# **Unity Worldwide Ministries-Great Lakes Region**

# Minutes

1. June 17, 2020 1:30 pm EDT
2. The meeting of Great Lakes Unity Regional Board was called to order at 1:31 pm eastern daylight savings time on June 17, 2020 by vice-president Ray Nelson.
3. Board Members Present:

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| Ray Nelson, vice-president (2020)  Diane Stark, secretary (2022)  Carl Nawrot, treasurer (2022)  Christina Garza, Conference Liaison (2023)  Sandie Vanik, UWM Board Liaison | Susan Liddell, LUT Rep. (2023)  Greg Coles, Regional Rep.  Absent:  Glenda Walden, president (2020)  Eileen Stulak, Communications Liaison (2023) |

**Opening Prayer:** Ray opened the meeting with prayer.

**Check-in** – Ray invited us to check in. Susan, Greg, Carl, Diane, Sandie, Christina, and Ray shared their current experiences in their ongoing journey.

**Vision / Mission / Values for the GLUR:**  Ray 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.

Ray stipulated that we move the Conference discussion to the end of the agenda, to allow time for extended consideration of options.

**Reports:**

* Secretary: Carl moved and Susan seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Passed unanimously.
* Regional Rep Report – See attached. Greg reported that some ministries are reopening this month while others are operating virtually indefinitely. A record number attended the Resource Connection call last month.  Tomorrow’s call is on deconstructing racism. While many ministries are waiting to reschedule Greg to come work with them, Greg is looking at preparing Board trainings on line.
* UWM Liaison Report – Sandie noted what interesting and numerous changes are occurring at the home office. The UWM Board addresses all these new circumstances with a position of creating from nothing, in alignment with the deepest identity of our movement. They are developing a recommendation for how to have bylaws that accommodate pandemic quarantines and other situations heretofore unprecedented.
* LUT Report - Susan commented that she wanted to be sure to plan an LUT virtual event for the annual GLUR Conference. Discussion followed as to when would be the most successful time to schedule it with a keynote speaker
* YFM – Ray said that Chase’s report will be forwarded at a later date. He noted that she, Chase, is doing a youth regional leadership conference, a virtual event coming from Unity Village. She also posted a connecting space for “young, emerging spirits.” She is seeking to stay connected and active with youth and family ministry. Tyler is doing a day long virtual YOU event and will forward a report on that. The Regional Reps will stay on another year, with the four candidates creating monthly virtual events.
* Treasurer’s Report – Carl stated that we had a strong month; churches in the region are supporting the Great Lakes region. See attached report. Carl noted that we will need to revise budget amounts regarding the Conference because of the change to a virtual event. He related the matter of a refund check for Tyler, which was send to an incorrect address and cashed by persons unknown, amount $146.00. Carl sent a letter of inquiry to this address.
* Conference Liaison – Christina informed us that the committee met last week and the themes “Consciousness of race,” “Social activism,” and “Technology,” a $150.00 registration fee, and restructuring the fees for musicians and speakers were on their agenda. No decisions have been made. There was also discussion of a virtual music benefit concert for the Region being developed as a possibility as a way of creating monies for churches to bring forth intentions in alignment with the themes of the Conference. Christina moved that we change the conference to a virtual event. Ray seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Carl asked what the policy will be on refunds. This is yet to be decided. Greg raised the questions of how we will manage decisions, including all players, on the Conference and the technology required to support it. He shared that UWM is doing the Convention in segments throughout the year. Greg remarked that we need to be very clear in how we will proceed. The supporting technology is, at present, unclear and unspecified. He asked how the communication got out that the Conference would be virtual without any decisions having been made. There was a lapse in continuity in this instance. Ray moved that we cancel the face to face Conference. Christina seconded. Passed unanimously.

Continued discussion – Sandie pointed out the synergy that comes from back to back scheduling. Greg commented on the opportunity of going on line with segments that target a variety of audiences beyond ministers. This is an advantage of virtual conferencing. Ray noted the value of spreading the Conference throughout the year as well as the advantage of keeping it bundled together. He pointed out that we are not tied to any particular dates for the Conference. We could give the Conference team more time, since they are now in the position of reimagining the whole thing. Christina doesn’t think the committee needs more time. The themes are still under development but the need is to get the technology set down and the scheduling designed such that there are not long periods of online programming.

Greg suggested that the business meetings and reports can be scheduled relatively simply, whereas the keynotes and the music presentations are less predictable. We want to keep in mind that the Business Meeting can be attended for no charge. The concert would be included in the conference fee, and would also be available for a fee, apart from the Conference, with a tithe received for the GLUR at the concert. This would not be instead of the offering received at the Business Meeting. Greg raised the question who would run and be responsible for the technology of the Conference, in all its aspects. Christina replied that the team has not identified who they plan to partner with. They are relying on UWM for information on this question. Sandie pointed out that this is a valid expense to pay for the best available services. Christina asked to what extent is the team autonomous in deciding how the monies for the Conference will be used. Carl’s answer was that the income needs to cover the expenses, which is really impossible to know since we have not done this model of a conference before. Christina moved that we move forward with a virtual conference. Greg seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. Sandie designated that the team can now proceed to design a fee schedule and expense itemization. Greg recommended that the conference planning team provide the Board with a written schedule with fees and expenses, so that everyone is on the same page with what gets approved, and what requires further discernment. Susan asked if there was a scheduled slot for the LUT event. There is not as yet. Greg pointed out that it is not necessary now to have that event during the Conference schedule. Susan will look at opportunities for the LUT event to be connected to the Conference (although that is dictated by tradition, which Susan is also looking at.)

**New Business**

Ray tabled the two new business agenda items of Policy and Procedure and Bylaws Committee.

Diana has an issue in collecting unemployment benefits which is being handled by Carl.

Greg is still waiting for the information on hosting Zoom meetings. Carl stated that Cindi is the administrator, the co-hosts Tyler and Chase, and Greg as a host. Carl will follow through on purchasing the new Zoom account.

The meeting was adjourned at 3;40 PM EDT with blessings to all for their dedicated service.

Next meeting is July 15th, 2020, 1:30 EDT

Respectfully submitted, Diane Stark, Secretary