



AUUA News

Association of Unitarian Universalist Administrators

Fall 2023

Monthly Zoom Check-ins

Members of the Board are again offering 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.

1st Wednesdays at
3:00 pm Eastern
2:00 pm Central
1:00 pm Mountain
Noon Pacific

The exact dates:

Sept 6
Oct 4
Nov 1
Dec 6
Jan 3
Feb 7
Mar 6
Apr 3
May 1
June 5

Zoom info is the same each month:
meeting id 899 2154 0776
and passcode 855344

We hope you'll join us!



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And A New Year Begins!

Here we are, beginning a new church year; some of us for the very first time and some of us for more times than we'd like to admit. I am entering my 25th year as a Church Administrator (known by many different titles over that time) and as I always share with people unfamiliar with this type of work, it's never boring. For me, as with many of you, this year finds me with a new Minister. Even though I've already worked with 11 different ministers over the years, it's still a time of great excitement and trepidation. Will we get along? Will she think I'm too old for the job? Will our styles work well together? So many questions and I'm sure the road will be a bit rocky.

My heart is with each of you as you begin your new year doing this ministry we call Administration. May the AUUA be a place where you are seen, heard, and valued, and yes, a place where you can laugh!

Christina Fulton, AUUA President

AUUA mailing address (for checks, etc.):

AUUA
c/o First Parish in Cambridge
3 Church Street
Cambridge MA 02138

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 Packets. 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

And 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 Opportunities for AUUA Members

4th Wednesdays

We are offering monthly Professional Development workshops for our members on the 4th Weds of each month at 3 pm Eastern, 2 pm Central, 1 pm Mountain, Noon Pacific. The Zoom meeting info will be same each month: meeting ID 848 7084 1199 and passcode 955151

Please plan to join us!

Sept 27

Oct 25

Nov 22

Dec 27

Jan 24

Feb 28

March 27

April 24

May 22

Thank you to Janni Kretlow who led our August professional development workshop on Breeze Church Management System. **If you missed it...**



Pro Days 2023 a Success!

Thank you to everyone who participated in AUUA Professional Days in June! The general consensus is that it was a great success – we had some fabulous presenters & workshop leaders!

If you attended and have not yet completed an evaluation form, please do so here:

<https://forms.gle/yV5qVxJWem3xcoup9>. The 2023-24 Pro Days Planning Team and the Professional Development Team value your ideas & suggestions.

If you missed a session or would like to re-watch one, the recordings are now available via the member benefits area of the AUUA website:

- log in at auua.org,
- go to Members→benefits→resource
- documents,
- scroll down to the link for Master AUUA resource folder.
- Once in the master folder, look for *Pro Days Archive* and then the Pro Days 2023 folder. Each workshop or presentation has 4 files: video, audio, closed captions, and chat.

If you have trouble finding them, email auuacommunication@gmail.com for assistance.



Association of

Unitarian Universalist Administrators

Supporting and strengthening Unitarian Universalism through effective administration

THE BENEFITS OF AUUA MEMBERSHIP

Membership in AUUA is open to all administrators in UU congregations and those serving in an administrative capacity at the UUA or UU-affiliated organization. AUUA membership offers many benefits to administrators, and through them to congregational leadership, program staff, and members at large. AUUA offers its members access to the following programs and areas designed to support them in their support of their congregations.

- **Members' Listserv and Facebook Page**— collective wisdom from UU church administrators from across the world.
- **AUUA Resource Library** — a constantly growing collection of sample forms, policies, procedures, job descriptions, and informational articles.
- **Professional Development Opportunities** – an array of development opportunities are offered by our ProDays Team and our Professional Development Team. These opportunities are included in your membership fee or for a nominal additional fee.
- **Scholarship Assistance** – The Pedersen Memorial Fund offers ProDays scholarship assistance for AUUA members and our General Scholarship Fund offers assistance for paying AUUA membership fees as well as assistance with fees for Professional Development opportunities offered by the AUUA.
- **Good Officer Assistance**
- **Leadership Opportunities** — join a committee or represent your colleagues on the board; help plan Professional Day activities; share your experiences as a UU church administrator as we develop our organization to aid in the missions of our churches through effective church administration. Email Christina Fulton, President@auua.org, for more information.

A few reminders about membership:

- Membership is open to all administrators serving Unitarian Universalist congregations. (Not all AUUA members are Unitarian Universalist or a member of a UU congregation.) You need to renew your membership annually.
- **Additional administrative staff within your church, regional office, or UUA department receive a 50% discount off their AUUA membership fee** after one fully paid AUUA membership – this discount is available for up to five additional staff members. If you have staff that you feel would benefit from their own membership in the AUUA, please contact MaryBeth Hannan, churchoffice@kentuu.org, who will provide you with a discount coupon code to use during registration of additional staff members.

To join or renew AUUA membership, please follow the steps on our website - <https://www.auua.org/benefits-of-membership/>.

Membership Fee Assistance Scholarships

The pandemic has forced many congregations to cut budgets and eliminate professional expense lines for many. If you do not have a professional expense budget or you are among those who are not able to renew your AUUA membership because of budget cuts, please be aware that scholarship assistance is available which can help pay up to 50% of your AUUA membership fee.

To apply, submit a request to Treasurer@auua.org. Please refer to the [AUUA Membership Fee Assistance Policy](#) for details & requirements.

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 Aundra Salazar-Slaughter,

Member-At-Large