

Minutes of ZOOM Conference Board Meeting – December 19, 2018 Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

All Board Members Present: Barbara Child, Marni Harmony, Dave Hunter, Ginger Luke, Diane Miller, Art Severance, Cathie Severance, Jaco TenHove, Judy Welles

Also attending part of the meeting: Dorothy Emerson

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

QUESTION OF THE YEAR

Judy facilitated discussion of “Representing” by Manish Mishra-Marzetti, at p. 60 in *Centering*. She began by asking each of us to share something that jumped out for us as being especially important. Our sharings focused not simply on important things expressed in the essay but also on how the essay spoke to us as individuals in relation to our own personal lives, our personal history, and our role as members of the UURMaPA Board. Judy concluded our discussion by leaving us with these questions for our further reflection: Who were your mentors? Why did you choose those particular persons to be your mentors? How did those mentoring relationships work out?

Dave will lead a discussion at our January 22 meeting [note change from usual meeting date] on the essay from Centering called “Call and Response” by Lauren Smith at p. 43, and the Response by Susan Newman Moore at p. 58.

MEETING MINUTES

The revised November 28 meeting minutes were approved. They have been sent to Duane for posting on UURMaPA's website under GOVERNANCE. They have also been sent to Judy Gibson as a resource for publicity.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The November 28 Treasurer's Report as amended was approved.

2019 BUDGET

Using the draft budget Dave had shared with us for reflection in advance of the meeting, Board members gave him feedback and suggestions as to particular estimated figures and as to method of presentation. *Judy and Dorothy will act as an ad hoc subcommittee of the Board to create a proposed budget for the UU Rainbow History Project. They will send their proposal to Dave to be included in the general budget that he will propose to the Board.*

PLANS FOR OPENING AND CHECK-IN AT THE FEBRUARY 2019 CONFERENCE IN TEXAS

We brainstormed how best to design the 6:45-8:00 p.m. (one hour and 15 minutes) period allotted for opening and check-in at the February 2019 conference. The outcome of our discussion included the following plans:

- *Judy will give a general introductory welcome.*
- *Dorothy will take about 10 minutes to give an introduction to the UU Rainbow History Project.*
- Those present will be invited to count off into as many groups as there are Board members present.
- *Each present Board member will facilitate a small group.*
- Each facilitator will get someone in the group to serve as time keeper.
- Facilitators will invite group members first to check in with the usual introductory information (Who are you? Where do you live? When did you retire? Why are you here? etc.) and then to reflect on how their experience so far at this conference compares with their memory of the first collegial conference they ever attended.

OTHER BUSINESS REGARDING CONFERENCES

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Ginger reported that 44 people are so far registered for the February 2019 conference in Texas, though not all are paying registrants. The registration deadline has been extended to January 11.

Art and Cathie will manage shuttle transportation for Board members from San Antonio Airport to the conference site. Board members will need to inform them of arrival time.

WORKSHOP AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dorothy brought to the Board the question of whether we should apply to offer a workshop at General Assembly. Given that a workshop would provide an opportunity for publicizing the UU Rainbow History Project and that it would likely attract people who want to tell their relevant stories, **the Board decided to apply.** *Diane will work with Dorothy on the application.*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S REQUEST FOR SUGGESTIONS

Judy shared a memo from Nominating Committee chair Dick Gilbert seeking suggestions for nominees for open positions, and Board members offered suggestions to be sent to him. Barbara reported that as secretary she has received no comments on the proposed bylaw change that would increase the size of the Nominating Committee.

BUSINESS REGARDING GOOD OFFICES

Marni brought to our attention that the Report of the Joint Task Force on Retired Ministers includes in its list of suggested resources some that do not currently exist. **The Board agreed that those two suggested resources should be removed from the Report as published on the web site.**

Marni reported that Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, UUMA, is interested to pursue possibilities for having a UURMaPA Good Officer for each region. Marni is engaged in this effort, and Board members expressed interest in having multiple UURMaPA Good Officers rather than just one, having one for each region if that is feasible. *Marni and Barbara will confer on how this might connect with the workshop Barbara will be conducting at the Transitional Ministers' annual meeting in April on issues that arise having to do with retired ministers' partners.*

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting: January 22, 2019, at the usual time, with the time to be determined depending on each person's time zone. [Note that this meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday of the month, not our usual third Wednesday.]

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Child, Secretary

REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR DECEMBER 19, 2018 – ZOOM BOARD MEETING

President: Judy Welles

No report.

Vice-President: Diane Miller

1. I ZOOMed the UUMA Chapter Leaders session shortly after our Nov. Board meeting and took a few notes that I have not written up. It seems to me to be a worthwhile connection for us to make, and to report back as Judy and Marni did from the first session.
2. I am starting up the process of arranging our GA annual luncheon in Spokane, and have sent a "save the date" email to those whose Intent to Retire forms indicate being recognized at GA 2019. I opined to the

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Conference Committee that I do not see this as a year when we should try to arrange a workshop or Poster Session (the new format event). If someone else sets one up, I'll be glad to help on site.

3. My primary challenge at the moment is to get nominations for the annual Creative Sageing Award. I have three persons on the possible list, and intend to go through our membership list again and see if anything I have missed comes to mind. I'm still very keen on getting ideas and suggestions from others. Also, I need to add to the subcommittee doing the selecting.

Treasurer: Dave Hunter

Since I prepared the November report I have received thirteen contributions, for a total of \$1620. This includes two from donor advised funds, one from Canada, and two via PayPal. Another \$650 in contributions was included with Texas conference registrations. Two of the thirteen contributions plus two contributions reported last month – for a total of \$470 – were made in memory of the late Rev. Raymond Michel. Three of these were from individuals (not retired ministers or partners) and one from the New Madison, Ohio, UU Church. Pursuant to our procedures, the \$470 will be transferred to our endowment. I have not yet received any contributions in response to this month's semi-annual appeal.

Since the last report I have received \$4725 in Texas conference registration fees – these are the first ones I've received. Twenty people are now registered – 3 at \$375 (singles), 11 at \$325 (doubles), 1 at \$25 (commuter, from Kansas!), and 5 at \$0. No scholarships have been requested. I expect another batch of checks any day.

Since the last report I have written three checks: \$870.14 for Elderberries, \$274.00 for cards, labels etc, and \$1218.27 for the fall appeal printing & mailing. No Rainbow Project activity, though I expect to receive information from Dorothy Emerson any day.

The draft 2019 budget I sent you on December 12 assumed that the new \$10,000 grant would be received this year. It arrived today. Attached is a revised draft budget.

With respect to our endowment, I participated (quietly) in the December 4 quarterly investor call.

Early in January I will prepare a report for the year.

Secretary: Barbara Child

(Report as amended December 16, 2018)

I sent draft 2018-11 minutes and reports to the Board for corrections and other suggested revision the day after the November 28 meeting. With the Board's approval, I sent these minutes and reports on to Judy Gibson to provide her with information that might be useful to her publicity work. I resent the minutes and reports to the Board on December 15 for review before the December 19 meeting. I also sent this Secretary's report (before amendment) to the Board on December 15.

After the November Board meeting I updated our Operating Procedures to reflect relevant Board decisions and sent the updated version to Duane for posting on our website.

In response to Jaco's request for information and materials related to *First Days Record*, I spent a wonderful afternoon wandering through my collection of issues from several years. In the course of this journey into our collective ministerial history, I developed a theory about how *FDR* came to an end, and I sent my ruminations about that on to Jaco. But something else happened that afternoon too. My reading included my own contributions to *FDR* over three years – three critical years for me. Going back over what I had written, including a piece called "When They Say No" and then another two years later called "Getting Rid of All That Old Stuff," I was able to trace the changes in me as I came to learn that I was not suited for settled ministry and that my ministry blossomed when I turned to interim ministry. I am enormously grateful to Jaco for initiating this

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personal journey of reflection and discovery for me.

Newsletter Editor: Jaco Ten Hove

- I've been planning ahead for the winter issue, communicating with various sources and building a list of articles.
- I especially appreciate Barbara diving into her archive of First Days Records so diligently. Also, thanks to Art for his testimonial about FDR. Others are still welcome to contribute reflections thereon.
- I created an obituary stylesheet, to support Roger and Jay in their submissions each quarter.
- I continue to hunger for newsy bits about our members and their retirement activities and interests. Please have your antenna alert for any such opportunities within your circle of collegial connections. Relay to me and I am happy to follow up with specific individuals for potential Elderberries content.

At-Large Member: Conferences – Ginger Luke

My report is quite simple. I have been in communication with Amanda Klein at New Braunfels; with Carol Gould at Litchfield; with Michael Crumpler; Dorothy Emerson; Phyllis Hubbell, Andy Backus and others.

New Braunfels will include cheese, crackers and fruit for our before dinner social hours. We will pay for the after program social hour food. No one will be bringing food or responsible for setting up or cleaning up after social hours. There will be a cash bar whenever we want it.

The New Braunfels planning team has a Zoom meeting on a Tuesday, Dec 18 so I might have more information after that meeting. Michael Crumpler will not be addressing the board meeting, but will lead a workshop in the conference.

Several people would like to know where other conference attendees are staying the night before the conference so they could plan common transportation. Any ideas?

At Large Member: Connections Chair – Art Severance

At-Large Member: Assistant Connections Chair – Cathie Severance

No report.

At Large Member: Good Offices – Marni Harmony

I have continued to work on gathering information about some of our GLBTQ pioneers. Thank you for the suggestions at our last Board meeting—I got some stories after a request for them was put on Announce and I followed up with historian Susan Lamar. I will have 10 or 11 deceased colleagues to feature at our conference. I am also realizing that our first conference is really a first effort at remembering these folks. No doubt more information will surface before our second conference next October.

I've set up several Zoom calls as well as having an actual session with our "Zoom Account Manager." (Who knew?) Apparently having an account manager is a new thing.

In my Good Offices role, I completed the online training and had a lengthy conversation with Melissa Carville Ziemer beginning to envision what the role ought to be! I also had a conversation with Keith Kron on the same topic. One of the things we did was to go back to the Report of the Retired Ministers Task Force and look at some of the recommendations. The first one has to do with Good Offices and recommends that UURMaPA have a Good Officer in each of the 5 regions. UURMaPA would recommend names to the UUMA staff who would make the appointment(s). In conversation with Pres Judy she offered the thought that instead of 5 we might consider 3 or so. At Melissa's request, I've asked for a little time on the agenda to get your thoughts about this recommendation. What we're looking for is simply whether you think it's a good idea. Since we haven't even

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yet defined what the work would entail, it's premature to come up with names. (I will be part of the Good Offices program until the end of my term and would continue if asked.)

UU Rainbow History Project Coordinator – Dorothy Emerson

[Secretary's note: No report expected this month. Dorothy's job description calls for quarterly reports in October, January, April, and July.]