



# AUUA News

Association of Unitarian Universalist Administrators

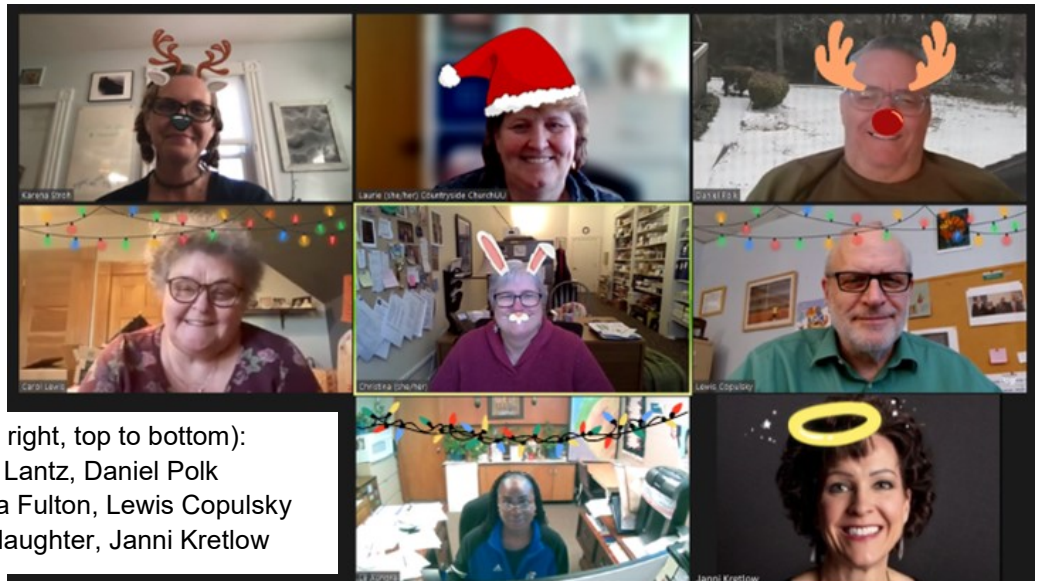
Dec 2023



At this hectic time, your AUUA Board sends you blessings, with these words of the Rev. Christine Robinson:

(These) days of the Winter Solstice, a time when those who are very attentive to the skies note that the sun, which has relentlessly moved southward on the horizon since last June, seems to pause on its journey before beginning to climb northwards to center again. Solstice is a time of pause. So...pause. Breathe. Relax. Rest. Be at peace.

Spirit of winter rest, help us to enjoy your peace.  
Remind us to pause during this season.  
Grant us awareness, keep our gratitude fresh each day.  
May the songs in our heart be blessings and insights to us and to others  
and may compassion always shine forth from the depths of our hearts.



Your AUUA Board (left to right, top to bottom):  
Karen Stroh, Laurie Lantz, Daniel Polk  
Carol Lewis, Christina Fulton, Lewis Copulsky  
Le Aundra Salazar-Slaughter, Janni Kretlow



Association of

# Unitarian Universalist Administrators

Supporting and strengthening Unitarian Universalism through effective administration

The report included below was written by Christina Fulton, AUUA President, in September. Unfortunately, I was not able to get my act together in September to get a newsletter out to you, AUUA members. Many of us on the Board have talked about this year feeling like a much tougher year than we expected and we're not sure why. We think we can get something done and then some new challenge comes up—I'm sure you can all relate. All that to say, we are getting a slower start on the goals Christina outlines below. We will be holding a mini-retreat in early January on Zoom and plan to revisit our plans.

~ Laurie Lantz, AUUA Board Secretary

## 2023 AUUA Board Retreat in Pittsburgh

Your Board spent some quality time together in Pittsburgh prior to General Assembly. We shared some meals together and did some fun/hard work during our retreat. We all got to know each other so much better than monthly Zoom meetings allow for, and we believe this will give us a wonderful foundation for our AUUA work this coming year.

We began our retreat with a Dreaming Exercise. In this exercise, I announced to the Board that some anonymous former administrator decided to leave us a million dollars in her will. Yippee! (Of course, sadly, this was just an exercise) I asked the Board to dream big. What did they want to do with that money? What did administrators need? What are the most outrageous things they could think of? Well, Administrators are quite frugal and really have their feet firmly planted in the ground, so it took a little coercing to get their heads in the clouds. But we got there. And they came up with an amazing list. And then I pulled the rug out from under their feet and informed them that really, we only received \$500K, and then only \$100K, and then the reality that we really didn't get any money. Each time the amount of money was reduced, we honed our list down until we came up with what was most important.

Here is that list: Professional Development Certification, Endowment Fund, New Website, Scholarships, Mentors, Mental Health Counseling, Chaplain, Member Appreciation, Milestone Appreciation, Administrators becoming delegates at GA, Elevate Status of AUUA & Administrators, Welcome Packs. A worthy list if ever I saw one!

Next, we spent some time evaluating our Goals from last year. We had five goals last year. They were actually goals that the Board had been working on for a few years. We made great progress on some of these goals, and not so much on others. But overall, we felt good about the progress we made.

And then it was time to look forward. How could we take that Dream List and turn it into Goals? We actually decided to divide the list into six categories:

- Member Support
- Member Appreciation
- Elevate Status
- Professional Development
- Financial Stability
- Administration

Then we put each item on the list under a category. Now, as you can imagine, this is a very large list. Much more than your Board can achieve in one year. So we still have some more discernment to do around which things we can accomplish this year and which things will have to be held off for another year. So stay tuned for more information on this year's goals.

We tackled a revision to our Membership Dues and Scholarship Policy, discussed possibilities for the \$25K Fund that was approved in our budget at the Annual Meeting, took a cookie break, and then attended to some Board business remaining from our last meeting. That was a really amazing first day of our retreat!

On the second day (half day actually) of our retreat, we discussed some issues that came up at the Annual Meeting, like the Code of Ethics, and how to move forward with that. You will be hearing more about that in 2024. We discussed the upcoming Good Officers Training that our AUUA Good Officers would be doing with LREDA. And then scheduling the booth coverage for the remainder of General Assembly.

So that is what your Board did during our Retreat. I hope you find it interesting and maybe even exciting. I know that we're all very excited to get working for you all this year. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any member of the Board. I hope your New Year goes smoothly!

~ Christina Fulton

## Professional Development for AUUA Members

### Zoom Check-ins on 1st Wednesdays

**3 pm Eastern, 2 pm Central,  
1 pm Mountain, Noon Pacific**

Members of the Board host monthly check-ins for AUUA members. These are opportunities to gather with your administrative colleagues for an hour of conversation about the things that affect us in our jobs. Zoom info is the same each month: meeting id 899 2154 0776 and passcode 855344. Upcoming dates:

Jan 3  
Feb 7  
Mar 6  
Apr 3  
May 1  
June 5

### Lunch & Learn on 4th Wednesdays

**3 pm Eastern, 2 pm Central,  
1 pm Mountain, Noon Pacific**

We are offering monthly Professional Development workshops for our members. The Zoom meeting info will be same each month: meeting ID 848 7084 1199 and passcode 955151

Please plan to join us! *If you have suggestions for a workshop, send them to Karena Stroh or Lewis Copulsky.*

Jan 24  
Feb 28  
March 27  
April 24  
May 22



### AUUA Member Benefits Packet

Many thanks to AUUA Board member Janni Kretlow for assembling information about the many benefits that come along with AUUA membership.

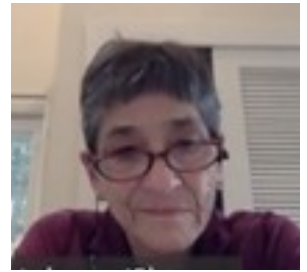
If you haven't already seen it, go to [AUUA.org](http://AUUA.org), log in, and look under Members

—> Benefits

—> Resource Documents.

## In Memory of Rev. Olivia Holmes

We were so very sorry to learn of the passing of the Rev. Olivia Holmes on December 11. Olivia was Chaplain to the AUUA for many years. Many of us also worked with her when she was an interim minister.



Her family posted on Caring Bridge, "her death follows a debilitating stroke and the subsequent diagnosis of Stage IV metastatic cancer. Her passing in light of such serious illness is not without blessing; but as the saying goes, 'Her wings were ready, our hearts were not.'

A celebration of Rev. Holmes' life will take place on Saturday, June 29th at 4:00 PM, at the Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church in Peterborough, New Hampshire. We would be honored if you could please save the date. The celebration will continue afterwards at Timberdoodle Club in Olivia's beloved hometown of Temple, New Hampshire.

Condolence messages can be sent to:

Mr. Sidney Holmes  
2344 Hunt Club Dr.  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

### YOUR AUUA BOARD

Christina Fulton, President  
Karena Stroh, Vice-President  
Carol Lewis, Treasurer  
Laurie Lantz, Secretary  
Lewis Copulsky, Member-At-Large  
Janni Kretlow, Member-At-Large  
Daniel Polk, Member-At-Large  
Le Aúndra Salazar-Slaughter, Member-At-Large