**Unity Worldwide Ministries-Great Lakes Region**

Minutes

January 27, 2021 1:30 pm EDT

The meeting of Great Lakes Unity Regional Board was called to order at 1:30 PM EDT by President, Glenda Walden.

Board Members Present:

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| Glenda Walden, President (2024)  Ray Nelson, VP, Conference Liaison (2022)  Carl Nawrot, Treasurer (2022)  Diane Stark, Secretary (2022)  Wilma Taylor-Costen, YFM Liaison (2024)  Susan Liddell, LUT Rep (2023) | Christina Garza, Communications Liaison (2023)  Sandie Vanik, UWM Board Liaison)  Cindy Yamamoto, Trustee  Greg Coles, Regional Rep.  Absent:  Kathy Harwood Long, Alternate |

**Opening Prayer:**Greg led us in prayer to begin the meeting.

**Check-in** –Glenda asked us to share what is most alive for us.

**Vision / Mission / Values for the GLUR:** Diane read our vision, mission and core values.

**Vision:**   Awakening Oneness, we empower an evolving

                               consciousness that spiritually transforms the world.

**Mission:**We serve, inspire and empower ministries, ministers,

                                credentialed leaders, and laity.

**Values:**  Committed, Empowering, Evolutionary, Integrity,

                                Collaborative, Love.

**Additions to Agenda:** Chase’s request for a copy of the Regional Rep report and Greg Coles request for financial support for serving on the UWM Credentialing team. Carl Nawrot also requested that we review 4th quarter finance.

Carl said that we need to talk about fourth quarter finances. Other additions included sending flower to Unity of Lansing and making a decision about our FTF.

**Secretary's Report**: Susan moved to approve the minutes from November. Carl seconded. Passed unanimously.

**Regional Representative Report**: (see attached report) Greg reported that he has been working many hours to overhaul the training module and presented it to UWM. It was well received and endorsed, and is being used in other regions already. He is receiving requests for Board trainings and is booked virtually through March. Martha Creek has new resources which Greg is promoting through our facebook page and our newsletter and website.

**Unity Worldwide Ministries Board Liaison Report:** Sandie will be attending a meeting tomorrow and invited us to give her any items to bring to that event.

**Licensed Unity Teacher Coordinator Report**: Susan related that a Zoom call was held two weeks ago with ten people on the call. Discussion was lively, about holiday activities and technological skills. Next call will be in March. Electronic mailings will require follow-up coordinated with Diana Kennedy.

**Youth and Family Ministry Liaison Report**: Wilma will be meeting monthly 1:1 with Chase and Tyler for supervision and for a time of sharing their current programs and plans for the future. She raised the question of the performance evaluation and what is the expectation of their roles. Concerns have been shared that the 2020 budgetary salary restructuring was not commensurate with the amount of work their job requires. She is enthusiastic to find ways to invest in our youth.

Treasurer's Report: Carl stated that our financial reports for December were distributed to the Board and Carl invited us to see the nuances of our financial position. He is vigilant about making sure we can meet our expenses. He expressed appreciation for the Finance Team – Wilma, John M., Rick B., and Dale D. He is making progress in converting our financial records from PowerChurch to Quickbooks and admitted he is having to learn more about this process. The budget planning will begin in the near future.

**Conference Liaison**: Ray is proceeding with preparations for the 2021 Conference contracts. For Conference 2021, we are having the same musicians as 2020. Keynote will be Rev. Sharon Connors. Theme is “Birthing a new normal – now what?” The plan is to hold a live conference with a virtual component. The time allotted for keynote will change slightly to allow for ethics and diversity training. He has just received a budget that allows him to further negotiate and plan the pricing schedule. The Conference team is enthusiastic to have a live event, but we do have contingencies in our wheelhouse if it isn’t going to work.

Christina told us that she received a $100 gift card from Amazon. We decided to have the card sent to Cindi to use for gifts, etc.

**Communications Coordinator**: Christina asked for someone to do the blog for February's newsletter in time for the beginning of February. Greg reminded us that there is scholarship money in the regional finances for education and to make us aware of that would be a good thing to put in an article for the blog. Glenda suggested that he broaden it to include education for Boards in the movement. Ergo, Greg will do the February blog on this theme.

Blogs were assigned as follows; Feb - Greg. March - Susan. April - Diane. May - Carl. June - Wilma. July - Christina. August - Cindy. Sept - Ray. Due the 25th of the month.

**New Business**:

* Susan moved to send flowers to Unity of Lansing in honor of them moving into their newly restored building after the fire. Carl seconded. Cindy suggested a plant rather than flowers. All agreed. Passed unanimously. We will also send a gift to Oak Park in honor of their new minister.
* Carl asked that we decide on our discretionary tithe for the fourth quarter? Carl moved that we give our Board discretionary tithe to our scholarship fund. Second by Glenda. Passed unanimously.
* Face-to-face: Last year we met in April. Ray wanted to meet virtually, all agreed. Glenda will send a survey monkey to bring the dates into focus and agree on a date.
* Chase’s request for the RR report- Discussion focused on the material this report contains and the reason for this request. Greg reported that he was willing to provide her with an adapted report if there was specific information that she needed. The Board agreed that the report needed to be kept confidential and asked Wilma to talk with Chase to ascertain what information she is seeking and how it relates to her position.
* Greg’s participation in the UWM Credentialing Team- Greg has requested that GLR provide 50% financial support for his participation in the team. He sees this as an opportunity to connect with new ministers who may be coming to our region as well as to continue to support UUMS which is a part of our region. Ray made a motion that we not provide financial support at this time. Susan seconded the motion. Motion carried. We plan to develop a strategy to have funding available for this purpose in the future.

A closing prayer was given by Carl.

Meeting adjourned at 3:52 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Stark, Secretary