



# Ministry Vacancy Information Packet

Unity in the Gold Country  
Grass Valley, CA

February 2024

# About the Ministry

## OVERVIEW

Nestled in the Sierra foothills, Unity in the Gold Country Spiritual Center (UGC) is located in Grass Valley, a vibrant community in northern California. The ministry serves the cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City along with multiple rural neighborhoods throughout Western Nevada County. With a total resident population of 17,000, the area offers a welcoming small-town feeling. Highlights that make this community special include celebrations like Mardi Gras, Victorian and Cornish Christmas, farmers markets and seasonal parades as well as unique shops and historic hotels. This charming foothill location with its natural environment makes the area a year-round mecca for outdoor recreation and cultural events.

UGC was founded in 2000 by Reverend Joe and Lynn Sloan. Under Reverend Joe's leadership the church community flourished. In 2007 through tremendous effort of volunteers, funds were raised to renovate our large new building. In 2016 additional funds were raised for a down payment to purchase the building.

Reverend Joe retired in 2011 and his assistant, Rev Jere Farrell became the Senior Minister. Rev Joe remains minister emeritus and both he and his wife Lynn remain active members of our Unity family.

Rev Jere has been a significant force in the continued spiritual growth of the community. He, along with the Board of Trustees, led UGC through the impacts of the lockdowns and mask mandates with grace and commitment to continuing service and outreach via zoom and then onto You Tube which is a service still provided today.

Part of the unique qualities of UGC is the wide range of holistic healing practitioners active in the community. Their participation has allowed UGC to establish monthly energy healing clinics, weekly zoomed prayers, and a large Chaplaincy program. UGC offers a variety of spiritual exploration classes and activities.

We have had the honor of hosting speakers such as Matt Kahn, Jeddah Mali, Adyashanti, and Karen Drucker that drew in large numbers of participants from the greater region.

The continued use of remote options for Sunday services and some book study classes provides the potential to expand our ministry outreach beyond our geographical limits. Steeped in the knowing that all are divine expressions of God, UGC is open and welcoming to all people looking for a supportive and loving spiritual community.

**Locality:** Grass Valley and its close neighbor, Nevada City, are historic gold mining towns in the rural Nevada County, nestled in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. These towns and the nearby neighborhoods of Alta Sierra, Lake Wildwood, Penn Valley and Chicago Park provide quaint and scenic small-town living while offering a vibrant cultural scene, a variety of restaurants, wine tasting rooms, local shops, art galleries and world class entertainment venues.

Agriculture is an important part of the local economy with weekly farmers' markets and the Nevada County Fair that showcases the wide variety of animals and crops of the region. The fairgrounds is a venue for many events throughout the year including a Celtic Festival, World Fest, Draft Horse Classic, Strawberry Festival, Blues Festival, Holiday Crafts Fair and more. Residents and visitors alike flock to the Yuba River, Scotts Flat Lake, Rollins Lake and more for swimming, boating, hiking, camping, rafting, mountain biking and so much more.

Driving times to Sacramento and Lake Tahoe are about an hour, Reno 1 ½ hours, San Francisco about 2 ½ hours, with the closest international airport by Sacramento about 1 hour and 10 minutes. The climate is four seasons – rainy with occasional snowfall in the winter, vibrant green springs, hot, dry summers, and beautiful, cool falls – similar to the Mediterranean climate – with a variety of elevations to choose from – the higher locations bring more winter snow and the lower elevations hotter summers.

**Physical Description:** The Center is located in a light industrial area surrounded by professional buildings and a nursery. Sitting on 1.14 acres, the 6118 sq ft building was renovated by UGC to specifically meet the Center's needs. The renovation created two administrative offices, two restrooms, a Sanctuary with a capacity of 250 with an adjacent kitchen and loft area used for audio recording and You Tube. Additionally, there are seven individual rooms, 4 used as meeting areas for classes and youth groups; the other 3 are for the Chapel, a Gift Shop and a library/Board room. There is a large attic storage area. The paved parking lot has a capacity of 44 cars with additional off-site and street parking available.

**Proximity to Other Unity Ministries and/or New Thought Centers:**

- Unity Ministries
  - Unity of Auburn, 24 miles south
  - Unity of Oroville, 36 miles northwest
  - Unity of Roseville, 38 miles southeast
  - Unity Spiritual Community in Citrus Heights, 41 miles southeast
  - Spiritual Life Center in Sacramento, 49 miles southeast
  
- Other New Thought Centers
  - Sierra Center for Spiritual Living (Grass Valley, 3 miles)
  - Unitarian Church of Grass Valley (3 miles)
  - Mountain Steam Meditation Center (Nevada City, 5 miles)
  - Ananda Meditation Retreat (Nevada City, 23 miles)

**Do you participate in any of the following activities? (Check all that apply)**

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Small/SpiritGroup Ministries                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Community Outreach/Compassionate Social Action            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Social Media (ex: Facebook, Twitter, livestreaming, etc.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please list)                                       |                                     |

## PEOPLE

UGC congregation is warm, welcoming and supportive community. You can feel the energy in the sanctuary every Sunday morning and anytime there are gatherings or community functions. Many congregants volunteer to support the various needs of the Center. The enthusiasm and commitment to spiritual growth can be seen in the number of participants in classes and activities. Our vision for the future includes a vibrant youth ministry program and a multi-generational community.

**Size of mailing list:** 344 email addresses  
**Average Sunday attendance:** 60-80 in person + 15-30 during live stream  
**Formal (voting or active) membership:** 95 active members, 30 active nonmembers

### Special Groups:

Our special groups involve both on-going classes as well as short specialty classes. The on-going classes include book studies such as Way of Mastery, Course in Miracles, Course of Love, and at least one 7-week program per year. Some of our health and well-being opportunities include: exercise classes such as Qi Gong, Tai Chi, and Yoga, Energy Healing Clinics, prayer and meditation, chaplain training and support, Garden Market, and healthy cooking classes. Our Spiritual Exploration topics have included Dreams and Guided Imagery, Enneagram, and Sacred Geometry. Many of our classes are taught by individual congregants.

We also have AA groups, a camera club, and others that meet at our facility.

### Church staff/other employees:

Paid positions: Minister, Rev Jere Farrell, Ministerial Assistant, Lezlie Van Natta, Custodian,  
Volunteer Positions: Gift Shop Manager, Chaplain Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, and Youth Ministry Coordinator, Landscaping Team. We are presently in search of a Marketing Coordinator,

## MINISTRY SUPPORT SERVICES

Has the ministry worked with a UWM Consultant or Transitional Specialist?  Yes  No.

## MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES

Has the ministry developed Vision, Mission, and Core Value statements?  Yes  No.

### Mission:

Awakening in love in Unity with All (revised 2022)

**Core Values:** Meaningful Prayer, Joyful Fellowship, Inspirational Education, Loving Service

**What have been the three most important events in the history of your ministry?**

1. Start of ministry: 2000
2. Transition from Rev Joe to Rev Jere: 2011
3. Purchased building: 2016

**In the last 3 years, what activities/special events in the ministry were all attended/appreciated?**

**(COVID impacted our activities from 2020-2022)**

- Jeddah Mali weekend workshop: October 2022
- Healing Clinics, Several musical concerts during 2023;
- Yearly Burning Bowl/White Stone Ceremony, and 7-week book study, on-going study groups and classes

**What does the congregation want to accomplish in the next 3 years?**

1. Hire a new senior minister in 2024.
2. Continue to have a strong and growing ministry that serves the greater community. Prioritize youth, family, inter-generational activities
3. Increase the congregation by 10% per year through increased marketing and by expanding our music program.
4. Continue evolving the spiritual level of the congregation.
5. Create a “Blue-Zone” at UGC by promoting healthy lifestyle and intergenerational opportunities.
6. Support diversity of views and beliefs and cultures.
7. Increase class time and zoom options to be more available to working congregants.

**INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS**

**Articles of Incorporation – Date:** 12/19/2000

**Bylaws – Date Adopted/Revised:** Revised January 2022

Check here if your bylaws are structured in accordance with the Unity Worldwide Ministries bylaw template:  <https://www.unityworldwideministries.org/recommended-bylaws-unity-ministry>

# About the Position

## MINISTERIAL CHARACTERISTICS AND EXPECTATIONS – 1 IS TOP PRIORITY, 9 IS LEAST IMPORTANT

- 2 Building Leaders and Teams, and Empowering Others**
  - Keeps mission, vision, values, and the WHY this ministry exists current
  - Plans for continual training of leadership and volunteers, ministry growth, and outreach
  - Implements training for boards, staff, and volunteers and fosters a team-based culture
  - Plans for training and utilizing licensed Unity teachers (LUT) as an integral part of the ministry
  - Planning for building financial development strategies
  - Incorporates training for Youth & Family Ministry, youth, YOU, Next Generation
  - Develops and leads worship experiences collaboratively with others involved
  
- 1 Focus on Prayer, Meditation, Pastoral Care, Chaplaincy**
  - Demonstrates prayer consciousness and facilitates prayer & meditation classes & experiences
  - Compassionate and caring person, sensitive to others' needs and emotions
  - Focus on the pastoral care needs of the intergenerational congregation
  - Helps people develop a spiritual life and a prayer consciousness within the ministry
  - Ministers to people in crisis, offer guidance in solving problems
  - Makes hospital visits, visits shut-ins and nursing homes, prayer with members
  - Facilitates training for chaplains and utilizes chaplains within the ministry
  
- 4 Outreach into the Local Community**
  - Demonstrates a desire to engage and support the local community members
  - Compassionate and caring person, sensitive to others' needs and emotions
  - Community Organizer skills to coordinate with multiple volunteers and outside organizations
  - Problem solver who recognizes the third option, shows persistence, and follow through
  - Negotiates and/or compromises, seeking the highest outcome for all involved
  - Demonstrates appreciation for volunteers, staff, board, and congregants of all ages
  - Compassionate listener and deals effectively with different points of view
  
- 3 Working with a Specific Group (Kids, teens, seniors, men, women, LGBTQ, etc.)**
  - Maintains confidentiality, understanding the laws around mandated reporting
  - Helps people of all ages develop a spiritual life and a prayer consciousness within the ministry
  - Models and teaches open attitudes with a diverse population
  - Ministers to individuals and families in crisis, offer guidance in solving problems
  - Act as a resource to additional community and support services
  
- 6 Spiritual Social Activism**
  - Invites others to become involved and is a team player
  - Models and teaches open attitudes, active listening, and tolerance with a diverse population
  - Consciously educates themselves and others on the topic
  - Maintains a respectful presence regarding spiritual social activism
  - Helps to develop an inclusive consciousness within the ministry
  
- 9 Audio/Visual(A/V) Technology Acumen**
  - Adept with a variety of A/V technologies to enhance the overall worship experience
  - Skilled in the use of virtual meeting applications (Zoom, WebEx, Meet, Teams, etc.)
  - Demonstrated success in delivering virtual and hybrid presentations and training
  - Embraces the use of social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) in support of the ministry's mission, vision, and values.

- 6 Environmentalism**
  - Knowledgeable of and proficient in environmental awareness for this geographic location
  - Compassionate and caring person, sensitive to the environment and connection to the planet
  - Community Organizer skills to coordinate with multiple volunteers and outside organizations
  - Problem solver who recognizes the third option, shows persistence, and follow through
  - Negotiates and/or compromises, seeking the highest outcome for all involved
  - Demonstrates appreciation for volunteers, staff, board, and congregants of all ages
  - Compassionate listener and deals effectively with different points of view
  
- 5 Health & Wellbeing**
  - Knowledgeable of and proficient in health, healing, exercise & nutrition
  - Compassionate and caring person, sensitive to the mind-body connection
  - Community Organizer skills to coordinate with multiple volunteers and outside organizations
  - Problem solver who recognizes the third option, shows persistence, and follow through
  - Negotiates and/or compromises, seeking the highest outcome for all involved
  - Demonstrates appreciation for volunteers, staff, board, and congregants of all ages
  - Compassionate listener and deals effectively with different points of view
  
- 8 Administration**
  - Knowledgeable of and proficient in applying ministry bylaws, policies, and procedures
  - Proficient in executing fiduciary responsibilities, developing prosperity awareness, and maintaining a balanced budget
  - Follows office management best practices and use of office systems (software)
  - Empowers staff and volunteers, delegates well
  - Implements training for boards, staff, and volunteers and fosters a learning culture

**Other specific qualities, experiences, leadership skills, vision, etc., you are seeking not already addressed:** It is important to note that we have a very active congregation. Because of this, some of the expectations for our new minister will be different than other spiritual centers. While our current minister does lead some classes and we will expect our future one to do likewise, many of our congregants have organized and led various classes. We have a Chaplain coordinator/trainer. We have a Volunteer Coordinator. We have Platform Assistants for the Sunday service who lead their own meditation during the service and, when there is a visiting speaker, also take care of the other aspects of the service not relating to the talk. We have a trained audio-visual team.

**SPIRITUAL EXPERTISE AND EDUCATIONAL ACUMEN**

**1. Ministry Location.** Place an “X” next to the primary location of the ministry’s current demographic. (Select one)

[click to rate](#)      **In-person**

[click to rate](#)      **Online**

**X**                      **Hybrid**

**2. Ministry Type.** Place an “X” next to the description that best describes this ministry. (Select one)

**X**                      **Congregation-Based**

[click to rate](#)      **Community-Based**

[click to rate](#)      **Service-Based**

3. **Age Groups.** Please identify the TOP THREE age groups in which your ministry is focused. Rank your top three in order: 1, 2, and 3 with 1 being your top age demographic group.

1.5	70's and up	<a href="#">click to rate</a>	20's & 30's
1.5	50's & 60's	<a href="#">click to rate</a>	Teens & Young Adults
3	30's & 40's	<a href="#">click to rate</a>	Kids & Families

4. **Interests/Area of Expertise:** Please identify the TOP THREE areas of expertise needed from the incoming minister. Rank your top three in order: 1, 2, and 3 with 1 being your strongest area of need/focus.

1	Sunday Services
2	Prayer & Meditation / Pastoral Care
<a href="#">click to rate</a>	SpiritGroups
3	Development and Facilitation of Classes
4	Outreach in the Community
<a href="#">click to rate</a>	Earth Care
<a href="#">click to rate</a>	Interfaith & World Religions
	Current Trending Spirituality

5. **Spiritual Expertise and Educational Acumen:** Please identify the TOP THREE areas of expertise needed from the incoming minister. Rank your top three in order: 1, 2, and 3 with 1 being your strongest area of need/focus.

1	Unity Foundational Teachings
4	Bible and Metaphysics
<a href="#">click to rate</a>	Fillmore (only)
<a href="#">click to rate</a>	Classic Unity Authors
2	New Thought Authors
3	World Religions
	Current Trending Spirituality



**POWER OF FOCUSED MINISTRY**

**WHO does this ministry serve?**

Our congregants are inquisitive, committed to their spiritual growth and open to growing their individual spiritual life. Since the pandemic our population has changed, drawing a wider and more diverse range of people. Collectively we are committed to inter-generational growth and expansion.

**WHY do you exist as a ministry?**

This ministry exists to promote awareness of the Truth of who we are and to be a Light in our community and our world.

**What demographic resonates to the answer of your WHY question?**

Our answer to the WHY question resonates across all age and cultural demographics. The Truth of who we are is foundational to facilitate maturation in spiritual consciousness. Those who truly know who they are, become a Light to the community by their very being.

**Describe your vision of the perfect ministry.**

The perfect ministry is an all-inclusive, ever-evolving, loving community. It welcomes familiar and new persons across all age groups. The perfect ministry encourages and supports spiritual growth in its members no matter where they are in their spiritual journey. The ministry is widely known in the outer community through a variety of outreach avenues (e.g. social media, newspaper articles publicizing speakers, classes, special events).

=====

**Vacancy Fill by Date: September 3, 2024**

**Proposed Salary: \$35,000-\$45,000 + Manse and benefits (negotiable)**

**Moving Expenses:** Moving expenses have been approved by the BoT. The amount will depend on the circumstances of the move (how far, size of family, etc) and are negotiable.

**Additional arrangements, benefits, insurance, etc.:**

The following describe benefits in addition to the salary:

Manse allowance of \$1200/month

FICA equivalent of \$263/month

Health insurance contribution of \$215/month

Retirement contribution of \$260/month

**Housing:** Unity in the Gold Country (UGC) is located in the beautiful Sierra Nevada foothills, conveniently positioned between the historic Gold Rush towns of Nevada City and Grass Valley. There are nearby community options such as Penn Valley, Alta Sierra, and just 30 minutes away the larger

city of Auburn. The gated communities of Lake Wildwood and Lake of the Pines are nearby. Within the Nevada City and Grass Valley locations, there are several distinct neighborhoods to choose from which include condos, apartments, and individual homes. For specific information regarding housing prices and other cost of living data, we recommend visiting real estate online sites as well as:

[www.bestplaces.net](http://www.bestplaces.net)  
[www.areavibes.com](http://www.areavibes.com)

**Schools and School Districts:** The education in western Nevada County, CA is well-regarded and highly rated. It offers a range of educational opportunities for all grade levels from pre-school through community college, ensuring that students receive a quality education. In addition to the regular school curriculum including Advanced Placement courses and college prep courses, the Nevada County office of Education offers a variety of charter school options that cover Expeditionary Learning, the Academy of Art, Waldorf education, prep school and more. The county also provides a selection of extracurricular activities and clubs for all grade levels that help students learn more about themselves and develop new skills. Private school options are also available.

Higher education options include Sierra College (2-year college), in Grass Valley, California State University Sacramento (CSUS), University of California, Davis (UCD), and University of Nevada in Reno (UNR).

With strong local schools and an array of educational resources, Nevada County is an excellent place to pursue a quality education. For further information regarding options and resources, a search on the following websites can be helpful:

[www.nevco.org](http://www.nevco.org)  
[www.sarconline.org](http://www.sarconline.org) (sarc: school accountability report card)  
[www.areavibes.com](http://www.areavibes.com)  
[www.bestplaces.net](http://www.bestplaces.net)

**Additional Comments:**

The wider Nevada County community is rich in opportunities for recreation including biking, hiking, kayaking and snow sports; there are a multitude of cultural experiences in theater, art, and music; there several annual events that bring people together such as Cornish Christmas in Grass Valley, Victorian Christmas in Nevada City, Music in the Mountains, Wild and Scenic Film Festival, Celtic Festival, Draft Horse Classic and County Fair, and parades commemorating Independence Day and President’s Day. These provide multiple avenues for a newcomer to integrate into the community.

We have a very artistic community that supports a wide range of musicians through The Center for the Arts, the Nevada Theater, and the Magic Theater. Artists are featured at local galleries and can explore their artistic skills at The Forge.

=====



## Release of Information Authorization

I, the Board President of Unity in the Gold Country on behalf of the Board of Trustees, authorize ministerial applicants to obtain any pertinent information regarding ministry history from the permanent ministry file in Unity Worldwide Ministries' home office.

*Marlene Bottenfield*

---

Board President

2/16/24

---

Date