



Ministry Vacancy Information Packet

Unity Des Plaines
September 2023

About The Ministry

OVERVIEW

Unity Des Plaines is a small church serving a vibrant and diverse population of single adults, families, and seniors from different ethnic backgrounds. We are a welcoming community, practicing Unity principles. We provide a family atmosphere and are community-oriented. LGBTQIA individuals are welcome here. Members are generous with their time, talent, and treasure!

We own our building and property. We are located in the City of Des Plaines, Illinois, a northwest suburb of Chicago, about 20 miles northwest of Chicago. Des Plaines is a mixed residential, shopping, and business area that serves a middle-class population. To learn more about Des Plaines, visit the City of Des Plaines website at www.desplaines.org.

Unity Des Plaines is excited to be rebuilding itself after being locked down for about 1 ½ years due to the Covid pandemic.

We have an active supportive Board, a Chaplain program, a prayer team, professional musicians, an active youth program, a live stream team, and a committed platform team.

Unity Des Plaines also offers a weekly meditation group, A Course in Miracles group, and has just added a weekly Families Anonymous group.

Our website is also being revitalized to reflect the current styles and to be more interactive.
unitydesplaines.org

We are seeking a new minister who embodies these qualities:

- Supports the vision and mission of Unity Des Plaines
- Authentic, compassionate, and caring – a people person
- Insightful engaging speaker
- Supports and guides youth ministry, LUT, and various ministries
- Organized and understands business administration
- Encourages higher spiritual learning
- Enthusiastic
- Demonstrates humility
- Has the ability and desire to grow our online presence

Locality:

Unity of Des Plaines is located in Des Plaines, IL, a vibrant diverse community in the northwest suburbs about 20 miles from Chicago. We are located in a mixed residential area with plenty of shopping and an active business area. We draw from several large northwest suburbs and serve a mixed middle-class suburban population.

Des Plaines has a population of 59,459 (2021). The city covers 14.38 miles. In addition to an ethnically diverse community, the city is home to several large companies including industrial, commercial, retail, and services businesses. This offers residents low property taxes and a wide variety of city services. Des Plaines has excellent transportation, lots of family events, convenient shopping, and lots of recreation/forest preserves. The area enjoys all four seasons and is close to Lake Michigan, forest preserves, and parks.

There are major transportation centers including Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, Metra Commuter Train (connects to Amtrak), Pace Suburban Bus System, CTA "L" Line, and Interstates 90, 94, and 294.

Visit the City of Des Plaines website for further information: www.desplaines.org

Physical Description:

Exterior includes:

- Single story all brick building
- Garage
- Beautiful grounds including gardens and a patio area
- Convenient parking
- Signage

Interior includes:

- A 100-seat sanctuary
- Fellowship hall
- 2 offices
- Kitchen and Bathrooms
- Storage
- Furnace room
- Bookstore – (rented to A.R.E.)
- Children's classroom for youth ministry
- Foyer and Entryway

Audio Visual and Sound Equipment:

- Updated Sound system
- Video streaming equipment/multiple cameras/angles
- Large Flat Screen
- Digital Baby Grand Piano

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

- Unity North Shore – Evanston, IL, approximately 10 miles from Des Plaines (looking for new location)
- Unity Naperville – Naperville, IL, approximately 52 miles from Des Plaines
- Unity of Fox Valley – Batavia, IL, approximately 47 miles from Des Plaines
- Unity Chicago – Chicago, IL, approximately 14 miles from Des Plaines
- Unity Temple of Oak Park – Oak Park, IL approximately 27 miles from Des Plaines
- Unity Spiritual Center of Woodstock – Woodstock, IL approximately 42 miles from Des Plaines

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

- Small Group Ministries
- Community Outreach/Compassionate Social Action
- Publications
- Social Media (ex: Facebook, Twitter, livestreaming, etc.)

Other (please list) Des Plaines Food Pantry, School Supplies, Giving Angels for Christmas, Feed Our Starving Children, Circulation Day, Spiritual Play Dates, World Day of Prayer and other outreach ministries.

PEOPLE

Size of mailing list: 460 **Average Sunday attendance:** 40 – 45 in person, 60ish online

Formal (voting or active) membership: 81

Special groups: Weekly A Course in Miracles, Monday Morning Metaphysics Book Club, weekly Meditation, weekly Families Anonymous, Ushers, Audio/Visual Team, Hospitality, Prayer Team, Chaplains, Platform Assistants, Music Team

Church staff/other employees:

Carolyn Dunoon, Tatiana Naumova

MINISTRY SUPPORT SERVICES

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

Name: Greg Coles, Tony Boehm, Megon McDonough, Rev. Carla McClellan

Dates: Nov. 2021 - Present

Topics Covered: Board education, Interim Minister, HOPCOF, Transition Management, Conflict Resolution, Unity Des Plaines History, Forgiveness Work, redoing our Mission, Vision and Values in March 2023

MISSION, VISION AND CORE VALUES

Has the ministry developed Vision, Mission, and core values? Date Click or tap here to enter text.

Practice Unity Principles, Open-Minded, Inclusive, Caring/Loving!

Our minister must live by these values too

We will be recreating our Vision, Mission and core values with the help of our Interim Minister in March 2023

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

1. 2003 – Introduced our Chaplain Team Ministry
2. 2006 – Paid off our mortgage
3. 2022 – Having Rev. Carla McClellan to help church with our current transition after COVID

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

- Megon McDonough – singer/songwriter/entertainer
- Circulation day – free garage sale to honor the concept of circulation
- Reopening the church after COVID – and overcoming those challenges

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

- Attract our divinely appointed minister
- Grow our congregation (in person and online)
- Grow our finances

INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

Articles of Incorporation – Date: 08/30/1963

Bylaws – Date Adopted/Revised: 3/15/2009 (being revised now too)

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

Bylaws are currently being revised (February 2023) and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

About The Position

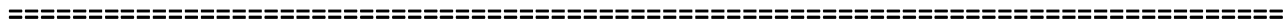
MINISTERIAL CHARACTERISTICS AND EXPECTATIONS – 1 IS TOP PRIORITY, 7 IS LEAST IMPORTANT

- 4 Visionary / Planner / Organizer**
- Keeps mission, vision, and values current
 - Planning for building financial development strategies
 - Plans for ministry growth and outreach
 - Incorporates training for Youth & Family Ministry, youth, YOU, Next Generation
 - Implements training for boards, staff and volunteers and fosters a learning culture
 - Plans for training and utilizing licensed Unity teachers (LUT) as an integral part of the ministry
- 2 Presenter**
- Speaks and writes clearly as an effective Sunday speaker, teacher, facilitator, and administrator
 - Develops and leads worship experiences collaboratively with others involved
- 7 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.
- 1 Interpersonal Communication**
- Demonstrates prayer consciousness and practices spiritual principles with integrity
 - Compassionate and caring person, sensitive to others' needs and emotions
 - 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 Spiritual Counseling / Chaplaincy / Pastoral**
- Maintains confidentiality, understanding the laws around mandated reporting
 - 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' program and utilizes it within the ministry
- 3 Leadership**
- Invites others to become involved and is a team player with Board, LUTs, staff, and volunteers
 - Models and teaches open attitudes with a diverse population
 - Promotes small group ministry, builds spiritual community, and develops leadership abilities in others
 - Helps to develop a prosperity consciousness within the ministry
- 6 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

Spiritual Expertise and Educational Acumen – Top 3 priorities:

- 1** **Unity Foundational Teachings**
- 2** **Bible and Metaphysics**
[click to rate](#) **Fillmore (only)**
Classic Unity Authors
- 3** **New Thought Authors**
[click to rate](#) **World Religions**
[click to rate](#) **Current Trending Spirituality**

Other specific qualities, experiences, leadership skills, vision, etc., you are seeking not already addressed: People person, kind, leadership abilities, a vision for our church, good sense of humor.



Vacancy fill by date: December 2023

Proposed salary: \$45,000 - \$55,000

Moving Expenses: Negotiable

Additional arrangements, benefits, insurance, etc.:

Negotiable

Housing market, school districts, etc. in your locale:

The median home price in Des Plaines is \$205,000, down 22.2% since January 2022. But compared to December 2022, Des Plaines’s median home price has increased by 12.9%.

School District 62 operates 11 schools and 1 early learning center. High school District 207 serves Des Plaines and there are also several private schools. There is also Oakton Community College located in Des Plaines.

Other comments:

Click or tap here to enter text.





Release of Information Authorization

I, the Board President of Unity Des Plaines 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.

Leslie Johns
Board President

9/21/23
Date