

Minutes of the ZOOM Conference Board Meeting—Oct. 18, 2017
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

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

3
4 *Note: Board decisions are in bold type. Action items in red italic.*

5
6 CENTERING: Cathie Severance shared the story of her call in life and service in UURMaPA .
7 **Board members are leading the centering as described in alphabetical order by first**
8 **name.** *Diane Miller will lead centering for the November meeting.*

9
10 **MEETING MINUTES**

11 **The September minutes and reports were approved.** They have been sent to the
12 webmaster for posting on UURMaPA's website under Governance.

13
14 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

15 Joel reported that our budget is in fine shape. He estimates we may need to subsidize
16 the Attleboro conference about \$1,400-1,500. He noted that since UURMaPA holds the TMP
17 grant funds, Keith Kron will need to be in touch with Joel for any further expenditures beyond
18 the recent training. He confirmed that a special collection for Beacon House on behalf of
19 Attleboro's Odyssey presenter Donald Johnson yielded \$2,270 – this amount has now been
20 donated. A second offering was taken during the business meeting at Attleboro. *(Secretary's*
21 *note: After this meeting at the President's request, Joel reported the following: "At the Attleboro*
22 *Conference we received 12 checks totaling \$1820 in donations to UURMaPA. We also received*
23 *15 pledges totaling \$2750 in annual donations.")*

24
25 **FUNDRAISING LETTER**

26 Since we did not send the second UURMaPA fundraising letter to members in early
27 October as planned, Judy W led the Board in deciding how to proceed. Members agreed to
28 target the appeal for the end of October, along with a pledge form. *Judy W will draft the letter,*
29 *and Marni volunteered to review.* *(Secretary's note: I am sending the draft donation form drawn*
30 *up earlier to both for review/revision and use with the letter.)*

31
32 **FALL ELDERBERRIES**

33 Nancee reported that she has recruited two more new members to her Advisory
34 Committee. She has been working on the next issue, which is moving along, as she awaits her
35 surgery appointment in Boston. She is thinking of expanding info from David Usher for a feature
36 article about the British Tour.

37
38 **BRITISH TOUR - May 24-June 3, 2018**

39 Judy G noted that as Board contact for this event, she has been in touch with David Usher and
40 has posted twice on Announce with a link to the trip brochure and registrations forms, most recently on
41 October 2. David has sent a couple of versions of a possible Elderberries article, including
42 testimonials from the Walnut Creek UU group that just finished a British tour with David as guide.
43 *Judy G has forwarded all the info she has to Nancee.* David says he has not heard from the tour
44 company of any registrations or inquiries from UURMaPAns so far, but he states it is still early to
45 expect them.

46 Judy W reminded the Board that this event is a win-win, since David volunteered to lead it and
47 the Discover Europe company will donate some funds to us if it goes, and we lose nothing if it does
48 not go.

52 **UNsung UURMAPAN AWARD**

53 Judy W noted that the recipient we selected was not in attendance at the Attleboro Conference,
54 and so did not receive the award. **Board members agreed that it should be awarded at the Tampa**
55 **Conference (Jan. 29-Feb. 1, 2018) if possible, or alternatively at the next fall Attleboro**
56 **Conference. Following discussion, we agreed that it would be OK to inform the recipient**
57 **ahead of time of the intended award, but keep it a surprise for others. *Marni and Diane both***
58 ***agreed to talk with the recipient, and urge attendance at the Tampa Conference.***

60 **TAMPA IN-PERSON BOARD MEETING ARRANGEMENTS**

61 Since the Franciscan Center is booked for the weekend and we cannot stay there, Marni had
62 researched and shared possible lodging options for Board members (and partners as relevant) for the
63 nights of Saturday and Sunday, January 27-28, 2018, including costs, airport shuttle, breakfast, and
64 reviews. **Board members agreed that the EconoLodge would be fine, with modest cost for the**
65 **two overnights needed.** Marni reminded us that we will have space for Board meetings at the
66 Franciscan Center, and she (and others of us, including the Gibsons) will have cars and can assist
67 with shuttle to meals (Cheesecake Factory?) and meetings.

68 Marni followed up by email to give us info, and ***each Board member should make their own***
69 ***reservations soon (EconoLodge Airport at RJ Stadium, January 27-28, 2018) via their favorite discount***
70 ***site.*** She noted that hotels tend to fill up for winter times in Florida.

71 *(Secretary's note: Each of us should also go ahead and register for the Tampa Conference as*
72 *soon as we get the form included in the Fall Elderberries. No registration fee for Board members*
73 *should be sent with form, though non-Board companions pay the fee. For full info, see Operating*
74 *Procedures, lines 181-188 under MEETINGS.)*

76 **WORKSHOP IDEA FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018**

77 Before the meeting, Diane sent Board members an idea to consider for proposing a workshop
78 for GA 2018 in Kansas City, MO. She asked *"Should we propose a workshop for GA 2018 in Kansas*
79 *City? The Theme is "All Are Called." What topic? Diane's view is that the obvious topic would be*
80 *GLBTQIA subject matter, relating to our upcoming conferences. Are there other possible topics to*
81 *consider? Time is of the essence. **The proposal deadline is Wednesday, Nov 1, 2017 at 3 PM***
82 ***EDT.***" She also noted that the guiding question most relevant to us might be #3. *"What can we mine*
83 *from our Unitarian Universalist legacy, theology, history, and tradition that will strengthen and sustain*
84 *us in living out our mission? What guidance can we lift up from contemporary Unitarian Universalists*
85 *whose identities and perspectives have not historically been at the center of our faith? In what ways*
86 *does our legacy present challenges and impediments to answering our call- and what shall we do to*
87 *address them?"*

88 Ginger made several strong points that progress toward identifying program planning for our two
89 2019 LGBTQIA conferences is not that far along, and Phyllis Hubbell is still looking for suggestions
90 and cannot take on responsibility for a GA program. However, Judy W noted that UURMaPA is
91 pioneering the idea of collecting, sharing and publishing stories of our denominational role in
92 addressing these issues. Most Board members felt perhaps we should wait until the 2019 GA,
93 although by then we may have a less attractive theme and fewer options.

94 Respecting Ginger's feedback, however, Marni suggested and the Board finally agreed on the
95 following simplified process: ***Diane will ask Mark Belletini if he might be willing to address a***
96 ***2018 GA workshop on our UU history with LGBTQIA issues, and will also ask if the UUMA will***
97 ***co-sponsor such a workshop. If she gets a "yes" from both, she will very soon send a draft***
98 ***proposal to the Board for consideration, in light of the Nov. 1 deadline.*** We noted there is a
99 good possibility that we may be turned down by the GA Program Committee, but it is worth a
100 try.

104 **LGBTQIA FOCUSED CONFERENCE PLANNING FOR 2019**

105 Ginger reported that Phyllis Hubbell is still working on assembling a program planning team for
106 these two anniversary-year conferences. She would welcome suggestions for names who could
107 represent our LGBTQIA UU population and have input in the programmatic aspects of the
108 conferences. *Board members are asked to communicate suggestions to Phyllis, which may include*
109 *non-retired ministers.*

110 The Board confirmed that Phyllis Hubbell is not responsible for aspects of the west coast
111 conference other than programming.

112
113 **BOARD CALENDAR**

114 Judy W noted that the Board calendar for November includes consideration of a draft budget for
115 the next calendar year. *Joel was asked to prepare a draft for our consideration, and we will spend*
116 *some time on this item.*

117
118 **DATES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETINGS**

119 The following dates were confirmed by the Board for our next two months:

120 **Wednesday, November 15**, 1½ hour meeting

121 beginning time 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 noon, 1:00 pm (Pacific-Eastern zones as relevant)

122 **Wednesday, December 13**, 1½ hour meeting

123 beginning time 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 noon, 1:00 pm (Pacific-Eastern zones as relevant)

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125
126 Respectfully submitted,
127 Judy Gibson, Secretary

128

129 **REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR OCTOBER 18, 2017 - UURMaPA BOARD MEETING**

130
131 **President: Judy Welles**
132

133 I wrote three welcome letters to new members, and four condolence notes, and followed up
134 with our treasurer for *in memoriam* gifts.

135 I (along with Ginger Luke and Phyllis Hubbell) met with two of the three full-time archivists at
136 Andover Harvard Theological Library in Cambridge. More about that in the President's column in the
137 Fall *Elderberries*. My first visit to Harvard Divinity School, and I was duly awed.

138 I've had a lot of correspondence and conversation with Phyllis Hubbell about the 2019
139 conferences, Skinner House and a possible book, the grant application due to the UU Funding Panel by
140 March 15, and so forth. Phyllis wants to be sure that gays and lesbians have a voice in this whole
141 project, but we're stuck finding someone "who speaks for the UU GLBTQ ministers." Phyllis and I
142 need to clarify the vision before we bring other entities into the conversation.

143 Though it was my third time at the Attleboro Conference, this was my first as President. I was
144 surprised to learn that I felt I had to be "on" nearly all the time — talking with folks I knew less well,
145 thinking ahead about what had to be done before the end of the day, hosting Susan Frederick-Gray,
146 planning the agenda for (and running) the business meeting on Thursday morning... it was a lot.

147 *Nevertheless, I did manage to completely forget the awarding of the Unsung UURMaPAn*
148 *Award at Attleboro. The intended recipient wasn't there. It's on the agenda for us to discuss what to*
149 *do about this.*

150 Also on my list of things-I-should-have-done-but-didn't, I haven't written the fundraising letter
151 that we usually send out at the beginning of October. How to make up the timing on this is also on the
152 agenda.

153
154 **Vice-President: Diane Miller**
155

156 PEER GROUPS. I have contacted those who have expressed interest in participating in peer groups and
157 am now working on setting up the first ZOOM meeting. I am behind where I wanted to be on this
158 project.

159
160 UUA GA 2018. The GA Office has sent out its planning memo for June 2018 in Kansas City MO. I will
161 set up the luncheon reservation on their schedule.

162
163 MEMBERSHIP. Conclusion: I do not think we need to do a comparison of the UUA database and the
164 UURMAPA lists.

165 Our Membership info, like all membership lists, accumulates out of date info. I met by phone
166 this week with Richard Speck to do a review of the flow of steps involved, and whether we might go
167 about checking our list against UUA and possibly UUMA data.

168 I have reviewed the process and practices on our Membership lists with Richard Speck by
169 telephone. Richard has been the UURMAPA Membership person for a couple years, and is up for doing
170 it for a couple more years, at which point he'd like it handed off to a younger person.

171 The completed UUA Intent to Retire form initiates entrance into UURMAPA membership.
172 Richard receives the form sent by the UUA, and adds the person & partner/spouse to the Database, two
173 Directories (Membership and Connections), and the email distribution list.

174 People sometimes ask to be removed from some or all mailings, emails, and/ or public listings.

175 If he gets an email removal, Richard follows up to make sure it was intentional. Some removal requests
176 come from families when a member can't handle email or Elderberries. Richard notes the request in the
177 database, where the person is put on a "removed" list. This accounts for a couple people I couldn't find
178 in the Directory. They remain members by default, but aren't listed with contact information.

179 Updates on contact information are NOT provided to UURMAPA from UUA or UUMA when
180 changes are sent there. Updates come from our members themselves, and often from UURMAPA board
181 members, area connectors, our Treasurer, or active participants who send them to Richard.

182 Death notices from UUA initiate several responses. The person is removed from the Directory,
183 listed as deceased in the database, and removed from public listings. Richard also does these steps. He
184 is able to provide a record of death from the deceased list when requested, and also sometimes does
185 some sleuthing to gather information as needed.

186 At this time there are 797 households listed, both singles and couples. There are 1187
187 individuals in the database. (This is up from the 1099 total in the most recent report I saw).

188 Community Ministers might be less likely to know about the UUA Intent to Retire form, and
189 Richard thought a note to the CM organizations might be useful. Does the Board think this will be
190 fruitful?

191 Membership is handled according to the sections in bylaws and Operating Manual. The above
192 description is the operational ways Richard manages it digitally.

193
194

195 **Secretary: Judy Gibson**

196

- 197 **1. Minutes** – Revised minutes and reports for the Sept. 5 Board meeting were sent to all Board
198 members on October 3 – as reminders for action follow-up, and for review for revision or
199 approval.
- 200 **2. Death Notices** – Four death notices were sent on Announce since the last meeting – Peggy
201 Clason, Robert West, Carl Whittier, and John Wolf.
- 202 **3. Honoraria for Conference Keynote Presenters** – The Board's recommendations from the last
203 meeting were summarized and added to the revised Conference Planning Guidelines. These
204 updated guidelines are now available for reference on the UURMaPA website under
205 ACTIVITIES.
- 206 **4. British Tour** – I connected with David Usher before he left to lead a tour for Walnut Creek UUs
207 that follows the same as our itinerary. He reported no UURMaPA tour inquiries or registrations
208 to date at that point. I put out a second Announce notice on October 2 to remind our members
209 of the opportunity. David has drafted a Fall Elderberries article, and I have sent him some
210 suggestions for possible additions and revisions before the Oct. 15 deadline.
- 211 **5. UURMaPA Followup - Intent to Retire** – All Board members and the Membership
212 Coordinator are receiving notices of Intent to Retire submissions so that we can follow up and
213 welcome these people (clergy and partners, as applicable) to UURMaPA membership. For
214 everyone's review, here is a summary of the actions:

215 The Ministry and Faith Development Office sends a copy of the Intent to Retire form to
216 UURMaPA Board members and the Membership Coordinator, to start the membership
217 process.

218 The retiring minister and his/her partner, if any, are added to the membership database,
219 to the Directory (including the Connector Area list), and to the Announce-List by the

220 Membership Coordinator.
221 The President sends a Welcome Letter to the new retiree, including our brochure.
222 Information on accessing the Newsletter, Retirement Guide and Directory online is
223 included.
224 The Connections Chair or Assistant Connections Chair alerts the Area Connector of the
225 new retiree in their area.
226 Prior to GA, the Vice-President (as GA liaison) will invite the minister and partner to the
227 luncheon held there.

228
229

230 **Treasurer: Joel Weaver**

231
232 *Spreadsheet Report on September finances could not be attached – format problems.*
233

234

235 **Newsletter Editor: Nancee Campbell**

236
237 This has been a busy month, time primarily taken up with doctor appointments in Maine
238 and Boston. However, *Elderberries* is moving right along, and I'll have the newsletter to the
239 printers before I head to Boston for surgery...

240

241 Once I got diagnosed with esophageal cancer (end of July), I contacted Judy Welles
242 immediately because I was concerned about the newsletter. After our conversation, I contacted
243 Eleanor Richardson (former Editor) to see if she could help me with putting it all together. She
244 lives near me, and was apologetic that the most she could do was write a partner's column
245 because her husband still needed help. I have that in hand.

246

247 I contacted Bruce Bierce, a friend from my congregation in Augusta. He's an expert in desktop
248 publishing and agreed to help me with the graphic aspect of *Elderberries*. I'm doing all the
249 editing and layout, and he'll make it look pretty... I still need a cover story.

250

251 I was heartsick to miss Attleboro, but pleased it was such a good conference. I have some
252 pictures Art and Eleanor sent me, **but will certainly need more**. And please be sure to tell me
253 who the people are in the photos because I don't know them.

254

255 By the time we talk tomorrow I should know if my major surgery will be scheduled at Dana
256 Farber in Boston on Oct. 30th or Nov. 6th.

257

258 **At-Large Member: Conferences – Ginger Luke**

259
260 The TMP (Targeted Ministry Program) held a training at LaSalette Center in Attleboro, MA on Sunday,
261 October 1 and 2. It was led by Keith Kron and David Pyle of the UUA. Barbara Child, Barbara ten

262 Hove, Barbro Hanssen, Janet Newman, Tom Chulak, Beth Miller, and Ginger Luke participated.
263
264 The Fall 2017 Attleboro Fall Conference was a great success. 67 people registered. Laurel Hallman
265 offered a very moving program and workshop helping us deal with our spirits in these troubled times.
266 Don Robinson's odyssey was a gift of history and moving story of hope and love.
267
268 President Susan Frederick-Gray joined us for lunch, shared her commitment to listen, to support the
269 UUA staff and to lead us in these troubled times.
270
271 Liz Strong led 27 to Emerson's House and Walden Pond , where Laurel Hallman led a meditation.
272 Three car loads of people explored landscape architecture in Providence. Judy Welles, Phyllis Hubbell
273 and Ginger Luke delivered UURMaPA archives to the Andover/Harvard Archives Library and met
274 with staff there.
275
276 The workshops went well and we sent 12 notes of care to people who could not join us.
277
278 A UURMaPA business meeting was held on October 5. Minutes of that meeting will be available on
279 the UURMaPA website.
280
281 Carol Taylor has agreed to be the conference coordinator for Fall 2018 and has already created a team
282 of Barbro Hanssen, Cathie and Art Severance and Dawn Chung.
283
284 The 2018 Winter UURMaPA Conference at the Franciscan Retreat Center outside of Tampa's planning
285 team had a Zoom meeting on September 26. Those at the meeting set the registration fees at \$300 for
286 singles; \$260 for doubles and \$160 for commuters.
287
288 Barbara Child created a flyer with a description of Rebecca Parker's "Ministry and the Broken Hearted:
289 Healing Moral Injury" and registration form to hand out at the Fall 2017 Attleboro Conference and
290 gave a very lively invitation as to why all should come.
291
292 The Franciscan Center in Tampa weathered the hurricane well.
293
294 Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, the acting director of the UUMA will meet with UURMaPA on Tuesday,
295 January 30, 2018. Also on that Tuesday, a panel of ministerial candidates from the area will join us in a
296 conversation and Rebecca Parker will lead a workshop.
297
298 Richard Speck will handle audio visual assistance and help us video tape some of the programming.
299
300 Barbara Child will have flyer and registration forms to Nancee Campbell by October 15 for the
301 Elderberries deadline.
302
303 Work on the LGBTQ History Project for programming for the Winter 2019 UURMaPA Conference and
304 the Fall 2019 continues under the direction of Phyllis Hubbell and John Manwell. If it is decided that
305 the Fall 2019 conference is held at Attleboro, MA the LaSalette Retreat Center does have a program
306 auditorium which can hold over 100 people and they are also capable of feeding over a 100 in their
307 Shrine facilities.
308
309 The staff at the Andover/Harvard Archives Library was very interested in supporting the LGBTQ

310 History Project with access and information.

311

312 Further zoom meetings of the planning committee are scheduled for November 13 at 2 pm EST and
313 December 4 at 4 pm EST. Plans for these meetings will include setting the schedule and recruiting
314 worship leaders for the conference and reviewing dates and information for the e-blasts.

315

316 As soon as the registration forms get on the website we will want all the board members who will be
317 attending to submit the registration forms so we have a complete list of participants and you get all the
318 communication that goes out to registrants.

319

320 **Connections Chair: Art Severance**

321

322 The major job is over; list and obituaries for Fall Conference! As luck would have it, my 50th High
323 School Reunion in Laconia, NH was the weekend before Attleboro, so I could do both reunion and
324 Attleboro with one flight from San Antonio.

325 Sent 3 retirement connections, and at the request of Barbara Childs, info and registration forms to
326 Area Connectors.

327 We're still somewhat overwhelmed with house and Cathie's going back and forth to Austin to
328 help with the 3 grandchildren.

329

330

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

332 *See Connections Report – above.*

333

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

335

336 I participated in the conference call to begin organizing the winter conference in Tampa. To remind
337 everyone, the Board members will have to stay in a hotel for two nights (Jan. 27-28) since the retreat
338 center is full with another group. (We will, however, be having our meeting at the retreat center.) We
339 will plan to have Sunday lunch and dinner and Monday lunch at the retreat center.

340 I am a bit dismayed by what I've located for possible hotels close to the retreat center. I've found two
341 possibilities, both of which offer continental breakfast and courtesy shuttle from the airport. The
342 EconoLodge will be \$84 +tax per night; the Tampa Stadium Hotel will be \$120 +tax per night. The
343 reviews of both of these hotels are rather poor. To get something nicer (Courtyard by Marriot, eg, is
344 \$240 +tax per night, courtesy shuttle but no breakfast) really jacks up the price. Alas it's January in
345 Tampa and close to the gulf.

346 Since I advise making reservations early (it's January), I hope you will be prepared to say whether you
347 can deal with very basic accommodations for the two nights.

348

349 I have set up the first meeting of the Joint UURMAPA/UUA/UUMA Fifth Season Task Force, to be
350 held Nov. 1. Members: Alicia Forde (UUA), Wayne Arnason (UURMaPA), Susan Manker-Seale
351 (UUMA), Janette Lallier (UUMA), and me.

352

353 I also participated in a planning meeting of the UUMA Life Cycle project, where I am representing
354 "Fifth Season" ministers. (You may recall that I represented us at a gathering in May 2016 developing
355 a Life Cycle of Ministry model. There is now funding and planning for a 2 year pilot program.)

356

357