

Minutes of the ZOOM Conference Board Meeting—Sept. 5, 2017
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

1 Present: Nancee Campbell, Judy Gibson (Judy G), Ginger Luke (by phone), Art Severance,
2 Cathie Severance, Joel Weaver, Judy Welles (Judy W)

3 Absent: Marni Harmony, Diane Miller

4
5 *Note: Board decisions are in bold type. Action items in red italic.*

6
7 CENTERING: Art Severance shared the story of his call to ministry and to service in UURMaPA
8 . **Board members are leading the centering as described in alphabetical order by first**
9 **name.** *Cathie Severance will lead centering for the October meeting.*

10
11 **MEETING MINUTES**

12 Diane Miller, secretary pro-tem for August, sent the minutes to the Board for approval on
13 August 27. **The August minutes and reports were approved.** They have been sent to the
14 webmaster for posting on UURMaPA's website under Governance.

15
16 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

17 Joel indicated that our account balance is good – almost \$94,000. Variances in reported
18 budget are due to the timing of income and expenditures. He confirmed that TMP training
19 expenses will be paid through UURMaPA 's Program Grant, although he anticipates that there
20 may be some unspent funds. *Joel agreed to contact Keith Kron at the UUA to discuss the use*
21 *of any remaining grant funds.*

22
23 **LGBTQ STONEWALL ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCES**

24 Judy W had sent a document for review by the Board regarding reasons for changing the
25 timing of this planned pair of conferences focused on UU history with LGBTQ issues. Originally
26 projected for Fall 2018 and Early Spring 2019, there are several reasons to schedule them later
27 - both in the 2019 year, which is the actual 50th Anniversary year of Stonewall. Considerations
28 in favor of a change included: more time to prepare a grant and get Skinner House on board,
29 more available rooming space in Santa Barbara to accommodate a larger conference, and extra
30 time to arrange for larger accommodations in New England. If the change is made, a new
31 planning team for Attleboro 2018 will need to be named.

32 Following discussion, the **Board voted to shift the LGBTQ-focused conferences to**
33 **early spring and fall of 2019.** *(carried by those in attendance).* John Manwell and Phyllis
34 Hubbell are taking the lead in planning these two conferences. **The Board appointed the**
35 **following members for a sub-committee to work with John and Phyllis: Judy Welles**
36 **(grant preparation), Marni Harmony, Ginger Luke.** *Ginger agreed that she would work on*
37 *identifying a new planning team for Attleboro 2018.*

38 The Board further discussed possibilities for hosting more (outside?) participants for the
39 fall 2019 LGBTQ conference than the La Salette Center can house overnight. Ginger noted the
40 advantages of La Salette's accessibility for our members, and the fact that the Center has larger
41 space in a shrine on their property. Judy W suggested we consider opening the conference to
42 single-day attendance (perhaps 100 more including non-UURMaPAns) on Tuesday just for the
43 program, lunch, and possibly workshops. *Ginger agreed to check with La Salette regarding cost*
44 *and availability of larger spaces for lunch, workshops, etc. She will send the Board an email of*
45 *what she learns.* Nancee offered to look into other possible conference facilities in New
46 England if needed, following the results of Ginger's inquiry.

47 The possibility of a related program for General Assembly 2019 was briefly considered.
48 *Judy W will look into timing and requirements of the GA Program Planning committee so we can*
49 *assess this possibility.* Nancee mentioned that the film "Stonewall" is well worth watching –
50 should be available in the library.

Minutes of the ZOOM Conference Board Meeting—Sept. 5, 2017
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51 **HONORARIA FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTERS**

52 The Board discussed setting guidelines for honoraria for conference keynote program
53 presenters. Past honoraria have varied: UURMaPA members have often served without
54 payment; outside experts we particularly want to hear have received negotiated fees, and travel
55 expenses in addition as needed. Some presenters rely on fees for a living. Gift certificates
56 have sometimes been provided if the presenter refuses an honorarium.

57 The Board discussed a reasonable range for honoraria as a guideline, possibly \$250-
58 \$1500, that could be covered by registration fees - with the option of the Board subsidizing a
59 larger amount in special cases. **The following wording was suggested for discussing**
60 **honoraria with potential presenters: “We are prepared to offer an honorarium, and also**
61 **pay your expenses as needed. How much would be your fee for what we are asking you**
62 **to do in this conference?”** *This information will be added to the revised Conference Planning*
63 *Guidelines on our website, for reference by planning teams.*
64

65 **ASSISTANCE WITH FALL ELDERBERRIES**

66 Since Nancee expects to be scheduled for surgery and rehab soon for a six-week
67 period, she requested assistance from Board members in soliciting articles before the October
68 15 deadline. The following assignments were made, or are already arranged:

69 Personal notes for Time Of Our Lives – *Art via Area Connectors*
70 Report and photos from October 2017 Attleboro conference – *Judy W and Art*
71 British Tour promo and report – *Judy G will get from David Usher*
72 Finance article – *Judy W will get from Richard Nugent*
73 President's Column – *Judy Welles*
74 January 2018 Tampa Conference promo and registration form – *Barbara Child is doing*
75 Partners column – *Eleanor Richardson has agreed to do*
76 Obituaries – *Jay Atkinson and Roger Rochester are working on preparing more; Eleanor*
77 *has agreed to help as needed.*
78 UUA Transitions feature– *Bill Sinkford has agreed to do.*
79

80 **TASK GROUP FOR MEMBERSHIP DOCUMENTATION**

81 *Judy W will talk with Diane Miller about spearheading this effort to check our membership*
82 *lists against UUA retirement lists and identify discrepancies. Nancee agreed to help with this*
83 *project.*
84

85 **LIAISON WITH BRITISH TRIP, May 24-June 3, 2018**

86 *Judy G agreed to serve in this role – will keep in touch with David Usher to monitor*
87 *registration, promotions, etc.*
88

89 **REVIEW OF REVISED WORK CALENDAR**

90 No further changes were identified.
91

92 **OCTOBER MEETING:**

93 Regular first Tuesday is during the Attleboro Conference, and other conflicts have come up for
94 Board members. *Judy W will send out email meeting inquiry to identify a new date that works for most*
95 *or all of us.*

96
97 Respectfully submitted,
98 Judy Gibson, Secretary
99

Minutes of the ZOOM Conference Board Meeting—Sept. 5, 2017
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association
REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 - UURMaPA BOARD MEETING

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President: Judy Welles

Since the August Board meeting, I have done the following:

Written seven letters of welcome to new UURMaPA members.

Written eleven condolence notes.

Sent fifteen personal messages to TMP trainees encouraging them to attend Attleboro Conference as well as training.

Researched the issue of whether and where our UURMaPA Archives are officially located. This has involved many phone calls and e-mail messages. See separate proposal sent to Board 8/5/17.

Instructed Art and Cathie Severance about how to write the obits for conferences.

Talked with Doug Gallager about a final report for the Retirement Seminar.

Been in conversation with Marni about the mid-term TMP grant report.

Had a conference call with Melissa Carvil-Ziemer and Marni about the Family Matters Task Force; also just to maintain a relationship with UUMA during this turmoil.

Advanced the travel brochure for the David Usher trip through Minuteman Press to be folded into the Summer *Elderberries*.

Ordered new letterhead and address labels from Minuteman, and distributed them.

Asked Wayne Arnason to give the Odyssey in Florida (and he has accepted).

Asked Barbara Child to serve on the Florida Conference planning team as Publicity person (and she has accepted).

Contacted President's Office at UUA to discuss Susan Frederick-Gray's attendance at Attleboro (still unresolved, though she is definitely coming some time).

Pending, hopefully before the Board meeting:

I will be the contact person for Rebecca Parker for the Florida Conference.

I'll be making a call to Keith Kron to wrap up some details about the TMP training.

Vice-President: Diane Miller

Peer Groups — Two additional ministers requested to join groups in response to the notice in the Summer edition of *Elderberries*. I now have enough names for two new groups. I will confirm with participants in early September when I get back home. Each group's convener needs to have a Zoom

Minutes of the ZOOM Conference Board Meeting—Sept. 5, 2017
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

132 account. I will ask them to sign up and submit the charge to Joel for reimbursement.

133

134 I now receive the “Intent to Retire” notices from the UUA. I didn’t realize that I would receive them. It
135 has been interesting to get these. I am not aware of any actions taken. Should I or we be responding to
136 the ministers who plan to retire? Who gets these from the UUA?

137

138 I took notes and prepared minutes, with help from Secretary Judy G.

139

140 I have noticed a number of times that our Directory doesn’t have accurate info, with ministers missing
141 on our list who are listed as retired on the UUA.org directory. (An early example for me was trying to
142 find Greta Crosby, retired in Kansas. She was not in our Directory). I propose a small task group to
143 look at a Membership review, perhaps one or two of us to work with Richard Speck, Membership
144 coordinator. My idea was to get a run of UUA data on retired ministers, and UUMA lists, and check
145 them against our Directory. There may be better ways to do this. While there will always be some
146 discrepancies, doing a sweep would help our communications.

147

148

149 **Secretary: Judy Gibson**

150

151 **1. Minutes** – Diane served as Secretary pro-tem in my absence last month, and has sent everyone
152 both a draft for review and a revised set of minutes for approval as of August 26.

153 **2. UUMA-UURMaPA Families in Ministry Task Force** – *Since last month’s minutes noted that I*
154 *should review past minutes on this* - Board’s last information from former President Jim Eller
155 in April, 2017 was that this task force was up and running and would report in about a year. Jim
156 reported that UUMA, UUMPs and UURMaPA should get a report around that time.

157 **3. Death Notice** – Sent one brief announcement for the death of the Rev. Rebecca Blodgett, who
158 was an UURMaPA member.

159 **4. Other member announcements sent** – Summer Elderberries available on the website (8/8/17);
160 Unitarians in England tour for UURMaPA, with link to brochure on the website (8/19/17);
161 Grant Writer needed for a UU grants to support research for LGBTQ history collection and
162 conference series (8/21/17)

163

164 **Treasurer: Joel Weaver**

165 I added a variance from the annual budget column to the report so we could better see where we
166 are year-to-date compared to our budget estimate of the total year.

167 Conference income is as expected for Attleboro, Santa Barbara is low because nearly all income
168 came in at the end of 2016 and Tampa conference has yet to solicit attendee payments.

169 Member contributions are slowing down (only \$700 in August) but seem to be on budget with 1/3 of
170 the year and one more appeal letter to go.

171 Attleboro conference costs will be paid in October.

172 Tampa conference will remain \$6,400 under budget for the year as the Franciscan Center didn’t require
173 as large a deposit as we have experienced at some other conference centers.

174 TMP program training costs will incurred in October and my expectation is that the costs for the year
175 will be several thousand below budget.

Minutes of the ZOOM Conference Board Meeting—Sept. 5, 2017
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177 *Spreadsheet Report on August finances could not be attached – format problems.*

178
179 **Newsletter Editor: Nancee Campbell**

180 This has been a light-ish month for *Elderberries* now that my first issue is out. I got important
181 feedback, and discovered so much during the whole development process. I've continued taking
182 'lessons' to better learn the desktop publishing program I'll be using with the newsletter, and meet with
183 this "desktop wizard" from my congregation at least once a week.

184
185 I also communicated with a widow who wanted to know why her husband's obituary hadn't
186 been in the summer issue. I forwarded her email on to Jay for his response, and I wrote her too.

187
188 I've developed a preliminary list of folks I'd like on my *Elderberries* Advisory Board. If any of
189 you have suggestions of people for that low-impact, opinion-laden task, let me know.

190
191 Unfortunately, most of my month has been consumed by dealing with a difficult medical issue.
192 After much testing, I was diagnosed with cancer of the lower esophagus a couple of weeks ago (JUST
193 prior to my monthly Peer Group call – good timing on my part!). It's in the early stage and can
194 probably all be removed with a specific major surgery.

195
196 The good news – early stage cancer with proven-successful results remedy
197 The bad news – I'll probably be laid up (hospital, rehab, home) for 2 months

198
199 I'd like to have some discussion at our Zoom meeting as to how the fall issue of *Elderberries*
200 can be a more 'collaborative' effort, and what that would look like.

201
202 **At-Large Member: Conferences – Ginger Luke**

203 **Attleboro Fall Conference**

- 204 1. Registration is going well.
- 205 2. Laurel Hallman is the program leader.
- 206 3. Don Robinson is offering his odyssey.
- 207 4. President Susan Gray will be addressing the group by video.
- 208 5. One Field trip will include an historic trip to Walden Pond, the Emerson house and Concord
209 museum all led by Liz Strong. Laurel Hallman will lead a meditation at Walden Pond. Bus
210 transportation will be used for this trip. The second field trip will be a UU architectural tour
211 of Providence. Personal cars will be used for this trip.
- 212 6. Carol Taylor is recruiting and overseeing the worship services.
- 213 7. Ginger Luke and Don Chery are overseeing the hospitality.
- 214 8. The TEMP training will be taking place at Attleboro before we arrive.

215 **Florida February Conference at the Franciscan Retreat Center outside of Tampa**

- 216 1. Rebecca Parker is the program leader. Judy Welles is in contact with her.
- 217 2. Wayne Arnason will be offering the odyssey
- 218 3. Barbara Child is responsible for publicity.

**Minutes of the ZOOM Conference Board Meeting—Sept. 5, 2017
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- 219 4. Sarah Zimmerman is responsibility for hospitality
220 5. Lois Weisner is the registrar.
221 6. Worship leaders and workshop leaders are still to be recruited.
222 7. The Board meeting will be held before the February Conference begins. The Board will be
223 meeting at the Franciscan Retreat Center but will be staying in motels nearby.
224 8. I am trying to schedule a meeting of the planning committee meeting for this conference on
225 September 25 so as to include Marni Harmony who made some of the initial plans.
226 9. There have been questions about an honorarium for Rebecca Parker. Judy Welles is in
227 communication with her about this as will report at the September board meeting.

228 **LGBTQ History Project**

- 229 1. The board will discuss the date for this project. It may be that it will take place on both
230 coasts in 2019 to facilitate more planning and more time for grant writing.
231 2. A question has arisen about whether the panel for these programs and/or the possible book
232 and video emerging should be made up of only LGBTQ people or should include allies. A
233 sub-committee of the board may be appointed to make a recommendation about this.
234 3. Tentative plans are shaping up for some members of the board to visit the Harvard/Andover
235 UU Archives to discuss plans for this project. Judy Welles and Phyllis Hubbell are working
236 on this.
237 4. Many people in the movement have been contacted as the resources for this program grow.
238 These include Mark Belletini, Celest DeRoche, Meg Riley and many others. Phyllis
239 Hubbell would be delighted with any suggestions for more contacts from members of the
240 board.

241

242 **Connections Chair: Art Severance**

243 I've begun the obit process a little late, so am now trying
244 to catch up and get all the info I can. So far I have ?recent? deaths
245 from website of ministers-

- 246 ? The Rev. Rebecca "Becky" Morton Blodgett
247 ? The Rev. Edwin "Ed" A. Lane
248 ? The Rev. Dr. William "Bill" Russell Murry
249 ? The Rev. Alfred James Norman Henriksen
250 ? The Rev. Sandra Gillogly Lee
251 ? The Rev. Joan Kahn-Schneider
252 ? The Rev. Dr. Daniel Greeley Higgins, Jr.
253 ? The Rev. Dr. Robert "Bob" Charles Kimball
254 ? The Rev. Dr. Charles Stedman Stephen, Jr.
255 ? The Rev. Marcia Welsh Schekel
256 ? and also Rev Peggy Clayson.

257 And partners

- 258 ? GERALDINE EDDY (1932 - 2017)
259 ? TERRANCE SHERIDAN (1935 - 2014)
260 ? REBECCA M. BLODGETT (1933 - 2017)

261 Am I missing anyone?

262 Still looking for Area Connectors; I've contacted Liz to find out
263 who she had already asked.

264

265 **At-Large Member: Assistant Connections Chair - Cathie Severance**

Minutes of the ZOOM Conference Board Meeting—Sept. 5, 2017
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266 *Combined with Connections Chair, above*

267

268 **At-Large Member: Good Offices - Marni Harmony**

269 *No report received.*

270