



Ministry Vacancy Packet

Revised 11.6.18

Name of ministry: Unity Church of Syracuse

Address: 300 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13207

Ministry website: <https://www.unitysyracuse.org/>

The Ministry Information Packet is to be completed and returned to Unity Worldwide Ministries with your ministry **bylaws, last 2 years financial statements including a P&L and a balance sheet**, a copy of your **most recent Unity Worldwide Ministries Annual Report, a Code of Ethics for Unity Leaders (please have all board members sign the code of ethics)** and a **copy of your order of service**. (“Please return the vacancy information in the **word format** rather than a PDF. We put some information on the web and save some for potential candidates. It is difficult to separate it if it is in the PDF format and will slow down the process for you.”) The packet gives Unity Worldwide Ministries and interested ministerial candidates an understanding of your ministry profile. Resumes are sent to the ministry contact person only after the completed Ministry Information Packet is received at Unity Worldwide Ministries.

Please follow guidelines in filling out the form and include the requested items listed above. This will help the process move more efficiently. Below, please submit a **short** paragraph (approximately **150** words) for submission on our website describing your ministry and what your ministry’s vision is for a minister. Who are you, what are you up to and what are your surroundings like? At the end, indicate if you want a CD, DVD and/or link to a recording from each candidate at the end of your submission. Staff of UWM reserves the right to edit content if necessary. We stress the 150 words. There is room for more information – the lengthier version – on the next page. As you do this, really listen to the heart for this is a dance with spirit. Bless you on the journey!

Full Time 9 Month Position: Want summers off? Like to winter in warmer climates? Like to take a month off here and there? Your choice!!

Unity of Syracuse has a **unique 9-month opportunity** for a spiritual leader with a minimum of 3 years of ministerial experience, who possesses compassion and humor to join us in our spiritual journey. Unity of Syracuse is blessed to have a group of strong lay leaders and speakers. We also enjoy a growing youth and family ministry.

The congregation looks forward to inviting our next new minister into our spiritual home.

Unity of Syracuse is a spiritual community with a strong history and vibrant congregation. We are a diversified and accepting community from all backgrounds, religions, and lifestyles.

Syracuse is in the center of New York State and is within a short distance of the stunning Finger Lakes Region and two of the great lakes. The city is home to several renowned colleges and universities, top ranked medical institutions, college and professional sports and arts and entertainment.

MINISTRY INFORMATION

This is for the longer version, all that you wanted to share about your ministry but didn't have enough room on the first page. This is an option, not a requirement.

Ministry's description:

Unity of Syracuse is a family oriented pastoral church.

The Unity movement was brought to Syracuse, NY in the mid -1930s by noted theologian/philosopher Raymond Charles Barker, and was embraced by a small and dedicated group, which met weekly in a hotel and in other rented spaces. The group did establish a local home but as it grew, it was decided that the church needed a larger permanent home.

Approximately 60 years ago, the group found a beautiful church in the Onondaga Valley area of the city – a church formerly owned by a Methodist congregation. It became, and still is, the home of Unity of Syracuse. It is locally known as the beautiful white church with the red doors. The building now encompasses a home, that was the manse next door, which now is annexed to the church building. This now serves as the home of the Youth and Family Ministry.

Our teachings, Basic Principles, Core Values and Mission Statement echo the original thoughts of Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. We also reach forward – and inward – in order to mold these teachings into philosophies that will be meaningful to our own lives in this world now. We bring in teachings from many New Thought authors that are compatible with the original works of our founders. We strive to assist Church members as they adapt to changing – and sometimes difficult – times.

We were fortunate through the pandemic that the transition to remote services was smooth. The church already offered remote services which were recorded for viewing later on YouTube. We have sustained our membership and have welcomed some new members. Since July 2021 the church has reopened our doors for in person worship as well as continuing remote viewing.

Our congregation includes a group of devoted Prayer Chaplains, an enthusiastic music program and a strong youth and family ministry. We offer weekly discussion groups about the Sunday lesson, another on meditation and prayer, a monthly social justice discussion group, as well as book study sessions. Prior to the pandemic Yoga and Tai Chi classes were available and we were open to community organizations and recovery groups. We look forward to their return. See our calendar of events: <https://unitysyracuse.org/calendar>

Unity of Syracuse has affiliations with Interfaith Works, a local multifaith organization devoted to racial, religious, and social equity. In addition, we have two close neighbors within short walking distance; CNY Rise, a Turkish community center, and the Zen Center which offers meditation and many activities.

The Syracuse and Central New York area offers an affordable housing market and sits at the intersection of the New York State Thruway and Route 81. Commuting by car is quick, and

several major cities are within a five hour or less time frame. Beautiful countryside and mountains are in short distance. Summer and winter activities are plentiful, and the New York State Fairgrounds are located on the edge of the city. Our water is from the nearby Skaneateles Lake one of the cleanest lakes in the country.

Our mission statement sums up what we are about:

Unity of Syracuse inspires, awakens, and transforms lives
through unlimited love, prayer and service.

Locality: Area Served

Greater Syracuse and Central New York

Characteristics:

The city population has grown to 148,620 and the metropolitan population is 662,057. It is the economic and education hub of Central New York. Syracuse is considered the crossroads of NY State. Featuring the Erie Canal, the State Fair, Museums, Theater (including a national regional theater), Zoo, and includes an international airport.

Proximity to: The Erie Canal, Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes, Syracuse University, state parks, and home of the Onondaga Nation

Physical description of area:

Syracuse is nestled just east of the Finger Lakes and South of Lake Ontario. Rich farmland and forests surround the area.

Proximity to other Unity ministries and/or new thought centers: 84mi Rochester, 145mi Albany, Buffalo

What makes your ministry unique? Describe the strengths or positive qualities of your ministry.

We have a strong Prayer Chaplin Ministry, fostered several YFM Leaders, a dynamic Celebration Music Team, a close knit congregation and lay leaders that serve as speakers. The congregation has remained resilient throughout the pandemic.

Did your ministry participate in transitional ministry activities relating to the current opening? Yes
Spiritual Healing – Rev. Pat Bessey, November
If yes, please list date, activities and the facilitator: 15th 2020

People: Size of mailing list: 500 Average Sunday attendance: 65-70 in person and remote

Formal (voting or active] membership: 115

Special group if any (ex: YOU, NGU, Youth & Family, women’s group, support groups, etc]:

Book Discussion, YOU, Youth and Family, Celebration Team, Sunday morning discussion group

sUnity Licensed teachers: None at this time

Other: _____

Meeting & Classes	When	Attendance	Teacher
Sunday service	<u>11:00am</u>	_____	<u>Minister/Lay Leaders</u>
Sunday school	<u>11:00am</u>	_____	<u>MaryBeth Barrett</u>
Classes	<u>Varies</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Cybie Mauro</u>

Small group ministries _____

Do you participate in any of the following activities? TV ? _____ CD Ministry? _____

Radio? _____ Community Outreach (Compassionate Social Action)? Yes Publications? _____
Livestreaming of Sunday services on
YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and
Social Media (ex: Facebook, Twitter, livestreaming, etc.)? Twitter

Other (please list)? _____

Articles of Incorporation: Date:: 1932

Bylaws Adopted when? 3/19 Structured as recommended by Unity Worldwide Ministries? Yes

Full Status Member Ministry Yes **Evolving (Expansion) Member Ministry** _____

(Note: All Evolving(Expansion) Member Ministries established before Jan. 1, 2016 must achieve Full Member Ministry status by Jan. 1, 2021)

Ministry Vision

Has the ministry developed Vision, Mission, and core values? Yes Date: 5/2014

Has the ministry developed short-term and long-term goals?

_____ No? xxx Yes? _____ one year? _____ five years? _____ ten years?

What is the focus of these goals?

Devising a strategy for building community involvement and communication within the congregation.

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

1. Purchase of our 1880 church and manse property a little over 60 years ago.

2. The formation of our Prayer Chaplain Program in 2015 including 17 members trained as trainers/facilitators. Chaplains were trained by Lei Lanni Burt.

3. The ministry thriving and growing during the pandemic.

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

1. Christmas Play, Special Services, YOU participation in the Eastern Region Rallies
2. Our UniTea fundraisers. / Our semi-annual BBQ Chicken dinner fundraisers. / Silent Auction
Community events/Collaborations: Interfaith Works, RISE Center Community Picnic, Martin
3. Luther King Celebration, Pride March, Indigenous People events.

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

1. Expand as a family centered ministry. Bring more families into the ministry. Expand our youth program.
2. Solidify team approaches to church operations and vision.
3. Continued commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

INCOMING MINISTER

Vacancy needs filled by what date: June 2022 Status: full-time X part-time temporary

Proposed salary: (must have a number/range, even if it is negotiable) \$32,000 - \$35,000
[Church boards will review the demographics of their area and make salary offers that demonstrate their intention to financially support their minister. Helpful resources include www.salary.com; www.Monster.com ; and www.churchlawtoday.com.]

Proposed additional arrangements, benefits, insurance, manse, etc.: Retirement and Health Negotiable. Vacation

Moving expenses paid by ministry? Negotiable Describe housing, school standards, etc.:
Central New York housing opportunities are excellent and reasonable. Schools in Syracuse and the surrounding area have exceptional reputations and graduation rates.

The board envisions attracting a minister whose focal point in the ministry will be: To continue the spiritual journey of the church community and assist us with our vision and mission.

MINISTER INFORMATION

This is an option, not a requirement but could be very helpful to potential candidates.

What is this ministry looking for in a minister?

We are looking for a compassionate and loving minister with a sense of humor who is welcoming and affirms the teaching of Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. A strong speaker with a commitment to our community and deeply grounded in prayer. The minister should have a passion for speaking and community involvement. The minister should possess knowledge of the role of minister and the relationships between minister and board. Experience with pastoral care and conflict resolution skills are essential. We are seeking a minister with at least three years of church ministry experience.

This information was collected from:

- _____ The board of trustees only
- _____ The board of trustees and the search team
- _____ The board of trustees and congregation
- XXX _____ The board of trustees, congregation, and search team

Other comments:

The members were surveyed to help determine what characteristics and knowledge they hope to see in a new minister.

- A. I will first seek the full approval of Unity Worldwide Ministries and the cooperation of already active and recognized Unity leaders in the vicinity ~~not attempt to~~ before carrying on Unity work in any city.
- B. I work in harmony and accord with Unity Worldwide Ministries in my speaking and teaching programs.
- C. I will, to the best of my ability, communicate the Unity Worldwide Ministries' values, mission, vision, and goals in service to my ministry.
- D. I will adhere to the policies and bylaws of Unity Worldwide Ministries.

VII. My Pledge

I sincerely devote myself to living in accord with this Code in letter and in spirit. I recognize our Unity Worldwide Ministries and this Code of Ethics as a framework in which I individually agree to function. I recognize that such an agreement augments our mutual and individual effectiveness. If I find myself contemplating or actually functioning outside of this framework, I agree to seek the kind of help described in Section V. (B). Failure to seek such help will mean that, by my own choice, I am functioning outside of the framework of this Code and consequently placing myself outside of Unity Worldwide Ministries.

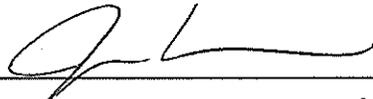
Byron Petraraja
Signature

Byron Petraraja
Print Name

11/22/21
Date

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Signature *Joanne Niedzwicki*

Print Name
11/24/21

Date

VI. Relating to Our Unity Worldwide Ministries

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Signature

Joy E. Casey

Print Name

Joy E. Casey

Date

11/23/26

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Signature



Print Name

Leland Jackson, MB

Date

30 Nov 21

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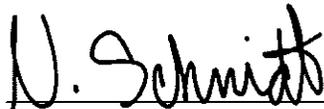
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Signature

Natasha Schmidt

Print Name

11/22/2021

Date

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Signature

THOMAS M BANIEWICZ

Print Name

12/4/2021

Date



Release of Information Authorization

I, the Board President, Leland Jackson, MD on the 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, including a copy of peacemaking reports if relevant.

Leland Jackson, MD

Board President

December 3, 1021

Date