Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association 1 Minutes of Zoom Conference Board Meeting November 17,2021 2 3 4 Board Members Present: Susan Rak, Richard Speck, Gloria Perez, Millie Rochester, Ann Schranz, Jaco ten Hove, Anne Spatola and Wayne Arnason 5 Note: Board decisions are in bold type. Action items are in red italic type. 6 7 Opening words read by Millie Rochester were a meditation entitled "With Eyes 8 That See" by Marta Valentín, from the meditation anthology Falling into the Sky, 9 edited by Abhi Janamanchi and Abhimanyu Janamanchi. 10 11 12 Common Read conversation-Unitarian Universalists of Color Ann Schranz led the discussion of the first three essays. 13 14 15 Standing reports: 16 Secretary-Gloria Perez: 17 18 After a short discussion about a sentence in the revised draft of the Oct. minutes the decision was made to delete the sentence. The board then approved the 19 20 minutes as amended. Gloria will delete the sentence and then send the approved Oct. minutes to Duane 21 22 Fickeisen for posting on the website. 23 24 Treasurer-Richard Speck: There were a few questions asked to clarify some items on the spreadsheet 25 Richard sent to us. Richard answered them. We should end the year with a 26 surplus of funds. The board then approved the treasure's report. 27 Richard then explained the proposed budget for the next fiscal year 2022. 28 Projected expenses were based on last year's expenses. Richard asked for some 29 clarification of some items regarding expected expenses. He also said that if there 30 are more expenses than allowed for in the proposed budget, we could take funds 31 from the reserves. The biggest moving part of the budget is funding for the in-32 person board meeting. He verified that our fiscal year runs from January 1st 33 through December 31st. The board approved the proposed draft of the 2022 34 budget. 35

- 38 President-Susan Rak
- 39 Susan's concern is how to help UURMaPA and the wider community with the big
- 40 issues. We will discuss this later in the meeting.

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- 42 Connections-Millie Rochester
- 43 Millie is pleased to have received the spreadsheet of Intent to Retire forms.

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- 45 Matters for discussion
- 46 Anne gave a debriefing of the Fall Conference.
 - Barbro is contacting people for evaluations of the conference.
 - There is a need to have guidelines for ministers and partners Odysseys.
 - There needs to be some improvement for the registration process for the next conference
 - There should not be a clergy couple chosen to do the worship service
 - We discussed the Winter Conference. Points brought up:
 - Registration fees for the conference recognizing that there is a difference in costs between a virtual conference and an in-person conference.
 - Should a couple pay less than two separate individuals? Having a couple's rate might encourage more partners to attend.
 - Could there be a fee for each screen logging in? Anne said she suggested this to the team, and they said "no".
 - Consider the number of segments in the conference as part of setting the registration fee.
 - Anne is working on a fee structure.
 - Should the Board or the planning team set the fee?
 - Along with this discussion came the suggestion that down the road we might find a way to do outreach to the partners of retiring ministers.
- Tom Owen-Towle offered to be a keynote speaker on the topic "Mindful Dying"
- 66 for the Winter Conference. Anne may contact him for the Fall Conference next
- 67 year. The team has already decided that there will not be a keynote presenter.
- Tom will do a small workshop on Self-care for the Winter Conference. The team is
- 69 still refining a theme for the Conference. Anne will talk to Wayne about inviting a
- 70 Latinx minister for the Odyssey. Two names came up as possibilities. We also
- 71 noted that there needs to be a clear understanding about what we expect in the
- 72 role of ministers' partners as an Odyssey presenter. December 1st is the target
- date to talk to prospective odysseants. Barbro volunteered to create a slide show
- of registrants along with music background.

We will send thank yous with gift cards to Beacon Press to the planning team

76 members for the Fall Conference. Anne will create a list of recipients to send to

77 Susan.

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- Ongoing items
- There are three positions which we will need to fill.
- The editor for Elderberries is one. We need to be thinking about who has the skill
- set to produce the newsletter. As of now, Jaco is doing all the production work for
- each edition. Shall we think about dividing the tasks or look for someone to do
- the entire production? Jaco has files describing the way he creates Elderberries
- and is willing to work with the new editor acknowledging that the new person can
- use as much or as little of the information as they choose. He will be available to
- offer this help until July 1,2022. The first solo issue for the new editor will be July
- 15, 2022. Jaco will develop the issue enough so that the new editor will not have
- 89 to begin from scratch.
- 90 The second position is the obituary author for the obituaries of ministers'
- partners. Roger Rochester is leaving this position in April of 2022. Susan invited
- 92 suggestions for this position, someone who can do research about the deceased
- and who is a capable writer. Millie will ask Roger to send us information about
- 94 how he accomplishes the work of this position.
- The third position is that of webmaster. Duane Fickeisen desires to move on to
- other things. Susan is the liaison to the webmaster and will talk to Duane for more
- 97 information about the job requirements as well as the transition to his
- 98 replacement. It was suggested that we look for someone connected to UURMaPA
- 99 for the best results in maintaining the website.

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- New items
 - A chapter of the UUMA for retired ministers.

103 Wayne asked how much energy do we want to put into this idea and who is "we".
104 He talked about what his role may and may not be.

- Having discussions about a covenant, guidelines about how retired ministers and partners interact with each other and with other UUs
- Having discussions about joining the UUMA Good Officers Program. UUMA members having a direct link to UURMaPA which could be part of the UUMA Good Officers Program

110 It was proposed that we be thinking about these items for future meetings and allow for more agenda time in order to have these deeper conversations.

112	Wayne could write up something for the Winter issue of Elderberries after the
113	board has talked about these things.
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115	In-person board meeting/retreat
116	We spoke about having a virtual meeting or a hybrid type of meeting. Many ideas
117	were offered about location, traveling, using UURMaPA funds, structuring time,
118	and the benefits of meeting in person. We decided to meet in-person with a way
119	for those not wanting to travel to be included in the working sessions. Anne
120	suggested coming to Marin County, CA . We might be able to use her
121	congregation's church for meeting space and find lodging in hotels close by. She
122	will check with her congregation and look for hotels where we could reserve a
123	block of rooms for our lodging.
124	Ideas for topics which we would have time to talk about in a broader and deeper
125	scope in addition to those already discussed were:
126	 Needs of aging people
127	 Welcoming African Americans, Indigenous, and People of Color
128	We set the date of Feb 8,2022 to Feb 11,2022
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130	Respectfully submitted by Gloria Perez, secretary
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132	Board Reports

President-Susan Rak

herewith some notes in preparation for our meeting next week...

As you all did, participated in and enjoyed our UURMaPA virtual Fall Conference. Kudos and deep appreciation to Barbro Hansson and her team for putting together and presenting such a rich experience.

Dealt with fallout from spam emails sent out in my name as UURMaPA president. After responding individually to each notification from UURMaPAns and putting a notice on the UURMaPA FB page, I sent out a notice on "Announce". I regret very much that I did not do that sooner - I assumed that people would catch that this was unusual and not really from me, and would have heard of similar scams before and would have ignored it. [and this is not an instance of having a password comprised, so I had no worries there.. (they invent a totally fake identity that directs people to the scammers).] I only received the one complaint report of someone getting taken in.

Am behind on UURMaPA condolence notes and will catch up on them early next week.

Thinking about planning going forward for two non-Board positions: as mentioned previously, Roger Rochester is exiting his post as Obituary Coordinator as of April1, 2022. Duane Fickeisen wishes to step down as Webmaster down the road - not an immediate move, but we need to start thinking about someone new - with interest and skill in website content maintenance - for this. Should Nominating Committee get involved?

I am not sure how to move forward on structuring the UURMaPA Board's work beyond our monthly meetings. In the past I think the Board relied on having a short retreat or in-depth longer in-person meeting to work this through. As yet I've not come up with anything creative to do this in a "virtual" way. One thing I did consider was would it be helpful for us to still do this in a virtual, but also use the services of a consultant/facilitator to move us through whatever agenda we create???

As part of that "retreat" agenda, there are now several issues that I feel are looming over us - carry overs and newer ones. These will likely be of varying levels of importance to each of us, so I mention them here in no order of preference or consequence:

• the ongoing conversation (over several years now) regarding welcome and inclusion of BIPoC retired ministers and partners. We noted some strategies for addressing this in more depth [creating an "advisory group" of BIPoC ministers and partners, involved in UURMaPA and not; continued internal work for UURMaPA (Board, wider community?) on issues around white supremacy, antiracism, etc.], but there are no concrete steps forward as yet.

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138	Report to the UURMaPA Board from Vice President Ned Wight—
139	11/17/21
140	Updates on my workplan for 2021-2022 appear in bold italics:
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142	Arrangements for UURMaPA member lunch
143	 Tentatively planning for day after SOLT in Portland, June 2022
144	 9/11 contacted the GA Planning office to update me as their UURMaPA contact
145	person: Don Plante (dplante@uua.org); he has updated his files and I will receive
146	notification when space reservations can be made, most likely in late October or
147	early November
148	Plan to request space as soon as I receive notice from GA Planning in December
149	2021
150 151	Attend Service of the Living Tradition and survivor's luncheon (during GA)
151 152	Plan to attend
153	• I fail to attend
154	Propose workshops during Ministry Days or GA
155	Will solicit workshop ideas in January; will submit article for the next
156	Elderberries
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158	Creative Sageing Award selection group (3 people)
159	 Marni Harmony is willing to be part of this group; will choose one more person for
160	the selection group by mid-December
161	 I reviewed the UURMaPA website page listing previous recipients
162	Deview for an siel accounts with the Tree course.
163 164	Review financial accounts with the Treasurer • I'll be in touch with Richard
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166	Organize peer support groups
167	Inventory groups currently running
168	Determine interest among retirees in 2019, 2020 and 2021
169	Select conveners/facilitators and get these groups going
170	Received from Susan Rak list of 2020 and 2021 retirees to whom we can send an
171	invitation to join a peer support group
172	 Made video for Fall Conference Board presentation inviting volunteers to serve as
173	peer support conveners
174	 Sent an article re peer support groups to Jaco as Elderberries editor
175	Reached out to Sarah Gabbey at the UUA to confirm that the UURMaPA VP is on the
176	distribution list for new retirees; Keith Kron replied that Emily Cherry
177	(echerry@uua.org) is the new staff person that will be handling retirees.

• In late November, I will send an e-mail inviting new members from 2020 and 2021 to consider joining a peer support group beginning in January 2022. Will organize those who respond during December 2021.

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- Secretary Report-Gloria Perez
- 183 My report is:
- 184 I sent the approved Sept. minutes to Duane for posting on Nov.26,2021.

I attended the Fall Conference and facilitated two small groups on the first day. It was an honor to serve in this way. People really appreciated the opportunity to be together. I also co-presented a workshop with Barbara Child on the last day. The group was small and they, too, appreciated the opportunity to hear about Barbara's Handbook and discussing a little about the relationships between previous ministers and partners with current ministers.

I really enjoyed the music which was played during the picture slideshow before each session. The play list inspired me to think that a way to live into the inclusivity and diversity to which we aspire would be to intentionally choose more music by artists of color and marginalized folks. I included that idea in my evaluation of the conference.

See you all on Wednesday.

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- Treasurer Report-Richard Speck
- 197 Dear Board,

Here is my first attempt at what our budget might be for 2022. You can read my assumptions and comments next to the numbers. I included the 2021 budget for comparison along with the totals thus far in October 2021. We have two more months, but these are usually less busy.

201 Richard

See worksheets at the end of the reports

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- Elderberries-Jaco ten Hove
- Well, hopefully you've seen the result of my recent work, either online or in your mailbox within the past few days. I'm also reading into UUs of Color, and I attended most of the Fall Conference.

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I do need to remind y'all that my final *Elderberries* issues will be the next two: Winter and Spring 2022, completing two Board terms, producing 16 issues. As much as I have enjoyed rising to the creative challenge of this position, I admit to feeling quite okay about being done with it.

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After putting Spring to bed (around May 1) I am willing to spend the rest of my term, through June, orienting any successor(s), but as of July 1st I expect to be completely out of the loop, to allow a new regime to follow their own path. In fact, I have other plans for my energies come July.

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I can't say that anyone has responded to my column a while back (inviting interested parties to contact me about taking over). I do not have particular suggestions and do not consider it my job to find a replacement, beyond what I've already done. But I remain willing to engage with any interested parties.

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I can say that I was recruited by the then-president, way back when.

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Perhaps you all might want to redouble efforts to search among those you know in order to bring forth viable candidates. I am happy to speak with any such and, as I say, can overlap with them as much as they might wish, up until July 1. I have thorough documentation of my approaches, should they be of value.

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228 Appreciatively, -Jaco

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- 230 Connections-Millie Rochester
- Here is what I've been up to in terms of Connections since we last met.
- Like you, I very much enjoyed our Zoom conference so much gratitude to the whole team who put it together.
 - Followed up with folks Ann S was in touch with. Thanks again for your responsiveness, Ann.
 - Began the process of contacting UURMaPAns in geographic areas without Area Connectors, via email and written notes. My outreach has been well-received, but *I am concerned that our Directory appears to not be current*, judging from the number of emails that have bounced. None of my written notes have been returned, so I'm hopeful that connections can still take place, and will let Patt know to delete the out-of-date email addresses.
 - Am reconsidering my decision to leave Facebook weighing the pros and cons since that was a means of being in touch with many retired colleagues.

244 See you soon,

Millie

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Connections assistant-Ann Schranz

Here are a few highlights of the past month.

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Webmaster Duane Fickeisen and I communicated by email about possibly listing upcoming memorial services on the website. When Duane contacted the website designer for a price quote, he found out that the person is no longer available to do work for UURMaPA. Apparently, this person has moved on to other vocational interests. The Board may need to work with Duane to line up someone new to handle technical updates to the website (updates beyond the scope or skills of a webmaster). The technical work was specifically having memorial service details disappear after the date of the service. Duane offered to post and remove memorial service details on the website himself. I said I didn't want to make more work for him. For now, I'll just post upcoming service details to UURMaPA-Announce and let people keep track of the services as they will.

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I haven't yet updated the database related to deceased ministers and partners and posted it on the new Google Drive location that Richard Speck set up. I'll do it soon.

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I prepared the discussion prompts for the first three essays in our "common read."

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I had an email exchange with an Area Connector who didn't know how to find the member directory or Area Connector directory on the UURMaPA website. He was happy to know how to do it.

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I asked an Area Connector to help a member find clergy support for her clergy husband, who is disabled and residing in a group home. She was grateful.

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Through my participation in the UURMaPA caregiver support group on Zoom, I learned that a UURMaPA member who would like to receive UUMA updates isn't receiving them. I suspect that

273 when the UUMA discontinued using a Listserve and required people to set up an account in the 274 current UUMA system, some UURMaPA members may not have done that. Or perhaps the person 275 changed email addresses and was removed when emails bounced. I told the person to go to the 276 UUMA website and make sure her contact information there was correct. 277 278 I enjoyed the recent UURMaPA virtual conference. Thank you, Anne Spatola, and everyone who 279 had a part in it! 280 281 Ann Schranz 282 283 Conferences-Anne Spatola 284

November Board Report, 2021

In addition to the usual activities of conferences and planning meetings, I forwarded the annual invoice for the Rainbow History Project to Richard. I reminded Gretchen at Ladyweave of several submissions that had not been added to the website from June. She will be looking into these.

Tom Owen-Towle submitted a theme proposal for the winter conference. I reviewed it, requested additional information and also discussed it with Barbro (as a possibility for next fall's conference). Tom's proposal was considered at the winter conference meeting on November 10. The planning team maintained its prior decision to keep the conference focused on small group interaction without including a major presentation. The theme of "Picking Up the Pieces" or possibly "Letting Go" was preferred to Tom's program offer of "Mindful Dying". I shared the team's decision with Tom afterward. I further stated that once a decision is made regarding the fall conference and a convener is selected, his proposal will be reconsidered.

At the post conference meeting, everyone was jubilant over the success and ending of the conference. Two from the winter conference team also attended, Kathleen Ellis and Fritz Hudson. Congratulations and toasting were widespread.

At this meeting, it was suggested that guidelines be developed by the board for Odyssey presenters and partner odysseys might different criteria.

It seems that improvements are needed for the registration system. Integrating it into the zoom platform complicated the process. Kathleen, the winter conference registrar became concerned following her offline discussion with Roger.

The worship coordinator expressed a preference for having clergy couples do the Service of Remembrance. Rosemarie, communications, is working on a piece for the winter issue of Elderberries. All team members are to submit articles to her by December 1. It was noted that the topics of interest small groups were a major challenge. 103 attended the small groups and some delay was experienced with the breakout buttons.

Reading "Unitarian Universalists of Color" and also "The Hate U Give".

Fall Conference

- Attended 3 day fall conference in October
- Many meetings
- Sent "thank you" notes to each team member

Since we've last met I did some followup at the request of the Conference Planning Team with UUA and UUMA representatives who will be presenting at this month's Fall Conference. Melissa Carvill-Zeimer and I corresponded about whether she should attend the small group session on the Pros and Cons of creating UUMA Retirees Chapter. We agreed it would be a good thing for her to be there, to listen, and to be able to compare notes with me afterwards. She would not be in a leadership role but could answer questions related to the UUMA Chapter requirements if needed. I am brushing up on those requirements so that I can be as well-informed as Melissa.

There has only been one piece of correspondence directed at me as a result of the Pros and Cons statement being sent out. That came from a Planning Team member who had some curiosity about how this process started and what the defined "problem" was that this idea might solve. It was a good question and exchange.

I have had an opportunity follow up on the issue we discussed at the last meeting regarding the process for inviting the theme speaker for the Fall Conference. The UURMaPA member who had concerns that she shared in writing with Susan reached out to me and sent me a copy of the letter. I was glad for the invitation to be in conversation about her feelings and that conversation is ongoing, by email and on the phone.

I undertook a pastoral outreach to a member whose communication with Patt Herdklotz in response to a message she sent out on our behalf raised some concerns for Patt. With no Connections representative in this member's area, Patt asked if I could make some inquiries and possibly reach out, and I was able to do that.

Looking ahead, I wanted to make sure that all UURMaPA members are aware that the UUMA's Convocation in February 2022 will be all-virtual. There are usually some UURMaPA members who attend the Convocations, although others find the costs out of reach. The virtual option has always been there but now that this is the only option I wanted to draw it to our members attention. So I created some publicity for Elderberries about the Institute, coming up in February 2022. This month I also followed up on Jaco's request for any articles we might be able to generate for the fall issue of Elderberries and sent one in.

I have now received my copy of our suggested common read Yamamoto et al. <u>Unitarian</u> <u>Universalists of Color</u>. I've barely started it but a deadline for some discussion to start would spur me on.

	2021 Budget	2021 Total	2022 Budget	Comments
INCOME		As of October 202	1	
Member Donations	\$10,000.00	\$2,245.00	\$3,000.00	Assume Annual Solitication not done
Member Donations Paypal	\$4,000.00	\$2,178.00	\$3,000.00	Assume Annual Solitication not done
Memorial Gifts	\$2,000.00	\$27,329.18	\$2,000.00	Assume a few gifts through the year and no large gift
Conference Fee Income Checks	\$6,000.00	\$4,315.00	\$4,500.00	Assume Virtual Conferences for 2022
Conference Fee Income Credit Cards	\$22,000.00	\$11,896.85	\$13,000.00	Assume Virtual Conferences for 2022
GA Luncheon Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	Assume 10 people at \$30 each
UUMA Subsidy	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Standard annual subsidy
Scholarship Income	\$500.00	\$2,127.45	\$2,000.00	Based on 2021 Experience
Other Income	\$0.00	\$2,500.00		Assume no refunds from conference locations
Total Regular Income	\$45,500.00	\$53,591.48	\$28,800.00	
EXPENSE				
On-Site Board Meetings	40.00	40.00		
Transportation	\$0.00	\$0.00		Assume one in person board meeting
Room and Board	\$0.00	\$0.00		Assume one in person board meeting
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$0.00		Assume one in person board meeting
Total Board Meetings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,800.00	
Conferences				
Attendee Fee Refunds	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Assume Virtual Conferences for 2022
Room and Board	\$21,000.00	\$0.00		Assume Virtual Conferences for 2022
Speakers	\$500.00	\$1,000.00		Two theme speakers
Music	\$200.00	\$70.00		Assume Virtual Conferences for 2022
Technology Support	\$3,000.00	\$7,402.25	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Assume increased cost for tech support
Hospitality	\$500.00	\$0.00		Assume Virtual Conferences for 2022
Scholarships	\$1,000.00	\$40.00		Less demand due to virtual conferences
Misc.	\$100.00	\$200.00		Assume Virtual Conferences for 2022
Total Conferences	\$26,600.00	\$8,712.25	\$6,800.00	735une virtual Comercines for 2022
Total Comercines	\$20,000.00	Ç0,712.23	\$0,800.00	
General Assembly				
Luncheon Cost	\$0.00	\$0.00		Assume 30 people at \$30 each
Transportation-President	\$0.00	\$0.00		Airfare to GA
Transportation-Vice President	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	Airfare to GA
Room and Board	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	For two people
Technology Support	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	Not as much needed
GA Fees & Misc	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	Registration
New Member Welcoming Gifts	\$500.00	\$894.40	\$500.00	Gifts
Total General Assembly	\$1,900.00	\$894.40	\$4,600.00	
Communications	\$4,000.00	\$3,304.43	¢4,000,00	A gruma gama gagt
Elderberries Publication Fundraising Appeal	\$1,500.00	\$3,304.43		Assume same cost Assume same cost if it is done
	\$1,500.00		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Peer Support Groups (video calls) Website	\$200.00	\$0.00		Might not be used
		\$0.00		Might not be used
Zoom	\$300.00	\$0.00		Might not be used
Database Management	\$200.00	\$0.00		Might not be used
Total Communications	\$6,400.00	\$3,304.43	\$6,200.00	
Other Expenses				
Retirement Planning Seminar Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	None scheduled
Saging & Unsung & Navius Awards	\$1,000.00	\$500.00		Same as last year
Rainbow Project	\$1,500.00	\$122.00		Same as last year
Postage	\$200.00	\$165.20		Same as last year

Connections Network	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	Same as last year
Memorial Gifts - UUMA and Others	\$2,000.00	\$1,950.00	\$2,000.00	Same as last year
Donations to the Endowment	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	Assume no bequests
President's Expense	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	Same as last year
Credit Card Processing Fees	\$400.00	\$240.68	\$300.00	Total was less for last year
Bank Expenses	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	Same as last year
Board Misc.	\$200.00	\$50.00	\$150.00	Slightly less needed
Total Other Expenses	\$5,550.00	\$28,027.88	\$5,400.00	
Total Expense	\$40,450.00	\$40,938.96	\$28,800.00	
Profit/Loss	\$5,050.00	\$12,652.52	\$0.00	