

UWM Great Lakes Region
Annual Business Meeting
Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Rev. Cindy Yamamoto, President of the Board, welcomed everyone and brought the meeting to order at 9:32 am

An opening prayer was offered by Rev. Kitty Benson (Keeper of the Flame)

The regional Vision, Mission, and Values were affirmed by the conference body

Laura Meade was introduced as the parliamentarian. The current regional board members were acknowledged as well as the UWM Liaison, Sue Riley

The president introduced the regional staff and thanked them for their hard work. These are: Cindi Cousineau, Cassidy Meeks, and Diane Robinson

The newly credentialed leaders in the region were introduced:

Rev. Jeff Barry (Ordained 2024)

Jackie Thompkins (LUT)

Barbara Corcoran (LUT)

Rev. Anita Koch (Ordained 2024)

Rev. Natalie Vorst (Ordained 2024)

Daryn Wells (LUT 2023)

The President welcomed those new to the region:

Rev. Bobby Kyser (Unity of Louisville)

Rev. Alden Studebaker (Springfield, IL)

Rev. Minnassa Gabon (Bloomington, IN)

Rev. Debra Carter Williams (Unity of Madison)

The Conference Planning Team was congratulated for their work to operate successfully within a new model and to do so with a sense of steadfast possibility:

Daryn Wells (LUT/Chair)

Susan Liddell (LUT)

Janith Griffith (LUT)

Nancy Berdasco (LUT/Board Liaison)

Rev. Wilma Taylor-Costen

Other teams were acknowledged for their service as well:

Finance Team (Rev. Ray Nelson/Rev. Pat Williamson)

Earth Care Team (Rev. Kathy Harwood Long)Con

Interview Team (Rev. Michael Davis/Rev. Kurt Condra/Rev. Kathy Harwood Long)

Several Unity Centers in the region are celebrating milestone anniversaries:

Unity of Blue Water (25 years)

Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing (90 years)

Unity of Cedar Rapids (100 years)

Unity of Dayton (100 years)

An approval committee will be formed to review the business meeting minutes and post them on the regional website.

The conference onsite leaders were acknowledged:

Columbus, Ohio (Daryn Wells)
Naperville, IL. (Nancy Berdasco)
Cedar Rapids, IA (Susan Liddell)
Online (Sharon Ketchum)

After polling each site, it was determined that there were 32 voting members present. This established the quorum at 32.

The voting rules recommended by the parliamentarian were moved by Brian Griffin and seconded. The motion passed.

The 2023 minutes were approved with no corrections

Bylaws revisions were brought to the conference body for approval. The President shared that normally every 3 years or so, revisions are recommended. This year, there are 10 changes proposed. Nancy Berdasco moved that the changes be approved as a whole. There were no objections, and the proposed bylaws changes were adopted.

Rev. Jeff Berry was nominated to the Board of Trustees. As the only nominee, he was elected by acclamation.

Board, Team, and Staff Reports were presented. The detailed reports are attached to the minutes. Rev. Cindy Yamamoto presented the President's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Rev. Ray Nelson. The budget for the new fiscal year is based on more realistic numbers. The year-to-date (Jan.-Aug. 24) net profit was \$26,407.50; however, love offerings from centers and individuals decreased. The treasurer reminded the conference body that the financial reports are posted on the GLR website each month.

Cassidy Meeks, Youth and Family Ministry Consultant, reported that of the 52 ministries in the Great Lakes Region, 16 have YFM programs, and 27 reported youth numbers. Growth is evident at retreats and on the Ministering to Families calls.

Susan Liddell, Licensed Teacher Representative, recognized the new LUTs in the region and expressed thanks to all those who participate in her monthly Zoom meetings.

Rev. Kathy Harwood Long recognized the regional Green Star awards given to the ministries in the region who are committed to be good stewards of the environment. She acknowledged Rev. Sharon Ketchum and Unity of Lansing, Rev. Judy Grimes and Unity of Traverse City, and Rev. Pat Williamson and Unity of Minneapolis.

The region welcomed the addition of Diane Robinson to the staff as the Regional Outreach Ambassador.

Rev. Cindy Yamamoto offered an invitation to share an offering with the region during the meeting, reminding the conference body of the important work of the region and the importance of giving.

Rev. Kathy Harwood Long encouraged participation on the various regional teams that are the driving force of our work. Several areas for service and participation are available including: Policies and Procedures, Bylaws Review, Nominating Team, Prayer Partners, Conference Planning Team, Earth Care Team, and the Finance Team.

Rev. Kathy Harwood Long acknowledged the amazing leadership and service of Rev. Cindy Yamamoto, outgoing president, and Rev. Michael Davis. Both received handcrafted clergy stoles as gifts.

Marty Thurman (LUT) was also thanked for her service as board alternate and received a gift as well.

The current board members are Rev. Kathy Harwood Long, Nancy Berdasco (LUT), Susan Liddell (LUT), Rev. Debra Carter Williams, and Rev. Jeff Berry.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 CST, followed by a closing prayer by Rev. Kitty Benson.