

## MINUTES OF 2017 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

AT UNITY IN LYNNWOOD, WA

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

**\*These minutes have been approved by your NW Regional Board. A vote will be taken by the members of Unity NW Region at their Annual Business meeting on September 26, 2018 at Menucha Conference Center.**

1:30pm

The Annual Business meeting for Unity Northwest Region was called to order by Board Chair, Rich Broderhausen

- We began with prayer and beholding the Divine Presence of everyone present at conference
- A warm welcome and greeting of thanks for attending this meeting was given by Rich
- All present acknowledged that David Elliott is our Parliamentarian Accepted
- Bruce Verkruyse, Chief Operating and Financial Officer, from Unity Worldwide Ministries announced that the 2018 theme for Unity World Headquarters and Unity Worldwide Ministries is “Courage To Imagine” and the Theme for Convention is “Imagine”

Northwest Region “Changes in Leadership” 2017 was presented by Board Vice Chair, Karen Lindvig

- Rev. Deidre Ashmore retired from Unity Spiritual Center of North Idaho in April
- Rev. Kathleen Flynn was ordained at the People’s Convention in June. She resigned from Unity Church of Roseburg the end of June, and moved to Santa Fe, NM for health reasons.
- Rev. Rosella Sims retired from Unity of Bremerton WA in March. She continues to serve on the board of the Northwest Region

A blessing was given for all ministers that have moved or retired by Karen Lindvig

- Kathleen McKeivitt, Spiritual Leader of Unity Spiritual Life Center, Twin Falls, ID made her transition on May 9, 2017. We continue to hold that community and all who knew Kathleen in loving prayer
- Katie Castaldi is now the Spiritual Leader at Unity of Grants Pass, OR
- Rev. Donna Little became the minister at Unity in the Olympics, Port Angeles, WA in July
- Rev. Patty Williams became the minister at Unity of Salem, OR in June
- Rev. Dr. Richard Held was ordained at Unity in Lynnwood, WA on September 15, 2017
- Raylene Ewing was welcomed as the Associate Minister of Unity of Tacoma, WA
- Marla Mason was welcomed as the Associate Minister of Unity of Bellevue, WA

David Elliott, our Parliamentarian, “The Bylaw Guy” announced that all ministers, Licensed Unity Teachers, and 4 lay persons from each attending ministry may vote. All 44 that were present signed in and are eligible to vote

Approval of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion: Jane Hiatt

2<sup>nd</sup>: Linda Andrus

Approved

“Good News” from our Region was presented by Board Chair, Rich Broderhausen

- Two NW Region authors have books available; Rev. Jane Hiatt from Bend, OR and Rev. Jane Simmons from Spokane, WA
- Also, Pam Gutierrez from Eugene, OR has books available from her husband, Orestes Gutierrez

Rev. Terry Murray from Olympia, WA, is Co-Chair of Regional Advisory Council with Rich Broderhausen

- This Council connects with all representative(s) from Unity Regions, Unity World Headquarters, and Unity Worldwide Ministries discovering what each are doing and having greater communication between all, including ministries.
- The Council is a “sounding board” for ideas and policies from Unity World Headquarters, and Unity Worldwide ministries. The council makes suggestions to Unity Worldwide Ministries and Unity World Headquarters but is not a policy making body
- The Council is checking how each Region functions since they have all been separate in the past; also checking job descriptions for employees

- They are working on planning Regional events to have different calendar dates so leadership from Unity World Headquarters and Unity Worldwide Ministries can attend Regional events
- The Council will share all relevant information from Unity Worldwide Ministries and Unity World Headquarters with ministries
- This Council only makes suggestions to Unity Worldwide Ministries and Unity World Headquarters
- Our Northwest Region is taking the lead on this Council

APPRECIATION OF NORTHWEST REGION STAFF AND TEAM LEADERS was presented by Rich

- Jackie Green, Y.O.U. Consultant gave a report regarding Youth Ministry Services, and support for all attending “Kids Camp”; Uniteens; and Y.O.U.
- Youth Ministry Team will meet January 2018
  - These gatherings are a blessing to Region
  - Philip Zemke, Michelle Fokos, are new members of the Youth Ministry Team and were acknowledged
  - Not present: Chris Castaldi, Uniteen Consultant, Jennie Willingham, Next Generation Unity (NGU) Consultant, and Nick Muncie-Jarvis were acknowledged
- Karen Breen-James, Executive Assistant and Conference Coordinator was blessed for her participation in helping our Northwest Region
- Peggy Miller, bookkeeper was not present, was acknowledged
- Nick Muncie-Jarvis, L.U.T., webmaster was not present, was acknowledged
- Cylvia Hayes, Earth Care Coordinator was welcomed and gave a report
  - This is her first conference, she is from Unity Community of Central Oregon, Bend, OR
  - Earth care began in Northwest Region by Kathy Long
  - Judy Hasting, from Unity in Lynnwood is certified; 40 ministries are certified
  - Our Youth is in leadership roles with Earth Care
  - Paris Climate agreement letter was sent to Unity Worldwide Ministries
  - Earth Care does not yet have a budget and will submit a budget plan to Bruce Verkruyse
  - Unity in Lynnwood received an Earth Care award for 2017
- Barbara Thorp, L.U.T. was blessed for being our “Keeper of the Light of Prosperity” for Northwest Region
- Conference Team 2017: Jack Eckrem, L. U. T. Board Liaison; Karen Lowe, L.U.T.; Rev. Philip Zemke; Susan Henderson; and Karen Breen-James were all blessed for their work planning Conference 2017
- Richard Held, Matthew Wilson and all attending from Unity in Lynnwood were blessed for hosting Conference 2017.

A letter written by Kathleen McKeivitt from Twin Falls, ID was read by Rich Broderhausen

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF NORTHWEST REGION

Nominating Committee: Connie Munro, Rich Broderhausen, and Karen Lindvig

- Rachel Simpson completed a “filled” position and is up for her first term.
- Rachel accepted the nomination for her first 3-year term
- Rosella Sims completed a “filled” position and is up for her first term.
- Rosella accepted the nomination for her first 3-year term

Anyone wishing to be on our nominating committee in 2018, please contact our Executive Assistant, Karen Breen-James [adminunitynw@comcast.net](mailto:adminunitynw@comcast.net) 360 297 0797

All 44-attending voted to accept the nominations of Rachel Simpson and Rosella Sims

Unanimous

FINANCIAL REPORT BY JACK ECKREM, L.U.T., BOARD TREASURER

- Jack read his Treasurers report and gave an overview of the P&L year to date (January 1 – August 31, 2017)
- Revenue shows \$9,000.00, however \$5,000.00 is Conference income soon to be paid out in conference expenses

- Copies of August 2017 P&L are available upon request
- Approximately half of cut was reimbursed
- Expenses for our Region were cut in the 2017 budget to reflect financial income
- Attendees are requesting Budget comparison report and Balance sheets (what the Region has in assets) to be added to the 2018 notebook
- Our Equity is now approximately \$12,000.00

More financial explanation was given by Board Chair, Rich Broderhausen

- The last two years our Region has been in a financial crunch
- All of the savings account was spent
- Our greatest and most important expense to support is our Youth Ed – 65%
- At the end of year (2016) our Region broke even by cutting back salaries, stipends, youth expenses, and consultants
- In 2017 the Region paid 50% of cuts (January-July) in bonuses to employees and Regional Reps.
- Our Regional Board members are Volunteers and are here to serve the Region
- Your Region is here to serve the ministries
- Our only source of income is from Ministry tithes

Love Offering blessing was given by Board member, Terry Murray

- Credit Card payment is available
- Our Regional wellbeing is from our Regional Ministries so the Board decided to tithe 25% of our 10% tithe to Ministries in our Region, choosing one ministry each month by a random drawing

Dedication and consecration of gifts given were blessed by Board member, Terry Murray

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Connie Munro, L.U.T. Representative gave a report of the L.U.T. meeting held on Tuesday afternoon
- At the meeting L.U.T.s took a unanimous vote to request that the NW Regional Board prepare a motion to present to Unity Worldwide Ministries requesting a bylaw change be submitted to Unity Worldwide Ministries allowing active L.U.T.s to become voting members of Unity Worldwide Ministries
- Bruce Verkruyse from Unity Worldwide Ministries commented that the motion should come from a ministry or minister because:
  - Regions are not members of Unity Worldwide Ministries
  - Unity NW Region is an auxiliary non-voting member of Unity Worldwide Ministries
- David Elliott commented that there are three ways to have a bylaw change:
  - Unity Worldwide Ministries requests signatures
  - It is voted at a Regional Conference with a bylaw amendment on ballot
  - Or turn request over to Unity Worldwide Ministry Board (best way)
- Connie mentioned that the NW Region followed by laws of Unity Worldwide Ministries two years ago and no action was taken because there were questions, so it went to a task team to clarify and the task team has not taken any action
- Bruce stated he could bring the action back to Unity Worldwide Ministry Board and suggested Cheryl Rohret our Regional Representative take this to the Standards, or Bylaws and Regional Advisory council, then bring it back to Unity Worldwide Ministry board
- Connie commented that there were no new L.U.T.s in the NW Region in 2017
  - A L.U.T. Rep. cannot get a list of active L.U.T.s in their Region from Unity Worldwide Ministries, because L.U.T.s are not members of Unity Worldwide Ministries
  - This needs resolution
  - We need to create a dialogue for the global movement

- Bruce stated that in the last two years SDS has 36 credentialed new L.U.T.s and are a credentialed part of Unity Worldwide Ministry movement
- Karen Lowe, L.U.T and Spiritual Leader commented that L.U.T.s are part of Unity Worldwide Ministries' educational program, they are licensed and credentialed, yet, have no voice. This is sad. We should honor L.U.T.s – at least give them recognition
- Question: When did L.U.T.s form? Who was first? LUTs or UWM? Can LUTs be grandfathered in?

Motion: It is resolved that the Northwest Region of Unity Worldwide Ministries urges the Board of Trustees of Unity Worldwide Ministries to act on the question of allowing active Licensed Unity Teachers to vote

Motion: David Elliott

2<sup>nd</sup>: Connie

All agreed

**Note: It was later noted that because this motion was not notified to the Regional ministries 30 days in advance of the business meeting that the motion is invalid. However, this does not preclude following through by making sure that the Unity Worldwide Ministry board, Advisory Council, and Standards team are urged to reconsider the concerns of the L.U.T.s being given membership and voting privileges in Unity Worldwide Ministries.**

Rich Broderhausen stated that this was Unity NW Region's first venue in a Unity ministry.

- This is a no-cost venue, and we plan to give Unity in Lynnwood a love offering
- He requested that attendees fill out their evaluation form regarding having conference at a retreat center or ministry
- We do not know the cost difference at this time
- Philip Zemke suggested possibly have both experiences by alternating between a ministry and retreat center
- 2018 Conference is at Menucha Conference Center in Corbett, Or; September 24-27, 2018

Terry Murray mentioned that next year there will be two positions open on the Board and asked all attendees to hold in prayer that they might consider being on our Board

- Connie Munro our L.U.T. Rep – LUTs will vote for their new Rep at their meeting prior to the annual meeting
- Three months before conference, Rich Broderhausen, Board Chair will appoint a nominating committee

Karen Lindvig, Vice Chair acknowledged and blessed Rich, as chair of The NW Region Board, for doing a superb job with our Region

2:31pm: Jack Eckrem, L.U.T. Board Treasurer gave our closing prayer

Respectfully submitted by,

*Karen Breen-James*

Karen Breen-James, L.U.T.  
 NW Region Executive Assistant  
[adminunitynw@comcast.net](mailto:adminunitynw@comcast.net)  
 360 297 0797