



AUUMM Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2025

2:30-4:00pm EST

Present: Laura Weiss, Jen Hayman, Matt Meyer, Anderson Manuel, Bran Lennox, Deb Weiner, and Janice Marie Johnson (UUA Liaison), Allison King (staff), and theresa rohlck (co-chair Conference Planning Committee)

Absent: Verdis Robinson

2:30 p.m. Chalice Lighting-Laura Weiss - [“What I can Do” by Rosemary Trommer.](#)

We will review minutes from our last meeting, as well as this meeting, at our November gathering.

2:35 p.m. CPC and Milwaukee updates - theresa rohlck

CPC met last month for the first time. Most are returning, plus a couple new folks. Still seeking leadership for worship and choral rep going forward - those to bring and learn the ropes from those currently serving. Theresa can provide a spreadsheet about those currently serving as well as areas where new leadership would be helpful. theresa mentioned conversations with Melanie DeMore and MaMuse. Allison suggests that working on Melanie, without further updates from MaMuse, suggests that a second outreach is in order. Committee will meet next month at the same time as the AUUMM board.

Only other update: Sunday service at the end of the conference is at 10 AM. Matt mentioned proposals to hire a videographer and a communication person to do 100 hours of work for the conference - will be in touch about this. theresa will look into possibly having a CPC person connect to people serving in these roles.

It was noted that having a draft accessibility policy in hand would be helpful as conversations with the hotel move forward. Bran will be working on this.

Registration historically opens in February (although March this past year). Allison doesn't see any reason why we couldn't launch in February.

2:45 p.m. [President - Jen Hayman](#) -

Jen wrote to NomCom members, sharing the newly drafted Trustee at Large roles as imagined,

and our timeline for having a slate for presentation to our membership. Jen also invited them into a convo about norms for working together. Bailey and Shawn wrote to Jen but didn't share times they could gather or their sense of how things were moving ahead with the process. Jen expressed frustration...we need to present a slate to our membership. Jen will reach out again; she had written on October 15. Same things with the shared ethics/professional orgs convo. Laura and Jen met on this at GA and people seemed pumped up, and now it's mid-October and nothing has happened. There will be a meeting in early November, and the group will work with CB Beal and Robin Tanner, President of UUMA.

Jen had a 90 minute convo with LaTonya Richardson 2 weeks ago. None of us were listed on the stakeholders group email. So the reason we were not getting communication was that none of us were listed. So Jen is working toward something that she hoped would be generative with LaTonya. There have been five years of experimental formats for GA with this year being the last model. After this there will be some recommendations about moving forward that would hopefully clarify and simplify the concept. Conferences are increasingly financially burdensome...and there has been increased experimentation with remote platforms. Janice Marie added that these changes are also needed to focus on ways of making participation more accessible for people.

Jen shared an ask from LaTonya about best ways to support GA. Jen suggested that bringing us in at ground level would be helpful. Sunday-Monday-Tuesday will be all business. Friday-Saturday -Sunday will include an opening ceremony, Ware Lecture, other large events. It will take place in Louisville KY where there will be 200-400 people on site and live music for worship and possibly the opening ceremony. So it is a much smaller ask regarding choirs. More geared toward a worship band, maybe small group of singers, and other instrumentalists. There are also going to be two other satellite hubs where people will gather. LaTonya wondered about whether there should be live music at those locations. Jen's recommendation is to have live music in Louisville. LaTonya has invited us back into the stakeholder conversation. Tomorrow there is a meeting with Carey McDonald's office (and Janice Marie will also be present) to find out how we might be able to engage earlier in these processes to better understand the asks for leadership or support at the denominational level.

(Verdis joined the meeting)

3:00 p.m. At Large board member updates - Verdis, Bran, Anderson

Laura noted that she wants to hold time in each meeting for members at large to report out on what they are working on.

Verdis: doing some research about different UU Good Officer policies, what other orgs to do offer training, etc. Next will convene GO's we have and reach out to others who are interested, and figure out a good type of training, possibly with other professional organizations offering a joint training.

Anderson: no report, with apologies for the delay. Anderson would love to work on the possibility of producing regular video updates for people to keep them up to speed on what is happening and build excitement for events coming up. (Can post on AUUMM YouTube channel).

Bran: Focusing on being a bridge for AUUMM with Erika Hewitt. Also wants to sit down and identify a process for establishing a buddy system. Laura observed that it would be a real positive for partnering people up by the next conference. Bran hopes to send info that this is coming by the end of 2025 and then implement before the conference. Laura also notes that if there is a way within the registration process to connect people into the buddy system from the beginning it would be a positive.

3:15 p.m. Sing Out Love - Camille Hatton, Erika Hewitt

UUA is approaching 260 subscriptions for *Sing Out Love*. UUMA has subscribed as an institution so that every dues-paying member can subscribe, and the UURMAPA group will be next. We keep getting exciting submissions and are starting to commission some special arrangements for the holiday system. Wanting to add people to the song selection team, and Erika is talking to Deb and Bran about appointments to the new steering council. From a cohesion standpoint we want to understand who said yes to AUUMM (as well as who said no) as they approach others. Camille and Erika are going to post something on the AUUMM forum to elicit further interest. Philip Rogers was interested, but he is resigning from his church and retiring. Jen reached to John Herrick who declined for lack of availability. Deb is reaching to Amber Fetner. Erika appreciated us sharing the info.

Regarding a request for clarification about finances for an organization providing subscriptions to its members, Erika said that UUMA is being regarded as a large congregation, and UURMAPA as a mid sized congregation (for their membership rate). Erika said (caveat for subscribers in these organizations) that they are repeating over and over that they can not use the *Sing Out Love* resources in a congregational setting unless the congregation is subscribed.

3:30 p.m. Treasurer's Report - Matt Meyer

We have \$222K in our accounts; \$48K is restricted (half of that is for children's programs, the other half for scholarships). Matt had wanted to talk about a group to confer with about the

children's funds, that has not yet happened. A number of places where we have done better: increased donations above our budgeted amount. Dues will pass \$32K - we are at 90% of where we want to be. Education income up; conference income slightly up. Operations and expenses are lower than what we had budgeted, GA was higher, but we are in general doing very well.

Jen notes that we need to be mindful about health insurance premiums, which are skyrocketing - 20% increase, and that we need a COLA and Merit increases for Alison in the next year. Matt is hoping to work with Allison on a draft budget; hopes to have that for the November meeting, with final changes input so that we can vote on it in December. Bran and Deb can also be available for review of preliminary budget. Matt invites wonderings/ hopes/ imaginings/ strategies for putting together the budget.

Regarding grants applied for from UUPF: Matt submitted a request for money for communication person - \$25/hr for 100 hours; \$3K for a videographer to come to the conference. It would be nice to identify the process for hiring, although we wouldn't move forward on it until we have received the grant. Laura: having someone who has the visionary and building ideas, which Allison has, could be very helpful in structuring what these jobs look like. Jen asked: has the CPC gotten the takeaways from Mike Halerz about what he experienced and whether changes need to be made? Allison: Mike definitely had a report; he felt like he learned a lot and is thinking about the structure to build something to move forward.

3:45 p.m. Administrative report - Allison King

We have a hotel in Milwaukee! Allison received the contract, Allison wants Matt and/or Jen to review it before signing. We do not need busses. The hotel is on the free streetcar line, as is the church. That will save us a ton of money. The hotel is expensive, but we got a good rate for it (and it will include breakfast). Don't yet have a contract for the church. Alison wants to do a site visit; wants to plan it soon. Deb: could theresa go on the site visit? The hotel rate is \$209. Bran would be glad to join the site visit via zoom for accessibility reviews.

Allison has gotten our credit card limit raised. Not what we need, but it is helpful. Taxes need to be filed Nov. 15. Working with accountants. Working with QuickBooks experts and can't get the PayPal account to balance. Would like to take the QuickBooks training for non-profits training.

Allison re-contracted with GlueUp and we are with them for another two years. Allison talked with the contractor; there is support involved. The contractor is not very responsible but Allison keeps asking. Allison also has an email in to the customer service representative including a complaint about lack of support from the website contact. Allison is trying to build the pages

that didn't get done. The pages where there are big resources links is still needing attention.

4:00 p.m. Closing

Matt and Beth Norton did a workshop last weekend that raised \$1500 for AUUMM.

Laura noted that we are all incredibly busy...and yet if we can take a few minutes for AUUMM in the next month, it will make a small step forward and help us. This is a professional lifeline for a lot of people.

Bran asked that people email them at their AUUMM email address.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

November 10

December 8

January 12 (2nd Board retreat TBD)

February 23

March 9

April 13

May 11

June 15

July 28 (Full day)

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Weiner, Secretary