



AUUMM Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes August 18, 2025

Present: Jen Hayman, Matt Meyer, Verdis Robinson, Bran Lennox, Deb Weiner, and Allison King (staff) and Janice Marie Johnson (UUA Liaison to AUUMM).

Absent: Anderson Manuel

Moderator Laura Weiss began the meeting at 2:30 PM with a check-in question.

Secretary Deb Weiner presented the [Annual meeting](#) and [July Board Meeting Minutes](#). The July minutes were approved. Board members were asked to send comments regarding the Annual Meeting minutes, which will be placed on the agenda for approval at the 2026 Annual Conference. Jen Hayman noted that one of her priorities is to communicate with NomCom regarding getting them more involved with the work of the board going forward.

2026 Milwaukee Conference and CPC needs

theresa rohlck and Yvonne DuVal are having their next meeting soon, after which they hope to have some really specific questions for the Board, and also some tasks. So they are not at this meeting, but will focus on the next meeting. They want us to reflect on their work. Allison noted that AI did a transcription and summary of the debriefing meeting.

Comments:

Deb felt that it was the smoothest conference she has ever attended.

Allison said the Atlanta staff took things seriously - they offered a lot of help and it was a huge contribution regarding logistics.

Jen: What a great host congregation. Great facilities, up to date and equipped. Coffee in the hospitality room, things clean - made people feel OK. Making sure that this happens in Milwaukee and when we consider site visits, we should hold this in our memory. Having Mike Halerz was such a blessing. This allows us to set standards that we can replicate going forward.

Other comments: There was a regular sense of checking in - if people had needs, the response was "could we help," etc. Board really showed up. Allison was omnipresent. Things felt aligned. There was transparency in the work which translated to others.

Bran: loved the sense of respect in interactions between board members, staff, those attending. It felt like we were all a team, and that helped attendees feel supported.

Janice: as someone who participated online, the conference was fabulous. It was so engaging and welcoming for those online. I kept thinking, 'what am I going to go to next.' Throughout, Janice and Jan Gartner were communicating and both felt welcomed and well thought out.

Laura: One important conversation with Yvonne and Theresa was about the structure of the CPC as co-lead facilitators of this event. Theresa was concerned, and felt it was important to always have a yin/yang. What makes it work is that Theresa and Yvonne have found a working style together and it only gets better over time. Her recommendation was that, as a board, we bring in two with complimentary work styles and learn their work styles. They were very in synch with one another. Theresa suggested that they might have people in mind. GREAT experience with Mike Halerz (Allison).

Matt: Will be meeting with Carl Kennedy about the worship band. Do we want to empower application of a grant again for a band track? Matt said he is also wondering about the queer space: might not need a separate queer space, but a queer caucus at lunch could be good? Also (Bran) wondered if there should be a poly caucus moment somewhere. Matt noted that he has founded a UU professionals poly group that is going to be going public soon. And it might be good to share with our members.

Allison: We can't do everything, but providing a way for people to announce that they are gathering could be good (self-organize desired caucuses). Allison got a message from someone who is 'deeply concerned' about the Milwaukee space because there is no AC. Also concern raised about possible wild fire smoke.

Jen: Three people spoke to Jen about interest in hosting and what the parameters might be. Two of them had real potential, Jen thought.

Allison: would love to see us get west of the Rockies a bit more. We were in Albuquerque but if we can get more geographical diversity it would be good.

Deb: It would be good to have a clear list of parameters around site selection that the board and the CPC endorse, going forward. Jen also suggests that room cooling measures might be undertaken. Jen: it might behoove us as a board to name that we want to honor some of our legacy members next year. We could maybe build in a place on the schedule for next year for us to align with strategic priorities, so that the CPC knows what is important.

Laura: maybe bring more structure to meal schedule going forward.

Bran will draft an accessibility policy for our conferences, for us to consider (thank you!)

Administrative updates - Allison King

Allison is just back from vacation but is getting caught up on our financials and getting the Milwaukee hotel and transportation is also on the list. Also having a discussion with the Atlanta bus company. Allison has not received any Uber receipts from people so she has no sense of how much to ask for regarding reimbursements. At least we will get \$6,095 divided by 2, for the day when the bus got messed up. For Milwaukee, because the church is on a transit line, we will need an accessibility option but Allison thinks we can get people transit cards for the week and encourage that rather than bussing everyone. (In Arlington and Portland, Madison and Boston, people walked). Even if everyone got a transit card for \$40, the total would be \$8K - so that is way less than what we paid this year for busses. What is coming up is dealing with bills and costs for items.

Web-based chatting: GlueUp did not offer a chat community. Re: GlueUp: Allison unhappy about the website situation and the fact that we didn't even have one for a month. They have offered nothing in recompense about that. We could detach our web management from them, which is difficult in other ways. We could go back to Eventia, which has some of the features we want. The other thing to do would be to move to a different system. Deb wondered about whether Member365 (the other company Allison had talked to) was a viable option.

UUA Updates - Janice Marie Johnson

It's been a quiet summer at the UUA - vacation, etc. Janice wanted to share a new initiative

called *The Woodlands*. It is a monthly trans/non-binary care space open to all: parents, caregivers of trans folk, trans adults, trans children and youth. Launching on Sept. 7, it will run through May of 2026, and then it will be assessed. Janice said, "When I first learned of it I thought, 'this has to do with AUUMM and those who serve.' And Jen's choir, and Laura's, with young people. I will send information on it - we have a new web page." Link: uua.org/lgbtq/thewoodlands .

Also Mosaic is moving into its next phase; we will be having a virtual Mosaic conference some time in the fall - looking at dates now. Are there any fall dates within AUUMM that Janice should know about? Matt: There is a songwriters workshop and composing workshop planners are meeting in the fall; don't have dates yet but will soon. Janice reports that leadership appreciated being at the conference and felt that they got much clarity around where things are and where things are likely to go. And Janice also shared how grateful she and the other staff were that all went well.

Regarding the virtual hymnal, Jen mentioned that she is starting to get questions about usage of the new hymn resource that are not on the FAQ sheet. Jen is happy to put those in an email. Janice: within the past few days I have gotten six different questions and have said thank you for being in touch and have cc'd Camille and Erika, knowing Erika is on vacation till next Tuesday. The publication has been sold to 100 congregations - but we don't have info on how many are connected to AUUMM. Also there is Deb's question about whether there would be a prompt for AUUMM members serving congregations who might be encouraged to purchase if they were offered a one time discount. Matt: Erika wouldn't have a way of knowing peoples' connection to AUUMM. But if she sent a list of who has purchased, that might help us identify who is purchasing the resource.

Other Business

Matt would love to get a thumbs up on applying for another grant application to the UU Funding Program around supporting the bands track - particularly focused on equipment. Matt

is meeting with Carl Kennedy soon on this topic. Matt is also noting the need for mentorship to pass on leadership of programs. Matt is willing to manage finances for this program.

Matt would love to see if there is a way to use the Children's Music funds for other purposes.

Matt spoke with John Herrick who was the Treasurer when this fund was developed, about their original intentions when this was initiated, and whether we want to have a children's

conference at the conference. Or whether we prefer to step back and convene a group of Children's Choir Directors to ask what they might recommend for supporting children's choir engagement and vitality. (We will see if we could put this on the agenda for the next meeting).

Matt will convene a group to discuss this. Lynne Beasley, Beth Norton, Jan Chamberlain, John Herrick, Donna Fisher.

Bran: At our meeting in July we identified new roles for the at large board members. We need some board time for people handling those portfolios...so we need to find a way of offering time.

Jen: we need more understanding of those portfolios that can come to the fall retreat. Jen will discuss with Laura. Not at the September meeting, but maybe at the fall retreat in early October.

The meeting ended at 4:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Weiner, Secretary

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

September 15

October 27 (Board retreat is AM October 3rd)

November 10

December 8

January 12 (2nd Board retreat TBD)

February 23

March 9

April 13

May 11

June 15

July 28 (Full day)