

Annual Report for 2024

February 23, 2025



New Member Ceremony, Sunday, October 20, 2024.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board of Trustees Report - 2

Treasurer's Report – 4

Ministerial Team Report – 5

Prayer Ministry Report - 7

Youth and Family Ministry Report - 8

Shared Leadership Team Report – 10

Administrator Report - 11

Facilities Report- 12

Music Ministry Report - 13

Angel Network Report – 16

Unity Bookstore Report – 16

Bylaws Report – 17

Board of Trustees Report

Submitted by Unity Board President Ted Taylor

We have left the Covid pandemic behind, but respiratory infections are still with us and having an impact on our congregation and attendance. But we are pleased to report that our Sunday church attendance in person has grown steadily from an average of 105 in July to 135 in November and December, thanks in part to more families with children joining us. And our livestream viewing has doubled over 2023. Facebook tells us we had 579 online views of our program on Buddhism Oct. 20, in addition to 116 in person! One of our big goals in 2024 was growing our congregation, and it's happening.

Our church's impact on the Eugene/Springfield community (and beyond) is much larger than we might have imagined. This impact comes not only from our Sunday services but also from all the many different and positive ways our facilities are being used during the week, from AA meetings to movie nights to memorial services. The high level of volunteers in our congregation also speaks to our vitality and impact. There are many ways of being of service, and of growing together.

The board welcomed three fine new members in 2024: Bonnie Paquin, Bonnie Chappa, and Cindy Fulton-Tinawi. Continuing on the board in 2024 were Ted Taylor, Serenee Smith, Michael Ticknor, Alice Sparks, Geneva Miller, Rev. Dick Everts, along with the Ministerial Team who also serve on the board. We elected Ted as president, Cindy as vice president, Bonnie C. as secretary, and Serenee as treasurer. We spent time getting to know each other and working on a shared vision and better communication. We hired Rev. Carrie Kenyon, a professional board trainer from Unity Worldwide Ministries, to meet with us over two days, then followed up with another productive board retreat.

We accomplished a lot in 2024 with active committees working between board meetings. Groups worked on our bylaws, website, integrating shared leadership, budget and finance, and marketing/PR/ fundraising. We were able to come close to balancing our budget at the end of the year, thanks to the generosity of our congregation and an unexpected final payment from federal Covid grants. In addition:

- We're seeing progress on a new and better website we hope to launch soon.
- We approved a number of policies and created a new Policies & Procedures Manual.
- Our bylaws have been updated and are ready for the congregation's approval.
- All three members of our ministerial team are now attending board meetings.
- We've held several fundraisers, raising \$5,874, including the yard sale for YFM.
- We've raised the rates we charge for new groups that rent our facilities.

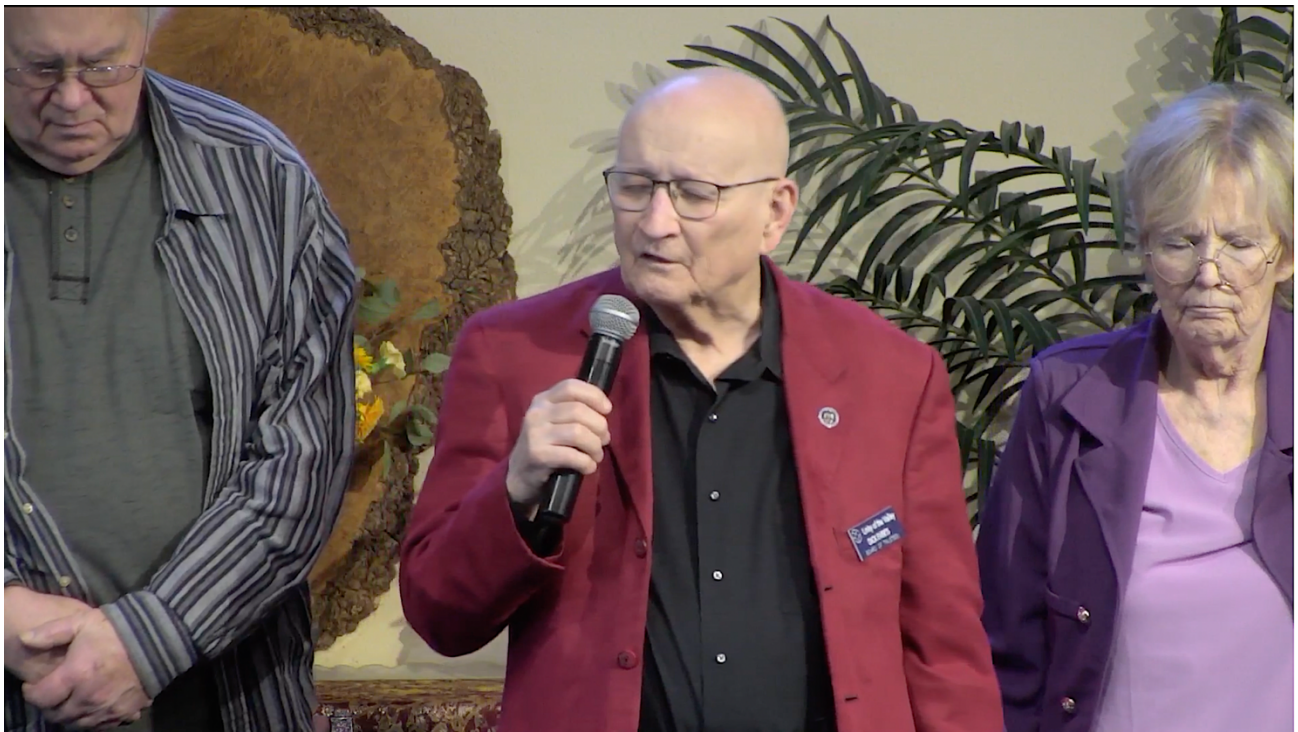
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT, CONT'D

- We've made extra income hosting concerts such as Karen Drucker and Jim Scott.
- We are more active in promoting events at Unity through local media.
- Unity business cards are available to hand out when talking about our spiritual center.
- Our crew of greeters has expanded beyond just board members.
- We're welcoming congregation members to join our board committees.

We invited an EWEB energy consultant to tour our facilities in April. He recommended replacing some of our aging heating and AC units with more efficient units, adjusting our thermostats and replacing some of our space heating units. We were able to follow his recommendations regarding thermostats, but replacing HVAC units will be a major capital expense, along with more urgent roof repairs. Meanwhile, the costs of utilities are going up.

Everything we do and make happen at Unity of the Valley is made possible by your generosity and the incredible volunteer work by members of our congregation. Our gratitude is overflowing.



Rev. Dick Everts leads a prayer to close last year's Annual Membership Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Board Treasurer Dr. Serenee Smith

Through the beautiful abundance of Divine Spirit and the ongoing heartfelt generosity of our Unity Spiritual Community, 2024 was another fulfilling and productive year for Unity of the Valley.

In the first few months of the year the Board of Trustees realized that our monthly expenses were higher than our monthly income, which often occurs in the lull following the holidays. The board saw this as an opportunity to carefully examine our expenditures and determine if there were ways to reduce our expenses. We also had some productive brainstorming sessions on how to generate more income. As the months rolled by, our combined efforts found us making small changes and adjustments that increased our revenue.

The numbers below give us an overview of our financial activity over the last three years. We dipped into our reserves in 2023 in order to provide raises, bonuses and benefits to our staff. As well, we provided generous Christmas bonuses for our extraordinary volunteers. Unfortunately, we were not able to do the same in 2024 due to inflation and a drop in our Simple Giving Program. Our Simple Giving fluctuates yearly, and with inflation and other factors in 2024 we saw a decrease in funds.

Watching our income carefully each month, we expected a large deficit in 2024. But thanks to the generous contributions from our congregation in December, our Christmas Ornament campaign and an unexpected final payment from the IRS from our Covid grants, we ended 2024 with only a \$11,394 deficit.

In fact, the best news of all is that generous revenues in January 2025 brought the total of all our accounts back up to where they were in January 2024, about \$214,000. YAY!

Below are the year-end financial results for the last three years:

YEAR-END FINANCIAL RESULTS:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Total income:	\$229,585	\$227,540	\$183,424
Total expenses:	\$240,985	\$232,870	\$181,403
Net income:	(\$11,400)	(\$5,330)	\$2,021

2024 YEAR-END BALANCES IN CHURCH ACCOUNTS:

Checking account balance: **\$19,296**
 Money market account (our rainy-day fund): **\$6,169**
 Treasury bills account: **\$144,690**
 Capital reserves (for major expenditures): **\$6,238**
 YFM (Youth and Family Ministries): **\$1,447**
 Bookstore bank balance: **\$11,073**

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TREASURER'S REPORT, CONT'D

With an eye to the future, the Board of Trustees has decided to take the revenue from our Christmas Ornament campaign along with some extra reserves and set a new Treasury bill specifically earmarked for facility improvements. This new T-bill will be about \$11,000.

We do have major facility repairs and challenges coming up in 2025, in particular the leaky roof over the Fellowship Hall. One bid of \$40,000 came in which would replace a large section of roof and some of the understructure and insulation. Major repairs along with maintaining our facility, our beloved spiritual home, will be a big theme for next year. We expect to do a major fundraising campaign this spring.

With our hearts and minds firmly rooted in the principles of prosperity consciousness, Unity continues to move forward as a shining light in our Eugene community. We continue to thrive by providing a valuable source of spiritual instruction, fellowship, and educational programs for both adults and children! Our wonderful music team inspires us weekly, while our amazing volunteer program continues to grow, allowing friends to come together in joyful service to our community.

With our hearts full and attuned to abundance we look to the future with faith and joy!

Ministerial Team Report

Submitted by Jon West

Revs. Sherry and Inge and I marvel every year at all the ways Spirit expresses through this community. We see it in our weekly Shared Leadership Team meetings and in our monthly work with the Board, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. Whether you are a leader, a member of a team or group, an occasional volunteer, a financial contributor, or simply someone who shows up to be part of Unity, *your presence is felt! You are a Light in our world!* Below are some key ministry activities many of you helped create in 2024:

SUNDAY SERVICES: Our Sunday morning ministry depends on support from our Music Team and Choir, Youth & Family Ministry, Kitchen Angels and Soup Team, Chaplains, Power Point, Bookstore, Ushers & Greeters, Openers and Closers, and more. A highlight among the 52 in-person and livestreamed services we offered was our 7-week interfaith series, "One Ocean, Many Rivers." Guests included Rabbi Ruhi from Temple Beth Israel, two U of O professors representing Buddhism and Islam, and other presenters on contemplative Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism/Yoga, and the Bahá'í faith. Other guest speakers during the year included local author/scientist Tom Titus and Professor Michael Dreiling, who also launched a monthly Empathetic Presence & Nonviolent Communication practice group.

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MINISTERIAL TEAM REPORT, CONT'D

SPECIAL SERVICES: Since January 2024, an hour-long Chanting & Meditation Service has been held on the first Wednesday evening of the month, now at 7 p.m. Our annual Christmas Eve Candle Lighting, always a favorite, had a capacity crowd of 208. Another event making a return visit in 2024 was the Unity World Day of Prayer.

OTHER GROUP ACTIVITIES AT UNITY: Whether you come here for a class, to find support in grieving, to meditate and pray together, experience Therapeutic Touch, be part of our Council of Elders, attend a Youth event or an LGTBQIA++ or 12-Step meeting, or enjoy one of Tom Blank's Movie Nights or a concert or something else, there are many ways to engage at Unity. You will get a better sense of all that goes on here in the reports ahead. One reflection of our growing community: The 10 new Unity members pictured on the cover of this report book! They qualified for membership by attending our twice-annual class on Unity's foundational principles. Look for the next class this spring.

BEYOND OUR WALLS: As we create this ministry together, it's beautiful how the ripples keep spreading out. A vital example is our Angel Network of people who can be contacted as a possible helping hand when a short-term need arises in our community. For those wanting to explore spiritual principles, Rev. Dick Everts offers Community Connect meetings on Zoom. Multiple times during the year, our food barrels were hauled off by FOOD for Lane County. Our community has long been a strong supporter of Jan and Marty Johnson's Makindu Vocational School in Kenya. In her Music Ministry Team report, Laura details more outreach projects. And we know many more of you are serving in other ways. Our spiritual community truly radiates divine love and light to the wider world!

We end with a note of loving remembrance for those who we released to Spirit in 2024: June Hopkins, Ellen Johnson, Carol Lockard, and Whitney Woodard. May we always remember that *we are one!*



Prayer Ministry Report

Submitted by Rev. Inge Tarantola

Prayer is the fastest wireless connection ~ Anonymous

The Prayer Ministry continues to be a vital part of our beautiful Spiritual Community. We are honored to be with you in prayer, and we offer you many ways to let us know your prayer needs. There are a number of different ways to access the different aspects of the ministry:

- **PRAYER CHAPLAINS:** on Sundays after the service our Prayer Chaplains are available to pray with you one on one. Regardless of your prayer need, whether for yourself or a loved one, they are ready to meet with you in prayer.
- **PRAYER TEAMS:** once a week we collect the prayer requests from the prayer box in the foyer. The prayer teams will hold you in prayer for 2 weeks. Then the requests are sent to Unity Village to be prayed with for another month.
- **PRAYER CHAIN:** is a way to receive immediate prayer. There are pink cards in the foyer by the prayer box with names to call. Call any of the names on that card between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. and that person can pray with you right then. Or give me a call and if I don't answer, leave a message. I'll get back to you as soon as I can to pray with you.
- **PRAYER SHAWLS:** are available for free upon request, to bring comfort to anyone going through a difficult time. Since 2012 we have given away nearly 800 shawls, most to our congregation, but also as outreach to other organizations. It is our joy to create these shawls for you. Feel free to contact me if you need to have a shawl sent to you.
- **PRE-RECORDED PRAYER LINE:** every week a different team member records several inspirational messages on the pre-recorded prayer line. Call Unity of the Valley at 541-345-9913, and press 7 for the prayer line.
- **HEALING PRAYER CIRCLE:** team meets on Sundays after the service for intense healing prayer with individuals. If you would like to schedule a session with the team, please let me know.
- **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:** is a way to walk the spiritual path with a companion in prayer. It's a great way to explore our spiritual journey. Let me know if you would like me to walk this path with you.
- **PRAYER CLASSES:** are offered several times a year. This is a prerequisite to joining the prayer ministry and a stepping stone to becoming a Prayer Chaplain.
- **SERVICE OF LIGHTS:** is available at the front of the sanctuary. Feel free to light a candle and say a prayer for whatever is on our heart.
- **PRAYER CHAPEL:** is located in the back of the sanctuary. You are welcome to visit this sacred space for quiet time and reflection.

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PRAYER MINISTRY REPORT, CONT'D

- **SILENT UNITY** – you can call them anytime for prayer support 800-669-7729. You can also go to their website and place a request, or see what other services they offer at unity.org.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions, or would like more information on anything relating to the Prayer Ministry. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Love and light,
Rev Inge Tarantola
541-968-5540
ingetarantola@gmail.com

Youth & Family Ministry Report

Submitted by YFM Coordinator Alice Sparks

Our Youth & Family Ministry (YFM) is so grateful to all the wonderful volunteers that help make the program what it is today. Thank you, thank you, and thank you!

Over the summer, there was no set curriculum for youth education classes. We had volunteers from our community helping to teach, including parents.

We had a couple of special summer events which included swimming and an afternoon at Inge's. The youth wrote a song with Jon West for that afternoon. Jon accompanied them on the guitar.

Since the beginning of our new season in September, we have had the opportunity to grow together, learn together, and love together. Our youth are very aware of Unity Principles and what we strive to become. They love working and praying together, and some even are doing meditations themselves. They all say prayers for each other.

Our first event for the new season was an open house for the classes. There wasn't a huge turnout for that, and yet, the youth enjoyed every minute of setting the classrooms up for it.

Following that we had our Halloween Celebration which turned out to be a lot of fun and we raised a decent amount of money for the youth program to help the kids with camp expenses and every day supplies for the ministry.

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YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY REPORT, CONT'D

A special thanks to Laura DuBois for leading the "Come & Celebrate" Christmas play. Laura's love shines right through the youth in their singing voices. We want to also thank Susan Smith, one of our beloved congregants, for writing the play, and all the music as well. What a brilliant production. Thank you, Susan, for allowing us to perform the play and giving us direction.

In January we had a Lunar New Year celebration. Thank you to Doris Hicks, Diana Stearns, Bo Youn, Shawn Heren, and Erik Peterson for volunteering. A fun time was had by all.

This year in February we had a Valentine's Dance. Thank you to Gaia Bedgood, Shawn Heren, Kathy Chadwell, and Erik Peterson. Also, a special thanks to Doris Hicks for loaning us her sound system. It worked so well. And a special thanks to Jon West for all he put into that, including him doing the Limbo Rock! He also accompanied many songs on the piano and just made it even better. Shawn's Mushroom Chili was an absolute hit! Kathy's wonderful desserts were just amazing. We thank all that attended and sure did enjoy everyone dancing. We are so grateful everyone had as much fun as they did! I have a feeling our church community will have more dances!

Our current teachers/assistants are as follows:

Unikids: Doris Hicks, Gary Collins, Emma Younger, Aliana Bedgood, Alice Sparks, Gaia Bedgood (occasionally).

Galileans: Kathy Chadwell, Alison Cantrell, Erik Peterson, Alice Sparks

Y.O.U.: Jim Drews. Josh McDaniel will be starting soon. Josh volunteered with the Y.O.U. many years ago and is looking forward to working with them again a couple of times a month.

YFM continues to have a quarterly newsletter. Thank you to Ted Taylor and Géna Duel for putting that together.

YFM continues to have a monthly meeting where the teachers choose their Sundays and lesson plans. We also brainstorm for any ideas to serve our youth and community.

Katie Sontag's little daughter, Calliope, has joined Unikids. It's so much fun having her! She is the youngest Unikid at 3 and fits in so well. Thank you for sharing her, Katie!

We are continually looking for any teachers/assistants for the youth. Please know you are welcome and let us know if this calls you. We appreciate all of the support to YFM. Most of us have a child within us that loves to be with the kids. You are welcome every once in a while, or monthly.

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YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY REPORT, CONT'D

I want to thank each of you for having confidence in me to coordinate this program. I am so honored and grateful. The children bring so much joy to me and to others. Thank you all for sharing them with us and bringing sparks to our lives.



All ready to shine for the Christmas play!

Shared Leadership Team Report

Submitted by Sunny Schneider

Unity's Shared Leadership Team (SLT) is made up of representatives from the Ministerial Team, the Board of Trustees, staff members, and volunteers. We meet weekly to deal with the day-to-day needs of our community. The members include: Jon West, Rev. Sherry Lady, Rev. Inge Tarantola, Laura DuBois, Géna Duel, Serenee Smith, Geneva Miller, Alice Sparks, Sunny Schnieder, Gary Wymore, and Bonnie Paquin.

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SHARED LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT, CONT'D

When Unity of the Valley shifted to the shared leadership model, the SLT was created to support the ministerial team in managing church business. It has been a very successful model and the Team is now working on developing a Council of Ministries to represent all our groups and ministries. The idea is to have each person feel ownership of this community and feel empowered to offer both their skills and insights through expanded communication and gatherings.

We will be sending out surveys and having workshops to both teach shared leadership and encourage input from all members. As we understand more that the power of Spirit resides in each of us, we can come together to further our sense that we are a community of equals: equal power, responsibility, accountability, and wisdom.

Unity of the Valley has been a place for us all to grow into the knowledge of our Spiritual nature and we know that we will continue to grow together.

Administrator Report

Submitted by Géna Duel, Administrator

2024 went by so quick, and here at Unity we were kept very busy. We had many activities, classes, meetings, and events that took place. We are truly blessed!

Part of putting on the events and having wonderful Sunday services at Unity is the village it takes to make it happen. We have many volunteers who help. Some help on a weekly basis during the week in the office, on a Sunday in the kitchen, or with ushering, greeting, making announcements, sharing music, helping with the youth, and so much more. We couldn't do what we do without you, and I thank each and every one of you for the small and big parts you play in sharing your time and talents with Unity. With your continued help and even more volunteers signing up to help, we can do even more.

- **Food Drive.** We have continued our Food Drive to help Food For Lane County keep the local pantries stocked for families in need. Although we don't highlight this important project each week, you are doing a great job of filling up the food barrel. Thank you!
- **Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program.** Did you know that Unity of the Valley can earn donations just by your shopping at Fred Meyer and using your Fred Meyer Rewards Card? Once you link your Rewards Card to Unity of the Valley, we earn a donation every time you shop there. Pick up an information sheet in the Fellowship Hall and help Unity!

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ADMINISTRATOR REPORT, CONT'D

- **Our Volunteer Appreciation Brunch** will be held on **Saturday, March 15th from 10:30 a.m. to Noon** this year. Your Shared Leadership Team would like to honor you and express our appreciation for your gifts of time, talent, generosity, love, and service to this community. **If you have volunteered at Unity in any capacity, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall ASAP and join us.** Thank you, Volunteers. We Love You!
- **Love-in-Action signups will be held on Sundays, March 9 and 16.** Representatives from each volunteer ministry will be in the Fellowship Hall after the service to provide information and to help volunteers sign up. We have many fun and rewarding volunteer positions and leadership opportunities at our church, and we need you. Be sure to check it out and sign up. You make a difference!

Be sure to keep a look out for what's happening at Unity via our website, monthly Bulletins, bulletin boards, word of mouth, etc. for services, classes, and events. Thank you, Unity Community, for your love, service, and support.

Facilities Report

Submitted by Facilities Coordinator Gary Wymore

Our facility is well-used with many activities and events. It continues to keep us busy with repairs and maintenance. Some of the projects we worked on in the past year are:

- **Hot Water Heater** – The hot water heater in the upstairs bathroom was replaced.
- **Painting of Doors** – We painted the front and side entrance doors so they are no longer gray metal.
- **Fellowship Hall Roof Repair** – We had repairs done to our flat roof over the Fellowship Hall, and are in the process of getting bids for full replacement of the roof.
- **Floor Waxing** – We stripped and waxed the Fellowship Hall floors. This took a couple days and lots of hard work. Thankfully we had a couple volunteers helping.
- **Maintenance** – Annual maintenance of the HVAC units and fire extinguishers took place, along with the usual repairs that come up with a facility of this size.

SOME PROJECTS STILL ON THE LIST TO ACCOMPLISH:

- **Ceiling Lighting** – Most of our ceiling lights consist of fluorescent bulbs which have been phased out, so we will need to get our fixtures retrofitted.
- **Fellowship Hall Sinkage** – The Fellowship Hall shows signs of sinkage so we are watching that carefully.

CONT'D

FACILITIES REPORT, CONT'D

- **Fillmore Wing Roof Replacement** – In a year or so, it may be time to replace the roof over the Fillmore Wing.
- **Front Entry Walkway/Steps** – We continue to assess the cracks in the steps and front entrance and are working on repairs.
- **Garden Area Drainage:** Worn-out drain pipes in the back garden area have been addressed and we are looking at what beautification to install on the path. If possible, we will fix the long-broken fountain at the same time.
- **Moss Removal** – The sidewalks and parts of the parking lot need the moss removed.

As you can see, it takes a village to keep our facility up and running and in good repair. **We could really use some more volunteers to help.** If you happen to be someone with building repair skills (electrical, plumbing, construction, etc.) and are willing to help out on occasion, please let us know and we will add you to our Facility Team list. As with any well-used building, minor issues can arise at any time. The loving care we invest in our spiritual home is energy well spent.

Music Ministry Team Report

Submitted by Laura DuBois, Music Director

2024 was a wonderful year for music at Unity of the Valley (UV)! We continue to grow and thrive in love and joy. Here are the highlights:

Karen Drucker Weekend

In November of 2024, we welcomed New Thought singer/songwriter/speaker/retreat leader/comedienne Karen Drucker to Eugene for a weekend of special events.

1. Together with Center for Spiritual Living, we co-hosted Karen's "I Give Myself Permission To..." (a playshop for creativity, connection, community, & commitment) on Saturday morning.
2. Karen presented a fabulous concert at UV on Saturday night.
3. Karen knocked it out of the ballpark with her grand finale of presenting both the music and the talk for the Sunday service. Our music team had a blast collaborating with her!

All three events were well attended and the feedback was fabulous. Karen loved the whole experience, and is excited about returning for a women's retreat sometime in the next year.

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MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM REPORT, CONT'D

Halie Loren

In 2024, Grammy-nominated and internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter Halie Loren performed for a Sunday service. She loved the experience and looks forward to returning on regular basis. In fact, she will be singing with the music team on February 23, 2025! 😊

The UV Adult Choir

Rather than having adult choir year-round, we have transitioned to the model of the choir meeting for Easter and Christmas. This change is due to scheduling needs of our wonderful director, Mo Robeson. The new arrangement is working well, and we are so glad to have found a way to both accommodate her needs and keep our choir going.

The UV Youth Choir & “Come & Celebrate” Christmas Play

The Youth Choir, directed by Laura DuBois and her assistant, Keante Priddle, continues to meet every Sunday at 12:15 p.m. This year, we worked with Alice Sparks and the whole youth ed team to present a Christmas musical by Susan Smith, titled “Come & Celebrate.” Several adults also took part in the production. It was an enormous undertaking, and everyone involved did a great job! We look forward to doing it again next year.

Christmas Singalong

In 2024, we held our 5th annual Christmas Singalong. The event was both for a live audience and also livestreamed. This year, the choir joined us, and this made the event extra special. Many people said it was our best singalong yet! We had a wonderful audience, and the evening was absolutely delightful!

Singalongs at Creekside (formerly Good Sam)

Laura DuBois, Donovan Werts, Betsy Priddle, and a wonderful team of UV volunteers continue to lead singalongs at Creekside every 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. We’ve developed friendships with a core group of residents and look forward to this event every month. Feel free to join us!

Oregon Community Foundation Endowment

Back in the summer of 2020, as much of the world shut down and people began to fear for the future, one very special UV couple did just the opposite. They had the faith and the vision to see past the turmoil. They opened their hearts and their hands, and they worked with the Oregon Community Foundation to create a substantial endowment fund to benefit the UV music program. What an amazing gift!

This endowment is truly the gift that keeps on giving, as each July we receive a generous payment. Over time, the funds grow, and the annual payments to UV increase. This past year’s payment was \$2,525.33, making the total payments after 4 years an impressive \$10,840.27.

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MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM REPORT, CONT'D

With hearts full of gratitude, we want to thank our donors, Sunny and Vicky Hills. We are eternally grateful for this incredible gift! On a side note, Sunny and Vicky would like to encourage others to follow in their footsteps, creating additional endowment funds to benefit our beloved Unity of the Valley. These endowments can be established for both larger and lesser amounts, and the staff at OCF make the set-up an easy process. This type of gift will continue growing in perpetuity, year after year, with stunning results.

The Yamaha Piano in the Sanctuary

I am thrilled to announce that, because of the generous gifts of individual donors, our grand piano in the sanctuary is now entirely paid for. What a miracle! With every note that comes from that beautiful instrument, our hearts sing with gratitude and love for the donors that made this possible. Having this superb piano in our sanctuary has made a huge difference in the quality of music we create at Unity. It has also helped to make Unity of the Valley a highly sought-after rental venue. Thank you, donor angels!!!

Connecting from the Heart (CFTH)

During 2024, CFTH produced fewer videos, and instead focused on developing its in-person Music, Meditation and Mental Wellness workshops. We are now presenting these workshops in a variety of settings, including Sponsors (works with formerly incarcerated individuals and their families), Serenity Lane (addiction treatment) and the Santiam Correctional Facility. Though CFTH is an independent 501c3 non-profit, it is a sister organization to UV, with a mutually beneficial relationship. UV allows CFTH to record in the sanctuary at no charge, and this gift is deeply appreciated. In turn, as CFTH succeeds and grows, it shines the spotlight back on Unity of the Valley, increasing awareness and helping to attract new congregants.



Singers at the end of our Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service.

Angel Network Report

Submitted by Coordinator Julia Linebarger-Taylor

Greetings, as the Angel Network Coordinator, I am happy to report:

- The Angel Network currently has 34 volunteers.
- During the period of January–December 2024, the Angel Network received 21 requests for assistance.
- Requests for assistance consisted of rides to/from medical appointments and church services; meals; light cleaning; light moving; and help with temporary personal care.
- All requests for help came via email or phone.
- Of special mention is the team of 4 dedicated Angel Network members who have provided a weekly supply of home-made bone broth for over one year to a Unity member undergoing chemotherapy.
- If you would like to volunteer on this wonderful team, please contact me at (541) 968-5896 or jlinebargertaylor@yahoo.com.

I am grateful for all the volunteers who serve our Unity Community, and it is my privilege to coordinate these efforts. Blessings, Julia

Unity Bookstore Report

Submitted by Bookstore Manager Elizabeth King

The Unity Bookstore continued to enrich the larger Unity community in 2024. The store offers an array of books on many subjects, including Unity principles and authors, spiritual philosophy, meditation, self-help, nature, children's books and more. The store also sells a wide variety of gifts, cards, and jewelry. The bookstore is often the first stop for newcomers, and it provides a quiet place for people to land when they first walk in the front door.

The newcomers \$5 coupon good towards a book, used or new, has proven popular over this last year. Hopefully, we can continue to offer this to newcomers in the welcome packet.

We have a great group of volunteers, who are dedicated to helping people find the right book or gift. Continuing on are Denice Ward, Gary LaMoin, Elizabeth King, and Suzanne Didier We welcomed a new volunteer, Lisa Graham, to the team in 2024.

Thanks to all for your continued support of the Unity Bookstore.

Bylaws Report

Submitted by Board Trustee Bonnie Paquin & Jon West

The Board of Trustees is proposing amendments to our Bylaws, and you will be asked to vote on accepting these amendments at our Annual Meeting after the Sunday service on February 23, 2025. Below is a summary. We have also posted a marked-up copy of our full Bylaws on our website that you can review prior to the meeting. If you have questions, please contact Jon West (jwest97405@gmail.com) or Bonnie Paquin (blpaquin2@gmail.com).

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws

SUMMARY: The Board of Trustees proposes five major changes as follows:

1. Where the Bylaws currently mention Shared Leadership in *Section 3 C. Leadership*, we would add a brief definition of Shared Leadership. This definition references our Shared Leadership Team of staff and volunteer leaders who support and work closely with the Ministerial Team.
2. We would replace all references to ministers such as “Senior Minister” and “Associate Minister” in the 23 places they occur with the catch-all term “Ministerial Team/Minister.” This covers our ministry whether we have a team or one individual in the role. It also reflects our intent of minimizing hierarchical leadership reflected in titles such as “Senior” and “Associate.”
Note: Eliminating these titles does not alter the fact that at least one person on the team is ordained or licensed by Unity or serving under special dispensation, or that each person on the team may have their own areas of responsibility just as our current team today does.
3. In *ARTICLE VI Board of Trustees, Section 11, E 3*, we would provide several ways for an Alternate to be elected: Either by running for the position or having the next-largest vote count after those who were elected to Trustee positions. And also clarify in *Section 2* that an Alternate serves for one year and can run again for the position.
4. In *ARTICLE VI Board of Trustees, Section 12, B 1*, we would include the option to appoint an Alternate or a Trustee to complete a Trustee’s term after early departure if the elected Alternate position is vacant.
5. *Administration, Management, and Leadership, Section 3, Definitions*, amend the definitions to reflect the changes described above.

We also propose these minor amendments:

CONT'D

BYLAWS REPORT, CONT'D

6. Include the phrase “In line with our Shared Leadership Model” under *ARTICLE IV, Members, Section 4. Rights of Active Members*;
7. Omit that the Annual Meeting must be held at “the Principal Executive Office in *ARTICLE V Meetings, Section 1 A*.”
8. Change “elect an active member and an alternative to the nominating team” to “elect two (2) active members” in *ARTICLE V Meetings, Section 1 G*;
9. Change the word “consensus” to “majority” in making exceptions for who can serve on the Board in *ARTICLE VI Board of Trustees, Section 3 E*;
10. In *ARTICLE VI Board of Trustees, Section 4, Meetings*, allow for meetings to be held either in person or electronically.
11. Clarify under *ARTICLE VI Board of Trustees, Section 11. B. Nominating Team, 1b* that the Board President cannot be on this team (as stated under the description of the President’s duties in *Section 13*); and
12. For consistency and clarity throughout the Bylaws, show numbers within a body of text both written out and numerically—for example, showing the number 10 as “ten (10).”

MARK-UP WITH CHANGES: Specific changes to the bylaws can be seen on our website at <http://unityofthevalley.org/Feb2025/2025Bylaws.pdf>.

Thank you for your attention to these changes.

To Our Spiritual Family:

*We love you,
We bless you,
We behold the Divine Light within you!*

