

UWM- Great Lakes Region
President's Report

Our 2020-2021 theme for your Board of Trustees could best be described as "Exploring New Territories with Gratitude and Collaboration"

- I. Our 2020-2021 year began with a virtual post conference board meeting. We elected new officers and assigned liaison roles.
 - President-Glenda Walden
 - Vice-President-Christina Garza
 - Treasurer-Carl Nawort
 - Secretary-Diana Stark
 - Youth and Family Liaison-Wilma Costner Taylor
 - Conference Liaison-Ray Nelson
 - LUT Liaison-Susan Liddell
 - Alternate & Conference Chair- Cindy Yamamoto
- II. As COVID-19 continued to impact our individual lives, ministries, and the larger unity movement, our Board continued to look for innovative ways to support ministries in our region.
 - a. Our staff has done a phenomenal job exploring ways to use technology to stay connected to and support the ministries in our region.
 - i. Our Regional Representative, Greg Coles, continued to provide monthly Resource Connection calls, giving our ministries an opportunity to find support and connection.
 - ii. Our Youth and Family Ministry Even Coordinator, Tyler Pritchard, continued to create online space for our youth to stay connected as well as creating virtual rallies.
 - iii. Our Youth and Family Ministry Training Coordinator, Chase, continues to provide calls and virtual opportunities for connection among our youth leaders.
 - b. We continue to utilize our webpage and monthly e-blasts as an opportunity to provide our Region with resources for reopening, unpacking racism, and navigating the ever-changing landscape of ministry.
- III. Face-to-Face meeting via zoom
 - a. Approved the budget for 2021
 - b. We carefully weighed the options for our annual conference bearing in mind the risks and benefits of being together again.

- c. Continued our ongoing to discussion of how we as a Board and staff could better serve the region with emphasis on the smaller ministries that may have limited financial resources

IV. Virtual Conference-

- a. Our 2020 team leveraged their enthusiasm, passion, and vision to provide us with a wonderful virtual event last year. I am personally grateful that despite the challenges of a new platform, new emerging topics of importance, and a greater demand of time and energy, they brought these characteristics forward.
- b. Our speakers inspired us, pushed us to think more deeply about the challenges of these times, and motivated us to connect in meaningful and new ways.

VI. Welcome to A New Way of Doing Conference- Hybrid

- a. After many discussions amongst the Conference Team and the Board, we made the decision that it was time to re-engage with you. We also recognized that many are not ready to be in person yet. The result – a Hybrid Conference offering opportunities to engage in person and online.
- b. We agreed that following all of the recommended safety guidelines for the State of Illinois, the City of Moline, and the Conference Center were an important part of this plan.
- c. Our Conference Team has done an outstanding job of rising to the challenge of this new format. They proved that a small, and mighty group of people who are enthusiastic and passionate can accomplish great things!

Your 2021 Conference Team:

- Ray Nelson, GLR Board Conference Liaison
- Cindy Yamamoto, Conference Chair
- Nancy Berdasco
- Karen Onny
- Brian Griffin

We Love you, We bless you, We see the Christ as You!

- d. Our LRDT Team has also worked steadfastly through these changes to identify prospective candidates for the Board of Trustees.

Your LRDT Team:

- Rev. Pat Williamson, Chair

- Darren Wells
- Janith Griffin, LUT
- Rev. Greg Coles
- Rev. Joanne Rowden
- Rev. Tom Sylvester

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VII. Future Casting

- a. Your UWM-GLR Board's vision continues to be a cohesive region where we freely draw upon the skills and talents of each other to strengthen and expand our ability to serve our spiritual communities.
- b. We are blessed with staff who adapt, overcome, and thrive. They continue to work diligently to help each and every one of you thrive in your ministry. I know they will continue to seek innovative ways to do what they do even better in 2022.

As many of you know, I have left Unity of Fort Wayne Spiritual Center to serve as the new Evolving Ministries Coordinator for UWM. This change is bittersweet as I will miss pulpit ministry, serving on the GLR board and I am excited to be a part of Unity's evolution. It has been an honor to serve as the UWM-GLR President during these unprecedented times. Our Board is Christ-Centered, prayerful, and committed to the highest greatest good for each and every ministry in our region. It has been a blessing to serve alongside them this year.

Submitted with Love,

Rev. Glenda Walden,
UWM-GLR President