

Minutes of UURMaPA Business Meeting during Fall Conference – October 10, 2019
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

1 All Board Members Present: Barbara Child, Phyllis Hubbell, Dave Hunter, Ginger Luke, Diane Miller,
2 Art Severance, Cathie Severance, Jaco ten Hove, and Susan Veronica Rak
3

4 *Note: This meeting was mainly for the purpose of informing UURMaPA members present of future*
5 *plans and current issues, as well as giving people an opportunity to ask questions and make*
6 *announcements. No decisions were made at this meeting.*
7

8 **THANKS FROM THE CONFERENCE AND PROGRAM PLANNERS**
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10 Ginger Luke, board member with the Conferences portfolio, and Phyllis Hubbell, program chair for the
11 two Rainbow History conferences (this one and the one held in February 2019), expressed thanks to
12 all of the people who had some part in making this conference such a great success.
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14 **WINTER 2020 CONFERENCE**
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16 Ginger Luke announced that the winter 2020 conference will be February 18-21 at the Franciscan
17 Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona. The theme will focus on a retrospective of the last fifty years in
18 four areas of particular interest: Women, facilitated by Diane Miller; Race, facilitated by Gordon
19 Gibson; Changes in Technology, facilitated by Jaco ten Hove; and the Vietnam War and its Aftermath,
20 facilitated by Barbara Child.
21

22 Ginger mentioned that we are eager to hear program ideas for future conference. She also mentioned
23 that we are always evaluating current conference sites and exploring possibilities for new sites—in
24 different parts of the country and in different kinds of facilities.
25

26 **TREASURER'S REPORT**
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28 Dave Hunter invited people entitled to reimbursement for conference expenses to send him relevant
29 information. He also mentioned that donations are always welcome, especially insofar as they help
30 fund scholarships.
31

32 Diane Miller mentioned that we used a Faithify campaign to augment funds for our UU Rainbow
33 History Project.
34

35 **ELDERBERRIES REPORT**
36

37 Jaco ten Hove, editor, invited people to send him contributions for *Elderberries*. He mentioned that he
38 is especially glad to receive material for the regular columns on “What Brings You Joy?” and “Turning
39 of Our Lives.”
40

41 **UU RAINBOW HISTORY PROJECT**
42

43 Judy Welles, coordinator, invited people to send her material for the web site, which she expects to
44 last “forever.” Commenting on the anticipated book that will be the culmination of this project, she said
45 it will be more focused than the web site, partly because of the book’s likely length limitations. She
46 invited people to send material to both Diana McLean, the newly selected book editor, and to her as
47 well as to www.uurainbowhistory.net.
48

49 **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**
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51 Barbara ten Hove, chair, announced that the committee’s work for the year needs to be completed by

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52 mid-January for positions in which people will begin terms next July. She noted that Wayne Arnason
53 and she will be staying on for a second term on the committee, remaining until 2022. The committee is
54 looking for nominees for secretary, treasurer, and board member with Conferences portfolio. She
55 urged people to get suggestions to her soon. She noted that a nominee does not have to have
56 attended conferences to be eligible to serve on the board.

57
58 **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

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60 Diane Miller let everyone know of the board’s having read and discussed over the past year essays in
61 the book *Centering*, edited by Mitra Rahnama. She also told of the board’s work with consultant
62 Annette Marquis on matters of intercultural competency. This work has been partly in response to a
63 challenge from former UUMA president Cheryl M. Walker, who asked whether UURMaPA would be
64 prepared to welcome properly increasing numbers of retiring ministers and partners of color.

65
66 Diane also gave everyone information about UURMaPA’s online peer groups, our annual lunch at
67 General Assembly, and our workshops at both Ministry Days and General Assembly. She mentioned
68 that we will be having groups on Zoom for people interested to discuss the proposed revisions in the
69 UUMA’s Guidelines.

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71 **COMMENTS BY DARRICK JACKSON, UUMA’S DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

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73 Darrick Jackson expressed appreciation for having his thinking expanded to include retired ministers.

74
75 He described the staff changes happening at UUMA, including the shift from having an Executive
76 Director to having an Executive Team. They are in a period of experimentation now and will soon
77 decide whether to have the new staff design become permanent. The people currently on the
78 Executive Team – Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Director of Collegial Practices; Janette Lallier, Director of
79 Operations, and Darrick Jackson, Director of Education – will also need to decide whether they want
80 to remain on the team. Another part of the on-going transition is to have new job descriptions for team
81 members. They are assessing capacity to do each thing they have determined to be important, and
82 they are assessing sustainability as well.

83
84 Darrick said the focus of the next UUMA Board meeting will be on the UUMA’s mission and vision.

85
86 Darrick spoke of the Study Guide UUMA has created for the proposed Guideline revisions, and he
87 expressed gratitude that we will be having Zoom groups to discuss them. He noted the value of our
88 perspective because of our historical knowledge. The essential question is: How do we live our values
89 and hold ourselves accountable?

90
91 Darrick mentioned that he has launched an online learning platform. Classes there will be either
92 inexpensive or free. He invited our suggestions of topics and teachers. He mentioned that what was
93 formerly known simply as “The Institute” has the new official name “Institute for the Learning Ministry.”
94 The next Institute will be February 8-12, 2021, in San Diego. The theme will be “Faith for Empowering
95 Resilience,” which will be the theme for Ministry Days 2020 as well. There may be a service project
96 connected to the Institute. Darrick invited us to contribute workshop ideas and suggest presenters.
97 This Institute will be not only for ministers but also for other religious professionals.

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99 In reference to Ministry Days 2020, Darrick mentioned that the schedule will be somewhat different
100 from past Ministry Days, with the annual meeting on Tuesday afternoon.

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103 Darrick mentioned that there are now a few UUMA chapters that are not geographically based. They
104 are Community Ministers, Transitional Ministers, Military Chaplains, and Ministers of Color.
105

106 **SOME MATTERS FOR FURTHER ATTENTION**

107
108 Marni Harmony mentioned that several years ago the Joint Task Force with representatives from
109 UURMaPA, UUMA, and the Interim Ministry Guild considered whether UURMaPA should become a
110 chapter of UUMA. When significant changes occurred in the UUMA staff configuration, that issue was
111 tabled, but might well be taken up again once UUMA clarifies its identity. One factor to be considered
112 is that UURMaPA includes partners who are not members of UUMA. Susan Rak mentioned that her
113 board portfolio as UURMaPA's liaison to the UUMA should be taken into consideration as part of this
114 review.
115

116 Barbara ten Hove mentioned that the nominating committee needs more clarity about the at-large
117 board positions.
118

119 Ned Wight asked whether there might be some need for UUMA to consider a Truth and Reconciliation
120 process including restorative justice. Darrick responded that that is part of what is currently under
121 review.
122

123 Beth Miller suggested the UU Rainbow History as a possible UUMA program and our anticipated book
124 as an option for a UUMA study group.
125

126 Phyllis Hubbell suggested having a representative from UUMA present at every UURMaPA conference
127 to give a UUMA status report and answer questions.
128

129 Deborah Pope-Lance raised the possibility of the UUMA being in charge of official communications
130 with ministers instead of the UUA (MFC). Questions about confidentiality are central, and UUMA
131 appears to be evolving toward more of a combination of advocacy and accountability.
132

133 Respectfully submitted,
134 Barbara Child, Secretary