



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

*Tuesday, June 17, 2025, online using Zoom – APPROVED*

**Attendance:**

- Present: Zita Johnson-Betts, Laura Service, Robin Farinholt, Claudette Gadsden, Harry Leffmann, Mary Anne Marsalek, Reggie Kapp and non-voting Board member, Rev. Rafe A. Ellis
- Absent: Dale Kane
- Guest: Nancy Rosenberg

The Board of the Columbia Center for Spiritual Living convened at 7:03pm, 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.
- Harry Leffmann did a Spiritual Mind Treatment for the meeting.
- The Columbia CSL Vision and Mission statements were read by Board Vice President Laura Service.

Trustees were invited to check in, sharing what's happening in their lives and how they're doing at the moment.

The Columbia Center for Spiritual Living Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes of the May 2025 meeting were approved by consensus of all who were in attendance.

**Board Vacancy:** Zita reminded the Board that we have a vacancy for Secretary of the Board. **[NOTE: Columbia CSL Bylaws, ARTICLE 13, Section 13.1 Identity of Executive Officers.** "The Executive officers of Columbia CSL shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer..." In addition, Maryland law mandates that each corporation, including nonprofits, must have a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.]

**Financial Report**

- Reggie Kapp, Board Treasurer, reviewed the May Statement of Activity and confirmed that the financials to date are in order. She was asked by Zita to give an overview of all of the various reports provided to the Board and agreed to do so at a future meeting when time allows. The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Tithes to CSL (5%), CSL Kenya (2.5%) and Grassroots Non-Profit (2.5%) were paid [we should discuss 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter tithe distribution at the July Meeting.]



- Reggie noted that it would be helpful to have budget numbers to compare to our year-to-date income and expenses; Robin Farinholt volunteered to help with the budget. (After the meeting, Laura also volunteered to help with the budget.)
- Rev. Rafe commented that we have been operating in a deficit since he got here and while pledges are up, we have trimmed all we can. In addition, we are limited to what we can offer and fundraise since we're only able to meet once a week in our current location. Rev. Rafe agreed to revise the last approved budget and send that to the Board.
- Claudette Gadsden noted that although we operated at a deficit this past month, we're profitable year-to-date.
- Zita invited questions and with no questions forthcoming, the May 2025 Financial Report was approved by consensus.

### **Senior Minister's Report:**

- Rev. Rafe reviewed his Senior Minister's report highlighting:
  - We're receiving donations from our online community, noting that they feel included when we do things like turn around and wave.
  - Rev. Rafe is looking for options for online classes.
  - He is working with Harry, Rev. Jenna, licensed practitioners Idalia and Frank, as well as Dr. Craig Wright, to develop and schedule workshops and classes for the fall.
  - The last Town Hall Meeting was well attended with Frank Mastoris and Rev. Jenna agreeing to work together on community focus groups.
  - Interfaith clergy group meetings are on a summer break.
  - The "Doing Good by Giving Goods" program launched successfully; Laura reported that Grassroots is happy to take our donations every week.
  - The website is evolving and website costs have been reduced. Rev. Rafe will continue to update content, inviting folks to write blog entries and provide feedback and input.

### **Old Business - Peace and Wellness Festival, Oct. 11, 2025:**

- Zita turned the meeting over to Robin to lead the discussion of our involvement and level of commitment in the Peace and Wellness Festival. Claudette asked for clarification on our financial commitment if we co-produce the event, as is already listed on the website. Zita confirmed that she made corrections to the proposed finances provided to the Board and the total estimated to the community would be \$6,123.76.
- Robin clarified that if this Board votes not to co-produce this event, then that's fine. The producers lost money last year, due in part to lack of member engagement. More vendors, sponsors and volunteers are needed.
- Rev. Rafe encouraged the Board to use the word "investment" instead of "costs" as this more clearly communicates that this event is an advertisement of our community.



- Harry added that last year was fun with great one on one connections and memories and suggested we “go for it!”
- Robin reiterated that when we first discussed the cost, it was a lower estimate but we had all agreed that we could use part of the CSLGB funds that will be transferred to Columbia CSL.
- The Board came to consensus to co-produce the event. Rev. Rafe and Zita committed to review and offer edits for the Memorandum of Agreement between CCSL and Ruscombe. Rev. Rafe will join Robin at the event planning meetings at Ruscombe.

**New Business:**

- Zita had suggested dates for the Board Induction Ceremony and Board dinner. Claudette suggested using a Doodle form, which she will create and send out. Robin offered to host a potluck or catered Board dinner at her house.

The meeting adjourned with Reggie giving a closing prayer at 8:40 PM.

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