



**Columbia Church of Religious Science dba Columbia Center for Spiritual Living  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

*Tuesday, May 20, 2025, online using Zoom – APPROVED*

**Attendance:** Zita Johnson-Betts, Laura Service, Robin Farinholt, Claudette Gadsden, Harry Leffmann, Mary Anne Marsalek, Dale Kane, Rev. Rafe A. Ellis – Non-Voting Member of the Board, and guest attendee, Frank Mastoris, RScP

**Absent:** Reggie Kapp

The Board of the Columbia Center for Spiritual Living convened at 7:08pm, led by Board President, Zita Johnson-Betts.

- Zita opened by acknowledging that a quorum of the BOT was present, welcoming guest attendees and reminding all that guests were in an observer only role throughout the meeting and invited them to contact her directly if they had matters that they would like the BOT to address so they could be scheduled into future meeting agendas.
- Laura Service, BOT VP did a Spiritual Mind Treatment for the meeting.
- The Columbia CSL Vision and Mission statements were read by Mary Anne Marsalek.

Each Trustee checked in sharing what's happening in their lives and how they're doing at the moment.

Following a discussion about the lack of detail in the minutes noting that the minutes are intended to be a synopsis available to the public and that the detailed word for word transcripts are available to Board members for reference, the Columbia Center for Spiritual Living Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes of the February, March and April 2025 meetings were approved by consensus.

**Financial Report**

- Reggie Kapp, Board Treasurer, provided an email report stating that she had reviewed the financials that all was in order, that our conservative investment account has fared pretty well in this tumultuous economy, the first quarter tithes were paid out Centers for Spiritual Living, Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, and Center for Spiritual Living-Kenya and will likely be reflected in the May financials that we'll review at our June Meeting.
- Zita invited questions and with no questions forthcoming, the April 2025 Financial Reports were approved by consensus.

**Senior Minister's Report:**

- Rev. Rafe reviewed his Senior Minister's report highlighting:



- Our pledge program is on track, and he will be sending out 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter statements in the first week in July.
- He is working on formatting New Thought books that are available in the public domain so they can be uploaded to our website and made accessible with a 4-week self-study guide.
- Up-coming Town Hall gathering will begin the process of culling “unwanted” center names from the current list of 160+ possibilities.
- A small group of members is engaged in searching for possible locations for us to have our own space. At present they are simply gathering the most basic information about possibilities.
- The challenges of making interfaith and community outreach connections and that he engages in this activity from a ‘relationship before content’ approach.
- Reviewed the new website pages and components using the screen share function.
- Updated the Board on current complication of closing our WP Engine account.
- Licensed Practitioners will begin providing the birthday gift of a free Practitioner Session to members. Rev. is working to implement this new program as soon as possible.

#### **New Business:**

- Rev. Rafe requested that the Board approve a nominal stipend of \$25.00 per Member Birthday Practitioner Session to be paid to the Licensed Practitioners that provide such sessions and chose to submit a form requesting payment. Following a discussion for greater understanding and clarity, the request was approved by consensus.
- Zita introduced the idea of the BOT collecting physical goods for Grassroots donation program.

#### **Old Business:**

- Zita provided an update that a Personnel Committee discussed in April’s BOT meeting had been formed with herself, Claudette, and Reggie pending approval of the BOT. The Personnel Committee, as formed, was approved by consensus with the change to call it the Personnel Team.
- BOT Secretary position is still open and needs to be filled to relieve Rev. Rafe of creating the meeting minutes. A full description of the position is available in the Center’s bylaws.
- Robin Farinholt provided an update about the Peace & Wellness Festival:
  - The festival is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>



- Shared the ways that the Center can participate as an event sponsor or use it as a fundraiser.
- The BOT needs to decide if we're participating as a sponsor or doing this as a fundraiser so:
  - promotional information can be updated, and
  - we can begin working with clarity to be successful.

Following a robust discussion, it was decided that the remaining questions could be addressed via email allowing the discussion to continue between BOT meetings.

The meeting adjourned with Claudette Gadsden giving a closing prayer at 8:37 PM.

**The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2025, at 7pm via Zoom.**