



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

Wednesday, March 18, 2025, online using Zoom – APPROVED

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

The Board of the Columbia Center for Spiritual Living convened at 7:00pm, led by Rev. Rafe Ellis due to no Board President being elected prior to the meeting.

- Rev. Rafe opened the meeting with prayer and everyone introduced themselves.
- The Columbia CSL Vision and Mission statements were read by Claudette Gadsden.

Rev. Rafe Ellis reminded that the BOT operates by consensus where everyone offers their perspectives, asks for additional information when desired/needed, and voices any objections. This process continues until consensus is reached.

The Columbia Center for Spiritual Living Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, February 18, 2025, were approved by consensus.

Financial Report

- Reggie Kapp, Board Treasurer, led a review of the February 2025 financials, noting that the bookkeeper, Mark Arnold, provides the financials in a variety of reports to help us compare and better understand the financial data.
- The review included agreeing to look at investing the court-ordered restitution payments in a safe growth fund, such as CD's.
- Reggie shared her recollections that the investment account, which was previously labeled the "Building Fund," was originally intended for a permanent space.
- Tithes to CSL Home Office at 5% of gross income, as well as 5% to local 501C's to be scheduled and decided upon (suggestions welcome from the Board and the community.)
- Reggie brought up the need to schedule and conduct an annual review for Rev. Rafe and update his letter of call; Zita Johnson-Betts offered that this would be completed by a personnel committee made up of Board Members.
- The PNC Bank account has been updated. Former Board President, Marijane Thompson has been removed from the account. Rev. Rafe & Reggie are the current signers.
- February 2025 Financial Reports were approved by consensus.

Senior Minister's Report:



- Rev. Rafe reviewed the impact of the Greater Baltimore CSL joining Columbia CSL, which includes Practitioners, Board members, community members and approximately \$30,000.
 - Robin Farinholt proposed dedicating \$3,000 from the Greater Baltimore funds to the Peace and Wellness Festival scheduled for Oct. 4, 2025. She explained the festival's purpose, which is to develop a sense of community and promote peace and wellness.
 - Zita suggested forming committees to handle various activities, including fundraising, and Robin agreed, emphasizing the importance of community involvement.
 - Robin agreed to meet with the Executive Director of Ruscombe, the co-sponsor, and obtain exact costs from last year's event to aid in creating a budget.

Officers

- Rev. Rafe reviewed the Board of Trustee officer positions; Zita Johnson-Betts offered and was unanimously elected to serve as President of the Board for 2025. The Secretary position remains open and will be discussed at the April BOT meeting. Reggie offered to write up the minutes for the March meeting based on the AI recording.

Old Keyboard

- Laura Service has offered to look for a buyer for the old Columbia CSL keyboard, Korg TR88. The BOT agreed by consensus that any purchase amount would be accepted and appreciated. Harry offered to post it on Craigslist and if he doesn't get any interest by Sunday, March 23rd, Laura will take it at that time to Bill's Music in Catonsville for a price estimate and inform the Board.

Town Hall Meeting and Board Induction

Rev. Rafe discussed the upcoming Town Hall meeting and the need for increased attendance. He also mentioned his conversation with Rev. Dr. Soni Cantrell-Smith about potentially changing the policy of naming centers after places. Rev. Rafe also proposed a Board Induction Ceremony, which could be a hybrid event, and suggested it could be part of an upcoming regular Sunday service.

The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer at 8:30pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2025, at 7pm via Zoom.