

Unity AA Group Conscience 4/1/26

Meeting started at 7:12 p.m.

About 25-35 group members were in attendance throughout most of the gathering with a wide range of newer and older members present.

Welcome: Read Sara P.'s Group Conscience memo:

What is a "Group Conscience"?

According to the pamphlet "The AA Group - Where it all begins" and the Unity Plan of Operations:

A "group conscience" is the collective conscience of the group membership and thus represents substantial unanimity on an issue before definitive action is taken. This is achieved by the group members through the sharing of full information, individual points of view, and the practice of A.A. principles. To be fully "informed" requires a willingness to listen to minority opinions with an open mind. On sensitive issues, the group works slowly — discouraging formal motions until a clear sense of its collective view emerges. Placing principles before personalities, the membership is wary of dominant opinions. Its voice is heard when a well-informed group arrives at a decision. The result rests on more than a "yes" or "no" count — precisely because it is the spiritual expression of the group conscience. The term "informed group conscience" implies that pertinent information has been studied and all views have been heard before the group votes.

What is the goal of tonight?

Tonight we will be discussing rent and coming up with actionable steps to take, if this group decides that is necessary. This group conscience came about because the treasurer was made aware of a rent increase and it was proposed that a small committee meet with the church to negotiate. But because that action would affect the group as a whole, it was decided it was outside the scope of the trusted servants and a group conscience meeting would be held.

So what's actually happening?

In March 2026, the treasurer was informed of a 10% increase on our rent effective May 1st. Our current rent payment is \$2,376. The increase would be \$237, resulting in a rent of \$2613 per month.

Discussion:

- Current rent: \$2,376. The church is increasing the rent 10% to total \$2,613. (A \$237/month increase.)
- Kristin (Treasurer) says we currently CAN afford the new rent through 2026.
- Rent last increased 10% November 2022.
- We do not currently have a lease or set agreement on rent increases.

- It is pointed out that Unity AA will always be a tenant, if we are concerned about getting a lease we would need to form an Alano society.
 - Some members say an Alano society would not apply to our group's situation
 - We have not looked into what it would take to find our own space to move to.
- Ward Parkway group pays \$8000 a year for their rent for comparison.
- Several folks have expressed the sentiment that we should “just pay the rent and move on”
- Some folks feel that obtaining a lease is necessary.
 - Late 2023 a committee met to try to get a lease which brought several legal and principal issues. The committee decided not to pursue further.
- There is a discrepancy over the price of the heritage room.
- Sentiment over wanting more clear communication between the church and the group is expressed.
 - Should we have a liaison of sorts to be a line of communication separate from the group chairperson?
 - Sentiment is expressed that the chairperson should be more clearly our group's channel of communication to the church.

Conclusion:

- Consensus seems to be that we should pay the new rent rate and follow up with the church on what the appropriate rate should be for the heritage room via our chairperson and treasurer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.