

1 **Minutes of the ZOOM Conference Board Meeting—January 30, 2017**
2 **Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association**

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

3 Absent: Art Severance (computer problems – joined just at end of meeting)

4
5 CHECK IN: All Board members checked in briefly.

6
7 **REPORTS:** Members sent reports to entire Board in advance, using individual email addresses
8 for Board group mailings instead of the @uurmapa.org group address. A collected set of reports
9 is attached at the end of these minutes.

10
11 **JANUARY 3 MINUTES**

12 Judy sent these minutes to all, made corrections offered by some Board members, and
13 sent corrected version on January 25 **The minutes and reports from last month were**
14 **approved as revised.**

15
16 **FINANCIAL NEEDS TASK FORCE**

17 Jim met today with Richard Nugent, Sheldon Bennett and Susan Brown of the Ministerial
18 Relief Fund. They will be mailing a survey to all UURMaPAns by March 1, and the survey will
19 also be available to complete online. The Office of Church Staff Finances will provide staff to
20 mail the survey to our members and process the replies. We should have the results by our
21 April 4 Board meeting. The task force recommends that our Board share the results via video
22 conferences or other contacts with the three UUA Presidential candidates, and urge them to add
23 funding to support retired ministers and their widowed partners in need to the UUA Common
24 Campaign.

25 *Judy W noted that she plans to ask the 3 candidates to write statements for Spring*
26 *Elderberries (deadline April 15);* Marni noted that it would be good to have a statement from
27 each to UURMaPA, and possibly have them also address specific needs learned from the
28 survey if results are available in time.

29 *Jim agreed to check with Craig Roshaven on the possibility of a teleconference with*
30 *candidates during the Santa Barbara conference; if it can be done, he will work with conference*
31 *planning team on scheduling and see that candidates are invited to participate.*

32 Jim further noted that since absentee ballots for president will be counted in this GA, the
33 many Emerita/Emeritus retirees (who have automatic credentials through their conferring
34 congregations) could have enough collective clout to sway the election.

35
36 **MEMBERSHIP TASK FORCE**

37 Marni recently met and updated Don Southworth, who is on board with the results of the
38 Task Force report. Judy W and Marni agreed to look into setting up another Task Force meeting
39 before Feb. 24, to plan for presentation of recommendations and questions in Santa Barbara
40 *(but report they have subsequently rejected this idea. JMG)*

41 Jim noted that if we decide to work closely with UUMA, it could be advisable to have a
42 past or present UURMaPA Board member represent us at UUMA Board meetings

43
44 **CONNECTIONS NETWORK**

45 Liz noted that there have been some new Connector vacancies filled, others opening up.
46 This will be a constant process. *Board members' suggestions for possible Connectors are*
47 *always welcome. (See the Connections Directory on the web for membership in the areas*
48 *listed below. JG)*

49 Current Connector vacancies:

50 AZ

51 Bay Area Coastal and Inland

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52 Conn. Valley
53 CO/MT/WY
54 Florida
55 New Mexico
56 Southwest
57

58 **WEBSITE UPDATE**

59 The new website is up for general use, and Board members reported that it looks very
60 good. Joel asked when PayPal will be available there, so that people can register and pay
61 online for events. Judy W reported that Duane hopes it will be ready to take reservation
62 payments for the GA Luncheon – although Marni noted that offering alternative sign-up methods
63 (PayPal or mailed checks) could add some complexity to tracking numbers.
64

65 **TeMP (TARGETED MINISTRY PROGRAM)**

66 Marni reported that progress is somewhat stalled. Scott Tayler was to set up a December
67 planning meeting that did not happen. Training needs to be scheduled and applications for both
68 ministers and congregations need to be set up. Hopefully these will be planned and ready by
69 the Santa Barbara conference. As a condition of the grant supporting the project, two
70 congregational sites in each region are to be selected to pilot the program during the next
71 church year.
72

73 **SANTA BARBARA TRAVEL PLANS**

74 Craig Roshaven and Jim Eller will be renting cars and able to pick up Board members as
75 they arrive on February 25.

76 **The following arrivals were confirmed:**

77 **Marni and Liz –meet Jim at LAX (*location TBD*) 10:15 am.**

78 **Judy and Gordon Gibson, John and Art on Airbus to Santa Barbara –arr. 4:15 pm.**

79 **Joel and Carol Taylor –train to Santa Barbara, arr. 5:40 pm.**

80 *Judy W and Duane will send arrival times and locations to Jim by email.*

81 (Doug confirmed that he will not attend the meeting this time.)
82

83 **CONFERENCES - 2017-2018**

84 **Attleboro, 2017** – John and Phyllis are proposing the theme of a spiritual retreat to help
85 us find hope and joy in the face of today's challenges. John shared their idea for a
86 leader,/presenter, and Board members suggested other possible names.

87 **Concurrent Southern East & West Conferences in 2018** – John introduced the idea of
88 holding winter conferences in both the southeast (Tampa) and southwest (Santa Barbara) next
89 year, based on the strong registration response to the last three southern conferences. Several
90 issues were mentioned in Board discussion, including:

- 91 • The Santa Barbara planning team is willing to work ahead on plans for next year.
- 92 • There seems to be a solid core of retirees in New England and on the west coast who can
93 support conferences, but Marni notes that she sees no such strong nucleus of UU
94 retirees in Florida and the southeast.
- 95 • We would need to decide and reserve 2018 dates with La Casa by the end of the month
96 (Joel does not know if we could get a refund of deposit if plans did not jell.)
- 97 • Board members would have to choose just one of the winter conferences for our face-to-
98 face pre-meeting, and Board registrations are significant for conference numbers.
- 99 • The 2018 Florida conference is unique, being scheduled close geographically and
100 sequentially with the UUMA Institute, so members can attend both.

101 Discussion led to the following consensus: **We will wait and see how the winter conferences**

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102 **in 2017 (Santa Barbara) and 2018 (Tampa) go, and give the newly elected (July 2017)**
103 **Board a chance to assess momentum and decide the question of scheduling concurrent**
104 **conferences. Meanwhile, we will work with La Casa and the current planning committee**
105 **to schedule winter 2019 in Santa Barbara.**

106
107 **BUDGET 2017**

108 There have been no changes in this calendar year's projected budget since Joel submitted
109 it in December. Joel noted that we are approaching time for another ask for donations from our
110 members (*Sec. Note: from the Board calendar for March: Draft spring Appeal Letter for Board*
111 *review, to be mailed in April*).

112 Joel further noted that he has been analyzing 2016 data on who registered for the
113 conferences and whether they also responded to the asks for donations. So far, of 40 household
114 units, he is finding about half (20) did both. These data will be useful for considering the
115 Membership Task Force recommendations. *Marni asked if Joel might be able to get similar*
116 *data for the 2015 Orlando conference*

117
118 **UURMAPA PAMPHLET**

119 Judy W reported that Minuteman Press has delivered 200 colorful pamphlets, and Jim now
120 has 100 to send to new members. Other copies will be available in Santa Barbara. We use this
121 brief handout to tell newcomers and others what UURMaPA is.

122
123 **ITEMS FOR FACE-TO-FACE BOARD AGENDA – SANTA BARBARA**

124 Jim noted that we will defer consideration of the report of the Navias Award Task Force
125 (see Reports) to our next meeting. *He invites suggestions from all of us for our Face-to-Face*
126 *Board Agenda.*

127 Judy W has suggested that a separate task force-type meeting be assembled during the
128 conference to clarify and consider all UURMaPA processes involved with honoring members
129 who have died. (*Sec. Note: People to invite would include: President, Secretary, Membership*
130 *Coordinator, Elderberries Editor, Ministers Obituary Editor, Partners Obituary Editor,*
131 *Connections Chair and Assistant Chair, Conferences Board member (for In Memoriam service),*
132 *Webmaster*).

133
134
135 **NEXT MEETING – Face-to-Face Board Meeting, Santa Barbara,**
136 **Saturday, Feb. 25-Monday, Feb. 27, 2017**
137 **(3-day Conference - Feb. 27-Mar 1, 2017, La Casa)**

138
139 Respectfully submitted,
140 Judy Gibson, Secretary

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144 **REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR January 30, 2017 - UURMaPA BOARD MEETING**

145
146 **President: Jim Eller**

147
148 **Report from Task Force**

149 **RE: Gene Navias Bequest to UURMaPA**

150
151 Carol Taylor, Barry Andrews and I met by phone on January 9th to discuss possible
152 recommendations for the Gene Navias bequest to UURMaPA. We reflected upon Gene's
153 intentionality in giving a bequest to UURMaPA when he could have given this specific bequest
154 to many UUA groups. We offer the UURMaPA board two possible recommendations.

155
156 The first choice for all three of us was to fund the participation of full-time non-ordained
157 religious educators and their partners for one or more UURMaPA conferences such as the fall
158 conferences.

159
160 *We recognized that full-time, non-ordained religious educators were an important part of*
161 *ministry in the UUA—a ministry to which Gene Navias dedicated much of his life. We also*
162 *recognized that after retirement many full-time religious educators were often very isolated from*
163 *this ministry and have no organization like UURMaPA for support in this isolation. Because*
164 *UURMaPA has demonstrated the value and power of gatherings of retired ministers and their*
165 *partners UURMaPA has a great deal to share in valuing the retired ministry of ordained and*
166 *non-ordained members.*

167
168 *All three of us (Barry Andrews, Carol Taylor and Ginger Luke) are willing to help further*
169 *planning to make it possible to allow for the participation of full-time, non-ordained religious*
170 *educators and their partners should the board choose to pursue this recommendation.*

171
172 Our second recommendation was to financially supplement UURMaPA conference presenter's
173 programs containing special emphasis on educational and developmental purposes.

174
175 *We recognized that much of UURMaPA conferencing has a program of educational value.*
176 *Lifting up the educational and developmental purposes as forms of religious education could*
177 *continue to enrich UURMaPA programming for presenters and participants. It is a way of*
178 *naming what we do that could result in enriching what we do.*

179
180 We have a third recommendation and that was to strongly recommend that the Gene Navias
181 bequest should be used for UURMaPA purposes and should not be given to other organizations.
182 We felt strongly that there was a reason Gene chose this bequest to go to UURMaPA rather than
183 to many other avenues for promoting the ministry of religious education.

184
185 Thank you for the opportunity to reflect upon Gene's gift. Please contact me (or Carol or Barry)
186 if you have any questions.

187
188 Blessings,
189 Ginger Luke

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190 301-502-0753

191 Gingerluke.lovely@gmail.com

192

193

194

195 **Vice-President: Marni Harmony**

196

197 Other than being on one call in preparation for the March Retirement Seminar, I have nothing to
198 report.

199

200 **Secretary: Judy Gibson**

201

202 The minutes and reports of the January 3 meeting were sent to all Board members for review,
203 and a revised version with corrections was sent on January 25. If there are no further changes, **I**
204 **ask that the minutes be accepted as presented.**

205

206 **Treasurer: Joel Weaver**

207

208 *See report at end of summary*

209

210 **Newsletter Editor: Judy Welles**

211

212 I sent the Winter, 2017 issue off to the printer two days ago, so hopefully it will be out by the end
213 of this coming week. This was my next-to-last issue (giving up the position one year early to
214 become the next Pres.) and I will miss it.

215 I have started quite a bit of communication with Nancee Campbell, who will take up
216 *Elderberries* when I lay it down. She is a friend and we are in touch anyway, so we're just having
217 a conversation at this point. When we are together in Santa Barbara next month, I plan to spend
218 more time with her and start the more formal transition. There is a lot to learn!

219 Minuteman Press offered us the "holiday gift" of a special deal in January -- an extra 50% on
220 whatever we ordered for letterhead, business cards or envelopes. I took advantage of the offer to
221 order more return envelopes pre-printed with Joel's address on them (for the next three
222 fundraising appeals). Higher math was involved, but I think I saved UURMaPA about \$100 this
223 way.

224 Jim and I revised the tri-fold introductory pamphlet for UURMaPA and I had 200 copies printed,
225 100 of which I sent to Jim so that he can enclose it with his letters of welcome to new
226 UURMaPA members. It is colorful and lively, and I am grateful to the Minuteman team for their
227 work in layout and graphics to make it so appealing. If/when we make changes in our
228 membership procedures, it will need to be revised again; hence the fairly small run this time.

229 I am starting to lay the groundwork for the Spring issue.

230 I

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

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232
233 La Casa 2017. On track, thanks to our outstanding planning team. Nothing new to
234 report.

- 235
236 • Attleboro 2017. As you know, Phyllis and I are leading the planning team for this Fall.
237 Our report on January 3 raised several possible themes.

238
239 After considering them we're proposing a spiritual retreat focused on helping us find
240 hope and joy in the face of the challenges we face today to our deeply held UU values
241 of respect for one another, compassion and justice and our commitment to our planet.

242
243 Our first choice to lead this conversation is Laurel Hallman. We're mindful of her
244 work in the 1990s under the theme "Living by Heart." We would invite her to
245 structure the program as she saw fit, to reach both clergy and partners. We'd plan
246 worship and some of the outings appropriate to the theme.

247
248 Wednesday free-day options might include not only trips into Providence, as in 2016,
249 but trips to historically significant UU sites, and other places where UUs have found
250 beauty and inspiration in the past. We're grateful for Liz Strong's offer after last
251 year's conference to arrange some trips to historically significant UU sites in the area.

252
253 We would welcome comments on these possibilities, and also suggestions of leaders
254 who might help with small groups.

255
256 Looking further ahead. We're thinking of a larger theme, inspired by our 2015 Orlando
257 conference on the 50th anniversary of Selma: the possibility of an UURMaPA role in
258 looking back on the UUA's long and eventually pioneering struggle to welcome sexual
259 minorities into our ministry and membership. We're thinking especially of the period since
260 the Philadelphia GA in 1981 when Gene Pickett called on UUs to take a broad approach to
261 what we now call anti-oppression work, reaching out especially to gays and lesbians.

262
263 We're especially mindful of the upcoming 60th anniversary of Stonewall in 2019.

264
265 In its role as keeper of the memories, UURMaPA is in a good position to draw out the
266 stories of many still available among us whose experience might offer powerful
267 testimony. These could provide material for future books like Gordon Gibson's
268 collection of stories on the civil rights role of our southern churches. We could see
269 this topic being the subject of both an east and west coast conference to draw out the
270 most stories. Our conferences might also be prologue to some larger denominational
271 effort.

272
273 For now we plan to sound out others who may be interested these possibilities, with a
274 view to seeing how they might fit into future conferences.

- 275
276 • Concurrent conferences? Today's agenda includes the question whether, in light of our
277 recent successes on both coasts, UURMaPA could manage concurrent events. We've

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278 been assuming a fall conference at Attleboro, and a winter/spring conference alternating
279 between Florida and Santa Barbara.

280
281 But it would serve more of our growing membership if we could do both east and
282 west coast conferences each year, more or less concurrently. A review of registrations
283 for the upcoming Santa Barbara gathering shows that about 2/3 (44 of 67) come from
284 West Coast states. Even if the remaining third chose a closer conference, in Florida,
285 the 44 west coasters would represent a viable number for La Casa, few if any of
286 whom might prefer Florida. (Though if the board shifted its meeting to Florida, the
287 comparison would be closer.)

288
289 I haven't yet been able to look at the drawing radius for our 2015 conference in
290 Orlando, but suspect that the urge to escape winter weather in the Midwest and
291 northeast, and to tack some vacation time onto an UURMaPA gathering in Florida,
292 would be enough to assure the success of such a conference.

293
294 As to the organizing effort for two conferences, the existing La Casa planning team
295 seems by now to be assuming it will continue, so we would not have to start from
296 scratch each year. We would hope to develop a comparable team for an Orlando
297 conference.

298
299 Reactions?

300
301
302 **Connections Chair: Liz McMaster**

303
304 Wrote Barbara Ten Hove re mother's death (Rollene Wells); wrote Penny Craig re her husband's
305 death (Alexander Craig) in 2014. Not sure why we were so late in getting this information.

306 Wrote Ted and Elizabeth Alcaide, thanking them for their work as CT Valley Connectors. They
307 have resigned due to ill health

308 Talked with Paul Sprecher who has agreed to be Mass Bay Coastal Area Connector. Talked with
309 Nana Kratochvil about replacing Rhett Baird for MidSouth region. She's assuming the role,
310 effective 2/1/17.

311 A belated sympathy card to Jack Crane, son of Lex Crane who died in 2015 but we were just
312 informed of his death.

313 Welcomed Lynda Smith to retirement and informed our Area Coordinator for Ohio (Yvonne
314 Seon)

315 Sent Maj-Britt Johnson's 'intent to retire' form to Ruth Gibson, our local area Connector in NC
316 and wrote welcome note to May-Britt.

317
318 **At-Large Member: Good Offices - Douglas Gallager**

319
320 The Retirement Planning Seminar is fully subscribed (assume 40 registrants, as previously

22
23

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321 reported JMG), with a waiting list. My hope is that this will become routine, much like the First
322 Year Ministry Seminar is, and ministers will expect to take part in one rather automatically. At
323 this point the hope is to offer one every other year. As I've said before, attending this seminar
324 before retirement would have been enormously helpful.

325

326 The UUMA Good Offices Specialist training calls are happening as planned. The training for
327 employer/contracts happened in November. The multi-staff training calls will happen in
328 February. And my specialty, succession, will happen in May.

329

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UURMaPA Finances – December 31, 2016

<u>Ending Account Balance</u>	<u>12/31/2016</u>
Endowment	\$37,353
Money Market	19,208
<u>Checking</u>	<u>41,678</u>
Total	\$98,239

<u>Cash Flow</u>	<u>Dec. Year-to-date</u>	
[INCOME]		
Conference Income-Attleboro	\$0	\$11,650
Conference Income-Santa Barbara	9,580	25,218
GA Luncheon Income	0	690
Interest Income	0	141
Member Contributions	2,825	22,726
Member Donations to Endowment	0	11,250
Retirement Planning Grant	0	14,500
<u>UUMA Subsidy</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000</u>
INCOME TOTAL	<u>\$12,405</u>	<u>\$87,175</u>

[EXPENSE]		
Appeal Expense	\$0	\$1,605
Board Meetings - Room & Board	0	3127
Board Meetings - Transportation	0	4699
Board Member Conference Scholarships	0	2250
Board Misc.	38	338
Conference Costs-Attleboro	0	11242
Conference Costs-Santa Barbara	0	21078
Conference Fee Refund-Attleboro	0	500
Conference Fee Refund-Santa Barbara	900	1675
Conference Scholarships-Attleboro	0	200
Conference Scholarships-Santa Barbara	500	750
Connections Network	0	922
Elderberries Newsletter	0	4127
GA Fees & Misc.	0	205
GA Luncheon Cost	0	2353
GA Room & Board	0	1358
GA Travel	0	723
Peer Support Groups	0	463
President's Expense	0	18
Sageing & Unsung Hero Awards	0	1000
<u>Website Hosting</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,668</u>
EXPENSE TOTAL	<u>\$2,938</u>	<u>\$60,302</u>

NET Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$9,467</u>	<u>\$26,873</u>
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