news: our insurance is paid for the year.

Our loan on the building is currently: \$185,490.00

School of Love is leaving us at the end of the lease. Our realtor is busy looking for another renter.

Carla reminded members that setting up online banking to automatically send money to Unity each week or month is easy to do. She suggested that we add this script to our service announcement.

There was a change in discretionary spending due to change from in person service to online service. Typically, there has not been a lot of money in our budget for extras. We did include a little for a marketing assistant to help us grow. Polly shared that we had a marketing assistant a few years ago. She agreed that we are going to need help with communication and marketing in the coming year.

### **2021 Budget**

John Pryor moved to approve the budget. Cheryl Miller seconded. The budget was approved by a show of hands.

### **2021 Nominees for the Board of Directors**

President Silver asked the congregation to review the nominees for the Board of Directors: Ann Furlong, Cheryl Miller, Katherine Pryor, Amy Yi.

Diane stated that before the membership of Amy Yi could be approved, a bylaw waiver would have to be passed. According to Unity of Lawrence bylaws, a person must be a member of Unity for one year before serving on the Board. Amy just recently became a member. During her short time at Unity, Amy has already served on the Speaker Committee.

John Pryor moved to approve the bylaw waiver. Karen Langsford seconded the motion. The motion passed by a show of hands.

Sharon Dwyer suggested removing the year membership requirement. The board will consider it. It was also suggested that the rule remain in place in case it is needed.

Approval of slate of candidates:

The slate of candidates was approved by a show of hands.

It is notable that no one on the Board is leaving. This is a sign of what a vibrant community we are.

### **Congregational Board Search Team for 2022**

Sharon Dwyer volunteered and was gratefully accepted.

### **Recognition of 2020 Board Members**

President Silver praised the current members of the board and thanked them for their service. Kathy THANKED Diane for her guidance this year and presented her with a gift from the board members. The gift is a Tree of Life statue. Kathy said that each leaf on the tree is one of us. Members blessed Diane. Diane shared that she was staying because of the great board.

### **1:05p Closing Prayer**

Reverend Edna prayed out the meeting calling to mind Jay Pryor's message of Resilience.

Dear Beloved Community,

We are a thriving spiritual community!

It has been an honor to serve the Unity congregation in 2021, and while we have continued to be challenged with the pandemic, the Board and staff provided a year full of spiritual growth opportunities and activities. We offered either online or in-person services every Sunday, hosted two book clubs, one concert, weekly meditations, three outside social events including one with coffee and doughnuts, and a monthly drum circle. We initiated Diane Silver and Bettie Wilson as Prayer Chaplains, enrolled three new members, and we have had 48 visitors to Unity since August 1, 2021!

**Sacred Service:**

The Speakers Committee, chaired by Board Member Cheryl Miller continued in 2021 to review the effectiveness of current speakers and improve the quality and expand the diversity of our speakers. The committee members in 2021 included Cheryl Miller, Chair, Rev. Edna Mosher, Kathy Pryor, and Cathy Moreland.

**Training and Education**

On January 24<sup>th</sup> Unity hosted its first diversity, equity, and inclusion workshop entitled, “**Hmmm. What are you thinking? Implicit bias: The association between thoughts and actions**” was presented by Dr. Michelle Wilson from the University of Kansas along with her co-presenter, Jeff Severin. Ten members of Unity attended the workshop held on Zoom.

Rev. Martha Creek was hired to train the 2021 Board of Directors. The training was held on two evenings through Zoom in the Spring of 2021. All Board members expressed their gratitude for the education Martha provided with such generosity. Martha emphasized steps to take and important considerations as we approach opening the building in August of 2021.

Rev. Edna Mosher continued to serve as the Spiritual Advisor to the Board of Directors. She attended Board meetings and advised the Board as needed. A few of the significant contributions from Rev. Edna included:

- a new member class in November 2021. Four individuals attended the Membership Class, and three became members immediately following.
- Prayer Chaplain Training. Five members of the Unity community spent 1 ½ days training in prayer with Rev. Edna and Prayer Chaplain Karen Langsford. Diane Silver and Bettie Wilson were installed as Prayer Chaplains on November 9, 2021.

### **Socials:**

The congregation held two parking lot get togethers in the summer, and a coffee and doughnut reception after a Sunday service in September.

The Lunch Bunch continues to enjoy our local eateries while enjoying each other's company. Visitors are encouraged to join members for lunch and has provided a fabulous opportunity for us to grow our bond and welcome visitors.

### **Spiritual Growth**

Activities added to the 2021 calendar year included a weekly meditation practice led by Unity Member, Phil Roger on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Phil also hosts a monthly drum circle on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm.

### **Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment:**

Board Member John Pryor continued to serve as the liaison for the building and grounds.

In August, Unity Member Bettie Wilson was hired to keep the building clean. She has been doing a beautiful job of sanitizing, cleaning, and organizing our beloved building.

In April 2021, the Board replaced two computers. A new computer was purchased for the Director of Finance and the Office Coordinator. We are grateful to Treasurer, David Geyer, for donating the computers

The HVAC system at Unity stopped functioning properly in August 2021 and it was determined that it was no longer repairable. A new HVAC system was installed in October, 2021 for \$13,800.00. (See Finances)

New fans were installed in the Sanctuary in November 2021.

Nate Feldt continues to take care of the Unity Parking Lot during the winter.

### **Finances:**

Our Finance Team continued to be led by Treasurer David Geyer, and the 2021 Team members included UOL Finance Director Polly McCall, UOL President Katherine Pryor, and Congregation Member Vicki Douglas. Member Caren Lowe graciously stepped into the congregant role until the finance members met in person, allowing Vicki Douglas to return as our financial representative.

The Board voted to re-finance the mortgage at University National Bank so that enough equity could be withdrawn to purchase a new HVAC system. A new HVAC system was installed in October, 2021 for \$13,800.00.

The School of Love, a year-round K-5th grade school, renewed their contract to rent our lower level on a **month-to-month** basis beginning August 1, 2021. The School of



Love pays \$900 per month and plans to rent from Unity until their new building is complete.

On March 15, 2021, Unity of Lawrence received its second PPE Government assistance check in the amount of \$5,416.68. This funding was granted for salaries and wages. This loan was forgiven.

**Outreach:**

Outreach Team Leaders Pat Phillips and Lisa Miller continue to inspire us with their dedication to outreach in our community. This amazing team collected warm clothing for; Haskell in November, DARE in December and Indian Methodist Church in December.

Robin Goff, Unity Member and Founder of the Light Center continued through 2021 to work with Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) personnel to discover ways to support Haskell students.

UOL has continued to work with The Light Center. Robin Goff led a meeting in October of 2021 to brainstorm about the direction of the Light Center and the partnership between the Light Center and Unity of Lawrence. Sixteen people attended the meeting, including Unity Board members Cheryl Miller and Kathy Pryor, as well as members of Unity and followers of the Light Center.

Our Marketing Team led by Board Member Cheryl Miller continued to explore ways to market activities at Unity. The committee hired a part-time employee on two occasions, but it became too difficult to navigate and supervise the work. Katherine Pryor continues to take care of social media and communications for Unity.

**Staff:**

Finding the words to honor the work of our beloved staff is challenging. The radical commitment and dedication of our staff was unmatched in 2021. Polly McCall, Cathy Moreland, Rev. Edna Mosher, Danica Moore, Holly Taylor, Twillia Berry, Avery Wilcoxson, Bettie Wilson, and Erin McCall have been courageous in showing their commitment to Unity by demonstrating our mission. Because of the staff, we are a of thriving, spiritual community, building bridges and inspiring transformation for all who seek our spiritual home.

It is an honor to be on this spiritual journey together; I am humbled and grateful for the dedication and commitment shown by our staff and Unity community. On behalf of the Board, thank you for choosing us to serve you.

Gratefully in community,  
Katherine Pryor, Board President

**Youth and Family Education Report**  
**Danica M. Moore, Ed.D.**  
**UOL Youth & Family Education Director**

Greetings! On behalf of the Youth and Family Education group, it brings much pleasure to send this report following 18 months of canceled youth services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After closing the youth services program for health safety and nationally mandated shutdowns in March of 2020, the Youth Ed program reopened August 2021.

Miss Twillia Berry returned after the extended pause, and we are delighted to have her support. Our children respond very well to her gentle spirit and guidance she provides children. Currently, Miss Twillia is our only classroom support in addition to the Youth Education Coordinator, Danica Moore, Ed.D. We were saddened to hear of the passing of our most consistent volunteer Miss JoAnn Qandil. The heartbreaking discovery upon our return was a challenge. To honor Miss JoAnn, the first week back our Youth held her name tag and lifted affirmations for the light she will continue to shine on us in her physical absence. May you rest in peace and light, Miss JoAnn. You have truly been a wonderful guide for our youth each first Sunday for the last 5 years.

The first week of August saw us adjusting to a downsizing of space; thanks to Amy Tankersley a weekend was dedicated to removing all unwanted furniture and making the smaller space feel like home to the youth. We are fortunate that years ago, this was the Pre-K classroom, so the space was not new to the coordinator. It has taken several months to get everything just as we want it; we are still missing a few things, like the “Walking in the Spirit” wall that we are hoping to place with each child’s name written across a footprint, along with their date of birth and adult leaders. Once Miss Danica remembers to purchase putty this will be an easy feat!

Our focus for youth lessons has continued to feature affirmations, culturally and spiritually sustaining teaching practices, and crafts/activities to help students internalize the messages for their own use in everyday living outside of our Youth Ed Classroom. We infuse music, singing, and dance as well which brings such a great energy to our space each Sunday.

While youth numbers declined between early November and the end of December, we have been able to continue with the room set-up. Miss Twillia went through boxes of Youth Materials in the storage closet that we had never noticed before. Wow! Years of holiday goodie bags that have been snacks to mice were discovered. Miss Twillia’s service removed all the old candy and sorted out craft activities that could be salvaged separate from the mice snack supply.

Our biggest goal that we set out to achieve for the reopen in 2021 was to bring back the Youth Ed Handbell choir. However, this did not happen once the decline of students happened after October. We had planned to use Sunday lesson music time to practice one piece that we could bring to the adult congregation by Christmas time. Alas, we will continue to strive for this in the 2022 year. While the kids have been amazing with the dance and song, learning the 5 Principles youth song, we would like to see them learning to **make** their own music as well.

Other 2022 ambitions we foresee include proposing the selling of many of Youth Ed supplies that are building up in the closet including chalkboards, bulletin boards, and easels. We are sure we could post these to online selling markets and help a local daycare or nursery furnish their space, while generating a small profit for the UOL. While numbers are low, every now and then, we see anywhere from 2-3 teens present upstairs, when the time is right, we would like to consider bringing the Uni-Teens and/or the YOU program back with the staffing and space to house them.

We are grateful to be back in service with the young ones that continue to tug at our hearts. It has been a challenge but as we always say: Whether serving 2 children or 50, we will continue to plant seeds and grow. Come one, grow all.

Boa Me Na Me Mmoa Wo,

Danica M. Moore, Ed.D.  
UOL Youth & Family Education Director

## **Music Department Yearly Report** **Holly Taylor, Director of Music**

As we have continued the momentum of musical guests from near and far, the special music program has been diverse and exciting. With Cathy Moreland's assistance in arranging our musical speakers, we have been blessed to know some of the more successful Posi artists more intimately. Our regional musicians list has increased as more Kansas City based musicians are wanting to be part of our community. The Unity of Lawrence mission makes an impact upon the musicians who are meeting us here, and they are encouraged by our message and feel right at home. Just about all of them hope for an invitation back!

Supporting this vision is our sound team of Avery Wilcoxson and Erin McCall, our constant heroes in the corner, as they manage the multiple aspects of sound, media visuals, technical issues and our Live Zoom and FB ministry. Avery has done a lot of trouble shooting over these past two years helping to stay up to date on equipment needs. Many issues have been resolved this year.

With the addition of our new member Phil Rogers, we now have a fabulous drumming group! The participants in the group have had very moving experiences, including expressive fun, friendship, learning more about drumming, and those very deep meditative experiences you will have to just experience! We are supporting this vision by incorporating more drumming in our Sunday services as well. Music is truly a healing medium that is here to support, transport, and make a lasting impact on our individuals. Through these types of groups, our fabulous special music guests, and music concert offerings, we hope to continue to attract more folks to our lovely home.

One of the changes made as we have resumed in-person service is the simplifying of our stage crew. We no longer have our songbird leaders, as some are remaining in virtual services, and others have moved forth. With this change, there is a bit of a gap to fill as we sing together. Each Sunday is a learning opportunity to discover the best fit of music and energy to help us feel ready, able, and willing to ENGAGE: body, mind, spirit, and community. This is the purpose of our program and the heart of our mission!

We are always looking forward to the next exciting event, our next concert will be the amazingly talented, Calvin Arsenia! The StarSister Revival has also been requested to offer a concert, so that may be in the works as well! We have one of the best sound facilities in town, and as we move through the challenges of the day, we will focus on creating even more events that are too good to be missed!

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## 2021 Board of Directors

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*Katherine Pryor, President*  
*Cheryl Miller, Vice President*  
*Diane Silver, Past President*  
*Janet Morgenstern, Secretary*  
*David Geyer, Treasurer*

*Ann Furlong, member*  
*Karen Lansford, member*  
*John Pryor, member*  
*Amy Tankersley, member*

We thank the following 2021 Board members for their commitment and devotion to the spiritual work of Unity of Lawrence, including: Ann Furlong, Karen Lansford, Diane Silver, and Amy Tankersley

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## 2022 Nominees for the Board of Directors

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As stated in Unity of Lawrence By-laws, Section 4.4.1, any person elected to the Board of Directors must be a Member of Unity of Lawrence.

He/she will be a person who is

- willing to serve on the Board; endeavors to live in accord with the Jesus Christ principles of love and truth as taught by Unity
- furthers the work of this Ministry through his/her active interest, love, and financial support
- is a sincere and continuing student of Unity, conversant with its teachings
- has demonstrated leadership capabilities
- has been a member of Unity of Lawrence for at least one year; and
- is in attendance at the annual membership meeting, or in the case of the inability to attend, has submitted a letter of willingness to accept election to the Board.

The 2021 Nominating Committee was chaired by Board Member Janet Morgenstern. Sharon Dwyer was selected to be the congregational representative. Marsene Feldt and Michelle Kirk also graciously advised the Board regarding new members. The committee proposes the following slate of candidates (in alpha order):

**Cheryl Miller: (1-year Term)** Cheryl has served on the board several times and she welcomes the opportunity to serve again. Her vision sees our community going deeper into gratitude and stewardship which aligns with the Law of Attraction. She loves Unity and the non-denominational inclusiveness that is shown every Sunday.

**Katherine Pryor: (1-year Term)** Kathy is finishing her fifth year on the Board and is passionate about serving for one more year. Her goal is to secure the future of our beloved Unity by increasing membership, and Unity's partnership with the Light Center.

**Coleen Riley: (3-Year Term)**

UOL is positioned to develop a vision and plan for the future, whether to remain a lay led congregation or to develop a plan to acquire a pastor in the future. There are benefits and costs to going either direction and I believe it would be important for the congregation to participate in and share ownership for the direction we want to go. Members may be receptive to education regarding monetary giving as a spiritual practice and education regarding the costs related to being a spiritual presence in the Lawrence community. It is and will be a challenge to continue to be viable through this period of the pandemic and to make informed decisions about in what ways we can continue ministry while still keeping people safe.

**Phil Roger: (3-Year Term)**

Phil has been called to Lawrence for spiritual work and that lead him to Unity of Lawrence. He believes with spiritual awakening comes a desire to serve. Phil's view of key opportunities and challenges for UOL include recovery from Covid, development of programs and activities for members and encourage participation, and to allow those activities to be more commonly known. Phil noted: "I want to express my gratitude to Unity of Lawrence for being so open and welcoming. Since the first meeting outside in June 2021, I have observed a very loving vibrant group of friends. Very Beautiful! Thus this!"

**Sarah Jane Russell: (3-year Term)**

Sarah Jane is fully committed to this ministry. She believes being in fellowship with like-minded people enhances spiritual growth organically. Sarah Jane has opened space in her life so that she can give time to Unity. She believes Unity has a great deal to offer the Lawrence community at large. Sarah Jane believes in the power of prayer and in listening. She stands ready to serve.

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2021 Proposed By-Laws Waiver

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To add Colleen Riley, Phil Rogers, and Sarah Jane Russell to the UOL Board, we need to vote to waive the aspect of our by-laws that requires a board member to have been a member for a year.

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2021 New Members of UOL Welcomed

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Colleen Riley  
Phil Rogers  
Sarah Jane Russel

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In Remembrance

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**JoAnn Qandil long-time Unity Member and Youth Educator**  
**Gary Frager, long-time Unity Member and Music Director**

All of Unity of Lawrence sends love, light, and prayers to these wonderful people and their families.

See Addendum 1 and 2