

UWM Great Lakes Region  
Business Meeting Conference Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 27, 2022  
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. CST

**Opening Prayer** - Keeper of the Flame (Rev Jim Ernstsen)

**Welcome/Call to Order** – Cindy Yamamoto, Board President

Call to order 9:46 am Central

**Vision/Mission/Values for the GLR** - All

**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.

**Core values:** committed, empowering, evolutionary, integrity, collaborative, and love.

**Introductions and Recognition:**

- Current Board
- UWM Liaison (not present)
- Staff
- New ministries, ministers, spiritual leaders and LUT's
  - Marty Thurman, new LUT
- Conference planning team
  - LRDT
  - By-laws team

**Voting Requirements** reviewed by Ray Nelson

**Election of Board Members and Approval of Bylaws**

- Reading of the by-laws regarding nominations to the Great Lakes Unity Region Board of Trustees and change of by-laws- Ray Nelson
- Recommended Ballot - LRDT Chair, Daryn Wells
  - Announced nominees:
    - Seeking 2<sup>nd</sup> term is Kathy Harwood Long
    - New candidate Aubrey Lynn Maugeri
- Nominations from the floor – Cindy Yamamoto
  - Cindy called for floor nominations
  - No nominations were presented
  - Cindy noted that the board would be inviting a new alternate(s) to serve on the board for a one-year term

- Greg Coles moved to accept the 2 nominated candidates by acclamation; Ric Beattie seconded the motion; accepted by all; no ballot count needed
- Recommended by-laws change – Cindy Yamamoto
  - Most changes are in languaging to make more current and include online presence
  - All revisions were made available online and in packets to members
  - Ric Beattie moved to accept the bylaws revision as presented and Julie Jenkins seconded the motion; all were in favor; bylaws revision passed

**Reports:** (All reports were made available on the GLR website and in member packets)

- President – Cindy Yamamoto
  - Many changes throughout the year
  - We are in a thriving consciousness
- Treasurer - Carl Nawrot
  - Thank you to the members of GLR for your giving
  - Thank you to Cindi and Cindy for their support of finance activities
  - Thank you to finance team and Rev Pat of Minneapolis and John McMahan for all their work
  - Hired Sheila Watts as bookkeeper/accounting to assist with the move into Quickbooks online conversion (from PowerChurch)
  - Migration from Powerchurch to QB online and BREEZE was completed
  - We have been operating in the black through 2022
  - Presented budget for 2023
  - No questions presented
- Regional Representative - Greg Coles
  - 75% increase in contact with members since 2021
  - Provides information and resources through monthly newsletter, region website, and region FB page
  - Facilitates monthly "Resource Connection" calls with ministry leads
  - Provided 3 subregional board trainings
  - Has been regional rep on UWM Standards Committee; this role has been split from Regional Consultant and is open to be filled in our region
  - Announced sign up for Prayer Partners
  - Beginning to create new ways to be proactive as a resource; starting a DEI book study for spiritual leaders

- This is a train-the-trainer so all material can be used by attendees
  - Questions from the floor
    - how many centers are there in our region, answer is about 110 but some may be closing, he is available to all centers in the region whether they are a formal member of GLR or not
    - Where can we find written info on TTT material; Greg will send to her; also available on website under "Resources" tab and is going out in monthly newsletter
- Youth and Family Ministry – Liesa Chase
  - Teen Events – first in-person event since fall 2019
    - iYOU 2022 – participants now in leadership
    - Upcoming events include Fall YOU retreat, Fall Unitreat, and virtual sessions
    - Creating more flexible requirements for attendance
    - Scholarships available, see website
  - Training Events
    - Ministering with Families – monthly via zoom; partnering with parents; session materials to assist families in developing a spiritual activity plan
    - "Re" YFM – relaunch, restart, etc. included instructional videos and weekly format
  - YFM Trends
    - Self-directed courses for all ages available online at UWM site
    - UWM offers Youth Ministry Summit – 2-day virtual event
    - GLR members report (about 100 members reported); 68% have a YFM; those without a YFM have a membership size less than 49; of average number of adults, 9% are youth
  - Changes to YFM Services:
    - New YFM Board Liaison appointed (Kathy Harwood Long)
    - Longtime Teen Event Coordinator stepped down
    - Rev Chase is retiring in near future
    - Conducted a year-long assessment; generated new proposed roles of GLR Coordinator, Regional YFM Contractor, Regional YFM Uniteen Subcontractor, Regional YFM YOU subcontractor

- Invited all to join in a follow-up meeting after business meeting
- Licensed Unity Teacher Representative – Susan Liddell
  - Susan is willing to serve as LUT rep for next 3 years; also requesting we all look at who might be a good successor
  - Highlight is monthly zoom calls with LUTs; included some guest speakers; put out request for suggestions for guest speakers on future calls
  - Approx. 100 LUTs that she communicates with regularly
  - Marty Thurman is new LUT in GLR – congratulations Marty!
  - Announced that Ric Beattie will be speaker at LUT-sponsored lunch tomorrow in place of Glenda Walden

**Invitation for LRDT, Finance team, Bylaws team, and Prayer Partners sign up – Cindy Yamamoto**

- sign-up sheets are on back table

**Invitation to give – Cindy Yamamoto**

- Consistent giving is now available through Tithely on GLR website
- Donations were accepted in the room and online

**New Board members – Cindy Yamamoto**

Cindy invited new board members to share a brief message

- Rev. Aubrey-Lynn
- Rev. Kathy Harwood-Long

**Call for adjournment and closing prayer – Cindy Yamamoto and Ray Nelson**

- Cindy recognized and thanked Ray Nelson for his 6-years of dedicated service to the GLR Board of Trustees. Presented with certificate stating that a tree was planted in a national forest in his honor.

**Adjourned** 11:46 am Central

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Herklotz