

Great Lakes Unity Region
Board of Trustee Meeting | March 26, 2025
Minutes

Attending: Rev. Kathy Harwood Long (President), Nancy Berdasco (Vice-President/Treasurer), Rev. Debra Carter Williams (Secretary), Susan Liddell, (LUT Rep), Rev. Jeff Berry, Rev. Diane Robinson (Regional Rep and Outreach Ambassador) and Sandra Higgins-Smith (LUT). **Absent:** Rev. Liesa Chase

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Kathy Harwood Long at 2:35 EST

Rev. Jeff Berry led an opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved with the additions listed on the agenda. Jeff Berry moved to accept the revisions to the agenda and Nancy Berdasco seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes:

The February minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Berdasco shared that the current bookkeeper is supportive of contracting with PayChex to process payroll. The board recommended that the change is made in May. See the attached report for more information from the treasurer.

Staff and Department Reports:

Rev. Diane Robinson forwarded a report to the board (see report) which included confidential items. She intends to do training with Rev. Toni Boehm in Texas, focusing on Mission, Vision, and Core Values. This will fulfill the necessary requirements for her status as a regional consultant.

LUT Report:

Susan Liddell reported that one of the regional LUTs suggested connecting churches/centers with LUTs who want to offer classes. Susan connected the LUT with Joanna Burns at UWM. (See attached report)

No changes to the requirements for LUTs are occurring at this time as UWM and UWH are considering a merger.

Kathy Harwood Long suggested a greater LUT presence on the regional website and to stress that the LUT meeting is open to LUT candidates as well. This provides mentorship through the process.

YFM Report: (see the attached report from Rev. Liesa Chase)

Finance Team Report:

The team requested a financial report that compares months against previous years. The team meets on the third Thursday of the month. A report is attached.

Conference Report:

See the attached reports including a schedule. There was further discussion later in the meeting.

Communications Report:

President, Kathy Harwood-Long asked the board to consider board nominations.

Regional Advisory Committee:

See report

Earth Care Team:

Green Star award dates are now in the newsletter.

Unfinished Business:

The board discussed the need for additional meeting time/space at the regional conference for planning. While there will possibly be more discussion about this, the consensus at the time was to cancel the extra scheduled meeting space for this conference.

The signatories for Chase Bank have all filled out the required paperwork at the bank.

The board discussed a backup policy for regional documents.

The technology team was added to the discretionary title list.

Kathy and Nancy will answer lingering family leave questions

New Business:

The upcoming board elections were discussed. Kathy shared that she will run again to provide a stabilizing influence. Susan Liddell will have served 6 years at the end of this term and cannot be re-elected or appointed again without an interruption between terms. Other board members who currently serve may be re-elected or can consider a full board position rather than an alternate position.

Kathy will not host a regional gathering at the annual convention in June.

Several regional conference reports, including a proposed schedule, were shared with the board to review. With the current schedule of offerings, there is the potential for 8-9 CEUs. This opportunity will be used as a marketing tool. There will be a LUT luncheon at the conference. It was the consensus of the board that we want good quality AV and tech support but not at the cost of previous conferences. Susan Liddell will reach out to the team at Unity Center of Cedar Rapids for support.

The Marketing and Promotion Team is offering great support to the regional ministries, including offering regular training sessions. The next is focused on using social media effectively.

Jeff Berry expressed thanks to Kathy for running again.

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM EST.