

**2009 Great Lakes Regional Conference
President's Report
Submitted by Rev. Thomas Wendt**

This fiscal year has been one of change, increased communication, challenge and success; each repeated several times. I am most appreciative of the support, commitment and work ethic so clearly demonstrated by our Board of Trustees, Regional representatives serving in a number of capacities, and our Region churches, Ministers and Spiritual Leaders for their time, energy and financial support. I am also thanking Pat Anderson Williams for her leadership in guiding her Conference Planning Ministry Team and thus providing this wonderful conference.

The year started with Martha Creek filling the newly created position of Peacemaking Consultant and making a significant contribution to the reduced number of churches in conflict. Additionally a commitment was made to issue quarterly electronic newsletters containing information about regional services and local church activities and events. The first edition was issued in early February. Although we failed to meet our "quarterly" commitment, a total of three newsletters were issued throughout the fiscal year.

In February we began to realize that our region was apparently not immune to the economic challenges occurring throughout our world. Consequently, board members placed our region on their church prayer lists and a commitment to create a prosperity prayer was undertaken. Thus our prosperity prayer was born: *Our Great Lakes Unity Region prospers abundantly. Each church in our region freely gives a portion of their tithes to the region each month. We give thanks that we have more than enough funding to meet our goals, fulfill our intentions, and bring forth our vision of a world that works for all.*

We have significantly increased the information provided by our website, thank you to Jacob Cichy for his volunteer service. Our website address is: www.greatlakesunity.com.

In April, Board Trustee, Peggy Konkel, resigned and was subsequently replaced Ron Fritts. I extend my gratitude to Peggy for the service she rendered to our region.

Keith Mitchum resigned from our Regional NGU Consultant position and relocated to California. Once again, gratitude to Keith for his creativity and commitment.

Our annual mid-year face-to-face board gathering and meetings took place at the Louisville, Kentucky, Sheraton Hotel, to explore the possibilities of hosting the 2011 GLURC at that location. The location was deemed highly desirable and we will hold 2011 GLURC there.

Our 10% tithing policies were explored and discussed with the final decision being to split the tithe as follows:

45 % to the Association of Unity Churches

35 % to Unity

10% to Silent Unity

10% to be a discretionary fund, to be divided to the following

Urban Ministerial School

Lombard Mennonite Training Institute

Ministers to Ministries,

Etc. at the discretion of the Board

It was also decided to re-initiate the practice of sending letters of gratitude to all those from whom we receive tithes.

In June, Dave DeAngelis accepted the position of Regional NGU Rep on a volunteer basis. Dave was later approved to serve as our paid consultant beginning with our next fiscal year. It became clear to our Board of Trustees that our 2009/2010 budget would be considerably less than our present budget. Salary and expense reductions of approximately 30% appeared likely.

At our People's Convention Regional Meeting, also in June, Rev. Brenda Ehret created a regional prayer team, which ultimately created a Master Mind Prayer to consistently hold our region in prayer.

In September our Board agreed to a 2009/2010 budget which included 31% reductions in salaries and expenses for our contracted personnel. We will re-evaluate in six months.

Lastly, each board member was assigned about a dozen ministries to call to personally invite ministers and spiritual leaders to this year's GLURC. I'm trusting that you received your call.

It is my sincere belief that, during this past year, your Board of Trustees has prepared a solid foundation for a healthy spiritual, relational and financial future.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Wendt
President