

Unity Church of Overland Park

Cover Sheet for Application for Leadership Council 2023

Our prayer affirmation for this process:

“We affirm Divine Order is active as we discern the candidates who will serve UCOP as members of the leadership council. We submit to the work of Love.”

Thank you for your willingness to submit your name for consideration as a nominee to the Leadership Council of Unity Church of Overland Park. This packet contains this Cover Sheet, an application form and a UCOP Leadership Council Fact Sheet.

If you wish to have the Nominating Committee consider another member, please make sure that person is willing to serve and then contact the nominating committee chairperson, Ellis Megee at ellismme@gmail.com and submit their name.

Application Instructions:

- This packet contains a Fact Sheet and the UCOP Leadership Council Application for persons considering running for the leadership council of Unity Church of Overland Park.
- It is recommended that you read the entire application and fact sheet prior to completing the application.
- If there are any questions or difficulties with filling out the application document, please contact the nominating committee chairperson for assistance.
- Return the completed application, resume and headshot to the nominating committee chairperson, Ellis Megee at ellismme@gmail.com or to our Business Office located at 10000 Marshall Dr, Lenexa, KS 66215 **no later than 1:00pm Sunday, April 23, 2023.**

You will be contacted to schedule an interview with the nominating committee. Interviews will be held during the last week of April and first week of May. Specific dates and times will be confirmed.

Here are some important dates where your attendance is important if you are elected to the leadership council:

- Annual Meeting – Sunday, June 25, 2023 (election day- if you absolutely cannot attend, please submit a video introduction)
- Installation of new Council members, Sunday, July 9, 2023
- Leadership Council Retreat – TBD (July, typically a Saturday)
- Standing leadership council meetings are third Wednesdays, with a few exceptions.

Thank you again for your love of Unity Church of Overland Park and your interest in applying to serve on the leadership council.

Unity Church of Overland Park Leadership Council Fact Sheet

In order to assist congregants in their discernment around applying for nomination for the UCOP leadership council, the nominating committee has gathered information about the consciousness, duties, qualifications, time commitment and rewards of being a member of the council. Congregants are encouraged to address any questions they might have about being on the council to the nominating committee or to any council member.

Consciousness of the Council

Council members strive to be model leaders who “walk the talk” of the church’s Mission, Vision, and Values.

The following Leadership Council Dedication and Covenant is spoken on the occasion of the installation and blessing of the council by the church membership:

We, the Leadership Council of Unity Church of Overland Park, hereby dedicate ourselves, our time, our talent, all we have and all we expect to have to the Spirit of Truth and through it to this spiritual community.

It is our express intention to put God first, working consistently from the greater community perspective. We embrace our community, knowing that God is at work through us all to create an opening for the highest good to be served. We are fully present and available to the Christ spirit in each person. We lovingly and steadfastly hold the sacred space for a community determining itself. In the presence of the conscious mind of Christ, this (date of installation).

Purpose and Duties of the Leadership Council (From Article VII, Sections 6-7 of the UCOP Bylaws)

Section 6. Purpose.

The Leadership Council is the governing body of Unity Church of Overland Park. Its purpose is to make decisions that support and co-create love in action for this Ministry. Leadership Council members demonstrate by words and example the power and joy of life lived according to spiritual principles.

Section 7. Duties.

As representatives of the membership, the Leadership Council will:

- A.** Uphold the spiritual purpose of this Ministry;
- B.** Uphold the highest interest of the membership in conducting the business of this Ministry;
- C.** Be conversant with these Bylaws;

- D.** Be faithful in attendance at services, Leadership Council meetings, membership meetings and other activities of this Ministry;
- E.** Establish general policy for the conduct of the affairs of the Ministry;
- F.** Oversee the administration of the real and personal property of the Ministry;
- G.** Approve all expenditure limits of authority;
- H.** Make determinations on the sale, pledge, or proposed financing of real or personal property belonging to this Ministry. All decisions in favor of the sale, pledge, or proposed financing of real property exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in value shall be presented to the membership at a properly constituted membership meeting to be voted on in accordance with these Bylaws;
- I.** Set dates for the fiscal year;
- J.** Adopt an annual income and expense budget;
- K.** Cause to be prepared complete annual financial statements that set forth the fiscal conditions and operations of the Ministry;
- L.** Authorize periodic reviews or audits of the finances of the Ministry which may be conducted by an outside audit or from a committee of members elected by the Leadership Council;
- M.** Approve applicants for membership in accordance with these Bylaws;
- N.** Act to fill a vacancy on the Leadership Council in accordance with these Bylaws;
- O.** Select officers of the Leadership Council;
- P.** May propose committees to the Senior Minister;
- Q.** Keep the congregation informed of key decisions, actions, and other pertinent information;
- R.** Seek assistance from UWM in the event of a dispute adversely affecting the Ministry;
- S.** Attend and actively participate in ongoing Leadership Council training programs;
- T.** Ensure the distribution of yearly membership renewal documents (hard copy or electronic) as approved by the Leadership Council to all members;
- U.** Keep or cause to be kept an accurate record of membership;
- V.** Send or cause to be sent an acknowledgment in writing of contributions in compliance with Internal Revenue Service regulations;
- W.** Keep or cause to be kept accurate records of gifts to the Ministry in compliance with Internal Revenue Service regulations;
- X.** Secure liability insurance for all Leadership Council members and Ministers;
- Y.** Secure a fidelity bond or theft and dishonesty insurance for all persons who handle money;
- Z.** Perform such other duties as may be established by the Leadership Council as need arises;
- AA.** Employ an ordained or licensed Unity Minister(s) through cooperation with the employment procedures of UWM;
- BB.** When conflict arises amongst the Leadership Council Members or the Leadership Council and the Senior Minister, the Ministry shall seek to reconcile differences and notify UWM for help with procedures and to provide guidance and consultation. After a Ministry and its Senior Minister have sought to reconcile differences and cooperate with the procedures and guidance of UWM, the Leadership Council may terminate the employment of a Senior Minister by a seventy-five percent (75%) affirmative vote

- (excluding the Minister). If the Senior Minister position becomes vacant, the Leadership Council shall notify UWM within three (3) business days;
- CC.** Send or cause to be sent an annual Ministry report to UWM;
 - DD.** As recommended by the Senior Minister, determine staff positions, including Associate and Assistant Ministers, and authorize compensation through the annual budget process;
 - EE.** Elect officers of the Leadership Council and their successors to fill any unexpired term when necessary;
 - FF.** Create such Leadership Council committees as needed related to Leadership Council functions and responsibilities of the Council;
 - GG.** Advise the Chair of the Leadership Council of appointments to such committees;
 - HH.** Consider issues brought to their attention by the Minister or members of the Council;
 - II.** Keep or cause to be kept a background check on all staff and volunteers directly involved with the children's programs;
 - JJ.** Issue or cause to be issued necessary 1099 and W-2 forms in compliance with Internal Revenue Service regulations;
 - KK.** Secure insurance covering the building, grounds, and other properties, also Worker's Compensation Insurance for the Minister(s);
 - LL.** Take such other actions as may be deemed necessary for the best interests of this Ministry.

Eligibility. (From Article VII, Section 2 of the UCOP Bylaws)

Section 2. Eligibility.

To be eligible to be elected to the Leadership Council, a person:

- A.** Is a member of Unity Church of Overland Park for at least one (1) year;
- B.** Is willing to serve on the Leadership Council;
- C.** Shall endeavor to live in accord with Christ principles of love and truth taught by Unity Worldwide Ministries;
- D.** Furthers the work of this Ministry through their active interest, love, and financial support;
- E.** Is a sincere and continuing student of Unity, conversant with its teaching;
- F.** Has demonstrated leadership capabilities;
- G.** Is in attendance at the annual membership meeting, or in the case of any emergency, has submitted a letter of willingness to accept election to the Leadership Council.

Time commitments:

Time commitments will vary, and will depend upon your investment of energy. Here are some guidelines for what you might expect:

Weekly commitments:

- Regular church attendance, as well as attendance at community activities.
- Support Sunday Counters Team, if needed, after service.
- Sign checks as needed.

Monthly commitments:

- Council meetings, third Wednesdays from 6:30pm-8:00pm. Come early and bring your dinner if you want to visit.
- Preparation for Council meetings - reading and perhaps preparing reports, 1-2 hours
- Attending meetings for any committee of which you are a member or a Council Liaison. This commitment will vary based on the number of activities and your schedules.

Occasional commitments:

- Council Spiritual Enrichment nights, usually 3 hours on a weeknight. You may lead or host at times.

Annual commitments:

- Attend Annual Meeting, 1-2 hours, last Sunday of June.
- Council Retreat, an all-day Saturday soon after the Annual Meeting.
- Annual Strategic Planning Meeting, typically a half day on a Saturday.

Variable-time commitments:

- Unscheduled Council meetings (not common)
- Officers will have extra time commitments to fulfill their duties, especially the Chair and Treasurer.
- Special assignments or volunteer activities.

What is it like to serve on the Leadership Council of Unity Church of Overland Park?

The following are the comments of current and former members of the Leadership Council compiled so that those considering serving in this way might better understand the process, commitment, and consciousness found in this opportunity to serve Spirit.

In the words of those who have served:

- It is most crucial that applicants understand that they will be making a commitment to service as a council member, and that council duty overrides any other commitments except emergency issues. In actual service on the council, we are called to a much higher level of service and as such we must be willing to be changed at depth if our energy and service is to raise the consciousness of the church.
- Serving on the leadership council of Unity Church of Overland Park is the most spiritually uplifting experience I have ever had. As a member of the council, you are

surrounded by other members that share common value in the church's success as a Spiritual home and a beacon for the community.

- Through prayer, we act as visionaries in this ministry. We do not meddle in the day-to-day operations of the church. We support the work of the ministers and staff.
- Serving on the council offers one the opportunity to be in service by listening for the collective consciousness of our church community. It is very much about being open to what God has in store for us by being centered in prayer.
- Our diversity is an asset – our varied styles and different perspectives seem to allow for a healthy examination and discussion of topics at hand.
- When you step into service on the council, you ... have to leave behind your role as an individual member of the church. We are called upon to serve the highest good of the entire community rather than fulfilling our own personal wishes and desires. The irony in this is that when we do put aside our own personal agendas for the good of the collective, we grow as individuals as well. So, although it may look on the outside like we are giving something up, we are in actuality gaining so much more.
- In those few times that we can't reach immediate agreement on which way to go, we stop and remember to allow God room to work. We take the issue into prayer and our prayers are always answered.
- Being in service on the council has been a graduate level course in practical Christianity for me!
- You get so much more than you give.
- I think the biggest surprise for me is the feeling I get when I leave the meetings. I can come in wiped out from the day and leave feeling rejuvenated.
- Being a member of UCOP council is at once exhilarating and humbling. Working and playing beside others who are totally committed to the betterment of our church and service to others is the finest and most rewarding experience of my life.
- I have learned to be ready to rise to any occasion, listen intently, allow Spirit to guide my actions and thoughts and place my needs and desires outside the process of serving the church yet knowing my needs and desires are being met more fully than ever.

When asked this question, "What would you say to someone feeling the call, but who is afraid they are not yet ready or don't 'have what it takes'?", council members shared this:

- The call is all that matters. Spirit has a way of bringing out the skills, attitude, love, caring and comprehension needed to fulfill this joyous service.

- I was that person a year ago. I received the call from God and said, "Who, me?" The people I trusted with this told me the same thing I said before, "God will not give you something you cannot handle". The beautiful people on the council have welcomed me with open arms. They knew that it was not an accident that I was there. Trust God!

OUR VISION

A world powerfully transformed through the growing movement of shared spiritual awakening.

OUR MISSION

Unity Church of Overland Park transforms lives and empowers people to make a difference in the world.

Application begins on the next page.

2023-2024 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL APPLICATION

Unity Church of Overland Park
10000 Marshall Dr.
Lenexa, KS 66215

Thank you for your interest in being considered as a candidate for the leadership council of Unity Church of Overland Park. Your answers to the questions below will help the nominating committee come to know you better. Please feel free to attach additional pages if you have additional information you would like to share. After you submit this application, the nominating committee will contact you to schedule an interview.

Applications are due no later than 1pm on Sunday, April 23, 2023.

We affirm the Spirit is actively at work in your life and the life of our Unity family bringing forth its perfect vision for all.

Name:

Address

Phone #

Email Address

How long have you been in Unity?

How long have you attended UCOP?

Have you been a UCOP member for over a year? If yes, how many years?

Please share an example of how Unity teachings have made a difference in your life.

What volunteer activities have you been involved in at UCOP?

Please list any other positions you have had outside of UCOP that would strengthen your ability to serve on the UCOP Leadership Council.

Why do you want to serve on UCOP's Leadership Council?

What specific skills will you bring to the council? (i.e. Financial/Accounting, Computer, Organizational, Leadership skills etc.)

Leadership Council terms are three years. If elected, can you serve for a period of up to 3 years?

Please write a short bio including what focus you would bring to council service to share with the congregation.

Do you have any schedule conflicts with interview or meeting dates?

Signature

Date

Attachments: Headshot