



Ministry Vacancy Information Packet

Unity of San Luis Obispo
San Luis Obispo, CA

November 2024

About the Ministry

OVERVIEW

In 2016, Unity of SLO bought a 4000 square foot facility that would also house our Montessori school. Starting in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the children had to shelter at home, and could not attend school, we lost a great deal of income and were forced to close the school. In addition, we were faced with a \$40,000 expenditure to replace our roof. The steering committee agreed that it would be good stewardship to sell the building and buy or rent another facility at a later time after we knew how long the COVID restrictions were going to last.

Rev Leona Evans, minister of Unity of San Luis Obispo since 1994, started an online ministry, with her son, Matthew, producing prerecorded services and performing as musician. The service contains a Sunday message, meditation, two music spots, blessing of tithes and offerings, the Peace Song, and the prayer for protection. These services have been ongoing for more than three years and have an audience of around 1000-2000 per week with a few offerings being generated.

We are currently renting our local senior center for once a month in-person services, but our board is looking for a minister who will be there every Sunday and work a part-time position until the new ministry grows into a full-time position.

HISTORY AND NOTABLE EVENTS

Unity of San Luis Obispo (originally called Unity Christ Church) began over 100 years ago as a study group and met for years in people's homes. In the 1950s, they moved to a house in downtown SLO and soon after became an official member of the Association of Unity Churches. In 1986, after having outgrown their facility, they purchased a 16,000 sq ft building on Southwood and Johnson. In 1988, Richard Levy became minister and served for five years. During this time, the ministry grew to over 400 people.

During Rev Leona's time at Unity of SLO, the church has championed or participated in the following activities and events:

- Founded Montessori School at Unity which was active from 2003 to 2021, when COVID-19 restrictions forced us to close. We were licensed for 25 children
- Formed a working relationship with a New Thought teacher in Russia who had Leona's book, *Nothing is too Good to be True*, translated and published in Russian. Hosted fifteen New Thought students from Moscow to come to San Luis Obispo and study Bible interpretation with Rev Leona. They also attended Unity annual conference at the Village in 2000 and returned to Moscow to start Unity study groups. Leona made two trips to Russia to help facilitate those groups.
- Founded Unity Community Theater
- Produced and hosted live events featuring the following guest artists: Deepak Chopra, Wayne Dyer, Marianne Williamson, Don Miguel Ruiz, Joan Borysenko, Arun Gandhi, Leo Booth, and the Tibetan Monks.

- Produced annual Multicultural Holiday Celebrations, programs for Black History Month, participated in local NAACP and United Nations Association. In addition, Unity of SLO shares a portion of our monthly tithes with organizations that support human rights and planetary transformation.
- Supported a number of not-for-profit organizations. Our facility was home to the White Heron Sangha Buddhist Meditation Group, the SLO Jazz Federation, the annual Mozart Festival, Temple Beth David, Poetic Justice Project, the Gold Coast Chorus, the Sweet Adelines, Lifelong Learners of the Central Coast. We joined with the local ministerial association to serve lunch on a regular basis at the local People’s Kitchen, raised funds and donated to Prado Day Center, the organization which serves those who are unhoused.

Please note, we are not looking for a minister to replicate those activities. Rather we are seeking a spiritual leader who is willing to pioneer a new ministry and help create community based on a shared vision and their own divine guidance.

Locality: We are offering our new minister the opportunity to reside in one of the most sought-after communities in the country. Close to sandy beaches, mountains, wine country, and abundant natural beauty. San Luis Obispo is home to California Polytechnic University, and is family-oriented with excellent schools and a focus on the arts. SLO county also features an up and coming tech industry, agriculture, robust tourism, and a sizable population of progressive thinkers. Located halfway between LA and San Francisco, and 90 minutes from Santa Barbara, there is easy access to California’s points of interest. The town of San Luis Obispo boasts a population of approximately 50,000, while SLO county as a whole has 281,000 residents.

Physical Description: We are currently renting our local senior center for once a month in-person services

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

- Unity Five Cities, Arroyo Grande, about 15 miles from San Luis Obispo
- Centers for Spiritual Living, Atascadero, about 20 miles away from San Luis Obispo
- Unity of Santa Maria, about 30 miles away from San Luis Obispo

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

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Small/SpiritGroup Ministries | <input 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) Click or tap here to enter text. | |

PEOPLE

Size of mailing list: 165 (up-to-date)
Average Sunday attendance: 5-8 in person, 1500-2000+ online
Formal (voting or active) membership: 8

Special Groups:
N/A

Church staff/other employees:
Two musicians, bookkeeper, minister

MINISTRY SUPPORT SERVICES

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

Name: Revs. Joanne Burns and Glenda Walden - conversations over the past two months

Dates: July-October 2024

Workshops Given and Topics Covered: Restarting/Pioneering the ministry's in-person presence

MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES

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

Vision statement

Unity of San Luis Obispo participates in positive planetary reform by beholding the spirit of god everywhere present.

Mission statement

Unity of San Luis Obispo is an inclusive progressive spiritual community dedicated to celebrating the presence of God in all creation.

Through worship, classes, community outreach, and nonviolent social action, we work together, in a spirit of cooperation, to demonstrate the divine attributes of love, joy, peace, and abundant life.

What have been the three most important events in the history of your ministry? (Include dates)

Please see section above, "History and Notable Events."

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

- Full time minister
- Regular, in-person services
- Minister's appropriate salary and benefits

INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

Articles of Incorporation – Date: Click or tap here to enter text.

Bylaws – Date Adopted/Revised: Click or tap here to enter text.

We are planning to adopt the UWM by-laws

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

1 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

2 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

6 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

8 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

4 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

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

5 Environmentalism

- Embraces the use of social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) in support of the ministry's mission, vision, and values.
- 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

3 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

9 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: Our ideal minister would be enthusiastic, dedicated, resourceful, interested in building a new congregation, community-minded, good speaker, compassionate counselor, and one who practices good stewardship. Strongly prefer social media skills. Strong background in basic Unity principles and the teachings of the Fillmores. .

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

X Online

[click to rate](#) 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.

2 70’s and up

3 20’s & 30’s

1 50’s & 60’s

[click to rate](#) Teens & Young Adults

[click to rate](#) 30’s & 40’s

[click to rate](#) 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

[click to rate](#) Prayer & Meditation / Pastoral Care

[click to rate](#) SpiritGroups

3 Development and Facilitation of Classes

2 Outreach in the Community

[click to rate](#) Earth Care

[click to rate](#) Interfaith & World Religions

[click to rate](#) 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**

2 **Bible and Metaphysics**

click to rate **Fillmore (only)**

click to rate **Classic Unity Authors**

3 **New Thought Authors**

click to rate **World Religions**

click to rate **Current Trending Spirituality**

THE POWER OF FOCUSED MINISTRY

WHO does this ministry serve?

Anyone who desires to expand their mind and heart through our Unity/New Thought teachings.

WHY do you exist as a ministry?

To remind people of their inherent divinity and to encourage them to let their light shine.

What demographic resonates to the answer of your WHY question?

Young progressives, middle-aged individuals, and the progressive senior population.

Describe your vision of the perfect ministry.

A group of positive, supportive individuals who love the Unity teachings and support one another on their spiritual journey. As our mission statement affirms, Unity of San Luis Obispo is a progressive, inclusive spiritual community affirming the good in all life.

Our perfect ministry would be open to families and have a thriving youth education program, prayer ministry, small group ministries, and a vibrant music program. We would practice nonviolent communication skills and be socially active in our community. We would be fiscally sound and engage in ethical business practices. Our classes and workshops would be well attended, and our congregants would demonstrate love, acceptance, understanding and joy.

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Our ideal minister would be enthusiastic, dedicated, resourceful, interested in building a new congregation, community-minded, good speaker, compassionate counselor, and one who practices good stewardship. Strongly prefer social media skills. Strong background in basic Unity principles and the teachings of the Fillmores.

Vacancy Fill by Date: ASAP, in Divine Order

Proposed Salary: \$1000/per month to start

Moving Expenses: Negotiable

Additional arrangements, benefits, insurance, etc.:

Included as the ministry grows.

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

Close to sandy beaches, mountains, wine country, and abundant natural beauty. San Luis Obispo is home to California Polytechnic University, and is family-oriented with excellent schools and a focus on the arts. SLO county also features an up and coming tech industry, agriculture, robust tourism, and a sizable population of progressive thinkers. Located halfway between LA and San Francisco, and 90 minutes from Santa Barbara, there is easy access to California's points of interest. The town of San Luis Obispo boasts a population of approximately 50,000, while SLO county as a whole has 281,000 residents.

Additional Comments:

None

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Release of Information Authorization

I, the Board President of **Unity of San Luis Obispo** 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.

Mary Vickers

Board President

10/18/24

Date