John Dickman

My understanding and connection to God has always been important to me. I grew up in New Berlin, Wisconsin, and moved to York, Pennsylvania, in high school. Kathy and I met and got married while at Georgetown University and have continued our faith journey together for 45 years.

At Georgetown I started two student-run businesses. When Kathy graduated I went to the Darden School at UVA for an MBA. Our family of three children, two boys and a girl, started at this time. Now all three children and their families, our seven grandchildren, live within an hour of us. (So we're not moving anywhere!)

My career was in managing the purchasing of goods and services for large manufacturing companies, including Westvaco, Mobil Oil, Lafarge, and Continental. In this role I had financial, legal, and operational responsibilities that trained me to consider options, prioritize, and look for win-win solutions. At Mobil I also became knowledgeable of Total Quality Management practices for process improvement.

I left Mobil Oil to start my own business, Mission Management Services. I contracted with the U.S. House of Representatives and used team approaches to various process improvement initiatives. I was later hired by the U.S. Congress' DC Control Board to help the District of Columbia's Office of Procurement to establish improved systems for tracking and monitoring government contracts. After this I was happy to return to the private sector and a steady paycheck, retiring two years ago.

Kathy and I were both raised Catholic and together determined that faith communities were an important part of our lives. While raising our kids we were Presbyterian. After our kids left home we joined a Methodist church. During that time I was moved to attend Wesley Seminary on a part-time basis, finishing 30 credits of the Master of Divinity program. Our faith journey brought us to Unity of Fairfax in 2011. It is here we have found the community that closely matches the understanding and connection to God that was always important to us. The principles of Unity and New Thought that were always present in our heart and mind brought us home.

Statement of Intent

At Unity of Fairfax we have a community of like-minded people that appreciate the importance and connection of God in our lives. We are each enriched by the support, guidance, and growth of our

blessed community in so many ways. Each of us choose in what ways we are involved with the livelihood of our community.

Last February I had the opportunity to join the Board of Trustees to fill out the last ten months of an open term. I have found serving on the Board a joyful growing experience. There are many aspects of our community that I am learning about and many good people I am getting to know. I am enjoying getting to know more people.

I can report with confidence that you have elected a good team to the Board. We are moving forward in many ways, all in the best interests of our community. The vision process earlier this year, completion of the labyrinth plaza, movie nights, great events, super education opportunities such as the current Butterworth Practical Metaphysics study groups, our wonderful positive music program, and, of course, our Sunday morning services and happenings, are only examples. There's a whole lot of good going on here.

Most importantly, the Board is teaching me about legacy. This community is built on a solid foundation of vision, mission, and core values. Over the years it has grown to what it is today. We have the responsibility to experience it now and create the future.   We have a good foundation upon which to exercise our values and build the legacy of this beloved community.

My intent is to apply practical ways to enable our community to operate at its best. There are various areas of improvement and preparation needed within our community. Time, talent, and treasure are to be optimally employed to best care for each other and to further our mission. It takes a community working together. We are all working this out with good intentions to make it so.