

2017 Annual Report Great Lakes Unity Region
Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative – Tom Sylvester
September 26, 2017

Role

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

In my position on the Board as LUT 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

This role became open at last year's Conference when I moved from this position to serve in my current role as LUT Regional Representative. Susan Heine, Unity of Fort Wayne Spiritual Center was elected for the role at the LUT Luncheon Business meeting at GLURC by those present. It was taken to the Board after the luncheon that Susan Heine would like to be the Alternate, and would be available when she completed her one year of service in the region as an LUT on April 30, 2017. The Board approved that Janith Griffith, the immediate past GLURC LUT Regional Representative would serve as the Alternate until that time.

LUT Ministry Team

The LUT Ministry Team assists with planning the LUT luncheon for the Conference and other networking activities throughout the year. Those who attend the GLURC assist with the prayer room as needed and the LUT luncheon. LUT news has been included in the GLURC newsletters this year. Susan Heine is the LUT Ministry Team Chair. Currently, there are three members of the LUT Ministry Team: Susan Heine, Janith Griffith, 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 during my report at the GLURC Business Meeting and again at the LUT Luncheon. It is helpful to have several LUTs giving their ideas and assisting with projects. There is a Sign-Up Sheet for any LUT who would like to be part of the LUT Ministry Team.

Workshops/Education: No sub-regional workshops were held this year. The 2016 Conference included a LUT business meeting, networking, and reconnecting. The Speaker at the 2016 LUT Luncheon was Unity Minister Rev. Diana Repko, creator of the "Inner Change System". Rev. Diana spoke about engaging inner resources to create breakthroughs that enhance our roles as teachers. The Speaker at this year's LUT Luncheon will be Rev. Deb Hill-Davis. Rev. Deb is planning an interactive experience she is calling "The LUT 7th Inning Stretch"... a reference to baseball and taking a break in the middle of the action. The intention is to provide spiritual renewal for LUT's.

LOCAL Accomplishments This Year That Effect Other LUTs

- Lead the organizing effort to host S.E.E. in the Field at Unity of Garden Park the week of June 11-16, 2017
- S.E.E. courses taught at Unity of Garden Park.
- Completed the “Self-Differentiated” workshop from the Healthy Congregations source taught by Martha Creek. Became a certified Healthy Congregations Facilitator.
- Worked with LUTs and UWM to renew LUT active status.
- Taught LUT’s how to enroll in UWSI and register for online courses

REGIONAL Accomplishments This Year That Effect Other LUTs

- Contacted LUT’s whose email had “bounced” this year from the Board Call List, and updated email address so future e-mailings would transmit successfully.
- SEE in the Field at Unity Church of Oak Park, Ill., on Aug 6-11, 2017
- SEE in the Field is taking place at Unity Minneapolis on Sept 25-29.
- Communication with the Board – emails and phone
- Actively participated Monthly Board Meetings
- Attended the Board Face-to-Face meeting in the Spring
- Facebook Page: At my request, Rev. Chase assigned me to be an administrator of the Facebook Page called “Great Lakes Licensed Unity Teachers”. The Facebook Page had no posts since 2013. Posts are now being made and the word is getting out to LUTs. This is a great vehicle for connection, but never before got off the ground.

UWM Accomplishments This Year That Effect Other LUTs

- Enrolled in Unity Worldwide Spiritual Institute. Contacted UWSI Registrar, Chris Gannon to gain access to the Blackboard online learning platform.
- Registered for UWSI Spring Online courses and retook a S.E.E. required course to learn the UWSI system. All courses offered by UWSI are now “Hybrid” courses. These are online with scheduled interactive sessions that include live, real-time interaction between the instructor and all students in the course.
- Spent time on UWSI new website to familiarize myself with the format, content, and scope of information.
- Regular communication with the UWSI Registrar to gain an understanding of Blackboard education platform used by UWSI.
- Communication with UWSI regarding the launch and schedule of the new S.E.E. classes, scholarship information, dates, etc. since there are new guidelines now (Education program moved from Unity Institute to UWSI).
- Consulting with UWSI on gaining a working understanding of the Blackboard education platform used by UWSI.
- Mentoring with Janith Griffith, Susan Heine, Carrie Kenyon, Member Services Coordinator, and Rev Lynn O’Dell, Credentialing Coordinator as the new LUT contact now that Shirley Kennedy has retired.

Newly Licensed LUTs since last September’s Conference as received from Lynn O’Dell, UWM Licensed Teacher Coordinator:

Mary Nowroozi, Unity of Fox Valley, Batavia, IL

PROJECTS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

1. Communication with all LUT's in the Great Lakes Unity Region

Update records, ensure complete and accurate list and contact information for all current LUTs in the GLURC. Contact all LUT's list to encourage collaboration and networking. According to information I have at this time, there are 130 active LUT's in the Great Lakes Region. Develop a cluster map to determine which areas have the highest number of LUT's. These will be target areas for future regional gatherings.

Publish E-Newsletter for LUTs. Grow the number of posts on the "Great Lakes Licensed Unity Teachers" Facebook page. Consider the use other social media platforms. To effectively and successfully do all this work, additional members are needed on the LUT Ministry Team. I am asking LUTs at this Conference and others to participate on the LUT Ministry Team. There is a Sign-Up Sheet at the GLURC Registration Table.

2. GLURC Scholarship Team. I have been asked by the Board to Chair a Team to do research, review, and recommend policies, procedures, and practices for the establishment and implementation a GLURC Scholarship program. The scope of work for the GLURC Scholarship Team will include rewriting scholarship guidelines and applications, reviewing the financial process, and identifying criteria for candidate selection. At the face-to-face Board meeting a bylaw was written and approved to offer tuition only GLURC scholarships for SEE classes offered at Unity Village. Only one tuition scholarship may be received per calendar year. A decision was made a couple of years ago to offer a

scholarship from the Great Lakes Unity Region, but never offered one. At the time the only applicants requested payment up front before attending, or wanted a scholarship covering all expenses, not just the course fees. No one followed through after the first inquiry communications.

In July of this year, a LUT Candidate from Southeastern Ohio submitted an Application for Scholarship. After much discussion, the Board decided to not offer a Scholarship. It was determined there was no money available to offer the Scholarship at this time. I contacted the LUT Candidate, as requested by the Board, and informed him of the decision. The LUT Candidate said that he understood, and would like to participate on a team to advance a Scholarship program.

SEE and much has changed in the shift from Unity Village to Unity Worldwide Spiritual Institute, it is a good time to research all that exists, including Scholarship funds in the GLURC financial budget, and form a new team. I will recruit LUTs at this Conference and others to participate on the GLURC Scholarship Team.

3. 2018 Spring LUT Workshop. Consideration is underway for a 2018 Spring LUT Workshop offering to include teleconference calls and a workshop to be conducted by LUT coordinators in cluster areas. This is in preliminary stages with training to include Teach, Act, and Pray segments. We are looking at a survey tool to determine interest and LUT focus areas. This tool will be distributed at the GLURC LUT Luncheon and then by email.