

## President's 2017 Conference Report

- I. This has been an eventful year and I only assumed the role of President in July due to the resignation of the previous president, Rev. Ted Schneider.
- II. The 2017 conference was a success, and at the 2016 Business Meeting two members UWM-GLR trustees, Rev. Ted Schneider and Rev. Sandra McKinney, were re-elected to fill the two open three-year terms.
  - a. Immediately following the Conference, trustees selected the executive team:
    - i. President Rev. Ted Schneider
    - ii. Vice President Rev. Kurt Condra
    - iii. Secretary Rev. Sandra McKinney
    - iv. Treasurer Rev. Josette Jackson
  - b. Rev. Ray Nelson was appointed as Board Alternate
- III. Board Face-to-Face-May 2017
  - a. The Board reviewed, made changes, and approved the budget for 2017-2018.
    - i. Key points –
      1. Budget is tight due to continued decreases in both ministry love offerings and Youth and Family event attendance.
      2. Budget is submitted and balanced.
    - ii. Trends to watch –
      1. Finance team is initiating evaluation and monitoring the downward trend in attendance at Youth and Family events and trainings.
      2. Board is rethinking how to best serve and engage the Region.
      3. Continued monitoring of the downward trend in general love offerings.
- IV. In June, three trustees resigned. Three new members were subsequently appointed.
  - a. With the resignation of three members of the executive team, the Board appointed three individuals to fulfill the rest of the terms, in accordance with bylaws. (Article IV, Section 1.f.)
    - i. Rev. Ray Nelson, senior minister at Unity of Louisville, was appointed to the Board and selected to assume the role of the president in accordance with of the bylaws (Article IV Section 2). Rev. Ray was previously an alternate on the Board.
    - ii. Rev. Glenda Walden, current trustee, assumed the position of secretary.
    - iii. Carl Nawrot, a lay member of the region and current Church Accountant at Unity of Oak Park, was appointed to fill the role of treasurer.
    - iv. Rev. Deb Hill-Davis, senior minister at Unity of Ames Iowa, was appointed to the Board as an at large member.

- V. Board Initiatives
  - a. Communication – to better communicate Board activities and share information of interest to UWM-GLR ministries and ministers.
  - b. Service – to be of greater service to the member ministries, the Board is committed to reaching out to Regional ministries to see how we may better serve them.
    - i. Sub-regional ministries gatherings.
    - ii. Linking the members in the field, both retired and active, with member ministries that may be facing a challenge. This would allow the Regional ministries to draw upon our collective wisdom.
    - iii. Updated database with Ministry Member addresses and contact information accessible on the website. (Individual Member records to remain confidential, except where voluntarily shared as part of Ministry Member record.)
  - c. Providing additional opportunities for members to be in service.
    - i. Additional teams to be formed
      - 1. Policies and Procedures Review. Upon completion, an updated version of Policies and Procedures will be posted on the website.
      - 2. Data Collection. Collecting the most current information from member ministries and making contact information available to other ministries. This could be a location we list skills, material, or programs other ministries are willing to share.
      - 3. Technology Team. Will assist the communication liaison in providing additional ways to communicate with the field.
    - ii. Ongoing teams
      - 1. Conference Team.
      - 2. Finance Team.
  
- VI. Rev. Marty Newman who held the staff position of Regional Representative for many years, resigned Dec. 31, 2016. Marty did a great job but felt it was time to return to pulpit ministry and accepted the position of senior minister at Unity Port Richey, FL.
  - a. The Board approved the hiring of Rev. James Parker to the position of Regional Representative in January of 2017. James previously had been the regional Judicatory Representative.
  - b. After discussion about anticipated changes to the JR position role by UWM, it was decided not to fill the position, at least for the present time.
  - c. James will continue to represent UWM-GLR on the UWM Standards Team.

- VII. Rev. Diane Venzera, long-time Youth & Family Ministry Training Director for the region, resigned to accept a position with the new Unity Worldwide Spiritual Institute as Instructional Designer.
  - a. Rev. Chase, associate minister at Unity of Dayton, was hired Nov. 1, 2016 to fill the Training Director position.
  
- VIII. Healing Listening Circle
  - a. The Board, in an effort to address in any unresolved issues, will have a healing listening circle as one of the breakout sessions at the Sept 25-27 Conference. This will be open to all members and be facilitated by Rev. Cynthia Vermillion-Foster, UWM member services director.
  
- IX. Please see all other staff and committee reports for further details.