

UURMaPA Board Zoom Meeting — June 23, 2026

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

Reports, incl. Treasurer's, usually follow the meeting minutes.

Present: Joy Atkinson, George Buchanan, Barbro Hansson, Anne Marsh, Richard Nugent, Christine Robinson, Charles Stephens

Absent: Richard Speck, Janet Tillman

Guests: Mary Ganz, Fred Wooden (incoming Board members)

Opening: Richard S. and Janet are in Transylvania, so VP Charles called the meeting to order at 3:05pm Eastern - 2:05pm Central - 1:05pm Mountain - 12:05pm Pacific. Charles lit a chalice and offered an opening reading from John Updike.

Agenda Review: No changes

Check-in followed, responding to the question: What travels and/or travails are you experiencing?

Consent Agenda was accepted.

Matters for Discussion

1) Treasurer's Report

Richard N. has no report this month, but will have one by next month. He noted that we are financially sound, and that all checks have now been sent out. He also asked to verify which Board members will be attending the retreat at Bon Secours. Richard N., Richard S., Janet, Charles, Mary, and Joy are definite, Christine is not sure yet, and Fred will not attend in person. We hope to have a new At-Large Board Liaison for Conferences in time for the retreat. **Richard N. will let Beth Miller of the Nominating Committee know the retreat dates, so she can inform the new liaison.**

2) Fall Conference

Barbro reported that the theme will be based around the book edited by Kay Montgomery entitled *Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality*. The Planning Team hopes to have a panel featuring some of the contributors to that book. There will be seven sessions, rather than eight, and the Remembrance Service will be the final session. New Board member Fred Wooden will lead the worshipful ingathering.

Richard N. is now supervising Zoom Master Cynthia Becker. He and Cynthia are working on updating her job description and compensation, and Cynthia is also putting together a proposal for website changes. Barbro had sent us her recommendations for Cynthia's compensation, but Richard N. will report back on what he and Cynthia decide to propose. Barbro noted that Cynthia's compensation for her work on conferences comes out of the

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budgets for those conferences, but that her work on the website and on stand-alone programming comes from the UURMaPA operating budget.

The fall conference will not include a theme presentation on *Defiantly Joyful*, the Rainbow History book that has (finally!) been published. It will be up to the Board to decide how to honor and publicize the book. (See below under Retreat Planning.)

3) Mentoring/Companionship Program

We are beginning the second year of our Mentoring/Companionship program, as Joy had outlined in her report. New UURMaPAns as of June 2025 have been invited to participate, and Joy has had seven "yes" responses so far. These folks will be matched with mentors they choose from a list of those willing and available, and the pairs will meet once a month, usually virtually. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to get the names of new retirees from the UUA, despite many attempts. Joy is now receiving names, but Charles, Janet, and Membership Coordinator Pallas Stanford should also receive them. **Richard N. will check with Rebekah Savage at the UUA to see if she's the person we should be talking to (and if not, who is).**

4) Welcome to New UURMaPAns

Charles reminded us that the New Member Welcome Zoom will happen on September 3 at 3pm Eastern - 2pm Central - 1pm Mountain- 12pm Pacific. He sent us a Google Docs outline of the program, which incorporates the changes suggested at our May meeting. Charles is in touch with Zoom Master Cynthia Becker about running tech for the event. He also noted that we'll continue the practice of giving a book to newly-retired ministers and partners. **He will send their names and addresses to the InSpirit Bookstore, who will then send out gift copies of *Taking Retirement, A Beginner's Diary*. Charles will also put an article in *Elderberries*, as everyone is invited to attend and help welcome new folks.**

5) Common Read on Diversity/Inclusion

Christine does not have a suggestion yet, but will explore possibilities.

6) Webinar on AI

Christine reminded us that the stand-alone webinar on artificial intelligence is scheduled for September 22. Since the program is a lecture plus Q&A, Christine thought she would run the Zoom herself. Barbro noted that there are sometimes problems with UURMaPA's Zoom account; Christine and the presenter will take this under advisement. Christine will start advertising the webinar in August.

7) Retreat Planning

At our May meeting, we generated a list of possible retreat topics. (See May 26 meeting minutes.) Charles had sent this list with the agenda and asked for any further input.

- Christine suggested discussing the endowment and its bylaws, and considering what changes might be needed.

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- Charles suggested discussing how to celebrate and promote *Defiantly Joyful*, the book that emerged from the Rainbow History LGBTQ+ project. Christine wondered if this would make a good common read for UURMaPA. Barbro reported that Phyllis Hubbell is interested in working on a special program for the book. Richard N. suggested that it could be the UUA's denomination-wide common read next year, and that there could be GA programming as well. **Richard N. will try to find out whom to contact about this at the UUA, and will let Christine know. She will then check with Richard S., and one of them will make the contact.**

Closing:

Charles thanked departing Board members and welcomed new folks. He then read William Stafford's poem "A Ritual to Read to Each Other" to close our gathering.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05pm Eastern - 3:05pm Central - 2:05pm Mountain - 1:05pm Pacific.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 28, at 3pm Eastern - 2pm Central - 1pm Mountain - 12pm Pacific

Reports Submitted for June 23 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. **(Completed)**
2. Create new focused interest connection groups.
 - The search for 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 group for BIPOC members.
 - I am working on an article about UURMaPA to be submitted to BLUU, DRUUMM and UUMA for the newsletters.

B. Area Connectors

- There has been no change in the number of Area Connectors since my May 2026 report. Recruitment for Area Connectors is an ongoing and challenging process.

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C. Connection Groups

- There has been no change in the General-Interest Groups. (Total Groups Active – 12, Total Participants – 69).
- There are six focused-interest groups. The Goddess Group morphed into the Penelope's Bones Book Discussion Group.
- I will have two separate Group Conveners' Zoom meetings in July, one with the Conveners of the General Interest Groups and another with the Conveners of the Focused Interest Groups. We will discuss:
 - How groups are going
 - Members lost or gained since September 2025
 - What is working to make groups meaningful and lasting
 - Current challenges
 - How to increase the number of conveners for more groups
 - How to encourage/entice UURMaPA members to join a General Interest Connection Group

D. Connecting New Retirees/Partners

- There were five notifications for new retirees in May.
- I notified three Area Connectors of deaths in their areas.

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2) Passages Coordinator's Report - Joy Atkinson

Since the last Board meeting, I have sent notices of death to the membership regarding the following beloved colleagues: the Revs. Paul Johnson (1944-2026), Richard M. Fewkes (1936-2026), Brock Leach (1958-2026), Duke Gray (1938-2026), Robert Harold Flanders (1944-2026) and Nancy Kratochvil (1937-2026).

I have contacted potential mentees (new UURMaPA members since last June) regarding their interest in having a UURMaPA mentor for the next round of mentor-mentee connections, and will soon be sending those who responded positively lists of UURMaPAs in their area who might be willing to serve as their mentors. As we did last year for this new program, we will ask them to send us five names from the list in order of priority. Then we will recruit mentors from their choices, and offer a training session for the mentors. I look forward to what I hope will be a second successful year of these special connections.

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3) Conference Coordinator's Report - Barbro Hansson

This is my final Board meeting as Conference Coordinator. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve on the UURMaPA Board over the past four years. It has been an honor and a privilege, and I am awed by the commitment and generosity of all volunteers, especially the members who serve on the Board and the Conference Planning Teams. Thank you!

Spring 2026 Conference - April 27-29 "Holding It Together When Democracy is Falling Apart"

We have not put the spring conference to bed yet. I am finalizing a few details with Glen Thomas Rideout regarding his presentation and video release form.

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

The first official planning team meeting is scheduled for June 25. We do not yet have a full team, but I'm hopeful that will be resolved before too long. Here is the current list of names and roles:

Barbro Hansson - Convener, Registrar, Online Evaluation Form
Jeff Briere - Co-Convener, Publicity, Slide Show & Soundtrack, Virtual Host
Marcia Marino - Scribe
Ginger Luke - Theme Presentation Coordinator
Ned Wight - Connecting Rooms Coordinator
Sarah Oelberg - Mini-Eulogy Writer
Sonya Montana - CheckerUpper & Proofreader
Sonya Sukalski - Pod Promotion & Support, Archivist
Jef Gamblee - Tech Assistant #1

The roles still to be filled are Worship Coordinator and Tech Assistant #2. Marta Flanagan, Dena McPhetres, and Dana Worsnap have been suggested as possible worship leaders for the Remembrance Service. I am wondering about other outstanding preachers who could be tapped. Tech Assistant #2 works with Cynthia Becker & Jef Gamblee during the event.

In our preplanning, Jeff and I have discussed reducing the number of sessions for the fall conference from eight to seven, which would mean offering only one session on the last day. We are also considering switching the Remembrance Service and the 2nd Odyssey presentation so that the Remembrance Service is the final program. To ensure we do not shortchange attendees' opportunities to connect, we propose that the second session on Thursday feature Connecting Rooms, which could be focus-centered with a number of different choices.

In addition, we have been discussing a possible theme for the fall conference. Jeff is researching "The Transient & Permanent in Unitarian Universalism: Whither Goes UUism" - or something like that. I am researching "Elderhood: Resilience, Redefining Aging, & Reimagining Life" - or something to that effect.

Some deadlines have been set, and they are:

August 5, Registration Opens with a fee of \$60 per person
September 21, Deadline for inclusion in Remembrance Service
September 25, Registration fee jumps to \$80 per person; Video recordings due
October 1, Drop Dead Deadline for submitting video recordings
October 19, Fall 2026 Conference begins.

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

Addition to Conference Coordinator's report:

I just realized that my budget for the fall conference needed some editing. Cynthia's compensation needed to be increased. Most significantly, the Show Runner line item, which is now listed at \$2,000.00. The pre-conference production line item stays, for the time being, at \$5,000.00, for a total compensation of \$7,000.00 this fall.

I should also alert you to the fact that the compensation for Zoom meetings that we engage her in will need to increase from \$325.00 to at least \$500.00. That is for meetings of up to 2 hours: a 90-minute session plus 15 minutes before and after. There are no specifics about breaking that up between the show runner and pre-conference production work.

Richard Nugent and I meet with Cynthia tomorrow afternoon, June 22. That is the official transfer of supervisory responsibilities from the Board Conference Coordinator to the Treasurer. We may have different information for our Tuesday Board meeting.

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4) Vice-President's Report - Charles Stephens

Schedule for Virtual Welcome of Newly retired UU Minister and Partners

3 pm Eastern time, September 03 – 2026 (all times below are Eastern Daylight Time)

2:45 pm	Zoom Room open - Opening slide w/name of event, date; music	15 min
3:00	Welcome & Announcements (Charles--live)	3 min
3:03	Chalice Lighting by ????	2 min
3:05	Visual welcoming of Newly Retired Ministers and partners through photos - [No photos from SLT (UUA) program shall we solicit them or omit this part? - with music] (prerecorded)	5 min (tops)
3:10	Introduction to the Q & A Session managed by Richard Speck, UURMaPA President (Richard--live) Followed by Q & A from participants Responses from Board Members if called for	1 min 10-15 min
3:26	Invitation to Retired Ministers to participate in the UUMA Chapter for retired ministers—Christine Robinson (live)	5 min

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	Office of Church-Staff Finances omitted because there will be a stand alone webinar later in the year	0
3:31	What does UURMaPA offer to its members (including virtual Fall Conference 101 event info)— (Richard-live)	5 min
3:36	Invitation to join a Peer Support Group—Janet Tillman (live)	5 min.
3:41	Welcome to UURMaPA Web (Jaco ten Hove—recorded —from last year)	4 min
3:46	The “P” in UURMaPA: reflection from a partner (Janet Tillman- live)	5 min.
3:51	Invitation to Break-Out RoomConversations (Richard-- live)	2 min
3:53	Break-out Rooms (5+ per “room”?) w/reflection question: “How can UURMasPA serve you at this point in your retirement journey?”	35 min
4:28	Closing remarks and chalice extinguishing (Charles— live)	2 min
4:30	Closing slides with music—prerecorded, as people log off	5 - 8 min

Request from Barbro: The conference planning conveners have scheduled a virtual conference 101 event and would like for that to be announced at the welcome event.

Treasurer’s Report delayed.