

Minutes of Zoom Conference Board Meeting – July 17, 2019 Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

All Board Members Present: Barbara Child, Jaco ten Hove, Phyllis Hubbell, Dave Hunter, Ginger Luke, Diane Miller, Susan Veronica Rak, Art Severance, and Cathie Severance

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

JUNE 7 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The revised June 7 Board Meeting minutes were approved. They have been sent to Duane for posting on UURMaPA's web site under GOVERNANCE. (The draft minutes of that meeting were sent to Judy Gibson as a resource for publicity.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

The July Treasurer's Report was left pending. It was determined that the deficit from the last winter conference was not to be charged to the Rainbow History Project. We also discussed the need for more donors if our Faithify campaign is to be successful.

UU RAINBOW HISTORY PROJECT

BOOK EDITOR

We discussed the Request for Book Proposals that Diane sent us in advance of the meeting, which was based on samples sent to her by Mary Benard at Skinner House. The discussion reflected our hope that a potential editor would be in attendance at our up-coming fall conference, given that we envision the book to be very much based on our two conferences on the Rainbow History Project. *Diane will attach the two conference programs to the RFP when it is publicized.* We affirmed that it is entirely acceptable for us to encourage individuals to submit proposals. We also mentioned our intention that the book focus on the rainbow history of UU ministers and partners, not on Unitarian Universalists generally, however much they have been involved in the rainbow history. The Board reaffirmed the value of having an editor in the LGBTQ community for the sake of authenticity, credibility, and the comfort of those involved as included authors or in some other capacity. **The Board agreed that the Request for Book Proposals should be issued, with a more realistic expectation that proposals would come "soon" rather than with September 1 as a deadline, and with a description of the proposals we request that is somewhat more simple than in the draft we discussed.** *Diane, with Art assisting, will lead the effort to publish the RFP on social media, through our seminaries, on both the UURMaPA and the UU Rainbow History Project web sites, and elsewhere with help from Skinner House.*

UU RAINBOW HISTORY PROJECT COORDINATOR

After a brief discussion of the proposal Diane sent us in advance of the meeting, **the Board affirmed that Judy Welles will serve as Coordinator of the UU Rainbow History Project for the remainder of 2019 (with some possible loose ends carried over into the new year), with the role as described in Diane's proposal, which is included in her report.**

FALL CONFERENCE

Phyllis updated us on those who have agreed to serve on panels at the fall conference and noted that two more are needed. She mentioned that the conference schedule is almost done and will likely include an opportunity for those in attendance to meet in a group to discuss the current proposals for revisions of the UUMA guidelines.

Ginger updated us on personnel she has lined up for various conference roles and others still needed. She mentioned that the Litchfield conference center personnel have been very helpful.

We were pleased to discover that all Board members will be at the fall conference, with registration but not travel to be paid by UURMaPA.

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WINTER 2020 CONFERENCE

Ginger updated us on the matter of insurance required by the Scottsdale site, which is now taken care of. She let us know that the schedule is nearly complete.

The program at this conference will feature three different subjects: (1) 50 years of UU women in worship, with attention to both theology and spirituality, (2) the Vietnam war era's impact on UU clergy, and (3) the past 50 years of changes in technology affecting communication. Facilitators for these three program are close to being determined, but not quite.

Ginger also mentioned that there will be lots of free time at this conference, on purpose.

Jaco will put promotion material on this conference in the upcoming Summer issue of Elderberries. He will put registration material in the Fall issue.

ELDERBERRIES

Jaco reported that the Summer issue is well on its way and will be out at least by August 1, maybe sooner. He gave special kudos to Susan LaMar, who has provided a fine history of UURMaPA's 25 years of conferences at Attleboro.

MINISTRY DAYS AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

Ginger gave a moving account of her service as chaplain to the survivors of ministers and partners being honored during the Service of Living Tradition, including being with the survivors at the luncheon for them.

Jaco and Barbara gave positive reports of our Collegial Conversation for new retirees and those contemplating retirement soon. Jaco noted that a time-crunch in UUMA business took a toll on the lunch-time meet-up, though we did have good conversation with a couple of people who attended. Jaco gave an enthusiastic report of our GA workshop with about 50 in attendance and lots of good connections made.

NEXT STEPS IN OUR AR/AO/MC DEVELOPMENT

We brainstormed several possibilities including (1) more personal story-telling at our next in-person meeting, (2) any remaining reports of our phone conversations with ministers of color, (3) sponsoring a gathering for retired ministers and partners of color, and (4) including book recommendations during our check-in at the beginning of Board meetings.

CARING CONNECTIONS NETWORK

Art and Cathie described the difficulties of both getting reports from existing Area Connectors and learning which UURMaPA Area individual ministers and partners are in. They agree there must be a better way to manage the Connections Network. *Ginger will seek to learn from an appropriate person at the River Road congregation and from Richard Speck about a computer system that would help us determine which Area an individual is in.*

PROPOSAL TO ADD ON-LINE REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCES, GA LUNCHEON, AND OTHER EVENTS

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After brief discussion of all the benefits of on-line registration as well as the possibility of getting individual UURMaPA members into our Zoom small groups, we were pleased that **Diane will ask Duane to explore both the feasibility and the cost.**

PROPOSAL TO ENGAGE UURMaPANS IN CONVERSATION ABOUT UUMA GUIDELINE PROPOSALS

We agreed that it is important for us to help our members prepare for the discussion and voting at next year's UUMA business meeting. We noted that one opportunity will happen at the fall conference. *Diane will lead a conversation on Zoom after the fall conference and after the UUMA's study materials become available. Art and Phyllis will also lead Zoom conversations on the proposals.*

OTHER BUSINESS

In the months to come, Barbara will update us on the Partners Project. Since the UUMA membership will have no opportunity to vote on the proposed addition to language in the Guidelines until next June, **Barbara will go ahead and engage interested ministers and partners in providing input for an informal guidebook/manual to accompany the proposal so that the UUMA Board can review the whole package in advance of the June meeting.**

Diane will explore the possibility of our holding Board meetings in a Zoom room instead of in our current conference meeting method with each of us separately linking in. Such a change would be for both cost-saving and convenience.

AUGUST MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT 2019 MEETINGS

Next meeting: August 21, 2019, ZOOM conference meeting at 1:00 Eastern Daylight Time, with individual Board members to adjust the time according to the time zone of their location.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Child, Secretary

REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR JULY 17, 2019, ZOOM CONFERENCE BOARD MEETING

President: Diane Miller

GA Spokane. In a change of plans, I did not attend GA in Spokane. I participated in Ministry Days on line, and watched some GA programs. I'm glad to have this option to do GA from a comfy chair, but it's definitely not the same as being there! I am thankful that Judy, Jaco, Barbara, Ginger, Jonalu Johnstone, and others stepped in to make our events run well. Dee Graham, who was deputized to go on our behalf, ended up with pneumonia and also stayed home. The luncheon arrangements with the hotel went fine. Many retiring colleagues were not attending, and several deferred recognition to Providence, so I anticipate that Phyllis will have a larger group next year. After discussing the question of whether we might save money with a breakfast event instead of a luncheon, it seems we would be in competition with existing Friday morning breakfasts. We've staked out a spot for our luncheon and should hang on to it. **Question:** should we provide some partial reimbursement to those who stepped in to take over some of what I would have done at GA?

Status updates:

Editor for book – see proposal sent by email separately.

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Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association (UURMaPA) announces a search for an editor or editors to compile or write a book telling stories of the past 50 years of LGBTQ+ history in Unitarian Universalism. We envision this as a “Conference Book,” drawn largely from materials generated by the UU Rainbow History Project, in particular its February and October 2019 Conferences on this subject. The materials include videotape presentations and interviews, as well as written submissions, some of which can be found on the website, uurainbowhistory.net. Content will include

- Stories of UU clergy pioneers, leaders, activists, and partners
- Issues of spiritual, institutional, cultural transformation
- Representation and inclusion of voices from the rainbow spectrum of LGBTQ+ identities and experiences.

We are intentionally leaving the specifics about the form of the book open-ended. The book you imagine may consist of a series of essays excerpted from Conference content. It may be a compendium of stories and experiences. It may include shorter pieces of poetry, prose, and prayers. It may be a resource that can be used by congregations. Or it may be something else you dream up.

We anticipate that the book will be published by Skinner House Press. We expect the editor or editors will represent the lived experience of LGBTQ+ identities. Ideally, the author or authors will attend the second UU Rainbow Conference October 7—10, 2019 in Litchfield, Ct.

Proposals should include the following, all in one document:

- your name/s, addresses, and contact information
- your qualifications to write this book
- a summary of the book (2–10 pages) which describes what it is and how it would be structured, including a table of contents

Submissions should be sent by September 1, 2019 to:

Diane Miller
president@uurmapa.org
646 Rockview Road
Salina KS 67401

Coordinator for UU Rainbow History project – see proposal sent by email separately

Rainbow History Project – carrying on!

Since Dorothy Emerson’s death our project has been parceled out to various people, with minimal overall coordination. The Board discussed this in June but didn’t resolve the problem. I propose that we name Judy Welles as Coordinator of the UU Rainbow History project for the remainder of 2019. [It had been our intention that Dorothy could wind up her role at the end of this calendar year, even though some elements such as book and website would continue on.] Judy has been functioning in this role since Dorothy’s death. Judy has a more complete overview than anyone else. No lead time is required to get up to speed so she can make the most of the next six months. She cares deeply about the project. While Judy is not Queer, her role will be largely a ministry of administration.

Here is draft language for Board action:

Affirm that Judy Welles will serve as Coordinator of UURMaPA’s UU Rainbow History Project for the remainder of 2019 (with some possible loose ends carried over into the new year). The role of Coordinator will involve:

- Serve in a liaison role with Phyllis Hubbell and utilize the Conference Advisory Board of Marni Harmony, Charlotte Cowtan, Dee Graham, Brendan Haddash, Gretchen Woods, and Jay Abernathy as a resource.

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- Work with Gretchen Ohmann on improvements, corrections, and additions to the website (uurainbowhistory.net)
- Continue to receive inquiries and submissions for the website
- Complete Faithify campaign (over on August 15)
- Create mid-term report to U.U. Funding Panel (overdue with our grant, but extension was granted) [subsequent reports will be responsibility of UURMAPA President] with the help of Phyllis and others writing up portions of the report.
- Initiate and/or write up news for Elderberries, Announce, and other communications to keep people engaged with the project, working with Judy Gibson and Jaco ten Hove.
- Follow through on Dorothy Emerson's work in progress, e.g. work with Donna Clifford to transfer paper and electronic files that Dorothy was using
- Participate in the 2019 fall conference, expenses paid by UURMaPA
- Serve as liaison to the Board in the process of securing an editor for the book, and with the editor once selected
- Provide periodic reports to the Board, written and on Zoom as needed, and report to the UURMaPA President.
- Follow up on video content generated to see that it is posted and available.

This proposal describes a volunteer role that Judy is willing to take on.

Conversion to on-line registration and payments for our conferences (and other events such as GA luncheon). Webmaster Duane Fickheisen proposed moving to the digital age. Already donations can be made on line. Consideration of this step by Lois Wesener and Dave Hunter via email. My summary: PRO technology is now able to make this easier to set up on our website. CON will take time and \$ to set it up. CON paypal takes 3.3% fee from payments. PRO easier for those who do everything on line. CON volunteers will still need to maintain the paper system with checks for those who are used to it. Unknown, but likely will work – would it integrate well with current recording by registrar and treasurer, or would it require duplicate reconciling of two sets of data? Any other questions from the Board?

ACTION: Shall we ask Duane to explore this with Greg Bear, our web designer, to see about feasibility and cost to set it up?

UUMA GUIDELINES STUDY

- Plans are made to include some conversation at the fall Conference, led by Darrick Jackson in the final session.
- Zoom group. Many retired ministers are unable to or choose not to participate in chapter/cluster/district UUMA meetings. Their insights might be important for the decisions and conversation over this coming church year of study and reflection. I propose that we offer a ZOOM conversation for UURMAPA members. The study guide and/or timeframe should come out this fall. I'm interested, so I am willing to offer & convene the conversations. I'd like a co-convenor to work with me, not necessarily from the Board, and I'd like Board endorsement. I picture having five sessions in October, Nov, Jan, Feb, March. People will be encouraged to do five but are welcome to participate in single sessions. Each one will have some overall conversation, then drill down into a section of the changes.
- Barbara Child proposed amendments to Code of Conduct regarding partners. She has the proposal ready for the UUMA Board so that it can be reviewed in time to be on the agenda at the Business Meeting at 2020 Ministry Days.

Miscellany – I provided our file obituary to two grand-nieces of Ray Hopkins seeking to learn more about their family forebears.

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I am inviting past Creative Sageing winners to think of names to suggest to the VP for future awards. I think they may have good insights and notice potential nominees. They will be an informal pool of nominators.

Vice-President: Phyllis Hubbell

Most of my work this month has been on the Rainbow History Conference, with the minor exception of opening a file on retiring ministers for the G.A Lunch next year.

Our task force has been working hard on recruiting panelists for the fall. Unfortunately, Dee Graham has been down with pneumonia, but hopes to be able to get back on her projects soon. We will need to go ahead and find someone to step in for Dee to work on captions for our videos and see in a month or two whether she is able to do some of the other work she had hoped to do for the Litchfield conference.

In the meantime, we are working on completing the two panels.

I've reached out to several local videographers.

I've completed a near final conference schedule which will be posted on our website.

Treasurer: Dave Hunter

[report pending]

Secretary: Barbara Child

After the June 7 Board Meeting, I sent the approved May 15 Board Meeting minutes to Webmaster Duane Fickeisen for posting on our web site under Governance. I sent draft June 7 Board Meeting minutes and reports to the Board for corrections and other suggested revisions, and then, with the Board's approval, sent these draft minutes and reports on to Judy Gibson to provide her with information that might be useful for her publicity work. I re-sent the minutes and reports to the Board on July 15 for review before the July 17 meeting. I also sent this Secretary's report to the Board on July 15.

I helped out with UURMaPA activities during Ministry Days/General Assembly, by taking active part in the conversation during our Collegial Conversation with ministers either contemplating retirement or newly retired, attending our Meet-up lunch gathering, and attending our luncheon during GA. At the luncheon, especially since there were a number of ministers' partners in the room, I gave a description of the UURMaPA/Transitional Ministers Chapter of UUMA joint Partners' Project that I am shepherding through UUMA during the 2019-2020 year.

I updated our officers/leaders listing on the Massachusetts Secretary of State's website to show our leadership's changes in personnel as of July 1.

Newsletter Editor – Jaco ten Hove

I helped out at Ministry Daze/GA and covered various activities to be included in the Summer issue of *EB*, for which I've been steadily prepping material. I also interviewed Archene Turner in Spokane, as part of our outreach to MOC about joining UURMaPA activities. (She is still working in DC area but not too far away from retiring. Short report: she was rather forthright about not being inclined to subject herself to the multitude of micro aggressions she imagined would come her way in a group of mostly white elders. She would be interested, however, in a gathering of retired MOC, should UURMaPA sponsor such an event.)

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At-Large Member: Conferences – Ginger Luke

The last month I have been on the road a lot but have worked on scheduling for Litchfield with a Phyllis Hubbell; have worked with Phyllis and Lois on a hotel option at Litchfield for people needing such. I concluded with David Hunter the contract with the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale. I represented UURMaPA with the survivors of deceased ministers at G.A. I attended the UURMaPA G.A. luncheon, passed out Rainbow History cards and talked up Litchfield.

I will be on Lake Powell in Utah for the next week with no internet and no cell coverage unless we boat to the marina. Will be back in Bethesda on July 15 and will have some information on Scottsdale for Elderberries then.

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

Not much happening; just keeping up with retirement and with those who have left us notices.

At Large Member: Good Offices – Susan Veronica Rak

No report.