

Board Report to community

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

I'm Jim Defontes and would like to take a view minutes of your time to give you a brief update from your new Board.

To start off, the entire Board wishes to express their deepest appreciation to the Community in the trust that they have given us and our sincerest desire to act within the Sacred Consciousness and on the best behalf of our community and ministry.

We also wish to acknowledge the other candidates for Board, as well as, all of the outgoing board members. We are all appreciative of their desire and commitments to Sacred Service.

The Board has meet three times over the past couple of weeks and plan on meeting regularly on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 630-830.

On our first meeting, I was honored to be elected your President. .. Erin Hostetler VP, Todd Bopell Treasurer, Connie Carter Secretary, with Steve Stoeckle and Lisa Kolibar members at large.

Our first meeting was getting to know each other, establishing our Group's norms, hearing from Reverend Clive and Mary Jeanne, and setting our initial priorities.

I can report to you that your Board is an outstanding group of people with high intention, high character, diverse experience, and Love in their heart for UOT and the Devine.

My style as a leader is one of Principle Centered Leadership, establishing strategies, to achieve compelling Visions and Mission, and developing and empowering teams to achieve agreed upon goals. I am more like an Executive Producer and less like a micro-manger.

Also, I would like to share with you that I personally enjoyed Reverend Marj, Reverend Caroline, and Reverend Clive.

It is your Board's current effort to understand where we are and to define where we are going, so that we may have common intention and shared understanding of our roles and the strategies and steps necessary to guide us into the future.

So, to the big picture- We are in challenging times and uncharted water.

As you know and have experienced, the arc for Sr Ministers and thriving church communities is on its decline and the current quarantine is worsening it.

UOT simply will not survive on the tithing and donations that come from our Sunday Services. We must be able to generate revenue throughout the week- on campus and on-line.

As we have each learned from our personal spiritual journeys, it is from crisis and chaos that transformation comes....

As such, your Board sees an exciting transformational future for UOT. .. A New Church if you will.

One in which we have a thriving Campus of Consciousness on-grounds and on-line with a core curriculum of Unity fundamental, normative, meta-physics, and the mystical for Youth, family, and adults. As UOT believes- One God, One heart, many paths, we envision a spectrum of work shops, intensives, on-going programs, Master Teachers, ministers, and training programs available on campus and on-line.

We see multiple entry points and product lines for old and new members., as well as the curious visitor.

To move into a transformational space requires that we develop goodwill and trust throughout our community.

We must learn from the past- what worked well and what did not, but we will must not dwell in the past.

We will be and work in the present, creating a spiritually enriching and meaningful experience together.

The Board's plan is to be transparent and to create effective and efficient 1 way and 2 way communication channels with you.

We promise to keep you informed and to listen to your concerns and hopes.

As such, much more is to come, big pictures and details.

Namaste

Jim DeFontes, MD

Board President, Unity of Tustin