# **Unity Worldwide Ministries-Great Lakes Region**

# Minutes

1. November, 2020 1:30 pm EDT

The meeting of Great Lakes Unity Regional Board was called to order at 1:36 p.m. by President Glenda Walden.

Board Members Present:

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| 1. Glenda Walden, president (2020) 2. Ray Nelson, vice-president (2020) 3. Carl Nawrot, treasurer (2022) 4. Christina Garza, Conference Liaison (2023) 5. Sandie Vanik, UWM Board Liaison | Greg Coles, Regional Rep.  Susan Liddell, LUT Rep. (2023)  Wilma Taylor-Costen  Cindy Yamamoto, Alternate  Kathy Harwood Long, Alternate |

**Absent:** Diane Stark, secretary (2022)

**Opening Prayer:** Cindy Yamamoto prayed us in.

**Check-in** – Glenda invited us to share our current activities and prayer requests.

**Vision / Mission / Values for the GLUR:** Kathy read our vision, mission and core values.

**Vision:** Awakening Oneness, we empower an evolving

consciousness that spiritually transforms the world.

**Mission:** We serve, inspire and empower ministries, ministers,

credentialed leaders, and laity.

**Values:** Committed, Empowering, Evolutionary, Integrity,

Collaborative, Love.

**Reports:**

* **Approval of Minutes**: Susan moved and Wilma seconded the approval of the minutes, submitted by Ray. Passed unanimously.
* Glenda reminded us that the reports shared at Board meetings are confidential and should not be shared with anyone outside of the board.

* **Regional Rep. Report** – Greg invited us to honor the legacy of a couple of “giants” that have transitioned: Rev. Ruth Mosley and Billie Blaine; also, to celebrate Ric Beattie who has become licensed as a Unity Minister and Rev. Rosalind who will be installed next month at Unity of Rochester. -- Greg has been working with Unity of Medina and recommended that they contact UWM for a transitional minister. They decided not to hire a transitional minister; instead they asked Greg if he would continue to offer them support. He has agreed to do so. – He has also completed his work with Unity of Kitchener and Mississauga. – He reported that during the regional resource call a new minister was looking for advice and support as his membership has decided to sell their building.
* **UWM Liaison Report** – Sandie shared that the UWM board was inviting new ministerial graduates to join them for a meet and greet during their meetings. This was initiated by board president, John McMahon, noting that the newly ordained hadn’t had the opportunity to meet with the board due to Convention being cancelled. They have already met with the UWSI graduates and will meet with the UUMS graduates next month and then those from the Field Licensing program. – She reports that Shad has jumped in as the new director and is really moving forward with integrity; top priorities include defining who UWM is and what role they play, while not trying to be everything to everyone.
* **LUT Report** – Susan shared that the LUT’s will have their next Zoom call in early January to keep all LUTs up to date. She says communication is the key to their success. Between meetings Susan gets calls from LUTs looking for support from time to time.
* **YFM** – Wilma reported that she is looking to connect with Chase and Tyler. She shared that Renaissance Unity’s YFM director is coming up with creative ways to connect with families including a drive-by Halloween party. Chase is also working on new ideas for how to keep kids engaged virtually. She has created and provided 3 videos including “What is Y.O.U.” and Y.O.U. sponsorship. She is looking at an orientation/training for 2021. Chase has asked Cyndi to put these on the Region’s website.

-Greg commented that it is important to meet the children and families where they are.

-Kathy commented that we need to be ready to re-direct and experiment.

-Wilma said, yes, we are shifting and she applauds Chase for her willingness to reshape/reimagine and deliver programming safely.

-Christina reminded us about Clay Lindner, the Y.O.U.er that shared a video with us at conference. He said that he always felt like there were 2 churches (youth separate from adults).

* **Treasurer’s Report** –Carl reported that expenses are down significantly which is helping us to maintain a good, strong balance sheet and cash flow. He shared that as of today, the proceeds from the conference were transferred to us from Whova. That will count as income for next month. Carl shared that he was contacted by Robin, a former GLR treasurer, who is not the treasurer for another region. She was asking if we had a financial controls policy and procedures document. Carl will work with the financial teams to create this as it is important not only for the region, but for all of the ministries. Ray suggested that they contact UWM, to see what they have in place, for guidance.
* Conference Liaison – See Old Business

**Old Business**

* **Update on Diane Stark** (board secretary) – Greg reported that he talked with her and that she is improving slowly but surely from Covid. She is still experiencing fatigue and is resting at home. She plans to be back with us for our January meeting. Right now, she is focused on her healing and appreciates our continued prayers.
* **Face-to-face Meeting –** Glenda shared that there is no rush to do this, but suggested that it might be a good time for further discussion on how to present our educational offerings.
* **Update on Educational Offerings** – Christina reported that the “Tech Talk” session with Parker went well. The session was free and well attended. He said that there was good conversation and questions and much information shared and that he would consider doing other sessions. – The Día de los Muertos event was also successful. About 40 people attended representing at least 4 ministries in the region. -- It was suggested that perhaps we could look at how to engage a virtual audience. – Christina reminded us that Rev. Jim and Lisa Lee will be doing a diversity training via Zoom on 12/5; so far there were 10 people registered. There will be an Ethics training led by Revs. Wilma and Deb. Both have been approved for CEUs by UWM. In both courses there will be a 50/50 split of the monies collected with ½ going to the instructors and ½ to the region. These courses are listed on the website and Christina suggests that they also be promoted on Facebook, in the Path, and on Whova. – There is talk of forming a committee to move educational opportunities forward.

-Greg shared that some regions are recording classes and trainings and selling them.

-Kathy said that she would be willing to give some input on the education opportunities and thought that Eileen Patra might be a good one to ask for help with this.

**-** Carl inquired about where the income from classes goes; into the general fund or conference fund, or…. Same with the expenses for the classes. He also stated that we need to have in black and white the agreement of the **50/50** split between facilitator and the region; it needs to be set up properly

- Kathy asked who would one contact if the wanted to teach something or had an idea for a class and suggested that perhaps we need an education coordinator

**-** Glenda said that she felt that this would be a good topic for the face-to- face and thinks that we could tie into UWM for they may already have such processes in place.

- Ray suggested asking Cynthia Vermillion-Foster

**-** Glenda asked Christina to put something in the E-Blast about forming this Education committee and Kathy agreed to be the point person for those who expressed interest in taking part

* **Follow up on QuickBooks transfer from Power Church –** (this was voted on last December) – Carl reported that the conversion has taken place and QuickBooks will premiere in 2021; he is hoping to initiate it beginning with the new fiscal year. There are 3 user licenses.

**New Business**

* **Review of 2021 Conference Contract Proposal –** Ray shared that the team was leaning toward moving the conference from Moline to Naperville as it is a significant distance saver for most people in the region. The rooms at the Radisson in Naperville are about $20 more per night. The conference team in looking at providing the conference in a hybrid format; both live and online.
* Glenda shared that Deb’s husband, Todd is a broker in the hotel/conference business and is good at negotiating and suggest that the team ask him to work with us.
* Kathy wants to know what the locations we’re considering do for Earth-care
* Christina wondered if we could consider retreat centers. She said we’d have to find out if they have the bandwidth to support our livestream and don’t charge an arm and a leg for it. This is true for any venue we consider. Christina has been contacted by Whova and they would like us to use them again for the 2021 conference. They would offer us 2019 rates plus all the extra bells and whistles. Based on her experience with Whova for the 2020 conference, she highly recommends we use them again. They would like a decision from us by mid-December.

Ray will bring all of these questions and suggestions to the planning team at their next meeting in December.

* **Maybe Forming a Member’s Education Liaison –** (covered in update on Educational offerings – see above.)
* **Fundraising opportunity proposed by Deb Hill-Davis -** tabled

Sandie Vanik closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 3:18 pm

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Yamamoto