

# **Unity Worldwide Ministries - Great Lakes Region (GLR) Board of Trustees Candidate Questionnaire**

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## **Ministry:**

1. In each of the following categories, what gifts will you bring to the GLR Board?
  - Skills  
Board leadership, time management, communication abilities (succinct speaking and open hearted listening)
  - Experience  
4 years Unity Chicago Board, 3 years Unity Student Association Board, 1 year Unity Urban Ministerial Alumni Association.
  - Time and Talent  
My love of writing and communicating verbally, combined with my ability to honor variations in perspectives make me well suited for board service. My time is filled with patience and my respect of boundaries within time constraints offers strong support for everyone's personal schedule.
  - Spiritual Qualities  
My spiritual awareness keeps me solidly tethered in awareness to a loving God and I use that awareness in a fully human way to exemplify the endless availability to be alive in both worlds. Duality is the desire of all humans to experience whether they realize it or not.
  
2. What do you see as the most significant opportunity/challenge facing GLR at this time, and how will the gifts you bring be of value in the resolution of this issue?

Gaining interest and participation from busy Unity ministers. My connections with the Urban School and Student Association Board provide me with an audience. My neutrality with UWM and UWH along with my connections will allow me access to personalized support and direction from both organizations.

3. How would you define the roles and responsibilities of the GLR Board of Trustees?  
Making support availability better known. Outreach in churches and centers is the method employed to gain awareness and should be a focal point for the GLR Board.
  
4. In what other capacities have you or are you serving the Unity movement?  
Currently I am guest speaking in churches and teaching classes as well as serving on the Urban School Alumni Association. Outside of that, I have been green lighted to begin creating a presence in Chicago's Center on Halsted which is a non profit supporting the LGBTQI+ community.
  
5. What prior board experience do you have? Please give name of institution(s), position(s) you held.  
I served as trustee three years on the board at Unity Chicago and one year as vice president. I served one year as trustee on the Student Association Board, then one year as vice president and my final year as president. I am serving as trustee on the alumni board currently until officer positions become available.
  
6. List any success you have had in each of the following areas: Non-profit fundraising; financial turnarounds/organization restructuring; radical innovation.

On the Unity Chicago board I was involved with the hiring of a senior minister, sale of church property, culture redesign, and membership creation. I also wrote a sexual ethics policy. On the Student Association board I worked mostly on structural awareness for the board and public awareness. I was instrumental in creating a new scholarship program for ministerial students and currently on the Alumni board I am acting as administrator of that fund.

7. Please explain why you feel called to fulfill the position of GLR Board member at this time. Answering the call to serve is a sacred choice. If prayer becomes a process of desire for anything but understanding and clarity it is an invitation for the ego to stake a posture with which to move forward. I have said “no” in prior nominations to different boards so I am aware of the difference. It may be noticed that I did not rush to accept this opportunity indicating that I was open to a path forward within the GLR Board and waiting patiently for direction from Spirit. I remain in that openness and if the path to serve should end with my affirmation of acceptance, I will be fulfilled.
  
8. **Please send a short bio and electronic picture** to be used in the GLR communications. My vision is to lead a community into knowing their oneness with a loving God by discovering a compassionate and caring relationship with themselves. The nature of my relationships is sacred, and my devotion to prayer serves in cultivating their expansion. Knowing the perfection of my wholeness, I demonstrate self-acceptance to the world. I believe that discipleship is my truth, and by exemplifying humility, love, and empathy, I demonstrate wholeness in leadership.

Thank you for responding and for your interest in serving on the GLR Board.

Name Rev. Jeff Berry

Please return to Janith Shoning-Griffith, LUT, GLR Nominating Team Chair, *via* mail or email:

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