



**Minutes FOR USCL 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Members Meeting 3/10/2024**

Board of Trustees: President Chrissie Shearer, V. P. Jeff Benoit Treas. Jane Cloos,  
Secretary Jill Dening Members at Large: Lucille Olson, Teresa Mulford  
Minister: Rev. Sharon Ketchum Jessica Shelton - Record minutes  
Greg Dening – Tech Assistant to verify membership of virtual attendees  
In Person: **Board member to check-in members: Jill Dening – BOT Secretary**

**In Person at 2395 Washington Road, Lansing, MI 48911**  
**Zoom: Meeting ID: 177 417 886 Passcode: 601744**

All documents available online at  
<https://www.unitylansing.org/members-section>

**12:06 Call Meeting to Order by Board President**

**President Chrissie Shearer**

**Opening Prayer**

**Rev. Sharon Ketchum**

**Mission, Vision, and Core Values**

**All Affirm Together**

Video Recording Started

- We awaken to our Oneness with God, each other and all creation.
- We see a world powerfully transformed through the shared spiritual awakening of all humanity.
- We value our collective Spiritual Awakening, Freedom, Integrity, Joyfulness, Inclusivity, Stewardship and Prayer.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**

**Motion – Jane Cloos**

**Maggie Bishop 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion & Lucille Olson passed the motion – Passed unanimously**

**Explanation of Voting Methods**

President Chrissie Shearer

In person members raise hands for all voting. If joining virtually. Raise hand next to face or with a Yes OR No in the chat.

Any member can request that we take a roll call vote on any item.

**Scrutineers for counting of Zoom Hand Votes:** Greg Dening and Jessica Shelton.

**Scrutineers for in person votes:** Nanette Podany & Kerri Kemp

**Establish quorum** – 51 present in person and 3 present online Jill Dening

**Approval of 2023 Annual Members Meeting Minutes – Motion to Approve Agenda – Dan Maynard - Keri Kemp 2<sup>nd</sup> – Passed unanimously.**

President Chrissie Shearer

Minutes posted on website – they will not be read aloud

<https://www.unitylansing.org/2023-03-05-draft-minutes-reports-annual-members-meeting>

**Financial Report**

**Treasurer Jane Cloos**

**Presentation 2023 Financials, P&L, Balance Sheet, Actuals/Budget**

**Presentation of 2024 Budget**

**Motion to approve 2024 Budget**

President Chrissie Shearer

Luanne Champion asked question about what “over & under budget” means on the Budget to actuals, “Gifts In Kind” explanation & USCL expenses – classes.

Jeff Benoit says a few words about the budget

Rev Sharon says a few words on Covid, moving and congregational growth. “We Are Growing!”

Jane Cloos mentions combining the regular savings with the operational reserves in the money market account or a CD.

Nanette Podany wonders if this includes the \$22,000 from savings? **yes**

**Blessing the Ministry’s gifts and assets**

**Rev. Sharon Ketchum**

**Acknowledgements: Our Board of Trustees**

**Rev. Sharon Ketchum**

**\*Election of Board of Trustees Members**

**Vice President Jeff Benoit will take over meeting as the President is one of the nominees**

Board Rep of Nominating Team presents the slate of nominees

**Maggie Bishop**

Slate of Board Nominees 2024: Both are running for their 2<sup>nd</sup> term

3 Yes votes online

(alphabetically): **Jane Cloos, Chrissie Shearer (3 seats, 2 nominees)**

**Motion to Approve Nominees – Kathy Assif - Keri Kemp 2nd – Passed unanimously.**

Each nominee is invited to introduce themselves and say a few words

**V.P. Jeff Benoit**

**Vote to approve the slate presented by the Nominating Team**

**V.P. Jeff Benoit**

**Unanimous vote Yes for both nominees.**

**Chair of meeting reverts to Chrissie Shearer**

**\*Election of Congregational Representative and Alternate to Nominating Team Chrissie Shearer**

Vote for Congregational Rep and Alternate Representative to nominating team:

*Asking that volunteers to be part of the nomination team submit interest prior to meeting*

Luanne asks, “what is a congregational representative?”

Dan Maynard - Congregational Rep.

Keri Kemp as primary alternate, Luanne Champion as secondary alternate for 2025

Motion to Approve Representative and Alternates – Karla Janing – Deb Otis 2nd passed for both alternates.

**President’s Report**

**President Chrissie Shearer**

Highlights of 2023 Renewal of Rev. Sharon's contract for 3 years, Summary of accomplishments in 2023, Creation of the Rental Venue Team, Projects "Wish List" Completely Funded, Successful 1<sup>st</sup> Circulation Day, Increase in Membership, Recognition of Team Membership, Project Funding, Time/Talent/Funding, 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Unity in Lansing - A special celebration event is being planned for by the Social Team.

Event Rental Questions from Maggie Bishop & Chris McEnhill

## **Old Business**

- ✓ There is no old business from the 2023 annual members meeting

## **New Business**

**President Chrissie Shearer**

### **Reports – handout with discussion by exception**

- 1. Safety Plans Introduction**                      **Donette Pinkerton**      Luanne Champion asked a Q on safety protocol. Are safety sheets available? We are still formulating the emergency exit needs.
- 2. Event Rental Team update Report**      **Jeff Benoit**  
Success! USCL operates as a rental space per our 501c-3 non-profit religious status.
- 3. Facilities Update Report**                      **Jerry Podany**
- 4. 90-year History of Unity in Lansing**

**Any new business from the floor:** Danielle McMahon is coordinating a Member directory with photos by Greg Edwards

## **Closing Prayer**

**Rev. Sharon Ketchum**

## **Motion to Adjourn – Greg Dening**

Everyone is invited to a Chili Potluck in the Great Hall