Great Lakes Unity Region
Board of Trustee Meeting | September 15, 2025
Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Kathy Harwood Long.

The minutes of the August meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report:
Nancy Berdasco, Treasurer, reported that the payroll tax issues with the State of Wisconsin are resolved and reimbursement was received. Workers Compensation insurance for regional employees is still being explored. Nancy shared that better processes for handing off the treasurer's duties each term will be implemented. She also stated that the financial forecast for 2025 looks very good. See reports.

Team/Staff Reports:
Diane Robinson reported that she is working with groups in the region who are experiencing conflict. She also shared that the UWM Standards Team is working on revisions to the Code of Ethics as well as the development of the acquisition charter.
Susan Lidell, LUT Rep, shared that the speaker for the LUT luncheon at the regional conference is Rev. Cindy Yamamoto.
Cassidy Meeks is busy promoting upcoming YFM events. The attendance numbers are very encouraging. See report.
The Earth Care team reported that there are 25 ministries that have received the Green Star Award, with 13 of those in the Great Lakes Region
There was no Nominating Team report.

President's Report:
Kathy Harwood Long shared that the acquisition charter is a living document and that at a recent RAC meeting the areas focused on the work of the regions were reviewed. Several good questions were posed by the RAC members and the charter will ultimately address those concerns to assure that the regions have a distinct voice.
Kathy reminded the board that each ministry receives 4 votes for the acquisition approval on November 5th. All delegate letters, and credentialed leader and ministry reports must be filed with UWM by October 15th.

Conference:
A scheduling adjustment was made in the program to accommodate the memorial service. 2 AA meetings were added. The board members were asked to have a welcoming posture. Additionally, the board discussed writing thank you notes to presenters, encouraging team signups, and the creation of a new perception survey to glean information for future conference planning.

Annual Business Meeting:
The board reviewed the working agenda and discussed how reports will be presented. The board also reviewed the parliamentarian's advice.
Additional Business:
The board discussed the possibility of holding Key Leader events and increasing partner waivers for future conferences. The role of the "Keeper of the Flame" was also discussed. The board is very appreciative of Rev. Peggy Konkel's willingness to serve as our regional Prayer Chaplain. A brief discussion was held regarding salaries and cost of living increases for staff.
The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM (EST)