



Ministry Vacancy Information Packet

Unity of Ocala
Ocala, FL

September 2025

About the Ministry

OVERVIEW

Unity of Ocala is a spiritual community rooted in Unity core teachings and dedicated to awakening the Christ presence within each person. We are a loving, inclusive, and diverse congregation located in the heart of Central Florida horse country. Our congregation is composed of about 40–50 dedicated individuals who attend in person and virtually, and we maintain a broader community of supporters through classes, outreach, and social media.

While we face some of the same challenges as many small ministries, we also have tremendous assets: a debt-free facility with room for growth, a group of committed members and volunteers, and a clear spiritual vision. We are seeking a minister to lead us into our next chapter—someone with high spiritual consciousness who values prayer, teaching, fellowship and collaborative leadership.

Locality: Ocala and Surrounding Areas

Physical Description: Ocala is nestled in Marion County in North Central Florida, known for its rolling pastures, oak-lined roads, and world-famous thoroughbred horse farms. We are a short drive from several large natural springs, the Ocala National Forest, and the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. A wide variety of interesting landmarks and hidden gems exist in all directions. Our climate is mild in winter and warm in summer with abundant sunshine year-round.

Demographics: Marion County's population is approximately 428,000 (2024). Ocala is growing steadily with a mix of retirees, families, and working professionals. This general part of Florida is growing as a retirement destination as retirees are avoiding big cities. The cost of living is lower than in many other parts of Florida.

More data can be found here: <https://datacommons.org/place/geoid/12083>

Cultural and Recreational Resources:

- World Equestrian Center
- Silver Springs State Park
- Downtown Ocala historic district
- Ocala Civic Theatre, art walks, music festivals
- Proximity to Gainesville, Orlando, and Tampa

Proximity to Other Unity Ministries and/or New Thought Centers:

- Unity of Gainesville (approx. 40 miles)
- Unity of The Villages (approx. 25 miles)
- Unity of Citrus County (approx. 40 miles)
- Oakbrook Center for Spiritual Living (approx. 5 miles)
- Tri-County Unitarian Universalists (approx. 10 miles)

Do you participate in any of the following activities? *(Check all that apply)*

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Small Group Ministries | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Community Outreach/Compassionate Social Action | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Social Media (ex: Facebook, Twitter, livestreaming, etc.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please list) Click or tap here to enter text. | |

PEOPLE

E-Mailing List: ~274
Average Sunday Attendance: 35–45 (hybrid)
Formal Membership: approx 50

Special Groups & Ministries:

- Chaplin's Program = Prayer Ministry
- Weekly meditation and metaphysical study group
- Drum Circle

Church Staff:

- Administrative Assistant (part-time)
- Book keeper (part time)
- Housekeeping (contracted)
- landscaping (contracted)

MINISTRY SUPPORT SERVICES

Workshops Given and Topics Covered: We have benefited from workshops, leadership training, and guidance from UWM consultants including board and visioning sessions.

MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES

MISSION: We awaken and express the Christ presence in ourselves and others through prayer, fellowship, and spiritual study.

VISION: A thriving spiritual community radiating love, light, and truth.

CORE VALUES: Love, Integrity, Spiritual Growth, and Community.

What have been the three most important events in the history of your ministry?

1. Founding of Unity of Ocala 1979 by a small group of dedicated Truth students.
2. Establishing the current campus with sanctuary—all debt-free.
3. Resilience through COVID-19, maintaining connection and spiritual nourishment via hybrid services and online groups.

In recent years, what activities/special events in the ministry were well attended/appreciated?

- Annual World Day of Prayer
- Burning Bowl and White Stone ceremonies
- Guest speaker Sundays
- Community potlucks
- Daniel Nahmod in concert
- Unity Plant Sale

What does the congregation want to accomplish in the next 3 years?

- Rebuild and expand membership
- Strengthen Youth & Family programs
- Increase visibility through social media and local outreach
- Develop leadership through training and engagement

INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

Date Ministry Established: circa 1979

Articles of Incorporation: 4/27/1979

Bylaws Last Reviewed: 2025

Check here if your bylaws are structured in accordance with the Unity Worldwide Ministries bylaw template and updated within the past three years: ☒

About the Position

Our Church Family understands the practical spiritual importance of affirmation and intention; so we held a visioning exercise to include the various characteristics and depth. Below are the results from the 27 participants input as part of our group nominative technique. Please note that the PINK sticky dots represent the most desired aspects (each person had 2 Pink sticky dots) The actual results are included in the Appendix for the insight they may offer.

1. Ministerial Strengths and Characteristics

Categories	Pink Dots (Most Imp.)	Non-Pink Dots	Total
Sunday Services	14	4	18
Focus on Prayer, Meditation	3	12	15
Pastoral Care		5	5
Outreach to the Local Community	2	6	8
Spiritual Social Activism	2	8	10
Health , Well-being, Personal Development		9	9
Classes & Education	7	11	16
Interfaith & World Religions	2	8	10
Earth Care / Environmentalism		6	6
Trending Spirituality/ New Age	3	12	15

2. Ministry Location. Place an "X" next to the primary location of the ministry's current demographic. (Select one)

X In-person

[click to rate](#)

Online

[click to rate](#)

Hybrid

3. **Ministry Type.** Place an “X” next to the description that best describes this ministry. (Select one)

☒ **Congregation-Based**

[click to rate](#)

☐ **Community-Based**

[click to rate](#)

☐ **Service-Based**

4. **Age Groups.** Please rank the following age-group categories from 1 (most populous) to 6 (least), to reflect your current active membership/attendance.

1. 50's & 60's Most of the Congregation fits into the 60 and up age range
2. 70's and up Many members of the congregation are above age 70
3. 30's & 40's People in their 30s and 40s cycle through for a few months and move on when they receive the love and acceptance they came for
4. Kids & Families About 10-12 young children are sporadic regulars and we bless them always
5. 20's & 30's Generally, folks of this age group come with other family members but are curious and receptive once we break the ice.
6. Teens Teens arrive with family and have a wide array of receptivity. We might be overly nice to them.

5. **Interests/Area of Expertise/Educational Acumen:**

Spiritual Depth and Teaching Orientation	Pink Dots(Most Imp.)	Non-Pink Dots	Total
Unity Core Teachings	7	11	18
Fillmore Focus		7	7
Bible & Metaphysics	6	12	18
World Religions and Interfaith	2	9	11
Classic Unity Authors		13	13
New Thought Authors	1	10	11
Trending Spirituality/New Age	2	10	12
Personal Development / Well Being	2	11	13

Other specific qualities, experiences, leadership skills, vision, etc., you are seeking not already addressed: A teaching- preaching and prayer-centered spiritual leader, grounded in Unity principles, who embodies compassion, inclusiveness, and spiritual maturity. Someone energized to collaborate, teach, and inspire.

The Who and Why of your Ministry

WHO does this ministry serve?

Primarily middle-aged and older adults, spiritual seekers, retirees, and open-hearted individuals seeking personal and spiritual growth. We welcome people of all backgrounds and are actively working to expand our reach.

WHY do you exist as a ministry?

To support spiritual awakening and personal transformation by recognizing the divine presence within all people. We foster a sense of connection, growth, and sacred service.

Describe your vision of the perfect ministry.

A growing, joy-filled spiritual community deeply engaged in love, learning, prayer, and compassionate service. A place where people are empowered to live consciously and joyously. We seek to embody the Christ within.

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Vacancy Fill by Date: ASAP

Proposed Salary Range - Part Time Position: \$20,000 base salary + negotiable growth-based bonus

Moving Expenses: Negotiable—up to an agreed-upon amount

Additional arrangements, benefits, insurance, etc.: Paid vacation and One Sunday per month off

Housing market, school districts, etc., in your area:

- Housing prices in Marion county are below that of urban or coastal parts of Florida
- Rentals available ~\$1,200–\$1,800/mo
- Utilities and groceries are moderate
- Marion County School District is expanding; several charter and magnet schools available

The cost of living is lower than in many other parts of Florida. More information can be found here:
<https://datacommons.org/place/geoid/12083>

Additional Comments:

We affirm that the right and perfect minister is being drawn to Unity of Ocala through divine order and grace. May this document serve as a beacon for that perfect match

Appendix

The Unity of Ocala membership created the visioning statement below. Each participant (27) had seven dots. Included were two PINK dots to represent the most desired components of ministerial characteristics and spiritual experience. Each person's other five dots are colorful for a fun image and to pronounce the various aspects of our vision forward. These are images of the actual posters that remain on the wall for us to reaffirm.

Ministerial Charac.	Ministerial Charac.
Sunday Services	Classes, Education
Focus on Prayer and Meditation	Interfaith and World Religions
Pastoral Care	Earth Care and Environmentalism
Outreach to Comm.	Trending Spirituality and New Age
Spiritual Social Activism	
Health, Well Being Personal Develop.	

Spiritual Depth and Teaching Orientation	Spiritual Depth and Teaching Orientation
Classic Unity Authors	Unity Core Teachings
New Thought Authors	Fillmore Focus
Trending Spirituality and New Age	Bible & Metaphysics
Personal Development, Health & Well Being	Interfaith and World Religions

The principal vision is that: We hold intention for a meaningful Sunday morning experience that includes depth into Unity core teachings and metaphysical Bible interpretation. However, one can also see the wide array and spread of our colorful stickers. Inferring that we value diverse spiritual experience and learning as part of each path to God. It is not reflected here but Fellowship is what we do best.



Release of Information Authorization

I, the Board President of	Unity of Ocala	on behalf of
the Board of Trustees, authorize ministerial applicants to obtain any pertinent information regarding ministry history from the permanent ministry file in Unity Worldwide Ministries' home office.		



Signature

Board President Signature

Michael E. Headberg

Board President Printed Name

September 23, 2025

Date