



Unity of Fort Wayne Spiritual Center
Fort Wayne, IN

The Ministry

THE MINISTRY - OVERVIEW

At Unity of Fort Wayne Spiritual Center, we embrace practical teachings for a healthy, prosperous, and meaningful life. We are an open, accepting spiritual community that honors all paths to God and helps people discover and live their spiritual potential and purpose. We empower our members to reach for their highest good through the Sunday message, classes, Love in Action volunteer programs, and workshops. We apply the teachings of Jesus and other spiritual masters and affirm the power of prayer to help people experience a stronger connection with God every day. Our members and friends find spiritual guidance through the sciences, both eastern and western philosophy, theology, art, and literature.

Unity in Fort Wayne began as a result of a railroad car attendant discovering the Daily Word magazine while passing through the mail car. In 1939 William Sullivan, that railroad worker, and a small group of friends met in the Old Wayne Hotel in downtown and held services under the name Unity Church of Christ. The first minister was Rev. Frederick Andrews.

The present church was built in 1964 and another expansion was added in 1987. The church was renamed Unity Christ Church of Fort Wayne under the leadership of Rev. Claudette Farone.

In 2011 we began doing business as Unity of Fort Wayne Spiritual Center to reflect the focus of our Mission Statement at that time: Practical Spirituality for Empowered Daily Living.

In July 2012, we hired a Transitional Minister Specialist, Rev. Barry Vennard. With his assistance, we examined where we have been, where we are, and how to plan for our future.

In 2013, we changed our Vision and Mission Statements to reflect a world being transformed through spirituality.

From August 2014 to July 2016, UFW operated without a minister, but not without strong and dedicated leadership. We operated with guest speakers for our Sunday services, and continued offering classes, workshops, and special events. We were able to pay off our mortgage and build some financial stability. In July 2016, we hired Rev. Glenda Walden, who served UFW through July 2021. During her tenure, it was discovered that our building was structurally declining, requiring a major renovation. The downside of this discovery was that it necessitated taking out a loan for the repairs. The positive outcome is that we now have a beautiful, updated sanctuary that is suited for a variety of events. We are now able to rent out our space, increasing our capacity for revenue.

THE LOCALITY

Fort Wayne, Indiana, is a three-time All America City Award winner, recognized for its high quality of life, and warm, mid-west hospitality. In the 2020 – 2021 U.S. News & World Report list, Fort Wayne was ranked as the second-most affordable place to live in the U.S. With more than \$1 billion in private investment downtown since 2009, Fort Wayne is now a leading Midwestern city for growth and positive domestic net migration. The city continues moving forward with progressive development in business, residential, retail, and green space, and is an increasingly vibrant destination. Fort Wayne is home to more than a dozen museums and galleries and a wide

variety of performing arts companies including ballet, modern dance, orchestra, and theatre. A botanical conservatory and one of the nation's top ten children's zoos help round out the city's cultural assets. The Allen County Public Library, located downtown, houses The Genealogy Center, the largest public genealogy library in the United States.

Unity of Fort Wayne is located just outside the downtown area, in a highly accessible residential/retail neighborhood. Just minutes away from Purdue University, Fort Wayne, and a major convention center.

Our city hosts minor league hockey, basketball, and baseball teams, the latter of which is located downtown in newly constructed Parkview Field, rated the #1 minor league stadium in the U.S. More than 87 parks and trails promote recreational activities; the city is also within a 50-mile radius of 300 beautiful inland lakes ranging in size from three to almost 4,000 acres. Centrally located (two hours from Indianapolis and three hours to Chicago, Detroit, Columbus, and Cincinnati), Fort Wayne is the second-largest city in Indiana. The region's Population exceeds 700,000.

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

There are Unity churches in Chicago, Indianapolis, and Dayton, all between 2 and 3 hours from Fort Wayne.

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) [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

PEOPLE

Size of mailing list:	201	Average Sunday attendance:	35-40
Formal (voting or active) membership:	51		

Special groups:

We serve children, and have weekly support groups for AA, OA, and NA

Church staff/other employees:

We have one highly skilled and valued bookkeeper who manages our office on a part-time basis
Our Licensed Unity Teacher volunteers her time and coordinates all our education programs

MINISTRY SUPPORT SERVICES

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

Name: Barry Vennard

Dates: July 2012 – July 2014

Topics Covered: Rev. Barry conducted multiple workshops to help us resolve past issues, identify our strengths, challenges, and opportunities for growth, and then skillfully led us through a process to determine, as a congregation, our future direction.

MISSION, VISION AND CORE VALUES

Has the ministry developed Vision, Mission, and core values? Date July 2014

Our Vision, Mission, Values and Principles

Vision Statement

A world transformed through shared spiritual awakenings.

Mission Statement

To cultivate leadership and connections that support spiritual awakening and transformation.

Core Values

Value: Love

At UFW, love is the ultimate core value. Love is the creative presence that seeks to be experienced in every aspect of our lives, as mutually enhanced relationships and interactions. Love is the universal expression of all that is divine and sacred.

Values: Spiritual Awakening, Spiritual Growth, Spiritual Development, Transformation, Celebration, Service

At UFW, we promote spiritual awakening, growth, development, and transformation by creating opportunities for education, celebration, meditation, prayer and service.

Value: Peace

At UFW, we create peace within ourselves and act as peacemakers in our local and global communities. We practice empathy and model peacemaking through our Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love Covenant.

Values: Diversity, Acceptance

At UFW we welcome and accept all people who seek a positive, spiritual approach to life through an awareness of our universal oneness with each other, the world, and the divine. We embrace the diversity of humanity and value the richness that comes from a variety of spiritual and cultural perspectives, ideas and experiences.

Values: Collaboration, Compassion, Community

At UFW, we collaborate with individuals and organizations to create educational workshops, spiritual gatherings, compassionate service, and other activities that develop the spiritual potential of humanity.

Values: Integrity, Credibility, Trust Building

At UFW, we are committed to discerning spiritual truth and acting faithfully and transparently in accordance with Unity principles and our core values and mission.

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

1. For 2 years, 2014 – 2016, UFW operated without a minister. We thrived during that time and saved enough money to pay off our mortgage!
2. In the fall of 2018, we learned that our building has a serious structural failing. We embarked on a renovation project that necessitated our taking out a loan for the construction. The job was immense, but the contractor allowed for certain parts of the project to be completed by congregants. Much of the demo and some of the rebuilding was completed by our own members and friends of UFW.
3. 2021 to present: Post Covid, UFW has been steadily regaining our momentum. We are extremely proud to share that in the past 11 months without a minister, our community has pulled together to improve our physical space, volunteering countless hours to make our spiritual home beautiful and inviting. Unlike many organizations where 20% of the people do 80% of the work, UFW operates with full commitment and engagement of the majority of our members. Those who cannot serve with physical labor, share their time, talents, and treasures in multiple ways.

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

COVID GREATLY AFFECTED OUR EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2020 AND 2021. WE ARE NOW IN A GOOD PLACE WITH HIGHER ATTENDANCE AT MOST OF OUR EVENTS.

- ONE OF OUR MOST RECENT EVENTS WAS COMEDY SUNDAY. GREG TAMBLYN LED OUR SUNDAY SERVICE AND HELD A COMEDY CONCERT AFTER. WELL ATTENDED BY MEMBERS AND MANY BROUGHT FRIENDS. WE ARE A FUN-LOVING GROUP!
- WE ARE ALSO A BIG FAN OF POTLUCKS. BRING THE FOOD, AND UFW WILL SHOW UP.

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

- WE ENVISION OURSELVES AS A SPIRITUAL HUB FOR NORTHEAST INDIANA. WE HAVE A GREAT FACILITY THAT CAN BRING ALL TRUTH SEEKERS TOGETHER, EITHER THROUGH EVENTS THAT WE SPONSOR, OR BY RENTING OUR SPACE TO OTHER GROUPS.
- WE WOULD LIKE TO INCREASE THE DIVERSITY OF OUR POPULATION.
- WE WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS ON ONE OR TWO POPULATIONS, OR CAUSES, THAT WE MAY SERVE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

Articles of Incorporation – Date: Aug 13, 1952

Bylaws – Date Adopted/Revised: Revised July, 2017

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

The Position

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

3 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

1 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.

2 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 and utilizes chaplains within the ministry

4 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, 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**

[*click to rate*](#)

Bible and Metaphysics

[*click to rate*](#)

Fillmore (only)

[*click to rate*](#)

Classic Unity Authors

2

New Thought Authors

[*click to rate*](#)

World Religions

3

Current Trending Spirituality

Other specific qualities, experiences, leadership skills, vision, etc., you are seeking not already addressed: We seek an engaging public speaker and teacher with an open mind, compassionate heart, and a desire to build relationships within our ministry and in our community. An inspirational and dynamic individual with excellent communication and interpersonal skills, including a sense of humor, would find fulfillment in our organization where all are dedicated to grow in their faith.

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Vacancy fill by date: We are ready for our spiritual leader now and are willing to patiently wait for the best fit.

Proposed salary: \$\$43,000.00 for full time position

Moving Expenses: \$5000.00

Additional arrangements, benefits, insurance, etc.:

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

Fort Wayne has one of the lowest costs of living in the country. Rentals and single family homes are available close to Unity Fort Wayne, and shopping, schools, and entertainment venues.

Other comments:

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Release of Information Authorization

I, the Board President of Bill Hackett 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.

Bill Hackett
Board President

06/12/2022
Date