**Unity Northwest Region**

**2024 Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

DRAFT

**Board Members in Attendance**: Rev Jane Hiatt, Chair; Michael Muir, Vice Chair; Linda Andrus, LUT, Treasurer; Rev. Diane Robertson, Secretary; Rev Susan Gumm, Co-Treasurer; Rev. Frank Castro-Wehr, member; Barbara Thorp, LUT Representative; Rev. Carrie Kenyon, Regional Representative.

**Parliamentarian**: Rev. Dr. Patty Williams

Meeting called to order by Rev. Jane Hiatt at 5:30pm PT. Opening Prayer.

Updates from Rev Jim Blake of Unity World Headquarters and Rev Valerie Mansfield for Unity Worldwide Ministries.

Quorum established.

Approval of Minutes 2023 Annual Business Meeting

Rev. Jane Hiatt referenced that all meeting documents are on the Unity NW Region (UNWR) website, annual meeting page. Jane invited a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Business Meeting Minutes. Linda Andrus moved, Mike Muir seconded and unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee Presentation of Board Candidates

Barbara Thorp (LUT), Rev. Carrie Kenyon, and Rev. Jackie Green served as the Nominating Committee.

Presentation of the candidates: current Board members, Rev. Susan Gumm and Michael Muir have both agreed to run for the Board for additional terms. This is Mike’s second 3-year term. It is Susan’s first full 3-year term. She was serving out someone else’s 3-year term.

Rev. Jane Hiatt called for a vote to approve the slate of candidates presented by the Nominating Committee. Approved unanimously.

Board Chair’s Report

Rev. Jane Hiatt provided a summary of the Board’s work the past year to create efficiencies and update processes and policies.

* Closed the P.O. Box and have all mail going to the bookkeeper now.
* The Board’s documents have been migrated to Google Drive.
* Sexual Conduct Policy and Youth Abuse Prevention Procedure passed.
* Took a position on UWM’s branding regarding Christianity.
* Invested in scholarships for youth. Tithes to HUG and LEAP funds.
* Dennis Ashley served the past year, for Lori Erwin-Johnson who stepped down from the Board December 2023. Dennis Ashley is retiring and stepping down from the regional Board. Rev. Frank Castro-Wehr will serve out the remaining two years of this Board position.
* Audrey Pitchford stepped down as LUT Representative in December 2023. Barbara Thorp is serving as the LUT Representative.
* Rev. Jane Hiatt is serving out her last year on the Board and is stepping down as Board Chair. Rev. Diane Robertson was elected as Board Chair.
* Main goal for upcoming year is to plan a conference that serves our larger communities in the region.

Acknowledgement of people within the region that have completed trainings and certifications.

* Lisa Gottwald originally from Bend, OR now in Colorado - LUT.
* Rev. Terry Murray, Olympia – Integral Ministry certification.
* Rev. Carrie Kenyon, MT – Spirit Groups certification.
* Rev. Cheryl Jamieson – Spiritual Direction certification.
* Sara Jones, Bend, OR - Spiritual Direction certification.
* Rev. Cylvia Hayes, Bend, OR – Advanced Metaphysics

Unity North Spokane just hired Jeff Tawney as the Spiritual Leader. Kathy Zavada is the new Spiritual Leader of Unity of Ashland.

Bylaw Update

Rev. Diane Robertson presented proposed updates to the Regional Board’s Bylaws: separating annual business meeting from the conference/retreat, updating pronouns and roles referenced.

Rev. Jane Hiatt invited a motion to approve the proposed Bylaw updates. Linda Andrus moved, Mike Muir seconded. Question: is a copy available. Answer: it is on the meeting page of the regional website. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Youth and Family Updates

Nick Muncie-Jarvis, Regional Youth Director provided an update of the YOU and regional youth programs.

* Building greater levels of trust and connection between youth following mostly online events during the pandemic.
* YOU 2023 fall retreat. Theme: Awakening Wonder
* Leadership Empowerment Training workshops are recorded and can be found at: [wings.youthofunity.org/#edtoolkit](https://wings.youthofunity.org/#edtoolkit)
* YOU 2024 Spring Rally. Theme: The Light of YOU. Kendall Stratton and Aurora Jarvi elected as new co-leaders elected.
* Kids Camp Theme: Building Belonging
* IYOU virtual only group, Chapter X that is open to all teens.

Chris Castaldi, Uniteens Consultant provided the Uniteens update.

* Dedicated to creating trustworthy experiences.
* Two Unitreats per year and one Unitreat Planning Retreat.
* Incorporate experiential projects for the Uniteen events. For example, at the summer Unitreat the teens built a journey bench. Consensus process and requires collaboration.
* There is a service project as part of the Uniteen events.

Regional Representative Report

Rev. Carrie Kenyon facilitated a training for the Board and spiritual leader in Eugene, OR. Resource for ministers and ministries in the region. The Standards Committee of UWM worked on several policies and guidelines.

* Updated guidance for CEUs.
* Code of Ethics for LUTs, Ministers, and Ministries updated. Now separate Code of Ethics for each of those.
* Social media policy.
* Recommended that all communities have a Disruptive Behavior Policy in place.
* Updating Ministry of Record qualifications and guidelines.

Financial Report

Rev. Susan Gumm shared that the general operating fund of the region had a positive net balance. Unfortunately, in large part from a couple Unity churches/centers that have closed. A significant factor was due to a large gift from Unity of Kent that closed. Unity of Kent also provided a large financial gift to the youth which are being used for scholarships.

Draft budget being developed by Rev. Susan Gumm.

Board is working on a policy for scholarships for education.

Request from Rev. Richard Everts (in Eugene, OR) about how tithes to the region are used. Rev. Susan Gumm mentioned that most of the region’s budget supports youth events and regional staff. Rev. Jane mentioned that the monthly regional newsletter shares who we tithe to each month.

Other Business

Rev. Richard Everts recommends reaching out to retired ministers; he and Rev. Carrie Kenyon will connect to discuss further.

Closing prayer by Barbara Thorp.

Rev. Jane Hiatt adjourned the meeting of the Unity Northwest Region at 7:26pm PT. Zoom closed.