

Great Lakes Unity Region
Board of Trustee Meeting | April 23, 2025
Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Kathy Harwood Long
The meeting began with the sharing of prayer requests, check-in, and connecting with the vision, mission, and values.

Minutes:

The board approved March minutes with Susan Liddell moving and Liesa Chase seconding

Treasurer's Report:

Financial report showed \$22,000 in income, including \$8,000 from YFM registrations. The Uniteen event generated \$900 in net revenue.

Staff and Department Reports:

Rev. Diane Robinson presented her report. (See attached). She was in Kentucky at a minister's retreat with Martha Creek along with several people from our region. It offered an opportunity for deeper connection.

LUT Report:

Susan Liddell reported that the LULs have a Zoom call coming up soon. She asked that we let the LULs in our areas know about it. She was appreciative of the newsletter information. The meetings are usually quarterly. The LUT luncheon will happen at conference and is on the agenda.

YFM Report:

Kathy reported that the recent YFM event generated a net revenue of about \$900, crediting Cassidy for her exceptional efforts in welcoming participants.

Liesa Chase shared positive news about Youth and Family Ministry, highlighting the successful Uniteen retreat with 46 attendees. She announced an upcoming YFM summit hosted by Unity Worldwide Ministries on November 19th. She stressed that it makes a big impact in the lives of the youth. Chase was thanked for the additional time spent in her role as liaison to YFM.

Finance Team Report:

Kathy shared that the board is solving a variety of things with the support of the Finance Team. Some of the issues are inherited, but there is tremendous work being accomplished as we iron out many of the wrinkles including constructing a workable and usable budget.

UWM Acquisition:

Kathy shared that she attends the RAC meetings, town halls, and other meetings concerning the assumption of UWM into UWH. She related several observations and points of information that she has gleaned from these meetings. She asked that we consider: “What is the highest vision for the region?”

The board discussed the idea of a meeting with all the regional boards; however, Kathy now serves as team lead of RAC and that group is comprised of the regional presidents. The presidents are tasked with bringing information back to their respective board members. She reminded the board that we have an opportunity at the regional meeting in September to discuss this directly with the primary leaders of the transition from UWM and UWH.

Communications Team:

There is currently intentional focus on effective communication, with the understanding that it is a process. The focus is primarily on mailing lists, the regional newsletter, and the website. The board was encouraged to ask those ministry leaders if they are receiving regional communication and follow up with information about how to subscribe to the various communication channels.

Board Visioning:

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to add an additional night at the retreat for visioning, which would include the current board, prospective board members, and staff.

UWM Conference:

Susan Liddell moved that the region fund the UWM conference for Kathy Harwood Long in her position of president up to \$1500 + mileage. Jeff Berry seconded. Motion passed.

Nominations:

The board members discussed the upcoming nominations process and were pointed to the term dates for the current members in the agenda. Some current members will run to serve again; however, the LUT representative, Susan Liddell, cannot be considered due to term limits.

Technology Team and Social Media:

Sherry Wells has offered training to ministry leaders to grow their ministries using technology and social media. The sessions have been well received, and participants are engaging with what they are learning in their ministries. After a discussion concerning allocation and usage of the technology budget, a motion was made to fund Sherry Wells \$100 per month, with an annual budget amount of \$900 for the balance of 2025. The proposal was approved.

Conference:

The keynote speaker is engaged, as are the balance of the conference programs. There are several other details to consider, but the programming is well set, including the musician and tech support. There is energy around the conference given the number of CEUs offered. The board was encouraged to spread the word and to envision a larger than usual attendance.

The meeting was adjourned.