



Unity People’s Convention Business Meeting Information

**Information for the Annual Business Meeting
Wednesday, June 13, 2018, 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Embassy Suites Conference Center
Olathe, Kansas**

We invite you to join us for the 2018 Unity People’s Convention. Your participation in co-creating the future of our Unity movement is not only appreciated, but is necessary in spreading our Unity message to the world. The following pages include specific information about the business meeting held during the week. We invite you to check out all of the other wonderful and inspiring events that are taking place throughout the week at www.UnityWorldwideMinistries.org/convention. *We hope to see you there!*

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1. Voting Delegate Information

All ministers in good standing are automatically voting delegates, badges received at registration will have a minister ribbon attached. In addition, each ministry may send additional lay delegates, as specified in the bylaws (see box below). Lay delegate name badges will have a delegate ribbon attached. Lay delegates are appointed by the ministry’s board of trustees and may include licensed Unity teachers, board members, any other lay leader and/or staff designated to attend. Lay delegates must bring a letter, on their ministry letterhead, to the convention registration committee stating they are designated as a voting delegate.

Section 3. Delegates and Voting. The delegates to the annual convention body business meeting shall include each minister member, a maximum of four (4) voting laypersons from each traditional member ministry; and a maximum of two (2) voting lay persons from each eligible alternative ministry. Each delegate to the annual convention body business meeting, when certified by the credentials committee, shall be eligible to cast one (1) vote on any question before the meeting when present. Both proxy and absentee voting are specifically prohibited.

2. Special Meeting Events Convention Week

Unity Village Tours, Monday, June 11, 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Unity World Headquarters Ambassadors will greet guests on grounds taking them on tours of the underground tunnels, Silent Unity, Tower, chapels, buildings, fountains, Rose Garden, and Jolly Rides of the grounds. Unity Worldwide Ministries is providing bus service between Embassy Suites and Unity Village beginning at 9:30 a.m. and running throughout the entire day and evening.

Graduation/Ordination Service, Monday, June 11, 4:30 p.m. [Activities Center – Unity Village]

Join us as we celebrate the graduation and ordination of ministerial students from Unity Worldwide Spiritual Institute, Unity Urban Ministerial School, Field Licensing, and International. This will be the first time we have combined all ministerial paths for a group graduation/ordination celebration. We invite you to share in this most sacred and joyous event with us.

Meet Your Candidates, Tuesday, June 12, 5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m. [Main Ballroom]

Nominees to the Board of Trustees and Leadership Recruitment & Development Team will be introduced, with an opportunity to visit with them prior to the elections at the business meeting on Wednesday morning. The individuals listed on pages 10-11 (alphabetically) comprise the slate for election to the Board of Trustees and Leadership Recruitment & Development Team (LRDT) during the Wednesday morning, June 13, 2018, annual business meeting. Convention delegates will elect two (2) individuals to serve on the Board of Trustees. See www.unityworldwideministries.org/business-meeting for biographical information of nominees to the Board of Trustees and Leadership Recruitment & Development Team.

UWM Board of Trustees Q&A, Wednesday, June 13 Annual Business Meeting [Main Ballroom]

Curious about what your Unity Worldwide Ministries' Board has been working on? Members from the Board will be present to answer your questions about the direction of Unity Worldwide Ministries at the end of the business meeting.

Social Hour/Banquet/Dancing, Thursday, June 14, 5:30 p.m. [Main Ballroom]

Join us in a time of celebration as we begin with a social hour in the foyer of the Main Ballroom, followed by our banquet which begins at 6:30 p.m. and then dancing. UWM Board Chair Richard Bunch will be passing the gavel to incoming Board Chair Sharon Ketchum.

Award Gala Luncheon, Friday, June 15, Noon [Main Ballroom]

Join us as we honor our 2018 award recipients: Rev Claudell County —The Light of God Expressing in Unity Award; Rev Joe Sloan—The Charles Fillmore Award; Rev Maxine Martin—The Myrtle Fillmore Award. These awards are given to distinguished individuals who have made special contribution to the work of Unity.

3. Convention Business Meeting Standing Rules

June 13, 2018, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Main Ballroom

Proposed 2018 Annual Convention Business Meeting Standing Rules

1. **Voice and Vote:** Only registered voting delegates may have voice and vote in the convention's deliberations. In order to vote, all delegates must wear their delegate badge certified by the Convention Registration Committee.
2. **Registration Committee:** All those entitled to vote during the convention shall register with the Registration Committee and receive a voting delegate badge. Near the beginning of the convention business meeting on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, the report of the Convention Registration Committee shall be presented. This report will establish the number of voters who are eligible to vote during the convention. The report shall be adopted by a majority vote. The Convention Registration Committee shall be authorized to proceed with the certification of

additional voting members who may arrive throughout the business meeting without further reporting to the convention unless such a report is requested by the Chair.

3. **Limit on Speeches:** On any debatable question or during any periods of open discussion, each delegate may speak for up to **three (3) minutes** and each delegate may only speak **once** on each debatable question or during each period of open discussion.
4. **Motions in Writing:** Delegates approaching a microphone who wish to offer a main motion or any substantial amendment to items of business that are amendable shall submit the motion in writing to the Chair on pre-printed forms available to the assembly immediately after making the motion.
5. **Speaking and Offering a Motion:** When recognized, members shall identify themselves and then they may speak for or against a pending question or offer any other motion that may be in order at the time, but a member may not make a speech and then conclude by offering a motion.
6. **Closed Agenda:** The annual business meeting operates with a closed agenda. Any delegate wishing to submit any item of new business shall submit a copy to the Chair of the Board of Trustees with a copy to Unity Worldwide Ministries (UWM) central office no later than April 30, 2018. After this time no additional items of new business may be added to the agenda.
7. **Heart Check:** A “heart check” may be called by any voting delegate when at any moment the convention deliberations result in a loss of spiritual unity among the Convention business meeting delegates. A one-minute prayer time follows this request.
8. **Elections:** During the election of members of the Board of Trustees and the election of members of the Leadership Recruitment & Development Team, a plurality vote shall be considered sufficient for election. These elections shall be conducted by ballot. In announcing the results, the Chair shall indicate which candidate has been elected and shall give the number of votes each candidate received.
9. **Agenda Formulation:** The presiding officer shall be authorized to formulate and adjust the agenda to take best advantage of available business meeting time. Therefore the printed agenda is for guidance only and shall not be considered either general or special orders.
10. **Committee to Review and Approve the Minutes:** The Chair will appoint a committee consisting of three (3) voting delegates to review and correct the minutes of the convention business meeting. This rule does not preclude further corrections at the next annual meeting, if, in the unusual case, a significant correction should be found.
11. **Electronic Devices:** All pagers, cell phones and other electronic devices shall be silenced during the convention business meeting and shall not be used for communication in the assembly room. No recordings of the convention business meetings shall be allowed except the official recording to assist the secretary in producing the minutes.
12. **Suspension of these Rules:** While bylaws may not be suspended (unless provided for in the bylaws), any of these standing rules may be suspended by a majority vote without debate for a particular specified purpose. To suspend a convention standing rule and also the general parliamentary rules normally applying to the same situation requires a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote. A two-thirds (2/3rds) vote will also be required to amend or repeal these standing rules.
13. **Adoption of the Rules:** These rules shall be adopted by the convention. Adoption shall require a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of those delegates present and voting. These rules shall be considered special rules of order and shall have ongoing effect from year to year between sessions of the

convention. They shall remain in effect until they are amended by a future convention. Such an amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of those present and voting at a convention business meeting to be adopted.

4. Business Meeting Agenda

1. Memorial Service
 2. Prayer and Call Meeting to Order
 3. Introductions
 4. Organization of the Convention
 - Registration Committee Report and Establishment of Quorum
 - Adoption of the Standing Rules
 - Adoption of the Agenda
 - Declaration of Organization
 5. Report of 2017 Convention Business Meeting Minutes Review Committee
 6. Election – Board of Trustees
 7. Election – Leadership Recruitment & Development Team
 8. Finance and Budget Reports
 - Financial Report
 - Approval of the Auditor’s Report
 - Budget Information
 9. Chair of the Board's Report
 10. President and CEO’s Report
 11. Introduction of UWM/UWH Core Team
 12. UWM Board Q&A
 13. Announcement of Election Results
 14. Closing Thoughts and Prayers
- Adjourn *Sine Die*

5. 2017 Minutes

The following minutes were approved by the Minutes Review Committee and are displayed here for the information of the Convention. No further action on the minutes is required.

**Association of Unity Churches International
[DBA] Unity Worldwide Ministries
Minutes of Convention Business Meeting–June 14, 2017**

The 2017 annual business meeting of Unity Worldwide Ministries [UWM] was called to order at 8:49 a.m. on Wednesday, June 14, 2017, at the Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, with UWM Board Chair Karen Tudor presiding. Keeper of the Flame, Rev Paulette Pipe, gave the opening prayer. Members, delegates, lay delegates participating as voting members, and, global attendees were welcomed. Also acknowledged were the Unity Worldwide Ministries’ Board of Trustees, UWM Leadership Team, and central office staff. The convention Parliamentarian Dr. Leonard Young was introduced. The following persons were appointed to the positions indicated: Paulette Pipe, liturgist; Margee Grounds, timekeeper; Rich Broderhausen, Marge Brown, and Sharon Allmond, as the committee to read and approve the 2017 business meeting minutes.

1. Establishment of Quorum

The quorum was established at 244 delegates present.

2. Approval of Standing Rules and Agenda

Chair Karen Tudor presented the standing rules. Brendalyn Batchelor moved approval of the convention standing rules as printed. No second was required. The motion was carried. The proposed agenda as published was revised with unanimous consent having the bylaw amendments presented before the financial report.

3. Approval of the 2016 Convention Business Meeting Minutes

Chair Karen Tudor indicated the 2016 committee to review the minutes has approved them and they have been published. There were no further corrections offered.

4. Election of Board of Trustees Members

After a brief description of the Leadership, Recruitment, & Development Team [LRDT] charter, Chair Anna Andes presented the slate of nominees for election to the Board of Trustees: Tom Armour [layperson running for re-election to 2nd term], Chris Ashe [layperson running for re-election to 2nd term], Rev David Elliott, Rev Janie Kelley, and Rev Barry Vennard. The two nominees elected will both serve four-year terms.

UWM Bylaws offer the opportunity for nominations by petition no later than April 30th; none were submitted for consideration. The election was held by ballot with Rev Barry Vennard and Tom Armour each elected to serve a four-year term. [The board subsequently elected Christopher Ashe to a four-year term; Toni Fish was elected as 2nd Vice-Chair.]

5. Election of Leadership, Recruitment, & Development Team Members

Leadership, Recruitment, & Development Team [LRDT] Chair Anna Andes presented the slate of nominees for election to the LRDT. The nominees for the open position of “former board member” were: Rev David McArthur and Rev Sharon Connors. According to the bylaws, the floor was opened for further nominations; none were received. The election was then held by ballot with Rev David McArthur elected to the LRDT for a four-year term.

6. Chair of the Board of Trustees’ Report

Chair Karen Tudor began her report acknowledging newly credentialed colleagues ordained through the ministry path at Unity Worldwide Spiritual Institute, Unity Urban Ministerial School, Alternative Ordination Path, and the Field Licensing Program. Also recognized were newly licensed teachers and certified spiritual educators. Acknowledgement was given to new Expansion and Alternative Ministries, along with ministries that have attained full-ministry status. Paulette Pipe was asked to give a blessing to all new colleagues and ministries. Recognition was given to ministries having attained EarthCare certification in the previous year. A first annual Green Star Award for Congregational Environmental Excellence was presented to the following five ministries: Unity Church of Overland Park, Kansas; Unity of Richmond, Virginia; Unity of the Blue Ridge, Mills River, North Carolina; Unity in Lynnwood, Washington; and, Unity of Fairfax, Oakton, Virginia.

The Regional Relationship Task Team concluded its work at the end of convention in 2016; and, from that task team, the Regional Advisory Council was formed. The Council began meeting in September 2016 with liaisons from each regional board represented, along with the UWM Board Vice-Chairs, and UWM’s CEO, CFO/COO, and Director of Member Services. Communication on the Council is reciprocal in sharing information, ideas, concerns, and needs between regions, the UWM Board, and the central office.

During the past year our UWM Board has revised our diversity statement: “We recognize and honor the Divine within as the one common denominator that we share on our human journey. The living heart of Unity understands and manifests its support of this Divinity by recognizing there is inherent good in all people. Unity Worldwide Ministries, its members and affiliates, welcome with love all people in every form of God’s creation, regardless of how that creation presents itself. It is the intent that Unity organizations are inclusive and non-discriminatory. We honor all components that contribute to the diversity of community. We affirm and support Unity principles and programs that manifest diversity in our teachings, policies, buildings, and within our communities. We are resolute in walking the course of human rights and social justice for all.”

UWM has taken a social action position with Unity World Headquarters in a joint statement: “Any proposal or action that seeks to discriminate against individuals or classes of individuals based on prejudiced, stereotypical profiles of national origin, class, creed, race, ethnicity, physical ability or sexual orientation is in opposition to the core beliefs and values established by our founders. We choose Unity. In harmony with the divine Spirit we stand, so we may live in a spiritually awakened world that is continually evolving. This is our prayer and our decree. Through our actions, we let it be.” Both statements can be located on our UWM website

Recently UWM issued a joint statement with Unity World Headquarters in response to our support of the Paris Climate Accord: “Unity Worldwide Ministries and its EarthCare Ministry Team have long been involved with raising awareness of earth care issues and encouraging conscious choices that help to heal our planet. We will continue to do so with renewed fervor as we know spiritually, it is our responsibility to live in harmony with nature and to respect the gift of earth’s resources we are given. Now, more than ever, Unity commits to advancing the growth of environmental consciousness and right action. Please join us as we affirm our interconnectedness and our collective power to affect positive change.”

In conjunction with our EarthCare Ministry Team we support their statement: “As humanity has been primarily responsible for climate change, we affirm that it will be humanity which will co-create a vision of the environmentally conscious use of energy and our planet’s fragile resources. We joyfully participate in our God-given role as good stewards of the Earth. Through prayer, meditation, church or spiritual center inspired activism, and the skillful use of media, we affirm that the Unity movement is a world leader in advancing the growth of environmental consciousness and right action.” Some of the many accomplishments of our EarthCare Team have been: (1) “mindful eating” resolution; (2) a total of seven ministries have been presented the Congregational Green Star Award; and, (3) thirty-eight congregations in totality have achieved, in at least one of three levels, EarthCare certification.

Karen Tudor shared she has the opportunity to close out her board term of five-years by going forward using the gifts and leadership skills she learned while working with the board: (1) relationships matter more than being right; (2) how we make decisions mean more than what was decided; and, (3) learned how to really listen. Also shared, was her chance to be present for: (1) the change in CEO’s of both organizations [UWM and UWH], witnessing the new skills and leadership they brought; (2) staff reorganization at UWM in order to be more responsive to the field; (3) free downloads of resources/materials now available online; (4) the global startup in September 2016 of the new education program with an online platform which allows for opportunities, with not only education, but, group meetings, training, and the ability to be available 24/7; and, (5) planning of UWM’s move to the Unity Village campus. “Excited about the future, the sky is the limit, there is nothing we can’t do, or become.” Karen then invited everyone to become involved in their regions by being willing to serve on their regional boards; serve on ministry teams where your experience is needed; when LRDT calls asking for your leadership, be open to the call; and, closed with she “can’t wait to see where you will lead us next.”

7. President/CEO’s Report

President and CEO Donna Johnson began her report by stating her joy in serving with Board Chair Karen Tudor and of being in service to the entire Unity movement. The following scripture was shared: “You will know the truth and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:22) Donna expressed: “Truth as we surrender and practice our five principles: (1) there is only one Presence and one Power; (2) everything is an individualized expression of that Presence and Power; (3) through the power of thinking, we activate divine energy that expresses as emotion and manifests as conditions; (4) through prayer and meditation, we come into a direct awareness of the one Presence and one Power; and, (5) we must integrate action with insight to evolve, transform, and create positive, sustainable change in our world. Any subject matter can be taught and it pertains to these five principles.”

Reaffirmed as a reminder the following statements: (1) Webster’s Dictionary defines “unity” as: “The state of forming a complete and pleasing whole”; (2) Unity is not a stagnant state of being—it is always forming and evolving to reflect complete wholeness, what we are about as a complete movement; (3) our vision is: “A world powerfully transformed through the growing movement of shared spiritual awakening”; (4) our mission is: “Advancing the movement of spiritual awakening and transformation through Unity, a positive path for spiritual living”; and, (5) it is amazing what a small group of committed members can do.

Departments reporting out:

- Director of Member Services Rev Cynthia Vermillion–Foster reported the following: (1) purpose statement: “Member Services cultivates relationships and a feedback rich environment with Unity ministries and leaders. Through leading edge services and resources, we prosper and grow in spiritual community.”; (2) short list of the department’s services are administration, finance and governance;

employment/transitional services; evolving ministries; youth and family ministry; ministry skills; and, ethics/standards/competency; (3) Credentialing will be moving to Member Services in August—will be researching how licensed teachers can be better served; (4) Member Services is now branded—creation of new brochures in purple—brochures will be available on UWM website; and, (5) acknowledgment of dissolved ministries and the difficult conversations in discussing a final closing process. Key projects for the department: (1) involved in deepening our support for transitions—information for minister succession plans available; (2) exploring innovative ways to share our message and build thriving spiritual communities for the 21st century; and, (3) making our services available to all members with the use of technology. Two new department additions: (1) Rev Diane Venzera working with Youth & Family Ministry in serving our ministries; and, (2) Rev Doug Duerr hired as training coordinator to serve ministries through Collaborate allowing for virtual access to all ministers/ministries with our training modules/events.

- Executive Director of Communications and Technology Rev Kristen Grandon reported what is new: (1) Media Production Coordinator Rev Jacquie Lenati provided everyone with a DVD containing all digital media [videos, still images with text, and audio files] that have been created thus far through the assistance of Templeton Foundation grants—media products are available through our website www.unityworldwide.media. New media is developed weekly. Downloads from the website track our statistics to Templeton so please login to the site to download materials; (2) Templeton Foundation grants also provide financial support to qualified ministries to develop audio/video recordings. Current applications for podcasting are open until June 29, 2017; information is available on our website; (3) responsive website development grants are open until July 27, 2017. Three designs have been created for responsive websites, a fourth is now available through OneEach Technologies. Apple Pay is now available on your iPhone; (4) Unity Identity Program creates unified identity allowing engagement of more people walking through your doors. Currently have 335 participants and 37 individual ministers enrolled in the program which is free of charge courtesy of the UWM Board; (5) *Unity Leaders Journal* www.unityleadersjournal.org provides over 500 articles published by peers. Website allows you to be responsive with comments and participate in discussions; (6) will begin marketing/advertising Unity Worldwide Spiritual Institute [UWSI] through Unity World Headquarters *Daily Word*, *Unity Magazine*, and Unity Online Radio—deeply grateful to UWH and CEO Jim Blake for the opportunity to spread the message; (7) www.unityworldwideministries.org number one resource click is “find a ministry.” Be sure to keep your ministry information current with us for our website; (8) *The Path*—sign up at www.Unity.org/enews; (9) 2018 Annual Theme is *The Courage to Imagine* available at www.Unity.org/Resources/Courage-To-Imagine/Download-Center; (10) in development with OneEach on a UWM Apple TV Beta app – visitors would be able to select from Unity videos and audios through their Apple TV; (11) UWM Editor Bernadette Swanson will serve as an interim successor with my departure in the department—a permanent replacement will be considered in October; and, (12) Unity ministry app in development through OneEach and is in beta testing now—the app customized to your ministry—allows for push messages, quick references to events, and ability for donations to be given seamlessly.
- Executive Director of Education Rev Deborah Frownfelter reported on Unity Worldwide Spiritual Institute [UWSI]: (1) able to launch UWSI on time in September 2016; (2) have surpassed estimates with number of ministerial students—have 39 and 36 are new to the program this year, most of which are part-time students; (3) there are 237 online SEE students and this includes countries outside the United States; (4) course evaluations are coming in with an average 92% positive rating; (5) conducted our first face-to-face intensive with ministerial students in May; (6) education program is accessible on smart phones and tablets allowing students to continue program if traveling; (7) Blackboard software allows us to use Collaborate for meeting and training purposes—also instructors can use for course work and grading; (8) will have 22 required SEE courses online this fall —will also be repeating all first-year ministerial courses along with new second-year courses and third-year courses—all course information is provided at www.unityworldwideministries.org/uwsi; (9) use the “For Instructors” drop down menu on uwsi.org to find

forms needed to register field courses for credit, get approval for SEE electives, and find SEE course syllabi and resources; (10) syllabi and materials for newly combined and brand new SEE courses will be added by January 2018; (11) licensed/ordained Unity ministers and licensed teachers can take classes through UWSI at a 50% discount; and, (12) open to those who would like to teach courses with UWSI—visit “Want to Teach” under “for instructors drop down menu on uws.org webpage for instructions.” We have instructional designers to assist, support, offer orientation, and work within the instructors learning curve of Blackboard.

Donna Johnson continued her CEO report sharing the following: (1) UWM has hired a Development Officer, Michael Armstrong, started June 1—his first assignment was attendance at convention in order to begin meeting field members; (2) creating a UWM Legacy Board – for more information email djohnson@unity.org; (3) Annual Summit will be held February 5–9, 2018, at Unity Renaissance of Chesapeake, Virginia [www.unityworldwideministries.org/annual-summit-information]; and, (3) UWM will be closed while we are moving our central office to the Unity Village campus into the Education Building the week of August 21–25, 2017; researching options to lease or sell our current building.

Introduction of Unity World Headquarters CEO Jim Blake. Returning UWH to a mission-focused organization centered on the principles of our founders. Following individuals have been recently hired: Rev Linda Martella-Whitsett as Vice President of Silent Unity—vision to have Silent Unity serve as a standard barrier of affirmative prayer in the world; Rev Ellen Debenport as Vice President of Content and Publishing—will provide consistency and continuity of all printed material to be in alignment with our teachings and principles; Michael Kincaid as Vice President Digital Strategy & Development—will install systems and processes that will focus on UWH’s strategic planning into the future.

Unity’s integration statement: “Inspired by Unity Worldwide Ministries’ move onto the Unity Village campus in August, and based on membership support for integration of our two organizations in 2011, Unity Worldwide Ministries and Unity World Headquarters believe now is the time to create and implement a plan to more formally partner and function as a unified Unity.” Areas of shared function: marketing, development, and outreach. Development of integration task teams will explore: legal options; financial options; and, operational options, to include, but not limited to human resources, communication, and technology. Opportunities for membership feedback along the way; final plan to be presented at the 2018 Unity convention.

UWH’s CEO Jim Blake spoke about a joint Outreach Program with UWM. Currently UWH has an abundance of pamphlets on different topics they would like to share with communities in order to raise consciousness. Would like to begin the Outreach Program by sharing a ‘cancer packet’ with communities that will include a pamphlet, a dateless *Daily Word*, timeless copy of *Daily Word*, Prayer for Protection, a card with the phone number/information about Silent Unity, along with information directing you on how to find a Unity church in your area. Program has been field tested for two months with nineteen pilot ministries participating. If interested in being a part of the program, contact Director of Outreach and Engagement Rev Mark Fuss at UWH for more information.

UWM and UWH’s shared vision: “Advancing the global movement of spiritual awakening and transformation through Unity.”

Other areas of interest: (1) Rev Lisa Davis, Chair, International Connections Team has shared there are programs internationally that could use financial support; for more information contact LD4love@aol.com; and, (2) Donna Johnson is currently serving on the AGNT Leadership Council along with Jim Blake, Rev Kevin Ross, Rev Erin McCabe, Rev Temple Hayes, and Rev Wendy Craig-Purcell; the Leadership Council inspires group collaboration and a high consciousness level; AGNT has increased the number of Council members from 6 to 14 with the purpose of having a greater collaboration around New Thought so it has a much stronger presence.

8. UWM Bylaw Amendments

Chair Karen Tudor stated the four proposed amendments to the UWM Bylaws are routine and non-controversial housekeeping amendments; therefore it was proposed that the assembly consider these amendments as a single vote requiring unanimous consent. Layperson Ellen Fannin raised objection to the consideration to approve the four amendments as a single vote; approval for the proposed amendments were then taken one-by-one.

UWM Board Liaison to the Bylaws Team, Tom Armour, presented the following four proposed bylaw amendments as follows:

Amendment 1: Current Wording: [Article X. Accountability, Section 3. Fiscal Year] “The fiscal year of Unity Worldwide Ministries shall begin on the first day of October of each year and end on the thirtieth day of September in the next succeeding year.” **Proposed Wording:** “The fiscal year of Unity Worldwide Ministries shall begin on the first day of **January** of each year and end on the **thirty-first** day of **December**.”

MOTION: Tom Armour moved adoption of bylaw amendment 1; motion carried with required two-thirds [2/3rds] vote.

Amendment 2: Current Wording: [Article IX. Ministry Teams, Section 1. Paragraph A. Members] “The members of the LRDT shall include two past members of the board, two licensed Unity teachers, two ordained Unity ministers, and two lay persons. No two members of the LRDT may be active in the same Unity ministry and no member of the LRDT shall be an employee of Unity Worldwide Ministries or of Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village. Members of the LRDT are not barred from themselves becoming nominees for the board.” **Proposed Wording:** “The members of the LRDT shall include two past members of the board, two licensed Unity teachers, two ordained Unity ministers, and **one lay person and one member at large**. No two members of the LRDT may be active in the same Unity ministry and no member of the LRDT shall be an employee of Unity Worldwide Ministries or of Unity World Headquarters at Unity Village. Members of the LRDT are not barred from themselves becoming nominees for the board.”

MOTION: Tom Armour moved adoption of bylaw amendment 2; motion carried with required two-thirds [2/3rds] vote; with 7 opposed.

Amendment 3: Current Wording: [Article IX. Ministry Teams, Section 1. Paragraph B. Selection] “One LRDT member from each of the categories listed above shall be elected by the convention body at the annual convention body business meetings. At least two nominations shall be made by the LRDT for each position to be filled by the convention body. Nominations shall be in order from the floor and a plurality shall be sufficient for election.” **Proposed Wording:** “**All LRDT members** shall be elected by the convention body at the annual convention body business meetings. At least two nominations shall be made by the LRDT for each position to be filled by the convention body. Nominations shall be in order from the floor and a plurality shall be sufficient for election.”

MOTION: Tom Armour moved adoption of bylaw amendment 3; motion carried with required two-thirds [2/3rds] vote.

Amendment 4: Current Wording: [Article VII. Board of Trustees, Section 10. Powers of the Board] “All of the affairs of Unity Worldwide Ministries shall be governed by the board. All of the corporate powers of Unity Worldwide Ministries shall be vested in the board, subject to a vote to override such actions by the annual convention body business meeting. The board shall also have the power to: (1) Appoint and remove the President and CEO, prescribe the duties, and fix the compensation for this position; (2) Elect half the members of the Leadership Recruitment and Development Team as required; (3) Make policy consistent with the ideals and principles of Unity, the Articles of Incorporation, and these bylaws for the spiritual as well as the business guidance of the officers of Unity Worldwide Ministries; (4) Approve or disapprove all applications for membership in Unity Worldwide Ministries subject to the right of denied applicants to appeal to the next annual convention body business meeting; (5) Confer ordination or licensing; (6) Manage and administer the property of Unity Worldwide Ministries, both real and personal; (7) Determine the business needs of Unity Worldwide Ministries and authorize payment of funds for those purposes; (8) Amend the budget as required by the needs of Unity Worldwide Ministries; and, (9) Create ministry teams and task teams as needed.

Proposed Wording: “All of the affairs of Unity Worldwide Ministries shall be governed by the board. All of the corporate powers of Unity Worldwide Ministries shall be vested in the board, subject to a vote to override such actions by the annual convention body business meeting. The board shall also have the power to: (1) Appoint and remove the President and CEO, prescribe the duties, and fix the compensation for this position; (2) Make policy consistent with the ideals and principles of Unity, the Articles of Incorporation, and these bylaws for the spiritual as

well as the business guidance of the officers of Unity Worldwide Ministries; (3) Approve or disapprove all applications for membership in Unity Worldwide Ministries subject to the right of denied applicants to appeal to the next annual convention body business meeting; (4) Confer ordination or licensing; (5) Manage and administer the property of Unity Worldwide Ministries, both real and personal; (6) Determine the business needs of Unity Worldwide Ministries and authorize payment of funds for those purposes; (7) Amend the budget as required by the needs of Unity Worldwide Ministries; and, (8) Create ministry teams and task teams as needed.

MOTION: Tom Armour moved adoption of amendment 4; motion carried with required two-thirds [2/3rds] vote.

9. Finance & Budget Reports

UWM Board of Trustees Treasurer Rev Toni Fish began her report with a quote: “The spiritual substance from which comes all visible wealth is never depleted. It is right with you all the time and responds to your faith in it and your demands on it.” [Charles Fillmore] We have received what we need to do the work; and, we will put more demands, and, need more supply. Finance & Budget Team members were recognized. Love offerings for 2015–2016 did not make projection, but did sustain an increase of about 22% due to UWSI income and the management of UWM and UWSI expenses. Expenses have held steady or slightly less than previous year; keeping grant expenses separate for reporting purposes. Continuing to tithe 10% on all love offerings. Looking ahead on these projections we can plan for a yearend surplus of \$450,000; our unrestricted cash position currently is approximately \$1,300,000—with an additional \$741,000 in total restricted funds. No action is required on the financial report and the report will be placed on file.

10. Auditors Report

CFO/COO Bruce Verkruyse presented the auditor’s review report for the period ending September 30, 2016, as published. The report was approved by unanimous consent.

11. 2018 Budget

CFO/COO Bruce Verkruyse reported on the proposed budget for 2017–2018 [five quarters] with a budgeted net shortfall of approximately \$171, 596. Looking at a 4% increase in love offerings; 20% of operating costs have been allocated to UWSI based on UWSI percentage of revenue to the UWM total revenue. This is a standard cost accounting practice for overhead allocation. UWM Board has suggested through this budget proposal that UWSI set the same standards as we suggest for teaching SEE courses—for classes taught you will receive 50% of total funds received. Moving costs for relocating the central office to the Unity Village campus will be approximately \$145,000; this is not in the current budget for 2016–2017. Costs will be paid using earmarked funds and reserves.

MOTION: Toni Fish moved approval of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2018 as presented; the report was approved by a majority vote.

Adjournment: Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned *sine die* at 12:13 PM CT. The next meeting of the convention voting delegates will held June 11–15, 2018, in Olathe, Kansas.

6. Election to the Board and Leadership Recruitment & Development Team

Recommended Nominations for the Board
There are 3 open positions for the Board of Trustees. The assembly will be electing two persons. In addition, the UWM Board will elect one person. All three elected will serve four-year terms.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Alderman – Austin, Texas [current board member eligible for re-election] • Dr. Elizabeth English, Ph.D. – Reston, Virginia [current board member eligible for re-election] • Rev Sharon Ketchum – Lansing, Michigan [current board member eligible for re-election] • Rev Sylvia Sumter – Washington, D.C.
Recommended Nominations for LRDT (Leadership Recruitment & Development Team)
To Fill 0 Former Board Member Position
No positions open.
To Fill 1 Lay Person Position – four-year term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellen Fannin – Austin, Texas • Ray Madaghiele – Sioux Falls, South Dakota
To Fill 0 Licensed Teacher Opening
No positions open.
To Fill 2 Minister Openings – four-year terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev Julie Armour – Morrison, Colorado • Rev Marge Brown – Summerfield, Florida • Rev Toni Stephens Coleman – Lincoln, Nebraska • Rev Ernestine Griffin – Milan, Michigan

Photos and biographical information may be found in the delegate's packets and on the UWM website at www.UnityWorldwideMinistries.org/business-meeting.