

## Minutes of the Conference Call Board Meeting—January 8, 2015 Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

Present:, Jim Eller, Doug Gallagher, Judy Gibson, Dick Gilbert, Liz McMaster, Margi Nasemann, Joel Weaver, Judy Welles, John Weston

CENTERING: Dick shared a reading..

CHECK IN: Board members checked in very briefly – Margi Nasemann missed early part of meeting due to dental emergency, but joined later.

**REPORTS:** discussion issues and additions to written reports, which follow these minutes. *Actionable items in red. Voted or approved items in bold.*

**President** – Dick Gilbert  
See attached report.

**Vice President** - Jim Eller

Jim recommended that the Board move toward using Zoom technology for a meeting soon via video-conference.. Zoom allows recording parts of a session, chat, clear video, easy directions, and offers a free tutorial. Liz and Doug have already done tutorial. Members need to get inexpensive camera and mic if not built in to computer. Jim has used Zoom successfully with groups – come onto phone conference call first, then hang up when everyone is online. **The Board agreed to prepare for a trial run on Zoom for the March 12 Board meeting.** *Jim will send everyone info re tutorial for Zoom.com.*

**Secretary** – Judy Gibson

The minutes of the December Board meeting were approved and will be posted on the website. **Board members confirmed that printed copies of approved minutes should continue to be kept in notebook as backup to website.** *Judy G will contact Historian Liz Strong to discuss arrangements for submitting minutes documents from 2012 -2013 to the archives at Andover Harvard Library.*

**Treasurer** – Joel Weaver

Joel reported that cash flow this month is negative at about \$600, about \$1000 has come in from member contributions (Judy W has another \$750 to send Joel), and he has received no additional registration income this month for Orlando.. (his attached report gives details). *John will check with conference registrar Harry Green to see if additional registration funds are still to be sent to the Treasurer.*

**Caring Network Coordinator** – Margi Nasemann  
See attached report.

**At-Large /Caring Network** – Liz McMaster

Liz reported that she was very pleased with the Unsung UURMaPAn celebration for Rhett Baird, and photos have been sent for the next Elderberries.

**At-Large /Conferences** – John Weston

**Orlando Conference, February 24-26, 2015** (Board meeting Feb 22-24) - John reported that there are 45 registered and registration is now closed. We are five short of 50 break even. The Board will meet at 6:00 pm on Feb. 22, and finish after lunch on Feb. 24. *John is collecting travel and dietary info from Board members for planning meals and airport transportation.*

**Newsletter Editor** – Judy Welles

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The deadline for the next Elderberries issue is January 15, and it should be out to members by the first of February. Judy W asked for input on contents. She urged Joel to plan to submit articles regularly as Treasurer, as reports and visibility encourage member donations. John asked that the call for nominees for Creative Sageing award (at GA) and Unsung UURMaPAn (at Attleboro conf. or other) be included in this Winter issue. Dick will be participating in a Jan. 12 meeting to plan a joint UUA-UURMAPA-UUMA webinar on retirement, will let Judy W know if any news to report.

Judy W suggested that she is willing to be point person for any UURMaPA printing needs, working with Minuteman Press. *She is still checking on possibilities of getting a return address rubber stamp made for envelopes.*

### **At Large/Good Offices** – Doug Gallager

See attached report.

### **NEW RESIDENT AGENT**

UURMaPA is required to have a Massachusetts member as designated resident agent to maintain our 501c3 incorporated status in the state. Since Paul l'Herrou is moving out of state, we must name a new resident agent. Dick talked with Paul, and learned there are not many duties associated with this job. Board members suggested and prioritized names of members now living in Massachusetts who might serve, and *Dick agreed to contact them in order to see if one is willing to assume the role of resident agent for UURMaPA.*

### **BACKUP SUPPORT FOR MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**

Pursuant of the Board's earlier agreement to work on forming an organizational support system for Board and appointee portfolios – we discussed possible recruits who are detail-oriented and can learn the membership maintenance system to serve as backup for Membership Coordinator Marcia Olsen. Several names were mentioned, along with the idea of talking with relevant Caring Coordinators and Nominating Committee for suggestions. *Liz agreed to work on this.*

### **ATTLEBORO CONFERENCE PLANS – October 5-8, 2015 (Board Oct. 3-4)**

John reviewed the several suggestions offered by coordinators Ginger Luke and Carol Taylor (see his attached report), to which Board members should offer feedback. John needs to confirm La Salette reservations very soon, and to pass our feedback to the coordinators. Members were polled individually to speak to their preferences. A summary of feedback follows:

- All Board members favored expanding to offering a four-day/3-night conference, Monday-Thursday. There was a preference for making the fourth day (Thursday) optional, but schedule logistics could affect this (see below).
- Members heavily favored two of the possible fourth-day field trip options: (1) to the UUA Headquarters at 24 Farnsworth, meeting with Beacon Press's Helen Atwan and/or President Peter Morales, and (2) visiting the new National Park that features Blackstone River sites where the industrial revolution began.
- Members discussed the concern Joel wisely raised of how a full-day optional Thursday field trip could add the problem of another night of lodging needs, and the following ideas surfaced in discussion:
  1. Make Wednesday the field trip, do programming at La Salette on Thursday – which could then become the optional day.... or perhaps just make it a four-day conference, and offer no other option.(but see increasing scholarships consideration below).
  2. Since most registrants are usually New Englanders, have people check out on Thursday and load luggage on the bus to leave for the field trip, or take along

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their cars, and plan to leave the conference from Boston or Providence. (logistics TBD!)

- The idea of offering more scholarship help to make a four-day conference more affordable is a consideration. Adding a third night of lodging increases the conference cost by 50%. It was suggested that scholarships could cover half of that additional cost. *The Board would have to designate fund sources for this- an item to consider in our February meeting.*
- The several possible topics for keynote speaker Dan McKanan were not discussed, but Liz suggested that Dan might weave into his presentation some connections with whatever the field trip focus becomes.

*John will share this feedback with the conference coordinators, who will apply their collective ingenuity to finalizing a good plan..*

### **OBITUARY PROCESS**

Dick forwarded to the Board a communication from Ministerial Obit Editor Jay Atkinson, suggesting that he send an Announce message directed to colleagues inviting interest in assisting with obit preparation (see addendum to Dick's report attached). Jay had also attached his set of guidelines for obit writing. The Board began discussing how we want to proceed to make appointments for this and other off-Board functions, and what policy to follow in building a support system for these functions. *In light of meeting time limitations, we agreed to put this item on the February agenda. Dick will let Jay know.*

### **NEXT MEETING – On-site at San Pedro Retreat Center, Orlando, FL** **Sunday, Feb. 22, 6:00 pm to Tuesday, Feb. 24 after lunch**

Agenda will include:

- The issue of requests in lieu of flowers for partner deaths
- Support team for obituary process
- Availability/source of scholarships for expanded Attleboro Conference
- Facebook page development
- Fall (December) fundraising report
- GA Workshop plans

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Gibson, Secretary

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**REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR JAN. 8, 2015 - UURMaPA BOARD MEETING**

**President: Dick Gilbert**

1. Sent 0 letters of condolence.
2. Sent 4 “welcome to retirement” letters.
3. Nothing new on how we handle obituaries.
4. Scheduled a retirement “seminar” via teleconference on January 20 with CERG Lead Minister and UUMA members pondering retirement. This may become a model for other groupings.
5. Scheduled a meeting January 12 with Alicia Ford, Don Southworth and Richard Nugent re. a joint UUA-UURMAPA-UUMA webinar on retirement. Larry Peers has indicated interest in this and has shared materials.
6. Still thinking about a plan for transition to a new president. I have virtually everything on my computer. With Duane, Marcia, new president and others I will determine what and how this is transferred.
7. Pondered a request for information about Jacob Trapp requested by a member of the UU Musician’s Network who used one of his readings, but could not find background material. I provided some out of personal knowledge and requested help from Don Southworth, but he had no information. Still waiting to hear from Sarah Lammert. This raised the question of such information from those who have died prior to UURMAPA and therefore would not be in our “In Memoriam” archives. Again, perhaps UUA has information. Maybe I will know prior to our conference call. It may raise an interesting question.
8. Continued to work with Liz Strong re. UURMAPA history.
9. Continued correspondence with colleagues re. Florida conference.
10. Submitted year-end voucher to Joel. I do this when I can in six-month blocks in order to minimize Joel’s check-writing responsibilities.
11. Correspondence with colleagues over how to retire re. “intent to retire” with UUA.
12. Wrote column for “Elderberries” due January 15.

**Addendum: 1-7-2015 – Obituary Process**

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Memo received from Jay Atkinson outlining his obituary philosophy. I think it is a good one, though it could perhaps be shortened and/or put in an outline form for easier use.

Jay proposes that he write up a request for help to be sent out on the UURMaPA announce list. (He assumes that we would direct the request for assistance just to retired colleagues on that list.) He would describe in broad terms his approach and ask interested colleagues to respond directly to him. He could then send out a revision of the guidelines to those who respond, and see if any of them are willing to put up with his "curmudgeonly standards" (his term). *I suggest we approve this approach, give some feedback to Jay, and follow up.*

### **Vice-President: Jim Eller**

GA: Registered our annual UURMaPa luncheon as a GA event. I have requested Thursday 11:30 to 1:30 or Friday 11:30 to 1:30. We usually get our first choice.

We did receive approval for our GA program workshop on networking retired clergy. We have lots of time to work on this one, but it will be here before you know it.

UUA: I am scheduled to attend the Program Council meeting June 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. I am assuming the travel expenses are on us.

**Zoom** technology: I think we should experiment with doing video conferencing for one of our up-coming meetings. We now have four of us or more who know the process. It means downloading the free software from Zoom.us or Zoom.com and then practicing with one another to get good enough at it to use it successfully for our meeting. *Action item: please download the software and practice using it with me, Judy, Doug or Liz.*

### **Secretary: Judy Gibson**

Nothing has yet come to me for posting as a death announcement and/or obituary on UURMaPA Announce for non-UURMaPA member Tony Perrino as agreed in November meeting.

*Liaison report from Marcia Olsen, Membership Coordinator:*

1. Thanks to Judy Welles, the Printed Directory was sent out in December. (I had Margi's address wrong so box to her was returned; it has been resent - these are the ones for Coordinators).
2. I'm beginning to get returns from undeliverable appeals letters and will follow up for changes of address.
3. I'm sending Duane an update to the online Directory, with January 2015 date.

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**Treasurer: Joel Weaver**

UURMaPA Finances – December, 2014

**Ending Account Balances November 30, 2014**

<b>Endowment</b>	<b>\$20,285</b>
<b>Money Market</b>	<b>40,279</b>
<b>Checking</b>	<b><u>11,924</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$72,488</b>

**Cash Flow**

<b>Conference Income - Orlando</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Member Contributions</b>	<b>1,050</b>
<b>Interest Income</b>	<b><u>0</u></b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,050</b>

<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>(1,064) Fall Issue of Elderberries</b>	
<b>Directory</b>	<b>(430) Printing</b>	
<b>Appeal Expense</b>	<b><u>(147) USPS</u></b>	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$(1641)</b>	
<b>Net Cash Flow</b>		<b>\$(591)</b>

**Newsletter Editor: Judy Welles**

***. Elderberries***

I'm working on putting together the Winter issue right now, and will welcome your ideas for what should be included. Regular articles will include:

Partner's Column -	Chuck Rzepka
What Brings You Joy?	Stephen Shick
Leadership Column	UUA Presidential Search Committee

The front page story is about Rhett receiving the Unsung UURMaPA award (how does one spell that?). There will be a long article with photos by Bill and Barbara Hamilton-Holway on their 100 Day Road Trip, which was the ritual they used to start their retirement. I've sent out a request for information for the "Turning of Our Lives" section, and am waiting to hear from Jay Abernathy about what obituaries will be ready. The Nominating Committee has submitted their list of nominees. There will also be something from Linda Rose and Richard Nugent; they will have an article in several of the upcoming issues.

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*I'd like an article from Joel (the Treasurer should be visible in nearly every issue, with a PayPal link) and I'm wondering what needs to be said (if anything) about the February conference.*

*Last winter there was a call for nominees for the Creative Sageing Award and the Unsung UURMaPAn. Would you like me to run these again this winter?*

*What else?*

**At-Large Member – John Weston**

**Part I – Attleboro 2015**

I'm working with Carol Taylor and Ginger Luke on next year's UURMaPA in Attleboro. Carol has been relocating and I have been preoccupied by family matters; Ginger has been carrying the ball, and a very interesting ball it is. Here are issues on which the board should opine:

1. Duration

There is interest in a longer conference. Here are three alternatives as to length:

*(a) three days (Tues-Thurs as usual)*

*(b) four days (Mon-Thurs)*

*(c) three days with optional fourth day for those interesting (Mon-Wed for some, Mon-Thurs for others)*

2. Keynote speaker and speaker's program:

Ginger has secured Dan McKanan, Emerson Senior Lecturer at HDS, as keynote speaker. There appear to be two or perhaps three possible topics to choose among:

*(a) Most likely, his current book project on the catalyzing by Rudolph Steiner's anthroposophical movement of environmental activism.*

*(b) The future of UU scholarship today*

*(c) Something new and exciting and not yet foreseen by McKanan himself*

3. In the event of a fourth day, one of the following:

*(a) an exploration of 24 Farnsworth Street, including lunch, a presentation by Helen Atwan with Beacon Press, and a meeting with Linda Rose*

*(b) exploration of Steiner's Waldorf Schools – relates to McKanan's work with spiritual environmentalism.*

*(c) exploration of the newest National Park, a twelve-site installation along the Blackstone River, where "the industrial revolution began"*

*(d) visit to one or two area churches. New Bedford and Fairhaven, for example, though only a couple of miles from one another, are worlds apart*

*(e) the New Bedford whaling museum (remember that Melville was a Unitarian)*



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The planning committee would love to have your thoughts, including . . .

*How many of our members afford a fourth day (for one or for two?)*

*What sources of funding may there be?*

What questions may you wish to add?

### **Caring Network Chair: Margie Nasmann**

Had contact with several Area Caring Network Coordinators by phone, email or letter (Jeremy Brigham, Barbara Child, Linnea Pierson, Phyllis Hubbard, Vern and Sue Nichols, Glen Snowden).

Sent Handbook and Letter and made contact by phone with Judith Frediani, our new Mass Bay Inland Coordinator.

Contacted Marcia Olsen and Judy Wells about the new Directory. Since I had moved to Stow, MA, there has been a snafu getting the Directories to my correct Stow address. Judy and I have resolved the issue, however. And she will send the Directories to my Florida winter address. From Florida I'll mail them out.

Had a fruitful conversation with Glenda Gray who will become the new Area Coordinator for New Mexico. {Thank you, Liz, for your help with this!}

Sent Handbook and Letter to Glenda to help her get started in the job.

### **At-Large Member: Liz McMaster**

Rhett Baird was given the Unsung Award at a cluster meeting at the UU Congregation of Atlanta. Jan Taddeo, minister of the Gwinnett UU church was incredibly helpful and managed to get Rhett to the meeting without divulging its purpose. Rhett was delighted! Words and pictures were sent to Judy W. for inclusion in the next Elderberries issue. Kudos all around!

I had lunch with Glenda Gray to ask her to assume the Caring Coordination of New Mexico and she agreed! I believe Margi is sending her the necessary materials.

I've had conversations with Doug Gallagher re establishing a peer group. We will get going soon.

I contacted 3 Area Coordinators to contact newly retired UURMaPA members.

I wrote individual invitations to colleagues to come to Florida in February.

### **At-Large Member: Douglas Gallager**

The UUMA Regional Specialist nominating committee (Fritz Hudson, Hope Johnson, Diane Dowgiert), met on December 12. All of the nominees for service as Regional Specialists, specializing in issues around retirement transitions, were vetted. Don will be doing the "ask."

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The other Regional Specialists, specializing in negotiated resignations and other special situations will be appointed by spring. The committee will meet again in January to begin to design training for the retirement transitions Regional Specialists, which will take place at GA 2015.

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