

UURMaPA Board Zoom Meeting — March 24, 2026

Board decisions are in bold-face type; action items are in red.

Reports, NOT incl. Treasurer's (which is delayed), follow the meeting minutes.

Present: George Buchanan, Barbro Hansson, Anne Marsh, Richard Speck, Charles Stephens, Janet Tillman

Absent: Joy Atkinson, Richard Nugent, Christine Robinson

Opening: Richard S. called the meeting to order at 3:02pm Eastern - 2:02pm Central - 1:02pm Mountain - 12:02pm Pacific. Charles offered opening words from Samuel Martin's Journal on noticing when winter becomes spring.

Agenda Review: George noted the meeting change for next month to the third Tuesday rather than the fourth. George wants to make a slight change in our Board goals; we will add this item at the end of the agenda.

Check-in followed, responding: *What is in need of cleaning for you this month?*

Consent Agenda was accepted. We did not receive a Treasurer's report, but Richard N. will send it when he returns from the UUA retirement conference.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Letter to Membership on Conferences:

Richard S. had sent out a draft letter to UURMaPA members explaining the upcoming changes in our conferences -- a big conference in the fall, a simpler event in the spring, and various additional programs at other times. Barbro and Charles made suggestions, which were incorporated. Richard screen-shared the result. No further changes were made, and **we approved the letter**, which **Richard will send out**.

2. UURMaPA Publicity to Pre-Retirement Ministers:

John Gilmore has suggested to Janet that more info about UURMaPA go out to those soon to retire, especially ministers of color, e.g., through the newsletters of DRUUM and BLUU. Janet will ask John if he would write an article about his UURMaPA experiences for these newsletters. **The Board approved Janet's plan**. It was noted that we also want to improve our UURMaPA publicity in every venue we can think of. Richard N. will mention UURMaPA at the UUA's pre-retirement seminar; it would be good to be part of that event whenever it's offered. Barbro noted there's a Facebook page for ministers thinking of retirement. We send out emails to those who've filed intent to retire forms, but would like to find more ways to connect. Charles suggested an article in *Elderberries* asking UURMaPAs to make personal contacts with colleagues and partners to encourage their participation, and to remind them that first-time conference attendees get free registration. **Janet will follow up with John Gilmore, and Richard S. will help make connections with BLUU and DRUUM.**

UURMaPA Board Zoom Meeting — March 24, 2026

3. Spring Conference: In the Loop

Richard S. had sent out a draft timetable for the Board's 25-minute "In the Loop" slot, but the Planning Team would like fewer speakers rather than the "popcorn" approach. We decided as follows, 5-6 minutes each:

- Conference changes: Richard S.
- Small groups and skill-sharing: Janet
- Mentoring program: Joy
- Sing Out Love and other special presentations: Christine

Richard S will put together a revised timeline.

4. Spring Conference: Awards

The Unsung UURMaPA and Creative Sageing awards are scheduled for Tuesday evening, just before the concert. Charles will have 20 minutes for these presentations, and could include a request for nominations for future award recipients.

5. Spring Conference: Pod Financial Aid

Barbro proposed offering \$100 in financial assistance to Pod attendees. **We decided to keep assistance at \$50 this time, but may go to \$100 in future.**

6. Conference Coordinator Job Description

Barbro had sent her proposed job description, noting that it does not include some of the tasks she has been doing, as she would like others to take these on. Here are those tasks:

- Invite newly retired ministers and partners to attend their first conference free: Charles (VP) will do. Janet (Connections) will share her list of new retirees with Charles to help ensure no one is missed.
- Supervise Zoom Master: Richard S. (President) will do.
- Financial Aid: Determine amounts available for Pod attendees, update forms, respond to requests. Richard N. (Treasurer) will be asked to do.
- Invite Survivors and Partners to be guests of UURMaPA at Remembrance Service: Joy (Passages Coordinator) will be asked by Barbro to do take this on.
- Serve as Registrar: After some discussion, we decided that this task should stay as part of the Conference Coordinator's job description.

Barbro noted that we are already set for Odysseans (President invites, then Zoom Master walks them through process); Chaplains and denominational participants (UUA/UUMA Liaison/Chaplain-at-Large); evaluation form (Planning Team creates, Zoom Master uploads to Google forms.)

Barbro will add registrar duties to her job description and then resend for Board approval.

Other Board members who have taken on the above tasks will update their job descriptions accordingly and send to Anne (who will send to Jaco ten Hove for the website.)

UURMaPA Board Zoom Meeting — March 24, 2026

We took a 5(ish)-minute break here.

7. Recruiting new Conference Coordinator:

The Nominating Committee can now use the revised job description to help recruit. Any ideas for nominees should be sent to Beth Miller. Barbro suggested that Beth might want to check in with her about potential nominees, in case Barbro has relevant info.

8. Skill-sharing Network:

Janet is pleased with the offerings so far, and noted that the Spanish classes have seven people signed up. She will continue to add new offerings and requests as they come in, and will put in a plug at the Spring Conference. Eventually, the Skill Sharing Network will be on the website, but that hasn't happened yet.

9. Land Acknowledgement:

In our list of Board goals, George asked to change the land acknowledgement from "at in person meetings" to "at in person Board meetings." **Richard S. will make the change.**

Closing:

Richard S. reminded us that Janet will do opening and closing words in April, Richard N. in May, and Richard S. in June.

Charles read William Stafford's poem: "If you don't know the kind of person I am..." **Charles will send out to us all.**

Adjournment: 4:28pm Eastern - 3:28 Central - 2:28pm Mountain - 1:28 Pacific

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 21 at 3pm Eastern - 2pm Central - 1pm Mountain - 12pm Pacific. Note that this is a week earlier than our usual meeting date, which would have conflicted with the Spring Conference.

REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR MARCH 24, 2026, MEETING

1. Connections Coordinator's Report - Janet Tillman

A. Status of 2026 Board Goals assigned to the Connections Coordinator

1. Explore (and develop, if feasible) a member skills exchange/skill sharing section on the website.
 - The Skill-Sharing Network is up and running. Beginning Spanish classes offered by Jeff Jones has seven participants and begins April 2, 2026. This first course will be for eight weeks with participants deciding if they want to continue for another eight weeks.

UURMaPA Board Zoom Meeting — March 24, 2026

- To date, there have been no additional skills offered for the network.
2. Create new focused interest connection groups.
 - I am still working on recruiting facilitators for groups focused on *Living with Less* and *Living with Chronic Illness*. As soon as I have identified two co-facilitators/conveners, I will publicize these groups.
 3. Explore a focused interest support group for BIPOC members.
 - I spoke with John Gilmore who is considering being a co-facilitator for a BIPOC focused- interest group. John shared his thoughts about where to start the discussion based on what he sees as a need. He said, “many BIPOC ministers focus most of their attention on working in the UU Community and do less work in their own communities. These are two distinct cultures the ministers often must adapt to. Leaving the UU Community after full-time work and returning to do a Public Ministry in their own community can seem jarring.”
 - John also suggested others I could reach out to regarding a BIPOC Group.
 - Regarding increasing BIPOC ministers’ interest in UURMaPA, John suggested that UURMaPA become more visible to retiring ministers before they retire so they are aware of the opportunity to join UURMaPA and what it offers. He suggested that UURMaPA send articles to various newsletters such as BLUU, DRUUMN and UUMA.

B. Area Connectors

- There has been no change in the number of Area Connectors since my January 2026 report. Recruitment for Area Connectors is an ongoing and challenging process.
- All Area Connectors now have an updated roster of the retirees/partners in their areas.

C. Connection Groups

- There has been no change in the General-Interest Groups. (Total Groups Active – 12, Total Participants – 69).

D. Connecting New Retirees/Partners

- I received no notifications of any new retirees in March.

* * * * *

UURMaPA Board Zoom Meeting — March 24, 2026

2. Conference Coordinator's Report - Barbro Hansson

Spring '26 Conference, Apr. 27-29: *Keeping It Together When Democracy Is Falling Apart*

Registrations as of March 24 at 10:00 am Eastern:

115 total Registrations (170 paying registrations budgeted)

1 Guest (Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout)

1 First Timer (UURMaPA who has not yet attended a virtual conference)

4 Scholarships (non-paying registrants)

101 Ministers (two of whom are also partners)

13 Partners

\$5,450.00 Received in Registrations (\$8,500.00 budgeted)

\$1,210.00 Received in Scholarship Donations (\$1,500.00 budgeted)

\$6,660.00 Total received

5 Plan to attend the Wilmington Pod

10 Plan to attend the Kingston Pod

No registrants have indicated they want to be contacted about special needs.

Video Release Forms Received:

Kathleen Rolenz - Opening Worship

Wayne Arnason - Opening Worship

Jan Carlsson-Bull - Obits for Remembrance Service

Deborah Pope-Lance - Introduces Minister Odysiant

UURMaPA Board Update

The UURMaPA In the Loop segment will have 25 minutes to report. It is not a good idea to approach this segment as a "popcorn" presentation. The Planning Team would prefer to have fewer Board members speaking for 5-10 minutes each.

The UURMaPA Awards Presentation will have 20 minutes.

Christine Robinson and Marni Harmony serve as Conference Chaplains.

Christine Robinson is working with the worship team and our Zoom Master to include a chant from the virtual SOL songbook and the Planning Team is considered other possible places for the chant to be a transition from one program to another.

Fall 2026 Conference - October 19-21: No theme selected yet

Jeff Briere and I hope to plan a fall theme gathering before too long.

Duane Fickeisen and Roger Rochester are our two Odyssey presenters for the fall.

Thank you, Richard.

Fall 2027 Conference - October 25-27: No theme selected yet.

* * * * *

UURMaPA Board Zoom Meeting — March 24, 2026

3. UUA/UUMA Liaison's Report - Christine Robinson

I have been substituting for our Associate Minister here, who has resigned for medical reasons. So....not so much UURMaPA work this month! I will be unable to attend this month's meeting and look forward to seeing the minutes.

I have been working on getting one song from *Sing Out Love* into the Conference program. All is coming together on that front.

The UURMaPA website now has several documents aimed at helping retired and working ministers to create the covenant which is required when a retired minister participates in a congregation. Thanks to Jaco for facilitating this.

I would like to suggest that we offer to help the Ministerial Transitions Study Group to publicize their Listening Session for Retired Ministers, which they are producing through the UUMA Retired Ministers Chapter, by sending out publicity through the UURMaPA mailing list. (If you remember they decided to it was more appropriate to produce this under Chapter auspices because the UUMA chapter is covenanted.) Nonetheless, we have a far larger membership than the chapter, and our contribution to their work seems important to me and assisting it will be empowering to us and possibly helpful, even healing, to some of our members. If this needs to be on the agenda, Please add it.

I have attended two online seminars which I thought might be either repeated for UURMAPANS or partially used. Neither was quite appropriate, however they did get me thinking about the issue of producing webinars. The webinar we've been doing with UUA staff on Finances is a simple, doable format. (and we'll be repeating it in late Fall, 2026). Any introduction of *Sing Out Love*, say, will be quite a bit more complex.

I've also been taking an online "AI for Ministers" course from an expert who is also a new minister and have been very impressed with her presentation. So I will be chatting with her about a "What Retired Ministers Need to Know about AI" sort of a webinar. If anyone has thoughts about a webinar-style program we might try out as we experiment with new ways of reaching our members, I'd be glad to hear it. Are there other UUA departments or groups you'd like to hear from?

* * * * *

4. *Elderberries* Editor's Report - George Buchanan

I have been delayed in preparing the February *Elderberries* issue. I hope the electronic edition will be available early next week.

This delay has been partly because of delays getting the Nominating Committee list, and partly because of personal and family challenges.

I appreciate the timely work of all those who provided copy for this issue.

* * * * *

Treasurer's Report has been delayed...