



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

Tuesday, November 18, 2025, online using Zoom – APPROVED

Attendees: Zita Johnson-Betts, Rev. Rafe Ellis, MaryAnne Marsalek, Harry Leffman, Laura Service, Robin Fairnholt, Claudette Gadsden,

Absentee: Dale Kane

Guest: Terry Douglas

The meeting convened at 7:05. Board president Zita Johnson-Betts noted that a quorum was present.

Opening Prayer- MaryAnne Marsalek

Harry Leffman read the vision, identity and mission statements.

Check in for most participants.

Dale Kane's email address was confirmed.

Zita asked for volunteer secretary for November and Laura Service obliged.

September 16, 2025 meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

October meeting minutes were circulated earlier in the day, but all members had not had a chance to review, so approval of October minutes was delayed until December Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Claudette Gadsen

Reviewed and approved by consensus October Financial Reports

Claudette noted that the housing allowance for a prior month was still missing from the statement of activity and stated that she would investigate, follow up and see what happened.

Short discussion of alternate formats of financial reports.

Rev. Rafe alerted the board that the contract with the Hawthorne Center for 2026 is changing. We are no longer afforded a free half hour beginning at 8:30 AM. That arrangement was a Covid decision. It was decided by the Board to change the hours of rental to 8:45-12:15 in order to keep the rental price the same.

The board approved to change the fee to our bookkeeper to a flat \$100 per month.

Senior Minister's Report

Rev. Rafe announced an \$800+ donation in the works as a result of our online 365 Days of Richer Living live stream.

He also noted that he received a \$25 donation for our Doing Good by Giving Goods outreach effort and will be shopping at Costco on the donor's behalf. A board member volunteered to add \$50.

No update available yet regarding the final report of the Peace and Wellness Festival.

There will be a new daily livestream in 2026 that will invite participation from the community.

The Beyond Limits class is going well

Changes have been made to the website, including all talks and study guides for 2025 now available.

CSL Revitalization Program

Zita reviewed the meeting she and Rev. Rafe had on November 5. with consultants Rev. Drew Ebersole and Sherry Hammond. The mission is to assist with a capital campaign and strategic planning for a new center location. Board members were encouraged to watch a rebroadcast.

Their fee would be \$4,000.00 which the CSL national organization would cover with our church only required to pay \$400.00 It was suggested that we take advantage of this opportunity and schedule a two-hour session. No consensus was reached on when would be a good time to do that. Zita may suggest some dates via email. It was also suggested that other members besides board members be involved. Will discuss at the December meeting.

Annual Meeting Sunday January 25, 2026

The nominating committee is Rev. Rafe and Robin, along with another member of the community.

Assignments have been designated (see November agenda).

Will need to rent more time at Hawthorn Center to accommodate the meeting after service.

The Board will decide the time schedule at the December meeting.

There was mention of a self-paced advanced fundraising strategies class offered by national CSL for \$59. Robin suggested two board members attend. If the decision is to have two members attend, a Board member offers to fund one participant, with the church paying for the other member. No decision was made.

Rev. Rafe left the meeting so the board could discuss his 2025 performance evaluation in a closed Board session. The performance should be completed annually, but this was the first pursuant to Rev. Rafe's 2023 Letter of Call. As previously advised, the Board's Personnel Team concluded that Rev. Rafe has met all requirements in outstanding fashion.

The meeting adjourned with a closing treatment by Claudette.

Next meeting December 16, 2025.