

## **2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - GREAT LAKES UNITY REGION**

### **Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative Report**

**Tom Sylvester - October 2, 2018**

#### **LUT REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ROLE**

I am one of three Licensed Unity Teachers (LUTs) in my home ministry, Unity of Garden Park, Cincinnati, Ohio. I was elected to the position of GLR LUT Regional Representative, for a three-year term, at the LUT Luncheon Business Meeting during the 2016 GLR Conference. In this role, I serve as a voting member of the GLR Board of Trustees.

In my position on the GLR Board as the LUT Regional Representative, I am responsible to represent the interests of the LUTs within the Great Lakes Unity Region to the Board. I am the liaison between all of the LUTs and LT Candidates in the Great Lakes Region and the Board. The primary purpose of the position is to connect, inspire, and support LUTs and LT Candidates in the Region.

#### **LUT ALTERNATE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ROLE**

Susan Heine, Unity of Fort Wayne Spiritual Center has been the LUT Alternate Regional Representative since April 30, 2017. Susan was elected to this role at the LUT Luncheon Business meeting during the 2016 GLUR Conference by those present. However, Susan would not be officially eligible to be in this role until she completed her one-year of service in the region as a LUT on April 30, 2017. Given this situation, the Board made the decision to approve Janith Griffith, the immediate past GLURC LUT Regional Representative to serve as the Alternate until Susan became eligible. Susan Heine continues to remain in this role.

**LUT MINISTRY TEAM - LUTMT**

This team is made up of Licensed Teacher Candidates and Licensed Unity Teachers from the Great Lakes Unity Region. The LUT Regional Rep. is the Great Lakes Board Liaison and the Alternate LUT Regional Rep. is the Team Chair. The team communicates via conference calls monthly and emails. This team provides opportunity for leadership as we plan and participate in sub-regional and regional conferences, write regional LUT newsletter articles, recruit the LUT Regional and Alternate Representative every 3 years, and enjoy networking with others.

Currently, there are three LUT Ministry Team Members: Susan Heine, Barb Corcoran, and Tom Sylvester. At this year's Conference, we are asking other LUTs to become members of the Team. We plan to establish monthly teleconference calls to network and plan workshops and conferences. We are recruiting at this GLURC Business Meeting and again at the LUT Luncheon. There is a Sign-Up Sheet for any LUT or LUT Candidate who would like to be part of the LUT Ministry Team.

**WORKSHOPS/EDUCATION:** There were no regional or sub-regional workshops or educational events held this year. The 2017 Conference LUT Luncheon included a business meeting, meditation, networking, and reconnecting. The Speaker at the 2017 LUT Luncheon was Unity Minister Rev. Deb Hill-Davis, Minister at Unity of Ames, in Ames, Iowa. She led an interactive experience called "The LUT 7<sup>th</sup> Inning Stretch"; a reference to baseball and taking a break in the middle of the action. The intention was to provide spiritual renewal for LUT's. Rev. Michael Korpan, Co-Minister at Unity of Fox Valley in Batavia, Illinois will be the Speaker at the LUT Luncheon this year. Rev. Michael will work with the topic "To Tell The Truth." He will address the topic of change in a way that is challenging and apropos for an Licensed Unity Teacher.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS YEAR THAT EFFECT OTHER LUTs**

- SEE in the Field took place at Unity Minneapolis on Sept 25-29.
- SEE in the Field took place at Unity of Garden Park on June 17-22.
- Participated in monthly Board Meetings to represent LUTs
- Attended the Board Face-to-Face meeting in the Spring.
- Facebook Page: “Great Lakes Licensed Unity Teachers”. The word is getting out to LUTs about this FB page, and the number of LUTs connecting using the Facebook page is increasing every day.
- Regular communication with the UWSI to gain an understanding of the Blackboard education platform used by UWSI.

## **NEWLY LICENSED LUTs**

According to Lynn O’Dell, the UWM Licensed Unity Teacher Coordinator, there is only one newly Licensed Unity Teacher since September 2017 in the Great Lakes Unity Region:

- Carla Carder Knack, Unity of Louisville, July 2018

## **ONGOING PROJECTS**

### **1. LUT Database**

There are 88 active Licensed Unity Teachers in the Great Lakes Region. The database will continue to be reviewed and update to ensure a complete and accurate listing of all LUTs in the Great Lakes Region, along with the contact information and affiliated Unity churches. This requires that all of the LUTs on the Board Call List be contacted. An email was sent in early September to all LUTs on the Board requesting verification and changes to the information currently on record. Replies have been received from approximately 30% of the LUTs to date. Information on 10 LUTs indicate that they have moved with updated contact information unknown. Five LUTs and their contact information were added to the LUT Board Call list. Follow-up work will continue until the original LUT Board Call List is updated in its entirety.

## **2. LUT Survey**

A survey was sent in early September to all LUTs on the Board Call List asking several questions, including:

- Are you aware that we have a Facebook page? It is “Great Lakes Licensed Unity Teachers”. LUTs were invited to post happenings from their church that might be of interest to other LUTs.
- Are you interested in participating in an E-Newsletter for our region? Would you be willing to help publish the E-Newsletter?
- Are you interested in participating in LUT Workshops and Events that take place on-site at various churches, teleconference calls facilitated by LUT coordinators in cluster areas? If so, what types of topics are of interest for Workshops and Educational Events?

Once the survey responses are returned and the information reviewed, action will be taken to contact the LUT’s for follow-up. The survey will be useful to encourage communication, coordination and collaboration.

## **3. LUT Scholarship**

Discussions are underway to establish a Scholarship Fund for anyone working. The Scholarship does not go into effect until the 2019 budget. When the Scholarship Fund becomes available, LUTs in the region will be able to apply for a Scholarship. Information about the Scholarship Fund will be provided by the President of Board, and details will follow in the Great Lakes Unity Region Newsletter.

## **4. LUT Workshops and Education Events in 2019**

Consideration is underway to conduct Workshops and Education Events in 2019. Discussions include offering State, Sub-Regional, and Regional area activities, both on-site at hosting Unity churches and online by way of teleconferences. A number of LUTs have already expressed interest in such gatherings for additional learning, networking, and connection. LUTs and others will be kept posted on developments, as appropriate.