

Minutes of the Conference Call Board Meeting—March 12, 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. Members signed in on ZOOM for the meeting – all connected on video except Margi Nasemann, who connected by phone.

REPORTS: Due to a very short time since the face-to-face meeting, only John Weston and Doug Gallagher had advance reports to submit (see attached)..

Actionable items in red. Voted or approved items in bold.

President – Dick Gilbert

Dick will be on another conference plan session for the 3-day retirement training seminar Ending Well, Finishing Strong, date TBD, probably July 2016 in Baltimore. Need to figure out who UURMaPA will send, to become trainers for others. Dick will send us further info.

He contacted the Nominating Committee, let them know of expectation that new Board members will plan to attend full conferences following face-to-face Board meetings.

Dick has sent welcome packets to 8 new members.

Application is in for an UURMaPA workshop on retirement for Ministry Days in June – not sure if we will get space in the schedule yet, as there are numerous applications.

Liz moved : **The UURMaPA Board officially appoints Ellen Brandenburg as our new Resident Agent as of March 15, 2015.** *Passed.* Ellen Brandenburg will be in contact with Paul l'Herrou regarding her duties as UURMaPA Resident Agent.

Vice President - Jim Eller

Jim needs a list of all new UURMaPA members since June 2014. Marcia Olsen or Sarah Lammert should be able to supply this.

Marni Harmony, new VP nominee, is prepared to attend the fall Attleboro conference.

Jim noted that he saw many new faces at Orlando.

Secretary – Judy Gibson

The minutes of the February 22-24 Board meeting in Orlando were delayed for approval until the April meeting, as some Board members had not yet read them. Additions and corrections are requested.

Treasurer – Joel Weaver

Joel noted that almost all activity since the conference has been expenditures – a trickle of contributions have come in. The Spring appeal letter should go out around April 1.

In light of our decision last meeting to pay “linked” conference registrations for Board members, he asked if he should be reimbursing members for Orlando registrations. Board members concurred that the action was for future conferences. *Judy W moved that* **Board members will not be charged registration fees for conferences following face-to-face Board meetings, beginning with the Fall 2015 Attleboro meeting and conference.** *Passed.*

Caring Network Coordinator – Margi Nasemann

Margi still needs to send the UURMaPA notecards to Caring Area Chairs. She has not yet identified a new Bay Area Coastal Chair. *It was again noted that Charles B. Rosene, crosene@uua.org District Administrator for Pacific Central District, may be helpful in suggesting a name. (Margi)*

At-Large /Caring Network – Liz McMaster

Liz reported that she has eight new members to connect to the Caring Network.

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At-Large /Conferences – John Weston

John's advance report (attached) is a summary of the evaluations from the Orlando conference.

Newsletter Editor – Judy Welles

As point person for printing the next fund-raising letter, Judy W has alerted Minuteman Press to expect a letter before the first of April.

The next deadline for Spring Elderberries is April 15, but she is happy to have articles early. *Dick will submit an article and picture from the Selma conference. Judy G agreed to report on the pre-Orlando conference Board meeting..*

At Large/Good Offices – Doug Gallager

See attached report.

REPLACEMENT FOR JOHN WESTON ON THE BOARD

The Nominating Committee has suggested two names as possible candidates for John Weston's At-Large Conference planning position on the Board, to begin service after the fall Attleboro conference. Board members are invited to recommend other names.. This person should be diplomatic and have good organizational skills. *The job description for this position (found in Operating Procedures, on UURMaPA website) needs to be updated by April 2. (John)*

BACKUP SUPPORT FOR MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Dick has written Sam Trumbore, who works with UUMA tech, for possible suggestions but has not heard back. An UURMaPA minister or partner member is preferred. *Board members should review directory and bring suggestions for possible names to the April meeting.*

As agreed last month, *Judy W will ask Marcia to frame a job description, and will then prepare an appeal for interest in serving on a support team for the Membership Service functions. This will be posted by Judy G on Announce and in an issue of Elderberries.*

BOARD-SPONSORED CONFERENCES

In spite of our invitation to UURMaPA members to take the initiative and organize their own local conferences, we do not see this happening. Following discussion, the Board agreed that at this time, UURMaPA conferences will be Board initiated (coordinated by the At Large Conference member) – including selection of location in the country, finding local organizers, recommendation of theme.

Judy W moved **The Board will take responsibility for organizing two conferences per year, with local UURMaPA members enlisted to do the planning. Expected attendance will be 50 members. Passed.**

John noted that each conference is different, depending upon energy and zeal of local organizers, but we should try to have the local committee take on as much responsibility as possible.

FACEBOOK PAGE AND GA WORKSHOP

No current reports from Jim.

PENDING ITEMS

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All Board members - please send an updated job description as needed before the April 2 meeting. to Judy G. I will be glad to update descriptions in Operating Procedures

ATTLEBORO CONFERENCE 2015

John reported that plans as discussed are well underway (see Feb. 22-24 minutes and reports). The Planning Committee has asked the Board for recommendations to present the Odyssey. Board members approved the idea of having a couple present together, and discussed and prioritized suggestions for couples to invite. *John will communicate recommendations to the Planning Committee.*

The Planning Committee has also suggested that UURMaPA consider making a gift to La Salette Center to have them install grab bars in some bathrooms, since none are currently so equipped. *John will check on possible costs, and the Board agreed to consider a more specific proposal at our April meeting.*

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, April 2, 2015, 4:00-5:15 pm EDT via ZOOM

Agenda will include:

- Review and approval of two sets of minutes: February 22-24 and March 8.
- Suggestions for Membership Coordinator support
- Proposal for possible gift of grab bars for La Salette Center
- Review and update of all Board job descriptions as listed in Operating Procedures

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Gibson, Secretary

REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR MARCH 12, 2015 - UURMaPA BOARD MEETING

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At-Large Member – John Weston

**2015 UURMaPA Spring Conference at Orlando
Summary of Evaluations**

**30 Evaluations Received
Tallied by John Weston**

- What aspects of the spring conference have been most important to you?
 - Reconnecting with old friends, meeting new friends, and generally visiting with colleagues 24
 - Worship services 6
 - Mark Morrison-Reed presentation 26
 - Gordon Gibson - Mark Morrison-Reed conversation 14
 - The “Crowd of Witnesses” collective Odyssey 8
 - Other (specify)
 - Location

- What were the highlights of the conference for you?
 - Socializing 16
 - Worship services 2
 - Morrison-Reed presentation 22
 - Gibson - Morrison-Reed conversation 13
 - “Crowd of Witnesses” 8
 - Other (specify)
 - Appreciated the check-in and meeting new folks
 - Enjoyed singing together, liked rounds

- Are there changes you want to suggest to the overall conference?
 - No 3
 - It was all good 4
 - Wish it had been three nights
 - Schedule the Wednesday break right after lunch
 - Put out a jigsaw puzzle for introverts
 - Need clearer room scheduling
 - Name tags should include location and whether minister or partner
 - Use social hour to help people connect
 - Would have liked more time for introductions
 - Focus Tuesday worship on “In Memoriam” 3
 - Would have liked traditional Odyssey 3
 - Need seating for wider people
 - The traffic patterns were awkward
 - The conference should have been recorded

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- Did you like the format of the Wednesday program?
 - Yes 14
 - OK 3
 - It could have included small groups for sharing
 - Good use of free time
 - I could have gone all night
- The focus of this year’s program was “Selma and Unitarian Universalism.” Your comments about it are appreciated.
 - Inspiring 2
 - Informational/educational 3
 - Fascinating 2
 - Timely and important 6
 - Priceless 2
 - Enthralled by first-hand accounts 2
 - Good 1
 - Right down my valley 1
 - It was a heavy dose of Selma 2
 - The take-away was unclear (a bit disorganized)
 - I really liked the conceptual (and knowledgeable) approach and the way Mark enlisted all of us in his quest to understand the whole pattern
- We welcome your suggestions for possible future programs that would be of value to you.
 - Partners need a scheduled half-hour together
 - End of life (featuring nurse, scholar, lawyer)
 - Immigration 2
 - Patterns of retirement and service in retirement
 - Retirement arts and skills: basket-weaving, painting
 - Snowbird church
 - Soul and beauty
 - Rediscovering the theology of liberal religion
 - We’ve had important history—now how about the future?
 - Climate
 - More sharing of Odysseys
 - Review of relations with TIAA-CREF
 - Music
 - Bob Tapp
 - Congregationally based elderhousing
 - Improving UURMaPA’s caring network
 - Marilynne Robinson
 - LBGT history
 - Leaving a legacy, not a mess

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Writing one's own obit
Jimmy & Rosalind Carter on volunteering
Empowering women

- Would you like to attend a periodic conference in Florida/the Southeast? If so, how often should such a conference be offered?
Yes 5
Once per year 4
Every one-two years 2
Every two years 4
Every two-three years 2
No 2
The West needs one
Winter in Florida is good
No, I wouldn't attend a second conference. It's not worth the travel time or money to me.
- Would you like to participate in planning a future conference?
Yes: Barbara Child, Andy Backus, Chris Backus
No 13
- Did San Pedro meet your "creature comfort" needs?
Yes 19
The room I shared was tight for two singles 2
My intended roommate didn't show; I would have preferred a single
The food was so-so and lacking in choices
The food was better than Attleboro
The meeting spaces were good
- Do you have other comments to share regarding this 2015 UURMaPA Spring Conference?
We have so much to get from one another and to give, This gave us great opportunities for both.
Good job—thank you all 3
Well done, hope it continues
Well organized
- Would you like a follow-up phone call with a board member? If so, please provide your name and phone number.
[None did]

At-Large Member: Douglas Gallager

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Met via Zoom with the team designing the training for the Regional Resource Officers specializing in transitions. (Don Southworth, Fritz Hudson, Hope Johnson, Diane Dowgiert) We planned a conference call for 3/31 with the appointed RRO's. The training should be completed so that they can begin their work by 9/1/15. Areas to be addressed are: transitions and conflict, multi-staff issues, negotiated settlements, start-up/mid-ministry evaluation, working with UUA staff, and determining in what areas RRO's already have expertise. We began discussing the different roles between field staff, good officers, advocates and MFC, and determined we need more clarity. The team will meet again on 5/7.

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