

Minutes of Zoom Conference Board Meeting – June 7, 2019
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

1 Board Members Present: Barbara Child, Marni Harmony, Dave Hunter, Ginger Luke, Diane Miller, Art
2 Severance, Jaco ten Hove, and Judy Welles

3 Board Member Absent: Cathie Severance

4 Incoming Board Members Also Present: Phyllis Hubbell and Susan Veronica Rak

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

6 **QUESTION OF THE YEAR**

7 Jaco led a discussion of “Call Me Reverend Sweetie” by Cheryl M. Walker at p. 185 in *Centering* and Christina
8 Shu’s response. Especially for the benefit of Phyllis and Susan, who have not been part of our “Question of the
9 Year” process and may not have read *Centering*, Jaco began by summarizing this month’s essay and response.
10 He noted that Christina Shu’s piece was more a discussion of community ministry setting (as distinct from parish
11 setting) than an explicit response to Cheryl M. Walker’s essay. Our discussion focused mainly on how different
12 ministers – especially us – prefer to be addressed and why. We lifted up how values come into play related to
13 both establishing one’s authority within a congregation and also seeking to foster community. We concluded our
14 discussion by reflecting together on the difference between the preference for referring to “serving a
15 congregation” instead of referring to “my congregation,” on the one hand, and Cheryl M. Walker’s preferring not
16 to refer to “serving” because of its different associations for a minister of color.

17 **MAY 15 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

18 **The revised May 15 Board Meeting minutes were approved.** They have been sent to Duane for posting on
19 UURMaPA's web site under GOVERNANCE. (The draft minutes of that meeting were sent to Judy Gibson as a
20 resource for publicity and to Phyllis Hubbell as a resource for planning the Fall Conference.)

21 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

22 **The June Treasurer’s Report was approved.**

23 Dave noted that his report would be amended as contributions were continuing to come in.

24 *By the end of the summer he will produce for the Board a balance sheet giving an up-to-date profit-and-loss*
25 *accounting.*

26 **UU RAINBOW HISTORY PROJECT**

27 Judy brought us up to date on the postcard to be used as publicity for the fall conference on one side and
28 publicity for the whole UURHP on the other. At General Assembly we can use the postcard to help us encourage
29 non-retired colleagues to come to the fall conference for one program day. Judy reported that Gretchen Ohmann
30 will send the text for the postcard to Portland Minute Man, the company that will produce the postcard. *Judy will*
31 *distribute postcards on Monday evening, June 17, to all of us who will be in Spokane at the gathering that will*
32 *initiate Ministry Days.* She asked that we distribute them as soon as possible so that they can be advertising for
33 the Thursday workshop, and she asked that we return any that are left over to her or Diane by the time of the
34 Thursday workshop. Jaco deputized all of us as publicity agents.

35 *Judy will send a publicity notice to Theresa Novak for posting on the UURMaPA Facebook page. Judy will also*
36 *put out publicity on the UUMA Facebook pages.* She invited all of us to engage in publicity with any UU
37 ministers’ Facebook groups to which we belong.

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38 We got brought up to date on the possible Faithify campaign, which we hope to publicize at GA. The idea is for
39 the campaign to run June 15-August 15 with the goal of \$3000. If we do receive this money, one possible use
40 would be to have more compensation for panelists' expenses. Jaco reported that he submitted the Faithify
41 application yesterday and expected a response within 48 hours. He created both a short and a long description of
42 the UURHP, including its connection to Unitarian Universalism. Dave will have a STRIPE account for receipt of
43 the money. The title of the Faithify campaign is "Help Lift Up and Support Our UU Rainbow History Project."
44 *Jaco will send Judy the exact title. Judy will send it to the Faithify administrators since the title does not appear*
45 *in the UU description.*

46 Jaco reported that he has turned over business regarding Spokane meet-ups to Dee Graham. The main one will
47 be Wednesday lunch on June 19. *Jaco will station himself in a prominent place with a big sign directing people*
48 *to whatever restaurant Dee chooses for the Wednesday meet-up.*

49 *Regarding the workshop at GA, titled "We Have Come Too Far to Turn Back Now," Judy will take the place of*
50 *Dorothy Emerson, opening the session with a description of the UURHP. Michael Crumpler and Sean Dennison*
51 *will respond and offer their critique. Diane will welcome those who attend and will serve as moderator. She will*
52 *introduce the speakers.*

53 Regarding the editing of a book as part of the UURHP, we had a wide-ranging discussion of various issues
54 including (1) the role of the editor vis a vis Skinner House, (2) whether the editor is to be paid or is expected to
55 serve as a volunteer, (3) if paid, the source of funding, (4) what decisions might need to be made, and by whom,
56 regarding potential royalties, and (5) whether Phyllis needs to have the book in mind when making any decisions
57 regarding the fall conference. *Diane will speak with Mary Benard, Editorial Director at Skinner House,*
58 *regarding these issues. She will put on our July meeting agenda any decisions on these matters that we need to*
59 *take up.*

60 Phyllis mentioned the value of publicizing the UURHP web site as a resource for anyone who might be
61 preaching this month on the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising.

62 **FALL 2019 CONFERENCE**

63 UURMaPA's fall conferences are run by the conference committee, not by the Board. Phyllis let us know that
64 planning and scheduling are going well. The next decision to be made will be whether to engage the same
65 videographer who served us at the winter 2019 conference in Texas or to engage a local Connecticut
66 videographer. She let us know that, unlike at the winter 2019 conference, there will not be separate panels for
67 ministers and partners. Instead there will be three ministers and one partner on each of the two panels.

68 We looked at the list of potential panelists, and Board members who know individuals on the list volunteered to
69 call them in the order specified by Phyllis.

70 **We agreed that panelists are to be invited to join us for the entire conference at no registration cost**
71 **whether they are UURMaPA members or not. While our grant will cover \$200 for transportation for each**
72 **panelist, we agreed to reimburse them for additional reasonable transportation costs above and beyond**
73 **\$200.**

74 Ginger asked us to register right away if we haven't done so already. She reminded us that registration for Board
75 members is paid by UURMaPA and that anyone who needs assistance with transportation costs is invited to ask
76 for it.

77

78

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79 **PROPOSAL REGARDING PARTNERS OF FORMER MINISTERS**

80 Barbara reported that since she has now heard from Cheryl M. Walker that our proposal, made jointly with the
81 Transition Ministers Chapter of UUMA, was received too late to go on this month's UUMA business meeting
82 agenda, she will plan for it to be taken up at the 2020 meeting. *In the course of the coming year, Barbara will*
83 *work with volunteers to draft an informal manual of models and suggestions to accompany the proposal for*
84 *amendment to the UUMA Code of Conduct so that the manual can be addressed at the meeting along with the*
85 *proposed amendment to the Code.*

86 **PASSWORD PROTECTION ON MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY AND CARING DIRECTORY**

87 We left on the table for future attention issues related to password protection on our online directories.

88 **JULY MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT 2019 MEETINGS**

89 **Next meeting: July 17, 2019, ZOOM conference meeting at 1:00 Eastern DaylightTime, with individual**
90 **Board members to adjust the time according to the time zone of their location.** *At Diane's request, everyone*
91 *who will be on this Board after June will confirm with her their availability for meetings at 1:00 Eastern Time on*
92 *the third Wednesday of each remaining month in 2019, keeping in mind that beginning with the November*
93 *meeting we will have returned to Standard Time.*

94 Respectfully submitted,

95 Barbara Child, Secretary

96 **REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR JUNE 7, 2019, ZOOM CONFERENCE BOARD MEETING**

97 **President: Judy Welles**

98 Boy, if there were ever a month when I should have kept track of all the things I did for UURMaPA, it was the
99 month between the May Board meeting and the June one. It's pretty much been **All Rainbow History Project**
100 **All The Time** around here, and *of course* I didn't keep track of all the phone conversations, Zoom calls, texts,
101 and just all-around thinking and organizing time that I have spent on this project this time around.

102 I talked with Diane Miller and assured her that I would continue to make myself available to help with the UU
103 Rainbow History Project (UURHP) once my term as President is over (June 30). I will put it on the June agenda
104 for us to spend some time discussing whether to find a new coordinator for the rest of this project (until the end
105 of 2019), or whether we seem to be doing okay as we are and we'll continue to do it this way. More info when I
106 send out the agenda later today.

107 I have instituted the practice of sending out a weekly message (on Wednesdays, so this is it) to the Board plus
108 Phyllis, Dee, and Susan Rak, to keep everyone informed of what everyone else is doing on this complicated
109 project. I've asked, and will reiterate here, that anyone with information about something they've done that
110 others should know (and please err on the side of oversharing rather than under-), *please send it to me by*
111 *Tuesday evening so I can include it in the Wednesday report to everyone.* It doesn't matter what address you use;
112 they all come into the same mailbox at my end. (For this week of the month, let's let the reports from Board
113 members and the way Barbara organizes the minutes take the place of my weekly aggregation of what everyone
114 is doing.)

115 I expect these weekly reports to continue through G.A., and then we'll see if it feels necessary to continue them,
116 or whether ...well, whatever. Lots of possibilities there.

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117 Diane and I have decided that she will attend the Thursday luncheon sponsored by the UUMA for leaders of
118 organizations that the UUMA wants to keep in touch with, like UURMaPA, LREDA, etc. This occurs at the
119 same time as the Survivors Luncheon put on by the Dept. of Ministry for survivors of ministers who have died in
120 the past year. As you know, the families sit together that evening for the Service of the Living Tradition, and
121 there is always a place for a member of UURMaPA to sit with them and “be the chaplain,” if only in presence.
122 This year I’ll attend the Survivors Luncheon, because I have written notes to so many people who will be there;
123 Diane will sit with them for the SLT, because I will be up on the stage as a participant.

124 Although I’m not quite caught up, I intend to be fully caught up on my routine duties as President when I hand
125 the reins over to Diane (e.g. condolence notes and “Welcome to UURMaPA” letters). I expect that we will be in
126 touch a lot over the summer as she figures out how she wants to move forward with various things and (maybe)
127 consults me about some matters.

128 *****

129 As this is my last President’s Report to the Board, I want to say again, right here in front of God and everybody,
130 that it has been a real pleasure and a joy for me to serve UURMaPA as your President. And you have been a
131 fantastic Board to work with! I wish every UU Board and NGO Board and School Board and community
132 volunteer organization Board would function as responsibly and kindly as you do. We have gotten **a lot done** in
133 the past two years, and I credit you with much of our energy and success. (And I credit me with some as well.)

134 There’s no question for me that UURMaPA is my cohort now. More and more of my friends-who-are-colleagues
135 are joining every year, and I’m finding new friends among the members of UURMaPA whom I might have
136 never known otherwise. (You know who you are.)

137

138 **Vice-President: Diane Miller**

139 My efforts have been with the GA luncheon and award. Bits of other things. I will send a more complete report
140 but am leaving shortly for Topeka and back late.

141

142 I've written twice in the past six months to Erinn Melby about the UU Rainbow History project. No reply. Erinn
143 was one of the first (the first?) transgender ministers in UU Fellowship. Entered n 1990s. Today I got the notice
144 that she had died. I'm sad about her and for her family. And also that we didn't get an interview with her for the
145 project. Also, we were both at Macalester College at the same time, and didn't know each other until later when
146 she came before the MFC.

147

148 Marni is going to hand off the Zoom account and the job of sending notices for upcoming meetings. I've asked
149 Susan Rak to take that on, and she agreed.

150

151 I'm thinking of the many contributions Marni has made in her time on the Board, as VP and as our liaison, as
152 well as generating programs such as the TMP. And Judy's leadership in editing and presiding. I bow to our
153 outgoing members!

154

155 **Treasurer: Dave Hunter**

156 (Amended report)

157 The bank statement for May has not yet arrived.

158

159 I reported last time that I had received two email attacks. There have been seven more since then, most recently
160 two on June 3, requesting \$5,450 and \$30,660.35. I have reported them all to the Federal Trade Commission.
161 When will they end?

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163 I also reported in May that our participation in TMP had ended, with the remaining grant money returned to the
164 Funding Program. It turns out that one participant had not been reimbursed for San Antonio expenses (\$600+) –
165 because the request had never reached me. Presumably that will be taken care of by Keith Kron and the Funding
166 Program.

167

168 I have responded to an information request from PayPal to satisfy IRS requirements.

169

170 I have (this morning) set up a Stripe account to enable Faithify to accept contributions for the Rainbow History
171 project.

172

173 I have made the deposit for our February 2020 conference at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale,
174 Arizona, and I expect to have arranged for the insurance they require by the time of our meeting.

175

176 Since May 13 I have received 19 contributions, 3 via PayPal (which takes a significant cut), of which 15 ½ have
177 been in memory of Dorothy Emerson. Contributions in response to Judy's recent letter have begun (I recognize
178 four of the return envelopes).

179

180 Also I have received three more checks for the GA lunch and no more checks for the October conference (I
181 expect another batch soon).

182

183 In addition to the payment to the Franciscan Renewal Center I have written four other checks: for flowers in
184 memory of Dorothy Emerson, for printing and mailing Elderberries, for printing and mailing the May appeal
185 letter, and for the Saging award, to be presented at the GA lunch.

186

187 At this point (9:18 a.m.. June 6) I received another email from Stripe asking me to verify the account.

188

(Amendment June 8)

189

190 This morning I deposited 49 checks -- contributions in response to the fall appeal, contributions in response to
191 the recent letter (some in whole or in part directed to the Rainbow project), contributions in memory of Dorothy
Emerson, payments for the GA luncheon, and payments for the Litchfield conference.

192

193 The total amount deposited was \$9455. Of that \$2316 was contributions. 14 contributions to the Rainbow
194 project or in memory of Dorothy Emerson (\$945), 10 unrestricted contributions (\$821) and 4 divided
195 contributions (\$300 unrestricted, \$150 Rainbow). The largest contribution was \$250, the smallest \$10. In
196 today's mail were 6 more checks, all in response to the May appeal, for \$365, of which \$100 was for the
197 Rainbow project (from 2 50/50 contributions).

197

198 **Secretary: Barbara Child**

199

200 After the May 15 Board Meeting, I sent the approved April 17 Board Meeting minutes to Webmaster Duane
201 Fickeisen for posting on our web site under Governance. I sent draft May 15 Board Meeting minutes and reports
202 to the Board for corrections and other suggested revisions, and then, with the Board's approval, sent these draft
203 minutes and reports on to Judy Gibson to provide her with information that might be useful for her publicity
204 work. Upon request, I also sent these minutes to Phyllis Hubbell to provide her with information that might be
205 useful for her work planning the Fall Conference. I re-sent the minutes and reports to the Board on June 3 for
review before the June 7 meeting. I sent this Secretary's report to the Board on June 4.

206

207 On May 22, I wrote to Cheryl M. Walker, President of UUMA, and Melissa Carvill Ziemer, UUMA's Director of
Collegial Practices, asking on behalf of UURMaPA's Board and the Transition Ministers Chapter of UUMA, to

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208 put on the agenda for the June 19 UUMA Business Meeting our proposal for one-time vote on the addition of a
209 sentence to the section on “Expectations of Conduct” in the Code of Conduct in our UUMA Guidelines. That
210 section currently reads in part:

211 If I belong to or attend a congregation served by a colleague,... I will initiate an open and direct
212 conversation with my colleague(s) in order to create a mutually agreed covenant, expressed in a Letter of
213 Understanding, about the role I am to play in the church.

214 Our proposal is to add this sentence to follow the one above:

215 If I have a partner, I will seek to have my partner participate in the conversation and be one of the
216 mutually agreeing parties to the covenant and a signer of the Letter of Understanding about the roles
217 each of us will play in the church.

218 My message to Cheryl and Melissa included a second proposal, a small team to create an informal guidebook
219 with models and practical suggestions regarding issues related to former ministers’ partners. I copied my
220 message, which included a discussion of the background of the proposals, to the UURMaPA Board members,
221 Anita Farber-Robertson (Member of the UUMA Ethics Committee and also of the Transition Ministers Chapter
222 of UUMA with whom I had conferred about both the content and the process of the proposal), and the members
223 of the Transition Ministers Chapter Executive Team: Jennifer Brooks, Roberta Finkelstein, Joel Miller, and Doug
224 Wadkins. To date (June 4), I have had no response to my message. If I have heard nothing by June 10, I will
225 follow up.

226 (Amendment to report, June 4)

227 After sending the above report to the Board, I received a message on June 4 from Cheryl M. Walker, letting me
228 know that the proposed amendment to the Code of Conduct will not be on this month’s UUMA business meeting
229 agenda because the UUMA Board will have no opportunity to review it in advance. She will forward our
230 correspondence to the President-Designate, Wendy Williams, for attention in the coming year.

231 **Newsletter Editor – Jaco ten Hove**

232
233 *Elderberries* - Prepping for summer issue, with cover story likely to be about GA happenings. Will need first
234 President’s column from Diane sooner than later, plus any headshot desired. Also will feature a long list of
235 Newest Retired Colleagues (catching up with 2018 and 19 via “Intent to Retire” forms). It may only be 12 pages,
236 due to low number of potential articles so far. Submit to *Elderberries*!

237
238 *UU Rainbow History* - I’ve been slowly getting the details for launching both a Meet-up gathering at Ministry
239 Days and a Faithify Campaign, the latter of which is, at least for me, rather complicated and demanding (also
240 involving Treasurer Dave).

241

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

243 1. For Litchfield in October 2019 I have conferred with Phyllis Hubbell about times for dinner (yes, we can
244 eat at 5:30 or 6:00 which ever we would like), whether people can arrive early (yes, they can come the day
245 before but it would be better if they didn’t eat at Wisdom House on Sunday night).

246

247 2. I have found from Wisdom House staff a list of possible videographers for Phyllis and her team.

248

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- 249 3. I am working with Phyllis on the proposed schedule for Litchfield. I have made some suggestions to the
250 originally proposed schedule from the team mostly concerning worship scheduling.
251
- 252 4. David Hunter and I have worked on getting a liability insurance certificate for the Franciscan Renewal
253 Center retreat in February 2020. After several failed tries on my part David has found one which will cost \$419.
254
- 255 5. I have not yet put a program outline together for February 2020.
256

257 **At Large Members: Connections Chair – Art Severance and Assistant Connections Chair – Cathie**
258 **Severance**

259
260 I sent out a “Check-in” email to all my Area Connectors, about a week ago, asking them to let me know how they
261 were doing and reminding them to send in info to Elderberries. I’ve only heard back from about half of them, so
262 Cathie and I will follow up on the others. We had 2 resignations- Ruth Gibson from EASTERN CAROLINAS,
263 and Phyllis Hubell from JOSEPH PRIESTLEY SOUTH, since she will be on the board, so we have 2 new
264 openings. Joan Morris resigned from Western Canada, but Wendy McNiven wmcniven@uuma.org- 250-338-
265 3307, has agreed to replace her! So we need ACs for BAY AREA INLAND
266 CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS
267 EASTERN CANADA
268 EASTERN CAROLINAS
269 JOSEPH PRIESTLEY NORTH
270 JOSEPH PRIESTLEY SOUTH
271 METRO NY/NJ.
272

273 I think we should talk about combining JPD and some New England Areas.
274

275 **At Large Member: Good Offices – Marni Harmony**

276 Zoom call with Fall conference planning team with emails in between working on final schedule and panelists.
277

278 Other than that, let me just say how much I’ve enjoyed serving on the Board for the last four years. What a
279 privilege!
280