

**Minutes of NAUA Board of Trustees Retreat and Meeting  
January 8, 2025**

**Board Members Present:** Rev. Todd Eklof, Ron Strange, Bob Simoni, Lynn Jinishian, Judi Durham, John Wunderlin, Terry Anderson, Jan Anderson, Stephen Polmar, Marga Hanna, and Mike Long. All members of the Board were present, therefore there was a Quorum.

**This meeting was both a Retreat and Official Meeting of the Board.** Judi Durham served as the Chairperson for this meeting.

Motion by Stephen Polmar: Moved that this meeting is an official meeting of the NAUA Board of Trustees. After brief discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously.**

**Policies and Procedures of the Board:** Judi Durham initiated a discussion of Board Policies and Procedures. The focus was on discussion of issues via e-mail outside of a Board meetings as well as when and where decisions regarding such issues would be made.

Motion by Stephen Polmar: Moved that information about issues can be shared by e-mail but that discussion and decisions concerning these issues are made only at Board Meetings.

After extensive discussion the motion passed: 8 members voting Yes, 3 members voting No.

**Policy and Procedures Manual:** There was discussion concerning whether policies and procedures should be placed in the Bylaws or in a Policy and Procedure Manual.

Motion by Mike Long: To build a Policy and Procedures Manual. After brief discussion the motion was passed by unanimous vote. However, no action was taken to implement this motion, e.g. no committee or individual designated to organize such a committee.

**Initiating or Delay Strategic Planning Activities:** There was discussion concerning focusing on creating Board Committees and deferring work on a Strategic Plan for NAUA to a subsequent Retreat meeting versus forming a Strategic Planning Committee at this meeting. During the discussion Stephen Polmar provided an example of what a Strategic Plan for NAUA might look like.

Motion by Rev. Todd Eklof: Nomination of Stephen Polmar as Chairperson of the NAUA Strategic Planning Committee with Rev. Todd Eklof, Judi Durham, Jan Anderson and Wayne Hanna as members of the core Committee. This motion passed unanimously. All members of the NAUA Board are invited to participate in the work and meetings of this committee.

**Creation of Board Committees:**

The Board created the following Committees. The table below indicates the Committees and the Board Members and others who have been identified as initial members of these Committees.

| <b>Committee</b>           | <b>Members*</b>  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Technology / Web Committee | Terry Anderson*, Bob Simoni, John Wunderlin, Lincoln Baxter              |
| Communications#            | Terry Anderson*, Joanne Krettek  |
| Member Services#           | Judi Durham* Mike Long, Jan Anderson, Ron Strange                        |
| Finance#                   | Bob Simoni*, Lynn Jinishian  |
| Fundraising#               | Bob Simoni*  |
| Nominating #               | Mike Long*, Marga Hanna, John Wunderlin                                  |
| Summit Planning#           | John Wunderlin*, Judi Durham, Joyce Kinnear, Cindy Fine, Joanne Krettek  |
| Strategic Planning         | Stephen Polmar*, Rev. Todd Eklof, Judi Durham, Jan Anderson, Wayne Hanna |

\*Committee Chairperson or Contact

#Committees seeking additional members from NAUA membership

**Recruitment of additional members for committees:** All committees, with the exception of the Technology/Web Committee and Strategic Planning Committee will seek additional members from NAUA Membership. The Chairpersons or Contacts ( indicated above by \*) are asked to submit a brief description of the work of their committee to Terry Anderson ([terrydanderson2@gmail.com](mailto:terrydanderson2@gmail.com)) and Joanne Krettek ([jmkrettek@gmail.com](mailto:jmkrettek@gmail.com)). Terry and Joanne will prepare a request to membership for volunteers to serve on those committees. Their proposed request to members will be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

**Discussion:**

**Summit Planning :**There was a suggestion and a decision to start the Summit planning process much earlier this year. Judi Durham agreed to coordinate the formation of the Summit Planning Committee but will not be Chairing it and may not participate. She will provide the text for the email soliciting more members.

**Fundraising:** It was decided that the Fundraising Committee should be completely separate from the Finance Committee. It was agreed that Fundraising should wait for direction from Strategic Planning. Bob Simoni volunteered to serve on the Fundraising Committee ( see Committee List above)

**The Membership Services Committee:** This is likely to be one of the largest Committees. It may have a Program Council that will house many of our more prominent but autonomously run services (e.g. NAUA Academy, International Alliance, Circles, etc).

**Data on NAUA Programs and Activities:** There was agreement on the need for a central repository of data pertaining to the NAUA tracking all relevant data about activities to objectively determine what is working, what is not or what the trends are. An individual (s) who will take on this responsibilities remains to be identified. A specific proposal should be presented at the next Board meeting.

**Communication with Membership:** It was agreed that we need to increase our communication with our membership with more frequent and effective contact. This will be the responsibility of the Communications Committee.

**Support of Fellowships and Congregations:** Todd shared some of his thoughts and plans. He said that he thought we should emphasize servicing smaller lay-led congregations. He related the difficulty of providing help to congregations seeking liberal ministers in this climate. He felt we should focus on providing a “store” that would offer sermons, transcripts of sermons, live virtual sermons, music, hymns, and pastoral counseling for a fee. Other ideas included NAUA providing consulting to small congregations by retired ministers, programs for the development of lay leaders, as well as on-line or in person visits to fellowships and congregations.

**Ministerial Portal:** The license on the “Ministerial Portal” that Jay Kiskel developed will expire within the next few months. Jay asked if NAUA will pick up the license and financial support for the portal. It was pointed out that there were few ministers who seem interested in using the portal. The decision on the next steps with Jay Kiskel’s software for the Ministerial Portal was deferred until the next Board meeting. Prior to the next meeting, those interested may view the portal.

**Fifth Principle Website:** There was a request by Jay Kiskel asking NAUA to manage the 5<sup>th</sup> Principle Projects Portal. There was agreement that we should remain independent of the Fifth Principle website and all other dissident organizations.

**Requests of Information:** It was decided that all requests from the outside to Board members seeking information about the NAUA or asking questions related to forming a new congregation be forwarded to Judi Durham who now serves as the Chairperson/Contact for the Member Services Committee.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2 pm Pacific Time.

Submitted by  
Mike Long and Stephen Polmar