



Annual Congregational Meeting

March 26, 2023



Photo Credit—Sharon Sigler

Happy 2023 everyone!

As your Senior Minister, I continue to be proud of what we do and how we do it. Our spiritual community is a beacon of acceptance, unconditional love, and diversity, and it is gratifying to be among the ranks of such wonderfully creative people. I welcome you to the Annual Meeting and thank you for your continued support of the great work we are doing.

As you peruse the following pages, I invite you to pause at each page with gratitude for the many hours, volunteers, and donors represented by each report. Our greatest asset at Unity North Atlanta is the dedicated core of people who demonstrate a commitment to our Mission, Vision, and Values.

***Recognizing, demonstrating, and sharing the Divinity in each of us.
Together, we transform the world through love, one heart at a time!***

Your generosity of heart, finances, time, and prayer is evident in every area of our ministry. I invite you to join me in celebrating the consistent dedication that brings all our visions into reality.

Each volunteer hour, each dollar, and each heartfelt prayer represents the activity of God in motion. As you digest these reports, let it be more than a gathering of information; let it be an exercise of gratitude for the many ways God is showing up at UNA. When we stop and reflect, it is clear to see that our community is a God job. Thank you for the consciousness that validates these truths and the dedication that sustains them. Each of you is a God ambassador and channel for all that we experience, now and for years to come.

In gratitude,

Rev. Richard

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Unity North's

2023 Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 26, 2023

**Mission: To recognize, demonstrate, and share the Divinity in each of us.
Together, we transform the world through love, one heart at a time!**

Values

Acceptance We acknowledge everyone as unique expressions of God.

Community We celebrate the connection that unites us creating a place of belonging.

Diversity Our differences are a source of our strength and create opportunities to learn from one another.

Spirituality We celebrate God, honor the Divinity within each person, and acknowledge our oneness through living the Truth principles.

Service

We joyfully and energetically serve each other, our families, and our community.

Unconditional Love This is our core and is at the center of everything we value at Unity North Atlanta.

Agenda

<u>Check In and Receive Materials (starts at 1:00 pm)</u>	In Sanctuary
<u>Opening Prayer</u>	Rev. Dr. Ugie Kirkpatrick
<u>Welcome</u>	Mike Stott, Board Chair
<u>Election of Board Candidates:</u>	
Introduction of Candidates	Susan Hayden, Nominating Committee
Nominees are each granted 3 minutes	
Election	Mike Stott, Board Chair
<u>Election of 2023-2024 Nominating Committee:</u>	Susan Hayden, Nominating Committee
<u>Review of Annual Reports:</u>	
Senior Minister's Report	Rev. Richard Burdick, Senior Minister
Executive Director's Report	Nicole Glasgow, Executive Director
Board Chair's Report	Mike Stott, Board Chair
Treasurer's Report	Manuel Fernandez, Treasurer
<u>Election Results</u>	Mike Stott, Board Chair
<u>Questions from the Floor</u>	
<u>New Business</u>	
<u>Closing Prayer</u>	Rev. Richard Burdick
<u>Adjourn Meeting</u>	

Annual Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2022

(Lunch Provided in Holy Grounds Café)

Opening Prayer – Rev. Richard Burdick

Call to Order & Welcome - Jennie Langer, Board Chair

- Recognize Sylvie Draughn as the Board Secretary taking official minutes
- Quorum of 50+ was verified by Brandy Morrow, Office Manager

Election of Board Candidates

- Introduction of Candidates - Linda Minnick, Nominating Committee Chair
- Thanks expressed to nominating committee: Susan Hayden, Gabrielle McNulty, JoEllen Smith, Cheryl Moates, and Robert Sykes.
- Nominees are each granted 3 minutes to address congregations
 - - Chet Bertolli, Dr. Ugie Kirkpatrick, Mike Stott
 - Justice Brakache asks for clarification of the nominating process: Jennie Langer clarified: Board of
 - Directors has 7-9 positions, responsible for oversight of business aspect of church, for example, hire staff, approve budget. The Board self-organizes into roles. Bylaws are on the church website.
- Election conducted by show of hands – Complete slate of candidates unanimously approved - Jennie Langer, Board Chair
- Announcement of 2022-2023 Nominating Committee appointees: Linda Minnick, Robert Sykes, Susan Hayden, Gabriel McNulty, Nancy Daniell, Virginia Moore, Ray Hughes
- Thanks expressed to Linda Minnick for leading nominating process over the past 2 years.

Review of Annual Reports – Jennie Langer

Board Chair's Report Jennie Langer, Board Chair

- Overview of mission statement and values
- Overview of the church tithing of talents, treasures, and time

Senior Minister's Report– Rev. Richard Burdick, Senior Minister & Acting Executive Director

- Acknowledged gratitude to each staff member
- Youth Ed is poised for a time of regrowth
- Staff Changes
- Introduced leads of each ministry
- Technology
- Prosperity

Treasurer's Report - Manuel Fernandez, Treasurer

- UNA is financially solid, thanks especially to the recent Holiday Match and Consistent Giving Campaign.

Facilities Update - Ray Hughes, Facilities Chair

- Updates regarding Administration Building demolition and recently purchased Classrooms for Youth Ed.
- Thank-you gift offered to Ray Hughes for his 6 years of service as facilities manager. He was also presented a symbolic Key to the Church.

Other Board Topics - Richard Burdick & Jennie Langer

Spring Fling - Judith Johnson & Nancy Skelton

- Offered volunteer opportunities to support the event

Questions from the Floor: Richard Burdick & Jennie Langer

- Will the new minister be a Unity Minister? Looking at Unity Urban Ministerial School and Barbara King School of Ministerial Studies
- How does someone become a youth minister? Training, classes
- Where will the classrooms be located? In the back parking lot near the sanctuary building
- What will happen to the location of the administration building ruins? The Board is still open to ideas.
- What is the balance of our Capital Reserves Account? Approximately \$187,000
- If our budget is solid, why are we \$56,000 over budget? It's a reflection of depreciation, which is an accounting procedure.

Announcement: Jenny Langer asked for Volunteers to sign up for Events run by the various committees (Program, Spring Fling, Finance, Fund Raising, Facility, and Policy)

Closing Prayer - Rev. Dr. Ugie Kirkpatrick

Adjourn Meeting – Motion made by Ray Hughes, seconded by Susan Hayden.

2023 Board Candidates

Three board members will be elected.

Tam Andrews



I once volunteered to head up a program at work after observing that the consultant they were considering bringing in to do that was knowledgeable, but most of what he was saying seemed to be going over the heads of my coworkers. I felt like I could do a better job and with a degree of confidence I had seldom shown, I volunteered. It turned out to be one of the best career decisions I ever made.

When the music director at Unity of Little Rock was asked to leave his position, I volunteered to lead the program until they hired someone else. They eventually hired me. It turned out to be the most fun I ever had while earning a paycheck.

Over the years I have volunteered to serve on Home Owner Association (HOA) boards and I also served on the board of a private skating club for a year or two.

At other Unity churches I have served as an usher, lent my voice to choirs and ensembles and I've also been involved in the children's program a time or two.

Currently at UNA I am the Lead for the Card Care Ministry. As a member of the Program Committee, I co-chaired the celebration we had for Richard's 60th birthday celebration. When asked what he wanted from the even his answer was: "I want to raise money and I want it to be fun". We ended up raising over \$6,000 and it sure seemed like everyone in attendance had fun.

In service I prosper. Will I be a good fit on the board at UNA? I'm sure I will. I have gotten to know some of the current board members and feel comfortable that we will be able to work together to do what it takes to keep the UNA community humming, expanding, and evolving and I look forward to it if it becomes mine to do.

Sylvia Draughn



Often described as energetic and happy, I simply like people. I am happiest engaging with others in constructive and creative activities and conversations. As a retired schoolteacher and an international flight attendant with Delta, I'm at a place in my life where I have lots of energy to continue to give. Unity North Atlanta is one of those places. My other passions are gardening, traveling, and my family, most of whom live in Louisiana. I have a BA from University of Louisiana Monroe, a MA from Texas Woman's University, and an Educational Specialist from Kennesaw State University.

Ironically cancer brought me to Unity. As many of you know, I am a breast cancer survivor. Many friends who supported me during that time, eventually led me to Unity Christ Church in Kennesaw. Those Unity Principles resonated with my spiritual values, and I was hooked. Since then, I have attended UNA for 15 years and consider this community to be my spiritual home. I deepened my commitment to UNA during the "Love It or List It" time period. Nita and I stepped up and joined a group of core members to support the "Capital Fund Campaign". I then joined the Finance Committee. Other areas of service include the Usher Team, LGBTQ + Friends Ministry, Family Promise, Conscious Living Circle, and campus beautification.

My service on the Board began in 2019 when COVID forced us go virtual, to be creative and strategic to prosper. I learned a lot collaborating with Reverend Richard, other Board Members and Staff. Today, I am honored to run for reelection as a Board Member. I do not take the position lightly. I would bring years of experience, knowledge and insights to this Board.

I have a huge respect for the wise and creative leaders who have cared for the business of this community supporting the vision of this church. I would be honored to continue working as a trusted member of your board and support the hard work of our leadership.

2023 Board Candidates continued

Ray Hughes



Ray had the privilege of serving his Unity home and family as a previous member of UNA Board of Directors. He would like his UNA family to allow him to serve for another 3 years. As a member of the Board he and others have been able to successfully build on the efforts of the Board's predecessors to fulfill the congregation's direction of maintaining Unity's home while honoring Rev Richard's direction of community outreach. Ray is a member of the Finance Committee. He is aware of and deeply involved in the efforts needed to advanced Unity North not just for the next 3 years but for generations to come. Regardless of outcome of the election, he will always remain grateful to have been allowed to serve.

Chris Skaer



I am originally from a small town in Southern Illinois and graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Electrical Engineering. I moved to south Florida after graduating college in 1991 and met my lovely wife Judy while we both worked for Motorola. Judy and I have been happily married since 1995. We lived in Seattle for 4 years before moving to Roswell in Feb 2000. We mainly moved to Roswell to be closer to our families (Illinois/ Florida) after we started our own family through adoption. We started coming to Unity North in 2008, officially joined after a couple of years and have been on the consistent giving program for much of that time. Our two children went through the Uniteens and YOU programs at Unity North. I have grown both spiritually and holistically while being a member of Unity North. I have recently retired from a 23 year career at Verizon Wireless and am looking forward to giving back to the community through service and volunteering. Judy and I enjoy traveling, hiking, listening to good music and playing pickleball.

Board Chair's Report

Mike Stott, Board Chair

Wow! A year of change, growth, and prosperity. As we fully re-opened after Covid, we have experienced joyful in-person services, growth in attendance, changes in staffing, and a deepened commitment to seeing the Divinity in each of us.

Our Minister, Richard Burdick, and our staff have also earned my heart-felt gratitude and thanks. Their amazing creativity and love of our community is continuing to propel UNA to a new level of service and community growth.

Our Community is expressed through the love and caring that we share with each other. Thank you all for being part of this.

Overview of The Year It has been a very active year for your Board of Directors. Many of the opportunities and challenges were in the background and may not have been noticed by those who only attend services. Here are a few highlights of the year, some of which are covered in detail in other sections.

- We had several staff changes with Frank Rambo retiring and Al Mango stepping back from some of his roles. Nicole Glasgow stepped up and became our Executive Director. Brandy Morrow stepped up as our Program and Rental Coordinator. Priscilla Hodge is our new Accounting Manager. Patsi Yarborough is the new, friendly Office Manager. John Glasgow is our Facility Manager. Richard has led incredible services and is supporting all of us in growth. The rest of the staff has shown me personally that they are 100% dedicated to our mission and vision. We are now stronger in our skills and organization. We are building fans beyond our geographic area. Our financial position is carefully managed. And we are grateful for unexpected results!
- Living our beliefs. Thank you to the Board for supporting me and each other during this amazing year. The stability of UNA's finances through unexpected sources of income and creative expense management is a testament to our beliefs. We have intentionally increased our community outreach and deepened our tithing to encourage the flow of positive energy. We hold a goal of making a difference in the lives of our members, friends, and community through our actions. We are grateful.
- We had some challenges too! We had a kerfuffle with a potential rental that included media attention and lots of drama. It was settled peacefully. We tried valiantly to install classrooms for our Youth Ed that didn't work out. We've had technology issues, water leaks, internet cables breaking, and more – and yet we still persevered and prospered. The lesson for me here is that most of the biggest challenges or problems I experience today will be but a memory a year from now.
- I've seen so much love and effort put in by our community. Habitat for Humanity, our weekly food bank, the Organic Garden, the prayer shawls, the meals, the newly wonderful space now known as Holy Grounds Courtyard by the Mens Group, a wonderful Welcome Team, the Labyrinth Ministry, Scouting, the Pumpkin Patch, the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, the re-growing of the Youth and Family Ministry, the Prayer Chaplains, the Spanish Ministry, the LGBTQ+ and Friends Ministry, the Women of UNA, the Wholeness Ministry, and most importantly, the friendships and support. I have seen literally thousands of acts of kindness and love given and received.

- I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that this year was a particularly tough year with the number of transitions of members of our community. The outpouring of love and support and the joyful remembrances and memorials have been amazing and inspiring.
- My biggest concern is the deferred maintenance of our building and facility. Since I've been on the Board, we've always made do in terms of repairs and maintenance. We seem to break even cashflow-wise each year but not save enough for the expected big repair items. Items that will need attention are exterior paint, parking lot resurfacing, and HVAC units. I am comforted knowing that each time we are asked, much is given. The Board has some plans and ideas and are open to yours.

Thanks to all of You!

At the end of my term as Board Chair, I am thrilled knowing I am stepping down from this role with the knowledge that the best is yet to come. I'd like to, again, thank all of the members of the staff and Board of Directors for your support. You have all stepped up in incredible ways. Your kindness, service and, friendship have made a difference.

Minister's Highlights

Rev. Richard Burdick, Senior Minister

As I reflect upon the past year, I am again humbled to be leading such an eclectic and dedicated community. Below are just some highlights to give you all a glimpse of the great work we continue to do at Unity North. As you read these bullet points, stop, and pause with gratitude for the hundreds of people represented by each one - people who have, do, and will continue to make such a difference in our spiritual community. If someone stands out to you, reach out and say thank you. Let them know they make a difference and that you notice. It is this kind of consciousness that will keep us strong for years to come. I love and appreciate you all.

Rev. Richard

- This past year we were thrilled with some positive **staff changes**. Nicole Glasgow was hired as our Executive Director and is doing a stellar job. Priscilla Hodge is now our Accounting Manager, and Patsi Yarborough began serving as the Office Manager. Both are great additions to the team. Brandy Morrow is now our Program Coordinator and Rental Coordinator and is bringing more income back to Unity through her efforts. Al Mango has moved to a part-time Caretaker position, and we have hired a janitorial company to fill the gap. He continues to be a community organizer extraordinaire. Marketing efforts increased greatly this year, and special thanks goes to Misty Cochran who is forever looking for ways to get our message to the greater community. I am excited to announce that Rev. Julie Boniger will officially be elevated to Associate Minister of Youth and Family, and I am thrilled with the growth she has created in Unikids and delighted she is in this new position as of April 1. I am encouraged that this growth will continue in all areas of Youth Ed. under her leadership. Please see her report for more information.
- Some **notable speakers** from the last year included Anastasia Wesselink, Peter Panagore, Rev. Dr. Eugie Kirkpatrick, Rev. Julie Boniger, Rev. Avril Maynard, Rev. Dolores Voorhees, Bob Sima and Shannon Plummer, and Dr. Jerry Epps.
- Some **notable singers** that have graced our services include Tempe Redhawk, Natalie Goodwin, Chelsea Douglas, John Stringer, Kristen Justice, Tomi Berry, Tara Bundance, Sandi Blair, Sassfolk, Tom Wolf, the Michael Prince Trio, Beth Ballinger, Sonia Osio, Jenn Cornell, Andean Dawn, Sam and Luci, Stella Rockwitz, Kristi Matal, Michael March, Bob Sima and Shannon Plummer, Amy Steinberg, Ike Van Meter, Ariel Volpe, and the Hakuna Matata Children's Choir. It was a wonderful year of music. Special thanks to Ryan Almario and the UNA Band. Our band consistently creates services with dynamic music.
- It was a tough year of **saying goodbye** to some beloved congregants. We continue to hold Anita McLarin, Gloria Walker, Barbara Wheeler, Harry Kohn, Atiba Davis, Deanna Fleenor, Richard Clancy, Bradley Chatfield, Celestyne Martinez. Many congregants also lost loved ones. May each life and memory be a blessing.
- Two big projects last year were a **brand-new web site** and our **Church Center App**. It is an all-encompassing program that has redesigned our giving processes and afforded much more access to the congregation to all things Unity North. Thanks to the staff of UNA for the hours of effort and learning. Special thanks to Nicole Glasgow for leading the charge.

- Gratitude to the **Men of Unity** for the refurbishing and cleaning up of the Holy Grounds Courtyard. The Brick Project raised all the money needed for the update, and it's been a wonderful place to gather. Our first service will be meeting there starting March 26.
- **Education** continues to be a blessing at UNA. Classes included A Course In Miracles, Beyond Flight and Flight, Living in the Flow, Unity Basics, Insights into Spirituality, Silent Meditation, Job Networking and Sunrise Yoga Meditation.
- **Outreach** continues to thrive at UNA. Notable ministries include our weekly Food Bank (Thank you Jeanne Ruetz), Family Promise (Thank you Judith Johnson and Mary Kusterman), Habitat for Humanity (Thank you Chris Skaer and John Ragland), the Extension (thank you John Everage), and FAPA. We continue to tithe to the Cumberland Counseling Center, Covenant House, MUST, Habitat for Humanity, Simple Needs, and national Unity organizations. We also continue several 12 step support programs that are serving the greater community. We also hosted a special Spring Fling for the Greater Angels Foster Parent Association of Cobb.
- Our **Care Team** came together in 2022 spearheaded by Susan Hayden and a host of volunteers. They have been able to provide food, transportation, companionship, errands, and animal care support.
- The **Chaplain Core** continues to thrive under the leadership of Judy Demmer and the dedicated chaplain volunteers. We now have five chaplains serving every Sunday. Thanks for the great Service of Remembrance, World Day of Prayer, and Burning Bowl service.
- **Youth Education** is bouncing back from COVID in amazing ways. Gratitude to Susan Clancy, John Glasgow, Suzie Burdick, Sarah Michelle Bloodworth Young, Lisa Vail, Rev. Julie Boniger and all the volunteers who serve our youngest members. We are seeing growing numbers as families make their way back to us. We had to release the trailers that were planned as part of our expansion. It became cost prohibitive to continue down that road. Reconfiguring our main building will temporarily allow for more growth. If anyone has a cool million dollars laying around, we would gladly name a youth center building after you in the current hole where the Admin. Building used to be.
- We continue to work to improve our **technology**, streaming, and marketing. Grateful thanks to Wes Maxham, Misty Cochran, Sebastian Giles, Sara Crawford, and the great team making sure we reach beyond our walls to the growing congregation around the country.
- **Notable programs** include Songfest (thank you Wil Hodge), Moonflower (thank you Organic Garden). Wednesday dinners, meditations and dialogues, (thank you Earth Care Team), Pumpkin Patch (thank you Judith Johnson, Linda Deaton, and Beverly Epps), Fall Festival, White Stone and Burning Bowl service, Christmas Eve and Easter services, Solstice ceremonies, Thanksgiving Dinner (thank you Jennie Langer, Kathleen McKinley, and team) Week-long visit from the monks from Drepung Loseling Monastery (thanks Rev. Avril), and Sol Dance.
- **Scouting at Unity** is as strong as ever, and we have added a female scout troop to our programs.
- **Ministries** that remain strong are the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Dances for Universal Peace, Women of UNA, Men's Group, LGBTQ+ and Friends Ministry, Animal Ministry, Wholeness Ministry, Welcome Team, Job Networking, Usher Core, Singles, Organic Garden, Labyrinth Ministry, Outreach, Card Care, Care Team. We have added, under the leadership of Imani Davis, a grief support group for Widows and Widowers. We also added our Authentic Living Group last year. NGU hosted two Sol Dance experiences and Body, Mind, Spirit started programming again with wonderful reviews (thank you Julie Steele). What a rich environment we have here.

- Special thanks to the **Spanish Ministry** that continues to offer monthly services and programs to serve the Spanish Speaking community. Grateful thanks to Sheyla Ravan and Vilma Orrego.
- We continue to be a polling station for **Cobb County** and have welcomed many local neighbors into our sanctuary for two elections.
- **Consistent Giving** continues to be the solid rock that allows us to stay flush with the ups and downs of doing business as a non-profit. If you are not currently on the Consistent Giving Program, I encourage you to jump on board. It makes such an enormous difference.
- **Rentals** are coming back to Unity North, and we are delighted that Brandy Morrow has moved from being the Office Manager to coordinating this forward progress. This was a large part of our budget pre-COVID, and we are thrilled that income is coming back.
- **A few special services** included Homecoming, Annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, Annual Pet Blessing, and Monks from Drepung Loseling Monastery.
- I am grateful for the **Board of Directors and the Finance Committee** who last year rode many waves and always showed up with grace and dignity. They are a blessing to our community. Their diligence and attention to the finances of Unity North are of the highest integrity and respect.
- I am grateful to the staff of Unity North for their tireless flexibility and patience with our busy environment. Each one always steps up to get the job done.

These bullet points represent a large portion of the UNA field, but there is much more going on in the day-to-day workings of our organization. What we do to nurture our little spot on Sandy Plains Road is allowing us to remain a beacon of light to all who choose to join us. Thank you for the light you contribute to the whole.

Executive Director's Report

Nicole Glasgow, Executive Director

It's hard to believe that 2022 was the first year we were fully open after the shutdown. It was a year of coming together, with great events like the Spring Fling, Moonflower Concert, Homecoming, Fall Festival, Thanksgiving and the Family Christmas Celebration. It was a year of action, with the Men of Unity Courtyard Project, the Pumpkin Patch, Family Promise, Habitat for Humanity, and a number of other outreach projects. It was also a year of change.

You may be aware of the staff changes that happened in November. As I became Executive Director, Brandy Morrow became our Program Coordinator, and we brought in Patsi Yarborough as our Office Manager. As Frank Rambo entered retirement, Priscilla Hodge was hired as our new Accounting Manager. I am grateful to have Patsi and Priscilla join the team and grateful for Frank's years of service.

All during 2022, behind the scenes, the staff worked to update and consolidate our systems. Our new church management software, Church Center, brought together our membership, giving, youth, volunteer, and leader databases and is allowing all of our systems to talk to each other. This includes our website, which was totally redone last year. Many thanks to Misty Cochran, Julie Boniger, Brandy Morrow, and Rev. Richard who made the website transition happen quickly and easily.

We are grateful to those of you who downloaded the app, switched over their Consistent Giving, and were gracious as we hit bumps along the way. Many of you have probably talked to Edie Smith during this transition. Her help in Accounting has been invaluable.

You may have also noticed that we didn't ask you to fill out a Membership Verification Card as we have done in the past. We still verify membership every year, but we are able to do most of it behind the scenes with the help of our new system.

Of course, all of these systems are here to support you, our congregation. From staff to leaders to volunteers, Unity North has an incredible congregation whose passion and dedication have left me feeling blessed and grateful.

For our Volunteer Appreciation Lunch in February, we invited 270 volunteers to attend, and we celebrated over 14,500 hours of service in 2022. We are blessed by the depth and breadth of our volunteer base. As we said at the lunch, the staff could not do what we do without you. Our volunteers make the programs, outreach, and service we provide possible. Thank you!

Though I have been working at UNA since 2015 in various roles, I am excited as I take on the role of Executive Director. I am excited to work with our leaders, volunteers, and congregants. I am excited to work on the business side of UNA. And I am excited to see where Spirit leads Unity North.

Youth Education

UNIKIDS - Rev. Julie Boniger

Our Youth Ed department was greatly affected by COVID, but 2022 saw significant growth. In Unikids, many families have returned, and we are honored to welcome several new families into our spiritual home each month.

At the end of 2021, Unikids (birth-5th grade) had an average of 10-12 children per week. We now welcome 22-24 children per week and are blessed by the wisdom, presence, and energy of these “earth angels.”

Our families are connecting outside of Sunday morning through Family Fun Nights, special events, and play dates. The plan is to broaden and expand our connection and reach by working with other ministries, multi-generational events, more time in front of the congregation, and community service projects.

A huge thank you to guides Sarah Michelle Bloodworth, who expertly leads our pre-school, and Lisa Vail, who continues to share her wisdom and loving presence to our Unikids each week. Gratitude to assistant guides Mikael Volaric, a heart-centered peaceful presence (and resident balloon professional), and Tallulah Almirall, who grew up in the program and provides a safe and loving place to land. We are truly blessed to serve alongside our current amazing volunteers Judie Early, Rebecca Barger, and Rita Patel and are about to welcome a new class of parent volunteers, ready to jump in. If you are interested in spending time with our children, please email julie@unitynorth.org.

UNITEENS - Suzie Burdick

Uniteens, 6th-8th grade, is a diverse and friendly group. We welcome and embrace kids from all ethnicities and beliefs. We support those who are part of the LGBTQ community and those who are seeking to find their authentic selves.

Our lessons are based on the Five Unity Principles, and we recently compared the wise words of Yoda with our Unity beliefs. We use many different modalities and Faith traditions to teach the Truth of our natures as One with God and each other.

We love our cozy room downstairs and have recently added a fridge and microwave to satisfy our snacking needs! An electronic picture frame on our wall reminds us of all the games and activities we do each week and the kids love to see themselves connecting with each other.

After two years of no retreats due to Covid, our kids have resumed the amazing experience of a fall weekend at Epworth-by-the-Sea in South Georgia and a spring retreat at Camp Weed (yes...that is really the name!) in Florida! Also, we have had swim parties, went to a Pumpkin Patch this past fall, and participated in a family Game Night for the whole youth department in February.

Recently we relocated our “peace rock garden” to the area near the kids’ playground. Check it out!

We have amazing parent Guides and other parents who have supported our kids with snacks, financial assistance, parties, supplies, moral support, and as examples of generosity and love.

We believe we all belong to each other and are finding our way together!

YOUTH OF UNITY (Y.O.U.) - Susan Clancy

We have been meeting in person since August of 2021.

- When the weather was nice, we met out back by the Labyrinth.
- We are now meeting in room 7 and the teens have been hard at work creating a room that will be comfortable for all.
- Lessons written by the teens have been presented on Sundays (we have also been circulating through past lessons written by the teens).
- Each week, we have anywhere from 6-10 teens in attendance.

We have also been attending in person retreats; see the schedule below.

- November 2021 (Fall Rally)
6 teens attended this event
- Leadership Retreat; January 2022
2 teens attended
- March 2022 (Spring Rally)
7 teens attended
- June 2022 (Summer Rally)
5 teens attended
- IYOU at Unity Village in July 2022
2 teens attended
- November 2022 (Fall Rally)
8 teens attended
- March 2023 (Spring Rally)
8 teens attended

One of our teens, Rory Strickland, is the Regional Representative (Regi) for this year. Two teens (the Regis) write all the material for each rally.

Programs & Events

Brandy Morrow, Program Coordinator & Judith Johnson, Board Liaison

Program Committee members:

Volunteer Members: Tam Anderson, Nancy Daniell, Linda Minnick, Bonnie Peruse, Bob Sykes

Staff: Richard Burdick, Brandy Morrow, Julie Boniger, Misty Cochran

Board Liaison: Judith Johnson

While I don't want to say we were "back to normal" for 2022, I want to boast about the many successful events we hosted, both UNA-led and Ministry-led. We were back in the building, and most everything was back to being in-person. It felt good to once again be shoulder to shoulder with all our wonderful congregants in planning, volunteering, and attending each fun event.

Events we had in 2022

Events put on by the Program Committee:

- Spring Fling that included a pie eating contest, bake sale, inflatables and more. We had 200 attendees –including 15 new people (and 6 new families).
- Birthday fundraiser and party for Rev. Richard's 60th birthday. Raised over \$6,000.
- Pumpkin Patch with 187 volunteers participating and raising over \$5,000
- Fall Festival with games, bounce house, bake sale, and more.

Classes taught by Rev. Richard:

- Spiritual Acceptance
- Beyond Fight or Flight
- Living in the Flow

Ministry Events:

- Moonflower Concert put on by the Organic Garden
- Bimonthly Praying Paws Services
- Labyrinth Ministry Walks and Ceremonies
- Monthly Body Mind Spirit lectures
- Guillermo Ferrero Workshop with the Spanish Ministry
- World Day of Prayer by the Prayer Chaplains
- Earth Care Sangha Full Moon Ceremonies
- Praying Paws Pet Blessing from Animal Ministry
- Service of Remembrance led by the Prayer Chaplains
- Prayer Shawl giveaways

Other Great Events:

- Bingo for Ukraine
- Hakuna Matata Children's Choir
- Living with Ghosts Movie Premier and Q&A
- Anastasia Wesselink Moellering
- Songfest benefitting our Multimedia Team
- Painting with Sonia in English and Spanish
- Peter Panagore
- Italian Night/Thanksgiving Potluck
- Monks from Drepung Loseling Monastery
- Family Christmas Celebration
- New Year's Eve Party

In 2023, we are looking forward to:

- April 28 – Telethon
- May 19 & 20 – I am Elu Play
- June 2 – Moonflower Concert
- August 18 – Songfest
- September 13-14 – World Day of Prayer
- September/October – Class led by Rev. Richard
- October 11 – LGBTQ+ Blackbox Event
- December – Service of Remembrance
- December 8 – Family Christmas Celebration
- November 23 – Thanksgiving Potluck
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Services
- December 31 – Burning Bowl

As we go further into 2023, we are excited for what the year will bring with all the wonderful events lined up for Unity North Atlanta and those not yet known. We are eternally grateful for the continued support of our wonderful volunteers – because of you, events at UNA will be a continued success.

Policies and Procedures

Kim Strickland, Chair

The UNA-Bylaws Committee consists of Nicole Glasgow, Kim Strickland, Ann Duffy, and Faye Cape-Ryther. We review policies when they reach their expiration date, typically every three years, and we make suggestions for revisions. The Board of Directors then votes on them. We also write new policies, if deemed necessary. This process of review ensures that we are fair and provides UNA with a system of checks and balances.

In 2022, among the policies reviewed, updated, and approved were:

Alcohol Consumption Policy

Youth Programs

Marketing Guidelines

Animal Policy (created)

Facility Rentals

UNA policies are on our website at <https://unitynorth.org/policies/>.

Marketing

Rev. Julie Boniger, Creative Director

WEBSITE

In June 2022, we did a complete re-design of our website to better reflect who we are to those looking for a spiritual home. Our new website is more robust, more user friendly, and is a window into the amazing and welcoming community we are. A huge thank you to Misty Cochran, Nicole Glasgow, and Brandy Morrow for their vision and dedication.

CHURCH CENTER APP

One of the most exciting things unveiled in 2022 is our new UNITY NORTH APP; a one-stop resource for

- Event Registration
- Calendar
- Newsletter
- Directory
- Prayer Requests
- Groups, Service Teams, and Classes
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Giving – An easy way to sign up for and manage consistent giving

Church Center puts the most current information at your fingertips; whether you are registering for an event, confirming the date and time of a class, or sending in a prayer request – it's all there.



Android



Apple

WELCOME TEAM/USHERS

Our Welcome Team has proven to be a crucial part of the newcomer experience. In 2022, we welcomed 162 new visitors into our spiritual home. The team is now 13 strong and provides a welcoming experience for each newcomer. From answering questions to escorting families to classrooms to sharing fellowship in Holy Grounds, we are demonstrating at the highest level that we are a beacon of light. Thank you to Marilyn Boniger and her team for your welcoming presence!

In mid-2023 we will resume handing out Welcome Packets, not only to give our visitors helpful information, but to help the ushers identify and count our visitors. We also saw a return to passing the basket during the 11:15 am service and have a redesigned Consistent Giver card. Our ushers, another powerful and welcoming presence, have now returned to full duty, and we are so grateful for Jim Sanford and John Ragland, who lead that team.

Facilities

John Glasgow, Facility Manager

2022 was a big year for changes to our campus. Below are some of the highlights:

- In February, the Admin Building was taken down. There are no plans to do anything with that space at this point.
- Supply ducting to HGC has been repaired and the outside air leakage in both HVAC closets feeding HGC has been sealed.
- Our water line burst in the island in front of the building – has been repaired.
- The Men of Unity have completed revitalizing the Holy Grounds Courtyard.
- Peace Chapel ducting has been replaced and should address the temperature control issues in the Peace Chapel, Richard's office, and the Connections Room.
- All inspections were completed with no issues.
- Fire alarm panel has been replaced with a new one due to damage from a lightning strike.
- Trailer project was dropped per Board decision. One trailer has been sold and the other is still for sale.
- Gas has been converted to a seasonal plan to avoid fixed line costs (\$600/month).
- Converted upstairs water heater to electric so that the gas service could be changed to a seasonal plan.
- Grills outside of Holy Grounds Cafe have been replaced with propane ones.
- Commercial dishwasher has been installed in the kitchen – thank you Earth Care!

Ongoing and upcoming in 2023:

- Hired a cleaning contractor to handle janitorial work.
- HVAC: 7 23-year-old HVAC units remain to be replaced – working with Paulson Cheek to get current quotes on replacement and upgrade of associated ductwork.
- Currently working with our Scouts on their donation of an upgraded projector in Holy Grounds, and they are providing a new TV on cart – with DVD player for us to use. This will be stored in the Kid area closet after it has been cleaned out.
- Working toward retrofitting our current sign at the street with an LED display, digital sign instead of just repairing the damage sustained last July when a car crashed into it.
- A shed for golf carts and landscaping supplies, etc. is being speced out and will be added to the Wish List on the website.
- Quoting cleaning/repair/replacement of chairs (570 chairs in inventory).

Finance

Manny Fernandez, Finance Committee Chair and Board Treasurer

Finance Committee:

Staff Members: Richard Burdick (Senior Minister), Nicole Glasgow (Executive Director), and Priscilla Hodge (Accounting Manager)

Volunteer Members: Manny Fernandez (Board Treasurer), Faye Cape-Ryther, John Hicks, Ray Hughes, and Dena McFarland

Treasurer's Message

We want to thank our congregation for their continued financial support to our church. In particular, we would like to highlight those congregants who dedicate their time, talent, and treasure to our community. You are the heart of this community, day in and day out. Also, we want to highlight the growth we have seen in Consistent Giving, which helps us maintain and grow our church.

Our church continued to make investments in 2022 to support a growing segment of our congregation who participates in our community by reaching out to us online. We are going to continue making investments in Technology in 2023 to upgrade aging equipment, as our church depends more and more on technology for its operations. In 2022, we transitioned to a new application, website and database via Church Center which will help us support our growth by maintaining better track of our membership database, streamlining contributions and payments, and also maintaining better controls for our Unikids program. We want to thank our congregants for their support during this transition. In 2022, we completed the Admin Building transition project and made investments with the purchasing of two mobile units to expand our Youth programs. Our church finances continue to be strong as we returned to normal operations after COVID-19, and we look forward to continued investments to grow our church.

Highlights

- January 2022 – Board approved to fund the search process for an Associate Minister for Unity North to support our growth
- February 2022 - \$18,000 in investments made to upgrade Technology
- March 2022 - Opinion from auditor Brooks, McGinnis & Company, LLC – *“We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion. In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Unity Church of Practical Christianity, Inc. D/B/A Unity North Atlanta Church as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”*
- June 2022 – investment of \$7,000 approved for migration to Church Center platform
- November 2022 – transition of Finance Manager
- December 2022 – Received \$84,500 from Christmas Match Campaign contributions. BOD approved \$852K operational budget and \$17,210 capital expense for technology upgrades in 2023
- January 2023 – Received \$22,000 from Christmas Match Campaign contributions and Michael LaBounty, CPA was selected to complete 2022 Financial Audit
- February 2023 – Sold 1 of 2 mobile units at a loss of \$2,900

2022 Statement of Cash Flows*

Cash on Jan 1	\$637,240
Net Income	\$ (75,849)
Adjustments to Net Income	\$ 32,920
Investing Activities	\$ 47,229
Financing Activities	\$ (65,900)
Cash on Dec 31	\$575,640
Net Cash from Jan-Dec	\$ (61,600)

2022 Profit and Loss*

Ordinary Income/Expense	Actual	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Contributions	\$791,561	\$ 695,995	\$ 95,566
Events/Classes Workshops	\$121,159	\$ 105,238	\$ 15,921
Released Restrictions	\$ 9,689	\$ -	\$ 9,689
Total Income	\$922,409	\$ 801,233	\$ 121,176
Expenses	Actual	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Events/Classes Workshops	\$ 59,083	\$ 33,367	\$ 25,716
Administration	\$300,609	\$ 282,082	\$ 18,527
Pastoral/Music/Youth/Family	\$173,209	\$ 169,995	\$ 3,214
Technology	\$ 60,580	\$ 58,134	\$ 2,446
Utilities/Repairs/Facility	\$147,247	\$ 152,239	\$ (4,992)
Mortgage Interest	\$ 64,863	\$ 64,461	\$ 402
Depreciation/Amortization	\$111,609	\$ 111,609	\$ -
Tithing/Giving	\$ 35,988	\$ 48,720	\$ (12,732)
Total Expense	\$953,187	\$ 920,607	\$ 32,580
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (30,778)	\$ (119,374)	\$ 88,596
Other Income/Expense	Actual	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Non-Operating Income	\$ 600	\$ -	\$ 600
Contributions Future Periods**	\$ 30,853		\$ 30,853
Restricted Funds Release	\$ (9,689)	\$ -	\$ (9,689)
Non-Operating Expense***	\$ (66,835)		\$ (66,835)
Total Other Income/Expense	\$ (45,071)	\$ -	\$ (45,071)
Net Income	\$ (75,849)	\$ (119,374)	\$ 43,525

* Financials have not been Audited

** Capital Campaign donations

***Admin Building

Prosperity Team

Sylvia Draughn, Chair and Board Vice Chair

Growing a Spiritual Prosperity Consciousness in our UNA Community

Vision: For Unity North Atlanta to become truly spiritually wealthy by recognizing Spirit as our Source of abundance and prosperity and allowing the wealth of the Universe to flow freely in our congregants' lives!

Volunteer Members: Sylvia Draughn, John Hicks, Dr. Ugie Kirkpatrick, Dena McFarland, Rusty Morgan, Don Simon

UNA activities are funded through our **Foundational Giving programs – Consistent Giving, Christmas Match, and fund-raising events** during the year. These pay salaries, keep the building operational, and provide services and classes. We are grateful for your participation in these activities.

Inspired by Don Simon and developed by Dena McFarland, our **Creative Giving Program** is underway. Our intention is to offer opportunities to celebrate your abundance by heart-driven giving. These include **Legacy Giving** to invest in the future of our youth and other programs; **Tangible Giving** of items to help pay down the mortgage; and **Spiritual Giving**, sharing a portion of abundance you feel moved to give beyond Foundational Giving from home sale profits, investment returns, bonuses, inheritances, etc.

Ongoing leadership for Creative Giving Program – We are establishing a standing committee to maintain continuity and leadership for the program.

Key activities of our giving programs:

- **Acknowledge** our donors and prospective donors through multiple messaging channels.
 - **Fall 2022 Prosperity Class**- Reverend Richard led this 4-week Zoom class, successfully raising the consciousness of prosperity.
 - Fall 2022 – Over 120 personal **'Thank You' phone calls** were made to Consistent Givers, which included an opportunity to provide feedback regarding their experiences at Unity.
 - January 2023 – **Thank You Notes** were included in end-of-year tax documents that were mailed out.
- **Holiday Match, December 2022** - Launched with a \$38,000 donor match challenge, Unity North collected \$109,000 to support our annual operating budget. Your Board, Staff, and Finance Committee are grateful for your generosity, demonstrating the flow of prosperity that supports our church.
- **Consistent Giving Program**

Our Fall Consistent Giving outreach included phone calls and other contacts with current participants. Consistent Giving is 70% of our 2023 budget and is important for planning and managing our finances. Marketing has done a great job offering convenient ways to give, including a QR code, website with links, the Church Center app, paper options, as well as one-on-one support to set up accounts. Personal drop-ins with each ministry are in progress to personally acknowledge and encourage CPG, offering technical support as needed. These visits have been very rewarding. Those in the Unity Basics (new member) class were invited to download the Church Center app as a way to set-up Consistent Giving and also be connected to what's going on at Unity North.

We continue to seek ways to increase our revenue stream and involvement from our online viewers.

- **CGP Cards and Offering Baskets** – Back by popular demand, these have returned to our services.
- **Spring 2023 Legacy Giving** - Two “Lunch and Learn” sessions are scheduled; cost is \$10 including meal. The Wednesday, May 3 event is at 5 pm, with dinner following; and will focus on the estate planning concerns of the "Sandwich Generation," parents with children and/or aging parents. The Thursday, May 18 lunch event at 12 pm will target Seniors’ concerns. Our guest speaker is Attorney Cindy Nelson from Nelson Eldercare Law in Marietta. Her website is full of resources, including short videos. <https://nelsoneldercarelaw.com/>
 - The purpose of these sessions is 2-fold: to offer a complimentary service to our congregants regarding Estate Planning, with the opportunity for a follow-up consult if they desire; **and** to introduce congregants to the process of including UNA in their estate planning, if they choose.