

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 2, 2025**

**MINUTES FROM BUSINESS MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 4, 2024**

Board President, Vivien Mott, called to order the Annual Business Meeting of Unity Church of Christianity, Valley Stream, New York at 12:42 PM. She asked if everyone had received a copy of the Minutes, the Financial Statement and the Monthly Log for 2023. Rev. Charles Foley led the congregation in an opening prayer.

The first order of business was the Roll Call by Ellen Davis in the Board Secretary's absence. She reported 24 members and 3 non-members in attendance. Janie Marie Maniguat, AV volunteer, called the roll for the Zoom attendees and shared there were 5 members online and 0 non-members online. The total number of in-person and on Zoom is 32. This number represented a quorum for the transaction of further business.

The second order of business was the consideration of the minutes from last year's (2023) meeting which were made available before the meeting and on the church's website. There were no additions or corrections. The President called for a motion to accept the minutes. Ellen Davis made the motion and it was seconded by Lorraine Reddy. All were in favor.

The next order of business was the approval of the Log for 2023. There were no additions or corrections. The President called for a motion to accept the Log for 2023. Paulette Samuels made the motion and it was seconded by Sarah Foley. All were in favor.

The next order of business was a report from our accountant, Lori Wilson, CPA. There were no significant changes with income or expenses from 2022. In summary of the financials, the church received about \$184,000 from various resources (ie. contributions, special programs and investment income). The expenses were about \$149,000 for the year resulting in a \$35,000 excess of the revenues over expenses. Comparatively the same amount as the prior year overall financials show a deficit because of non-cash items like depreciation and investments that went down. There were no questions for Lori Wilson and Rev Charles Foley went up and asked the congregation to look at page three of the financials and pointed out that the total support was \$172,000 and that further on that page tithes were \$4500. He shared that the Board approved going forward to do a full 10% tithe of our blessings rather than the fixed amount that has been given in the past. Tithes will go to Unity in Kansas City, or the Eastern Region or a Long Island ministry that's struggling.

Rev Charles Foley was thanked for bringing that to the congregation's attention and Lori Wilson was thanked for her presentation. There was a motion made to accept the Financial Report for 2023 by Elaine Rauch and it was seconded by Bridgette Brady. All were in favor.

The President introduced Mike Terry, our Investment Advisor, for an update on the Schwab Investment account for 2023. Our finances are in a much better place than last year (2022). Our total return over 2022 increased by 17.89%. Basically starting off the year with \$388,068.55 with interest income of only \$72.59 because everything was invested and not in cash. Dividend income was \$8,881.01 with a gain and loss of \$69,408.76. The management fee for the year was \$2,000. We ended the year at \$457,477.31 a nice increase. This year being an election year it's not expected that the feds will be doing anything unless there is a major crisis. The feds will probably keep inflation where it is so as not to be perceived as interfering with the election. Mike projects 8-10 % growth on portfolios similar to ours

barring any additional wars or world conflicts. Most of the items in our portfolio are performing well. No need to change our portfolio unless we need cash. The bonds are looking better than last year and the stock market looks pretty good.

There were no questions and the President thanked Mike Terry for his report.

The next order of business was a report from Stephen Senior, our IT, Property and Business Manager. Stephen Senior is traveling abroad and shared that he had nothing to report and wanted Mike Terry to know that he doesn't need any money.

The President moved to the next order of business two matters that the board of directors wanted to be brought to the congregation. Firstly (fyi) the adoption of the Sacred Safety Policy recommended by Unity headquarters. This policy was developed and approved by the Board and Lorraine Reddy, it outlines protocols to protect our young people from predators while they're in church and while they're engaged in church sponsored activities outside of church. Secondly the Unity by-laws needed to better reflect the present times. There was a section in the by-laws stating "anyone living more than 100 miles is considered an inactive member". With the inclusion of Zoom, it has redefined church attendance and involvement therefore one can live anywhere and still be considered active. The statement will be eliminated from the by-laws. Also in the by-laws there was exploration as to the manner in which the treasurer role was written. The role presently is written for an accountant to fulfill the role of treasurer. The wording was examined to better reflect the treasurer as liaison to the business manager as well the financial coordinator. This amendment is to clarify the role of the treasurer. The minister wanted the by-laws to stipulate that the treasurer and minister liaison with the business manager and financial coordinator. It was questioned that the minister is part of the board hence therefore he would be part of the process whereas the other two roles are external to the board. Rev. Charles Foley came up to the platform and restated the proposal that the minister be added to the treasurer role. Rev. Charles Foley asserted that the minister has responsibility for the working of the church with the finances being an important part of what we do. He shared that his accounting degree and 40 years of auditing experience qualifies his stance that the treasurer and minister should coordinate with the financial coordinator and business manager. It was cited that the wording was redundant but Rev. Charles Foley asserted it was important to be written. The President asserted that the by-laws are a living document that existed before us and will exist after we're gone. A heated discussion ensued with a number of congregants expressing their opinions. There was a restatement of the proposed change "*the treasurer will liaison with the minister, financial coordinator and business manager as it pertains to the funds of the ministry*". Sixteen of the twenty-nine people in attendance voted for the rewording of the treasurer's role as Rev. Charles Foley suggested. It was important to note that the bylaws govern the leadership of the church and the Board members should be familiar with the by-laws. There was a motion to accept the change in wording for the treasurer's role by Sarah Foley and it was seconded by Elaine Rauch. Most were in favor with Willie Stewart opposed.

The nominating committee for 2023 consisted of the following individuals:

Gloria Miller, Nominating Committee Chairman

Rev. Charles Foley, Minister

Marie Lynch, Congregational Representative

After canvassing the congregation, two applications were forwarded to the Board of Directors. After reviewing the applications and conducting interviews, they selected the following candidates: Robert Campbell and Linda Urquhart.

The President thanked Gloria for her report.

All were in favor of Robert Campbell's nomination to the Board for the term of 2024 to 2027. There were all Ayes with no Nays or Abstentions .

All were in favor of Linda Urquhart's nomination to the Board for the term of 2024 to 2027. There were all Ayes with no Nays or Abstentions.

The current Board of Directors met and in accordance with our By-laws, section 4.07, elected the following officers for the year February 2024- February 2025:

President	Gloria Miller
Vice President	Joan Shears
Secretary	Ellen Davis
Treasurer	Elaine Rauch
Directors	Burnette Rahmaan, Linda Urquhart & Robert Campbell

The President noted that there are seven directors rather than the usual six. The Board is a collaborative collective of caring individuals and as life happens, if a member is unable to fulfill their responsibilities for a given month, then another director will fill in for them. Today is an example where Ellen Davis is presently filling in for Burnette Rahmaan. Thank you Ellen Davis.

The President turned the meeting over to the incoming President Gloria Miller who asserted she was honored and promised to do her best as president.

The incoming President called Vivien Mott to the platform and thanked her for her leadership for the past several years.

The President invited the Current Board Members to the podium. Ellen Davis and Joan Shears personally thanked the former president for her leadership and service. Rev. Charles Foley gave the outgoing President flowers. The outgoing President was asked to share with the congregation that she would be moving out of state the following month and expressed gratitude for the ability to serve.

The incoming President asked if there was any unfinished business and there was none. A motion was made to close the meeting by Vivien Mott and seconded by Sarah Foley. All were in favor.

The incoming President invited Rev. Charles Foley to the platform for a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 PM.