

Chair's Report UNWR 2024

This year, besides maintaining regular contact with our ministries through personal phone calls, our board has focused on administrative efficiency. We've reworked job descriptions, tightened personnel and processes, and shifted from a PO Box to having our bookkeeper receive the mail. Diane Robertson, as secretary has organized old hard drives and minutes and documents into one place on Google Drive. We also passed important policies for the region; a sexual conduct policy and a child and youth abuse prevention program and will continue to put key policies in place for 2025.

Our LUT reps offered an online ethics class for those who still needed the CEU's and we planned the upcoming regional retreat.

Last November, based on your answers at the retreat and through an online survey, we sent a letter to the Regional Advisory Council and the UWM board, taking a position on the conversation about "Is Unity Christian?" That resulted in other regions taking similar surveys which led to important information from the field about the desire to include more than Christianity in our teachings and identity.

Thanks to large donations from two ministries that closed their doors, we invested in scholarships for youth, savings for the region, and we tithed to the HUG and LEAP funds.

Finally, we've had some musical chairs with our board. In December, Lori Erwin Johnson resigned and Dennis Ashley from Unity Coeur d'Alene took her place. He was active in helping to plan the retreat and served on the regional advisory council. Then in August Dennis made the decision to retire at the end of the year, so he's been replaced by Frank Castro-Wehr. Audrey Pitchford stepped down as LUT rep and was replaced by her alternate, Barbara Thorp. For family reasons and due to planned travel as I also step back from the position of Senior Minister, I've made the decision to continue to serve my last of 7 years on the board but to step down from being the chair. Diane Robertson has graciously accepted the position.

Our main goal so far for the coming year is to plan a conference that individual community members can attend. We will be discussing whether to plan another regional retreat for 2025 and are interested in your feedback.