

Early UURMaPA History

This history of UURMaPA is taken from information gathered in an October 22, 2002, interview of Shirley Hadley, Arnold and Horace Westwood, Keith Munson and Ralph Mero moderated by Dorothy Hopper.

About 1982 Harold Hadley who was retired first began asking questions like....what are the resources for older and retired clergy. He and his wife Shirley hosted conversations with other retirees in the Amherst, MA area that included Harold and Arnold Westwood, Walter Kring, and later Keith Munson. From the beginning spouses were included in the circle who gathered.

There was no organization or money to support programs for retirees, so with the encouragement of UUA staff person, Ron Clark, Harold Hadley went to the Veatch Committee, receiving \$5,000. And then the UUA provided a one or two thousand dollars to the fledgling organization. The New York State Universalist Convention gave money to UURMaPA until 2004.

With the funds, the first Conference was held October 1985 in Petersham, NH. By-laws were drawn up and adopted and officers were elected. Harold Hadley was president, Robert Holmes vice president, Walter Kring, secretary, William Gardner, treasurer and Al Perry, Elderberries editor. Harold served as president for 6-8 years, then Keith Munson was president for about 5 years. Gradually the Caring Network was established with Frieda Carnes and Peg Johnson spearheading the program.

Under Keith Munson's presidency, term limits were established for Board members to ensure new people would populate the Board. It was finally established that membership included retired clergy, partners of retired clergy and surviving spouses of retirees. After considerable conversation, it was agreed there would be no dues required for membership, but voluntary contributions would support the organization and its budget. And the practice of having a UURMaPA luncheon at GA for current members and new members was begun.

Gradually Conferences originated in other parts of the country, namely on the West Coast, in the South and Mid-West. Each Conference was self-perpetuating, arranging for the leadership for carrying on the planning of subsequent Conferences.

From other written records the Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association was incorporated with The Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1997 when Max Gaebler was president with Ralph Mero listed as resident agent of the corporation at 25 Beacon Street.

Under the leadership of treasurer, Fred Campbell, UURMaPA received 503 (c) status in 2004.

Compiled by Nancy Doughty, September 2007