

Minutes of the ZOOM Conference Board Meeting—Nov. 15, 2017
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

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

3 Absent: Nancee Campbell

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

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7 CENTERING: Diane Miller shared the 5 minute story of her call to ministry and service to
8 UURMaPA . **Board members are leading the centering as described in alphabetical order**
9 **by first name.** *Ginger Luke will lead centering for the December meeting.*

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12 **MEETING MINUTES**

13 **The October minutes and reports were approved** (*Judy G moved, Diane seconded.*).
14 They have been sent to the webmaster for posting on UURMaPA's website under Governance.

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17 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

18 Regarding his regular monthly financial report, Joel noted that we are on track based on
19 this year's budget, and may see a bump in income in response to the recent fundraising letter.
20 He also had sent Board members in advance of the meeting nine pages of draft preliminary
21 budget information (including a balance sheet and preliminary budget, plus conference details
22 and on-site Board meeting details). Some items discussed focused primarily on conferences,
23 including: possible increased cost per person at the Attleboro center, which conference leaders
24 receive funding, honorariums expected, and projected costs for sending two Board members to
25 GA.. *Judy W suggested that she, Joel and Ginger can give further detailed consideration to*
26 *conference items outside the meeting.* No grants are yet included in income projections, but a
27 UU Funding Grant will be requested (probably the \$20,000 max) for the LGBTQI conferences,
28 and should be added. At this point, Joel predicts a deficit of about \$5000 for this fiscal year.
29 The 2018 budget is scheduled to be approved in our December meeting.

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32 **COLLABORATIVE CLERGY SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

33 As our liaison to the UUMA and UUA, Marni reported on two areas:

- 34 1. **Deepening: Clergy Renewal & Continuing Education** is a collaborative program by the Life
35 Cycles of Ministry team including the UUA, UUMA, and UURMaPA with funding by the
36 UUA and the Unitarian Universalist Funding Panel. Marni serves on the team creating this
37 program, focusing specifically on the fourth phase (called the Fifth Season) - elders in partial or
38 full retirement. The overall purpose is to ascertain if indeed we collectively are providing
39 support for UUMA members in all stages of their career. Deepening is scheduled to begin a
40 pilot program with the first of three retreats on August 3-5, 2018, and is seeking 10-12
41 ministers in each of the four phases of ministry to participate, primarily recruited from the
42 Central East Region of the UUA. So hopefully, a dozen retired ministers will participate.
- 43 2. **Clergy Housing Allowances** – Marni talked with Richard Nugent of the UUA regarding the
44 pending legal question of whether housing allowances are indeed in conflict with the 1st
45 Amendment. Whatever the outcome of court action, Richard believes no change will happen
46 before 2020.

47 Also, in response to questions from both Marni and Cathie regarding access to *UURMaPA's current*
48 *membership and Area Connections lists, we reiterated that both of these lists are updated regularly*
49 *and accessible on our website, www.uurmapa.org, under Directories with the password WISDOM (all*
50 *caps).*

51 **CONFERENCE UPDATES**

52 **Winter 2018 – Tampa: Franciscan Center, Jan. 29-31. 2018 (Board meeting Jan 27-29)**

53 The conference planning team has confirmed a Tuesday schedule that includes a keynote by Rebecca
54 Parker, “Ministry and the Broken Hearted: Healing Moral Injury,” followed by three conversations:

- 55 • Conversation with Rebecca Parker on “Spiritual Grounding for Dangerous Times”
- 56 • Conversation with Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Acting Executive Director of the UU Ministers Association, on
57 “The Future of the UUMA”
- 58 • Conversation with 3 Candidates for UU Ministry on “The Future of UU Ministry”

59 **The Board agreed by consensus to support the Candidates’ participation by offering them**
60 **lunch plus travel expenses, up to \$50.** Two worship leaders are still to be named, as well as
61 helpers with hospitality. *Send Ginger suggestions for possible recruits.*

62 *(Secretary’s reminder: Each of us should now go ahead and register for the Tampa Conference*
63 *- see the form included in the Fall Elderberries or on the website under ACTIVITIES. No registration*
64 *fee for Board members should be sent with form, though non-Board companions pay the fee. For full*
65 *info, see Operating Procedures, lines 181-188 under MEETINGS.)*

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67 **Fall 2018 – Attleboro – La Salette Conference Center (or possible alternative), dates TBA**

68 Carol Taylor, who is chairing the planning team, is looking into alternative sites. Attleboro has
69 been a long-time site for UURMaPA east conferences, but offers no wheel-chair accessible
70 bathrooms. There may not be a change in site before 2019.

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72 **Winter 2019 – Santa Barbara – La Casa de Maria, dates TBA**

73 This will be the first of our LGBTQI-focused conferences. **The Board confirmed our decision**
74 **that this conference will be longer (3 nights, 4 days).** Marni and Judy W are working with Phyllis
75 Hubble on programming (the Board is responsible for planning other aspects of this conference). *Judy*
76 *W and Dorothy Emerson will be writing a support grant for the UU Grants Panel.*

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78 **PROPOSED WORKSHOP FOR GA 2018 – Kansas City**

79 Following discussion of this possibility last month, Diane posted a proposal to the GA Planning
80 Committee by deadline for a workshop with Mark Belletini on UU LGBTQI history, co-sponsored with
81 UUMA. (See her attached report). She acknowledged that it may not be accepted, but if it is (Dec. or
82 Jan.) there is opportunity for amendment. With some financial support promised by UUMA, our
83 expenses for Mark’s costs should be minimal (est. \$155). **The Board approved Diane’s work on the**
84 **GA application by consensus.**

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86 **REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATES**

87 The Board agreed that the Wednesday mid-day timing works well for all, and confirmed that
88 **Zoom Board meetings through June 2018 will be second Wednesday of each month, beginning**
89 **10:00 am Pacific, 11:00 am Mountain, 12:00 noon Central or 1:00 pm Eastern time (according to**
90 **zone).** *All Board members should mark their calendars accordingly.* Any necessary shifts in this
91 schedule will be considered as they happen.

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93 **DECEMBER MEETING**

94 **Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 1½ hour meeting**
95 beginning time 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 noon, 1:00 pm (Pacific-Eastern zones as relevant)

96 Agenda items will include:

- 97 • Navias Award
- 98 • Connections functions
- 99 • Santa Barbara 2019 LGBTQIA Conference – preferred dates.

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102 Respectfully submitted,

103 Judy Gibson, Secretary

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105 **REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2017 - UURMaPA BOARD MEETING**

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107 **President: Judy Welles**

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109 Most of my presidential duties this month have involved phone and e-mail conversations with Phyllis
110 Hubbell and Ginger Luke about the 2019 conferences. This is actually a huge project, and one that we
111 will probably all have some involvement with eventually.

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113 I wrote four condolence notes on behalf of UURMaPA, and sent my summer quarter and fall quarter
114 lists of notes written to Jay Atkinson, Roger Rochester, Richard Speck and Judy Gibson to cross-check
115 to be sure I hadn't missed anyone. So far so good... I am also the person who asks Joel to send a
116 memorial gift to either the UUMA Endowment or a location of the deceased's choice. Art and Cathie,
117 as Connections Chairs, notify the local Connections Coordinator that there has been a death in their
118 area and ask that person to be in contact with the family.

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120 I wrote the Fall fundraising letter and made arrangements with Minuteman for printing and mailing it.
121 We received ours about a week ago; I hope you have received yours as well.

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123 As best I can recall (chemo brain reigns!), these are my Presidential activities since the last Board
124 meeting.

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126 **Vice-President: Diane Miller**

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128 Possible GA Program 2018 on LGBTQ history. Following our conversation in October, I submitted a
129 proposal for a GA program in Kansas City. A copy is attached. The minutes captured our uncertainty
130 and the unknowns. The idea was that I would bring it back to the Board, which I didn't manage to do. I
131 resolved the unknowns as best I could and posted a proposal by the deadline.

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133 The process now is that the GA Planning Committee will select proposals and reply in January. So our
134 proposal may be chosen, or not. If it is selected, the plan can be amended at that point, before the GA
135 program is printed.

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137 Answers to questions raised:

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139 • Theme for GA 2019 in Spokane. The 2018 theme, "All Are Called," fits our topic. We wondered
140 if 2019 would be a better fit. I contacted the GA Planning office about the theme. It hasn't been
141 chosen yet – that happens Sept 2018.
- 142 • Speaker. I contacted Mark Belletini to see if he would do a lecture. Mark had just completed the
143 Mark DeWolfe lecture in Toronto, and was on a book deadline, so it took us a while to connect
144 by phone. Mark was thinking he will attend Ministry Days in Kansas City, and is not going to
145 attend Spokane in 2019. He didn't think he could stay beyond Ministry Days without some
146 funding.
- 147 • I checked by email with Joel, Judy, and Marni who didn't think we had any tradition of paying
148 fees for program apart from our theme speakers for the conferences.
- 149 • Co-sponsorship with UUMA. I spoke by phone with Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Executive
150 Director pro tem, who said sure, they would gladly co-sponsor and contribute a few hundred
151 dollars.

- 152 • Mark and I talked about possible content, and he was full of ideas. The Mark DeWolfe lecture
153 did not seem to fit for the GA workshop. The idea was a more broad brush look at the transition
154 through his experience.
- 155 • Submission of proposal. The deadline was upon me and I was spending the week with my
156 mother, so I filled in blanks with the best information I had at the time, and submitted it. A copy
157 is attached to my report.
- 158 • Melissa suggested we make the program broader, and include other voices. I plugged in Marni
159 without checking with her. She is not planning to attend GA in 2018, so we need another
160 person.
- 161 • One reason to go with a lecture and not a panel is that all speakers need to be registered for that
162 day of GA, at \$155 per person, plus UUMA members should be offered a speaker fee and
163 expenses. If the program is accepted, the strong preference is to do it the first full day of GA, to
164 minimize expense of being at GA.

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166 GA Luncheon and Award. Proposal underway. I invite your suggestions for a Creative Sageing
167 nominees.

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169 Unsung UURMAPAN Award to Ellen Brandenburg. Marni brought this together quickly after our
170 meeting, and Ellen will be given the award in January.

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173 **Secretary: Judy Gibson**

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- 175 1. **Minutes** – Minutes and reports for the October Board meeting were sent to all Board members
176 on Nov. 7 – as reminders for action follow-up, and for review for revision or approval.
- 177 2. **Death Notices** – Five death notices were sent on Announce since the last meeting – Donald
178 McKinney, Helen Pickett (p), Jerry Goddard, Richard Gay, and Richard Allen.
- 179 3. **Other Announcements** – The membership was also sent an announcement about the webcast
180 of Mark Belletini’s Canadian lecture, and an advance promotion for the Tampa Conference.
- 181 4. **Operating Procedures updated** – Some wording updates were made in Operating Procedures
182 based on the last few months’ Board decisions, and the updated version is now posted online for
183 your reference.
- 184 5. **British Tour Report** – David Usher reports that the Discover Europe agency has not yet
185 received any registrations for the UURMaPA British Tour scheduled for May. Perhaps since it
186 will be featured in the coming fall Elderberries, some people may sign up.
- 187 6. **“UURMaPA Factoids”** – Based on the questions I am getting in my email from members, I
188 suggest we start having a small regular feature in future *Elderberries* – short bits of info about
189 how our organization works. This is fresh info for lots of new members, and a reminder for the
190 regulars. Example: “How do retired ministers and partners become members of UURMaPA?”
191 I would be glad to provide these for Nancee, and she can fit them in as “fillers.”

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193 **Treasurer: Joel Weaver**

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195 *Spreadsheet Report on October finances and Preliminary 2018 Budget sheets could not be attached –*
196 *format problems*

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Newsletter Editor: Nancee Campbell

Dear colleagues -- I still sit here at Brigham & Women's hospital in Boston, and I had fully expected to return to Maine yesterday, in plenty of time for our Zoom meeting. However, my recovery hit a 'pothole' and I had another surgical procedure yesterday. I won't be leaving the hospital until Thur. or Fri., and I can't guarantee that I'll be available for tomorrow's Board meeting. Don't wait for me, but if I can get to a place where I can join you from the hospital, I will.

Just a few minutes ago I sent a note to the printer to forward the final pdf of *Elderberries* to Duane for web distribution. I thought that had already happened, as I submitted the final pdf on Nov. 1, hours before I left for the hospital. I've been looking for it ever since... I apologize if I was supposed to send it to Duane -- I thought the print shop did that. In any case, they now have Duane's email and it should be in his box today.

I tried my best with this issue of *Elderberries*, but it's not my most stellar effort because of this cancer illness. I promise I'll do better... I'm continuing to develop my own *Elderberries* Advisory Committee. Barbara Child just sent me today a revised article about the Tampa conference, hoping to get it in the newsletter instead of the one she sent before and that is published. Would it be possible to send her new article (1 1/2 pages) out on UURMaPA ANNOUNCE?

That's the end of my energy for now... Hope I'll see y'all tomorrow, but send my love anyway.

At-Large Member: Conferences – Ginger Luke

Tampa Winter 2018 Conference – The planning team has a Zoom meeting on Monday, November 13 during which we will be working on the schedule for the Winter 2018 Conference. I will report on the results of that meeting during the board zoom meeting on November 15.

All board members are encouraged to be making hotel reservations for the Econolodge Airport at RJ Stadium in Tampa for Saturday, January 27 and 28.

East Coast Fall 2018 Conference –Carol Taylor and her team are looking into sites for this conference because Attleboro doesn't meet all the accessibility needs of our group. If any board members have suggestions for retreat centers in the Attleboro or even Mideast coast area, please let Carol Taylor know. There are no current recommendations to change sites from LaSalette in Attleboro, but there might be.

LGBTQ History Project Conference – Santa Barbara 2019— and East Coast 2019---The planning team needs to know whether the Santa Barbara 2019 conference will be for 3 nights and 4 days or 2 nights and 3 days. It will make a big difference in their program planning. I think they would prefer 3 nights and 4 days because that is what will be on the east coast, but how long the conference will be held is a board decision.

Marni Harmony has agreed to partner with Phyllis Hubbell to lead these two conferences. Letters of invitation have gone out to prospective planning team people.

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Connections Chair: Art Severance

No report received

At-Large Member: Assistant Connections Chair - Cathie Severance

No report received

At-Large Member: Good Offices - Marni Harmony

Talked to the recipient of this year’s Unsung UURMaPAN Award, who now plans to attend the Winter conference in Tampa. We will present the award at the conference.

Contacted Phyllis Hubbell to begin conversations regarding plans for the two UURMaPA conferences related to the 50th anniversary of Stonewall.

Convened the first meeting of the Joint UURMaPA, UUMA, UUA Fifth Season Task Force. We are not working with a deadline for a report but rather just beginning to think through the large issue of meeting the needs of retired ministers and partners. To get started, we are each going to respond to the question “What if UURMaPA became a chapter of the UUMA?,” noting plusses and challenges.

Also met with the Life Cycle of Ministry planning team. The pilot program will kick off in August 2018.

Call with Richard Nugent to discuss recent developments regarding the clergy housing allowance.

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