

GLURC

Annual Regional Rep. Conference Report

Description

The purpose of this annual report is to give a concise account of my activities in the Region (during the first 6 months of my initial tenure as Regional Representative) and share any non-confidential updates, perspectives or analysis related to our Regional member churches.

In addition, as a member of the Standards Team this report may include new suggestions, policies and/or directives received from Unity Worldwide Ministries.

A. General Description of Position:

The Regional Representative serves as the liaison between Unity Worldwide Ministries, the Region they represent, and the ministries within that Region... This service is mainly offered to member ministries, ministers and spiritual leaders within the Region.

B. Duties and Responsibilities:

- (1) Be a pastoral presence for ministers and ministries in the Region.
- (2) Serve as a mentor and coach, being available to all stakeholders' in the ministries of the Region.
- (3) Attends Regional Board meetings as advisor and consultant.
- (4) Serve as a resource to ministers and ministries for information and referral.
- (5) Conduct and/or recommend training for credentialed leaders and ministries.
- (6) Confer with Regional Judicatory Representative to be aware of potential and active ERS cases.
- (7) Maintain ongoing communication with ministers and ministries regarding UWM policies and procedures.
- (8) Serve as member of the Standards Ministry Team.
- (9) Recommend people in the Region for participation/membership on special task forces, training programs, and ministry teams of UWM.
- (10) Serve as resource on behalf of UWM for information and referral to the Region.

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- (11) Network the services of UWM with the Region.
- (12) Travel to national Standards Ministry Team meetings, trainings, Regional meetings, and meetings in ministries as needed.
- (13) Review and make recommendations regarding "Transfer of Credentials" candidates.
- (14) Researches and evaluates trends and development impacting ministry in general and Unity ministry in particular.
- (15) Serve in the review process regarding expansion of new ministries in the Region [to approve or disapprove new works].
- (16) Serve in review process for Field Licensing candidates.
- (17) Confers with the Coordinator Peace Skills & Transitional Ministry Support Services and Unity Worldwide Ministries regarding ministries in transition and Regional Peace cases.
- (18) Participate in ongoing education.

Perspective

In my opinion, many of our member churches are hungry for a new boost of energy and revenue. Atypically, the month of April proved to be more uplifting and encouraging due to the Easter holiday; which included:

- a) Greater attendance
- b) Increased finances
- c) More energy
- d) New comers

Yet, in all actuality, repetitious conversations of aging member populations without millennial replenishment seemed to top the list of concerns for the year. In many cases, churches that were once well established and filled with growth and energy are now shedding members and cannot maintain their expenses or quality of service.

In addition, ministries whom do not have the extra revenue and/or ability to move quickly into new technologies (including consistent social media updating) has caused a great deal of our member churches to remain rooted in 20th Century equipment and engineering.

Moreover, the lack of finances appears to be the prevailing issue in most of the churches who are muddled in challenge and/or conflict.

The factors leading to this assertion include:

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1. Aging populations without millennial replenishment
2. Reduced finances
3. Inadequate services
4. Out-dated equipment and technologies
5. Inconsistent social media application
6. Decreasing summer attendance
7. The appearance of increasing conflicts

Consequently, I have worked tirelessly and fiscally to support our member ministries efforts to improve both standards and practices. In addition, I have voiced my concerns to our Standards Team who seemed equally concerned. These trends have been an on-going discussion within our network. My hope is to collaborate with the Team, UWM and our Regional Board to create and introduce new and more progressive methods and programs to support our ministries in their future efforts.

Summary

The year proved to be filled with a bevy of challenging situations compounded by my need to quickly work through the learning curve of being in this new position. Notwithstanding the adjustment to 24 hour accessibility from our member ministries, along with monitoring each challenging situation closely, while adding an empathetic and/or personal touch to the job; my past connection to the Region as Judicatory supported and greatly helped me gain sufficient footing, proficiency and information.

To be fair, in as much as there has been a consistency in ministry challenges and issues. There have also been quite a few churches in the Region who are maintaining their quality of service and relativity. For the purposes of this report: My concentration and initial focus in this position has been directed at those ministries dealing with Minister/Board concerns, congregational challenges and financial issues.

Particularly, on several occasions I've had the opportunity to connect with Board members, Ministers and congregants throughout the Region on more than just a business-as-usual or strictly challenge based scenario. These one-on-one discussions with many of our leaders revealed to me the love and deep desire of our ministries to make a real difference in the world. In fact, each experience left me feeling a strong sense of gratitude and commitment to the work I'm doing and the opportunity I have to meet our membership where they are.

Supplement

My prayer for our ministries is to find an end to the stagnation and/or fiscal concerns challenging over 20% of our Regional member churches.

Annual Regional Representative Activities:

These numbers (in some cases) are cumulative as some ministers and ministries needed more attention than others.

- 6 Board Trainings
- 2 Congregation Workshop/Presentation
- 3 Minister Dismissal calls
- 3 Potential church dissolutions
- 7 Disruptive member removal request
- 15 Calls concerning open ministries for employment
- 6 Re-entry questions
- 1 Transitional Ministry correspondence
- 2 Special Dispensation request
- 51 Church visits
- 17 UWM inquiries
- 58 Minister calls
- 44 Ministry Board calls
- 28 Regional Board member Inquiries
- 1 Judicatory Related Inquiry
- 7 Miscellaneous Inquiries

Team Trainings & Meetings

- ✓ Ethics Review – San Antonio TX
- ✓ Ministry Skills – San Antonio, TX
- ✓ Standards Team – Walnut Creek, CA
- ✓ Standards Team - San Antonio TX

There were no new policies or directives received from UWM headquarters through the Standards Team network.

*Note: All direct communications with individuals and ministries are confidential