

## Minutes of the Conference Call Board Meeting—December 1, 2015 Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

1 Present:, Jim Eller, Doug Gallagher, Judy Gibson (Judy G), Judy S Gillis (Judy SG), Marni  
2 Harmony, John Manwell, Liz McMaster, Joel Weaver, Judy Welles (Judy W)

3  
4 CENTERING: Liz and Doug each offered a reading.

5  
6 CHECK IN: All Board members checked in briefly.

7  
8 **REPORTS:** Items in addition to the advance reports. (attached.)

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

10  
11 **President** - Jim Eller

12 **Peer Group meeting** - Jim reported that he and Judy W recently met again with their peer  
13 group, continuing meeting on a quarterly basis. The quality of relationships is very good,  
14 reinforcing the value of the program.

15 **GA Planning Committee** - Jim was pleased that Judy SG received a letter of apology for  
16 her negative experiences as a new widow attending GA – indications that the committee did  
17 listen deeply to our concerns about welcoming guests not registered for GA.

18  
19 **Vice President** – Marni Harmony

20 Marni noted that she is serving on the UUA Retirement Plan Committee, now as the only  
21 retired minister on that committee. They recently held a meeting.

22  
23 **Secretary** – Judy Gibson

24 The November minutes as distributed contain all corrections submitted, and no one  
25 offered further corrections. **Minutes were approved as submitted.** Two Board members  
26 prefer, and all concurred that they can work with the pdf version showing line numbers. Marni  
27 reiterated the secretary's request that we pay attention to summarizing where we are at the end  
28 of discussion on a topic to aid with minutes-taking.

29  
30 **Treasurer** - Joel Weaver

31 Joel noted that activity was low this month, and we are in a good cash position. His  
32 projections for year-end deficit of up to \$7,000, \$14,000 below budget (included with reports) is  
33 a later agenda topic

34  
35 **Caring Network Chair** – Liz McMaster

36 Liz has continuing difficulty finding people willing to serve as Area Coordinators. Seven or  
37 eight AC spots are currently vacant (see list in her report attached). She asked that Board  
38 members continue to review the Caring Area section in the Directory (new one out soon) and  
39 make recommendations for possible Coordinators.

40  
41 **At Large, Caring Network Assistant** – Judy S Gillis

42 Judy SG has been working with the atlas/zip code book that she ordered to try adjusting  
43 how areas are defined. She is hoping this process may help re-set districts and make the Area  
44 Coordinators' jobs easier.

45 **Addressing the issue of Area Coordination** – Board members offered some  
46 observations and ideas for this ongoing conversation, including:

- 47 ^ Could a small sub-committee look into creating a new, more varied model for  
48 coordinating areas, perhaps making more use of social media?
- 49 ^ Person-to-person contacts and connections are the most important aspect of the Caring  
50 Network, which social media does not provide.

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- 51     ^ A notice could be posted in *Elderberries*, inviting people to consider serving as an AC.
- 52     ^ Some members really enjoy serving as AC, others do not; we need to ask the right
- 53         people.
- 54     ^ Partners should not be overlooked for the job – will be easier now to select as we learn
- 55         more about new retiree partner skills from the Intent to Retire forms.

### 56 57 **At Large, Conferences** – John Manwell

58         ***Winter, 2017 Conference plans*** - John reported that he talked with Bill Lourie (a retired  
59 chaplain, not in UURMaPA directory) in San Antonio, and he was quite enthusiastic – might  
60 serve as part of a planning team. *Judy W urged John to check with the 2016 Santa Barbara*  
61 *local team as well to at least see if La Casa might be available for an return UURMaPA*  
62 *conference in February 2017. Jim stated and John agreed that the target date for*  
63 **conference decisions (to have selected location, dates and local planning team in place)**  
64 **should be one year ahead.** The goal will be to announce the Winter 2017 conference in  
65 Santa Barbara, Feb 29-March 2, 2016.

### 66 67 **Newsletter Editor** – Judy Welles

68         Judy W stated that this is a quiet month, but reminded the Board that the Winter  
69 *Elderberries* deadline is January 15. She asked any Board member planning to submit material  
70 to let her know.

71         ***Website Report*** – Judy W has accepted liaison responsibilities with the webmaster, and  
72 reported that Duane is keeping the current site up-to-date, will add updated directory and  
73 revised Caring Area listings this week. The Fall *Elderberries* was downloaded 424 times. Greg  
74 Bear has been working on the updated website, but postings have been hacked so he has  
75 moved offline.

### 76 77 **At Large, Good Offices** – Doug Gallagher

78         Doug noted that he will be participating tomorrow in a UUMA Good Offices conference  
79 call. Other items are in his report (attached)

### 80 81 82 **DONATIONS FOR DECEASED MEMBERS**

83         Judy G noted that the answer to Liz's online question regarding how we decided to handle  
84 donations in memory of deceased partners is contained in the most recent version of Operating  
85 Procedures on the website, under Death of Members. (*"Instead of flowers, UURMaPA will send*  
86 *a \$50 donation to honor deceased members. For ministers, the donation will be sent in their*  
87 *memory to the UUMA Endowment Fund. For partners, the donation will be sent in their memory*  
88 *to the charity of choice or as individually arranged."*) Jim stated that it is helpful to be reminded  
89 that the most recent Operating Procedures are available online.

### 90 91 **BOARD-SPONSORED CONFERENCES**

92         ***Plans for the 2016 Fall Attleboro conference*** will need to be reviewed by the Board.  
93 (*Reminder from Secretary: According to Operating Procedures, local conference planners*  
94 *choose keynote and odyssey presenters, with suggestions and consultation from the Board.*)  
95 *John Manwell will be getting in touch with Ginger Luke to check on progress.*

96         ***2016 Winter Santa Barbara Conference details***– *Marni Harmony agreed to pick up on*  
97 *exploring coordinated group transportation plans from LAX for the Board via email* – eight Board  
98 members and partners would currently be involved. Options include renting car(s) or riding the  
99 Airbus and arranging with Ken to be picked up in SB on Feb. 27. We noted that up to five  
100 partners will be arriving early at La Casa with Board members – *John Manwell will check with*  
101 *the local coordinators to be sure lodging and meals for them are included in the plans.*

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### MINISTER ON LOAN

Marni talked with Keith Kron, has heard no more from Scott Tayler. There are plans to have a phone conference at some point. Judy W is planning to ask Scott to write the Leadership column for the Winter *Elderberries*.

Scott is still willing to come to the Santa Barbara conference to hold a conversation with people interested in training for minister on loan, and Jim has been trying to make arrangements for his meals and lodging. *John Manwell was asked to work with the local conference coordinators regarding Scott's arrangements, and also to ask Ken Collier to send all registrants the travel memo that he has prepared on how to reach La Casa - a helpful reminder.*

### AMENDMENT TO STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The proposed revision prepared by Judy W and Liz was published in the Fall *Elderberries*, and members were invited to send comments and corrections back to Secretary. No comments were received by Judy G, but *Judy W had received one suggestion for wording, which she will forward to all Board members. Board members are asked to consider wording options and offer suggestions by email. A final vote can be taken at the January 5 meeting.*

Following approval by the Board, we will need to get the new statement into the bylaws filed with the State of Massachusetts and into all relevant UURMaPA publications. (Judy G)

### DISCUSSION OF DEFICIT BUDGET

Joel did some projections of expenses through the rest of the year, and estimated we may see as much as a \$14,000 deficit. We have received less contributions than anticipated, and the largest un-budgeted expenditures have been the costs involved in bringing all Board members to pre-conference Board meetings and subsidizing their conference attendance twice a year. Several ideas for reducing deficit spending were discussed. The following decisions were made by consensus::

^ **Beginning with the Attleboro conference in October, 2016, conference registration fees will be increased to \$300 per person (from \$250)**

^ **The cost of the UURMaPA luncheon at General Assembly will no longer be partially subsidized for established members, who will be asked to pay the quoted price. New members will still be subsidized as guests and attend without cost.**

*Joel was asked to write an article for the Winter Elderberries addressing our budget concerns.*

Since the largest expense in the budget involves subsidies for Board attendance for early meetings and attendance at two conferences per year, members brainstormed some options to consider:

^ Shorten the pre-conference Board meetings, involve only one extra night plus meals (instead of two nights).

^ Hold only one face-to-face Board meeting per year at a conference. Joel suggested not scheduling it in Attleboro, where UURMaPA has held a long-established event that many members regularly attend. Instead, we might have the Board meet before and attend the second conference in another part of the country, where we can support the event and personally encourage others to attend with us.

FACEBOOK – Jim again asked for pictures and items from Board members.

NEXT MEETING – January 5, 3:00-4:30 CST via ZOOM

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Gibson, Secretary

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151 **REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR DECEMBER 1, 2015 - UURMaPA BOARD MEETING**

152

153 **President: Jim Eller**

154 *No written report this month.*

155

156 **Vice-President: Marni Harmony**

157 *No written report this month.*

158

159 **Secretary: Judy Gibson**

160

161 I earlier sent the November minutes and reports to all in .doc format, later followed by  
162 .pdf format in order to assure that the line numbers appeared for review and editing purposes. I  
163 have again attached the minutes document as corrected so far, as well as the PENDING list, to  
164 help refresh your memories.

165 I have received **no** comments from members to date regarding our proposed revised  
166 UURMaPA statement of purpose. If Judy W has earlier received suggestions for more precise  
167 wording of the purpose that we might consider in this meeting, I would suggest that we look at  
168 those before voting on the change. We are empowered by our bylaws to take all suggestions into  
169 account..

170 I look forward to receiving an agenda to guide our discussion. It would help me  
171 considerably as secretary if all of us made sure someone summarizes where we are on any  
172 discussion item before we change topics, since we so infrequently choose to work with the  
173 motion/second/vote formalities.

174

175 **Treasurer: Joel Weaver**

176

177 Attached are my estimates of total year revenues and expenses versus 2015 budget. The net of all  
178 of this is we will be about \$14K over the budget.

179

179 Main variances are:

180 Member Donations	\$6K lower	
181 Board Meetings	\$4K Over	Unbudgeted Board member scholarships cost \$2K
182 Conferences	\$2K Over	Unbudgeted Attleboro trip to 24 Farnsworth cost \$2K
183 GA Luncheon	\$1K Over	
184 Appeal expense	<u>\$1K Over</u>	December 2014 appeal cost paid in 2015
185	\$14,000	

186

187 **UURMaPA Finances – November 30, 2015**

188 **Ending Account Balances November 30, 2015**

189

190 **Endowment** **\$20,575**

191 **Money Market** **30,317**

192 **Checking** **12,659**

193 **Total** **\$63,551**

194

195

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196 **Cash Flow November 1-30, 2015**

197		
198	<b>Member Contributions</b>	<b><u>\$3,655</u></b>
199	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,655</b>
200		
201	<b>Elderberries Fall Edition Cost</b>	<b>(\$1,164)</b>
202	<b>Board Meeting Transportation</b>	<b>(593) Eller (Attleboro &amp; Santa Barbara)</b>
203	<b>President's Expense</b>	<b>(20)</b>
204	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>(18)</b>
205	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>(\$1,795)</b>
206	<b>Net Cash Flow</b>	<b>\$1,860</b>
207		

208 **Newsletter Editor: Judy Welles**

209 *No written report this month.*

210

211 **At-Large Member: Conferences – John Manwell**

212 *No written report this month.*

213

214 **Caring Network Chair: Liz McMaster**

215

216 I contacted Marcia Olsen re reworking Contact Information to make it easier for Area  
217 Coordinators to help their constituents. She has completed the changes which will show up in the  
218 December Directory. The names in each Area are listed as minister and partner together rather  
219 than alphabetically.

220 I contacted an Area Coordinator to request social call to a member, and another colleague  
221 to update Directory information.

222 I sent sympathy note to Wesley Hromata

223 I talked with Kirk Loadman-Copeland about Ryder Fund which provides financial  
224 support based on need, first to MidAmerica and Mountain Desert, then the rest of the US, then  
225 the world. The fund was established by an IL Universalist minister, open to any minister, retired  
226 minister, or partner. I suggested he contact Judy Welles for possibly running an article in  
227 *Elderberries* regarding the fund.

228 I talked with Julie Shaw (UUA) to provide additional information on partners when the  
229 “Intent to Retire” form is sent to ministers.

230 Still looking for Area Coordinators for: Ballou Channing, Bay Area Coastal,  
231 CO/MT/WY, Mass Bay Coastal, Metro NY/NJ, Pacific NW, St. Lawrence. If you know anyone  
232 in any of these areas you think might be a good Area Coordinator, please let me know. As of  
233 now, when I learn of a minister or partner in one of these areas having difficulties, I contact them  
234 to let them know we're thinking of them and offer suggestions for relief, if available.

235

236

237 **At-Large Member: Caring Network Assistant - Judy S Gillis**

238 *No written report this month.*

239

240

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**241 At-Large Member: Good Offices - Douglas Gallager**

242

243 I met today with the training team for UUMA Good Offices Support Teams, the now official  
244 name for what we had initially called Regional Specialists, UUMA Executive Director Don  
245 Southworth, Diane Dowgeirt and UUMA Board member Fritz Hudson. Prior to GO training at  
246 GA we will be having three time zone-ish on-line gatherings of chapter Good Officers and the  
247 Support Teams in February. The agenda is primarily getting-to-know you, with an open Q&A  
248 which may help us form our training agenda for GA. Good Officers will be asked to contribute  
249 relevant case studies.