

Minutes of UURMaPA Business Meeting during Fall Conference – October 4, 2018 Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

Board Members Present: Barbara Child, Dave Hunter, Ginger Luke, Diane Miller, Art Severance, Cathie Severance, Judy Welles

Board Members Absent: Marni Harmony, Jaco Ten Hove

Note: This meeting was mainly for the purpose of informing those UURMaPA members present of future plans and current issues, as well as giving people an opportunity to ask questions and make announcements. No decisions were made at this meeting.

UU Rainbow History Project

Judy Welles, President, described the evolution of our UU Rainbow History Project: Next year, 2019, will mark the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Phyllis Hubbell and John Manwell suggested that this significant milestone be celebrated with GLBT rights and personal stories as the subject of both 2019 UURMaPA conferences as well as videos of the conferences and of additional interviews, a specially focused web site, and ultimately a book as well. It is especially appropriate for UURMaPA to take on this project because among Unitarian Universalists it is UURMaPA members who were old enough to take part in early GLBT actions especially in 1969 and the years soon thereafter. Judy mentioned that Mary Benard at Skinner House has expressed interest in being helpful regarding creation of a book, which might likely be published in 2020 or 2021 at the earliest.

Judy reported that UURMaPA applied to the UU Funding Panel for a grant to contribute significantly to funding this project. The original application was for \$20,000, but yielded a grant of only \$8,000. However, UURMaPA was asked to apply for an additional grant. Judy submitted this application on September 15, with a supporting letter from Mary Benard. The book and accompanying materials are expected to be major resources for people doing research in this area. We will also likely apply for a third grant.

Judy reported that ministers of retirement age (“retirement age” to be determined by the ministers themselves) and their partners are invited to register for the entire winter 2019 conference. All UUs are invited to register for the one-day program consisting of a keynote presentation and two panels. The keynote will be given by Keith Kron, UUA Ministerial Transitions Director. The two panels will be for personal story telling, one a panel of ministers and the other of partners. The videographer will record the keynote presentation and the panels, and will also be available at the conference to record interviews with individuals. Judy handed out copies of a flyer advertising the conference, including the registration form. The form is on the UURMaPA web site, and the flyer will be available there as well.

Judy invited people who would like to have their own story told or written to contact Phyllis Hubbell, Conference Coordinator, and/or Dorothy Emerson, Project Coordinator.

Judy announced that the winter 2019 conference will be at John Newcombe Tennis Ranch in New Braunfels, Texas, February 17-20. The fall 2019 conference will be at Wisdom House in Litchfield, Connecticut October 7-10. In response to a question from Carol Taylor, Judy announced that there will be a chaplain at each of the two 2019 conferences.

PEER GROUPS

Diane Miller, Vice President, described Peer Groups as being intended primarily for ministers in their first year of retirement, though some groups continue meeting for longer periods. One new group has recently been launched, and Diane would like to form another group including ministers who are long retired. These groups meet for an hour or hour and a half per month through Zoom video conferencing. Each group is autonomous; the members of each group determine how that group will operate. Some choose a topic for discussion at each meeting; others operate more as support groups. Diane is looking for ideas for additional groups. Possibilities suggested so far are a partners’ group

Minutes of UURMaPA Business Meeting during Fall Conference – October 4, 2018
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

and a care-givers' group.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dick Gilbert, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that Wayne Arnason and Barbara Wells serve with him on the committee. They invite suggestions for nomination to all open positions. In their selection of nominees, they want to give special attention to achieving balance between the number of ministers and the number of partners in leadership positions.

AREA CONNECTORS

Art Severance invited suggestions of members to fill open Area Connector positions in the following areas: Metro New York/New Jersey, Heartland North, Central Midwest, Joseph Priestley North, and Bay Area Inland.

WEB SITE

Duane Fickeisen, Webmaster, reminded everyone that the only part of the web site that requires a password is the Membership Directory. He also mentioned that there is a special section on the web site for documents of special interest to partners. He invited corrections of anything on the web site. Judy Welles encouraged everyone to use the web site more, especially to look there first for answers to questions.

DATA BASE

Richard Speck, Membership Coordinator, invited suggested changes as well as corrections to our Membership Directory. He is researching getting a data base that will enable making each correction or update only once rather than in three places. The Directory is updated every month.

FINANCES

Judy Welles reported that UURMaPA has a \$45,000 budget per year. It is used primarily for Zoom accounts and expenses related to Board meetings, including travel and lodging for one in-person Board meeting per year. This meeting precedes each annual winter conference. Almost all of our money comes from members' donations. Judy encouraged members to donate generously, especially in view of the expenses we will incur related to the Rainbow History Project. We have no dues. We do receive \$1,000 each year from the UUMA but nothing from the UUA. Our endowment of \$40,000 has been folded into the UUA Common Fund.

WELCOMING MEMBERS OF COLOR

At the suggestion of Ginger Luke, Judy Welles described the Board's response to a question from UUMA President Cheryl M. Walker as to how well retired ministers and partners of color can expect to be welcomed into UURMaPA. Board members are reading the Skinner House book *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*, edited by Mitra Rahnema. One Board member chooses an essay from the book for discussion at each monthly Board meeting and facilitates the discussion. The Board is engaged also in on-going discussion about what further related activities to undertake. It is likely that the Board will have a portion of its February in-person meeting devoted to some related activity. Suggestions are welcome as to what the Board in particular and UURMaPA in general can do to make sure that retired ministers and partners of color are warmly welcomed into membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Child, Secretary