

Minutes of the North American Unitarian Association

Board of Trustees Meeting, June 11, 2025

The June NAUA Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 10:05am PDT. The meeting was conducted on Zoom. The following members of the Board were present: Rev. Todd Eklof, Ron Strange, Lynn Jinishian, Judi Durham, Terry Anderson, Jan Anderson, Marga Hanna, Mike Long, Bob Simoni and Stephen Polmar. **The presence of a Quorum was confirmed.**

Approval of the Minutes of the April Board Meeting:

1. The minutes of the NAUA Board of Trustees meeting of May 14, 2025, previously sent to all members of the Board for review, were approved without revision.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Bob Simoni stated that the balances of NAUA bank accounts as of May 31, 2025 were as follows:

Checking Account \$2,671.55

Saving Account \$38,927.42

The monthly spending year-to-date and the transaction detail reports were reviewed.

President's Report

1. NAUA Board President Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof announced that the **Liberal Beacon** will now be published quarterly rather than bi-monthly. Since the **Compass Newsletter**, which is distributed twice per month, has been so effective in providing up-to-date information about NAUA programs and other issues to members and contacts, it was felt that quarterly publication of the Liberal Beacon, with its longer in-depth articles, would be more appropriate.
2. Rev. Dr. Eklof also informed the Board that there will be discussions with a potentially new service provider named Subsplash. This provider could provide a full suite of services including Apps for cellular phones, payment system, meeting organization, video conferencing like Zoom, website management. Costs were said to be approximately \$500 per month. Additional fees for support and on-boarding were said to be reasonable. Rev. Eklof stated that Joanne Krettek, NAUA

Communication Specialist, will be the point person for evaluating Subsplash and its suitability for NAUA.

Report of the Strategic Planning Committee

1. Stephen Polmar, Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee introduced the written Report of the Strategic Planning Committee. The other members of the Committee include Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof, Judi Durham, Jan Anderson and Wayne Hanna, an NAUA member and Organizational Development Professional, served as Consultant as well as a committee member.
2. The report had been submitted to the Board before the meeting and reviewed by Board members. It included an Introduction describing the steps taken by the Committee in developing the plan, the current version of the Strategic Plan and a version of the plan in which specific NAUA Committees or Teams were suggested to implement specific Goals and Objectives of the Plan.
3. The Committee recommended that an Implementation Oversight Team be formed consisting of the current Strategic Planning Committee members and 2 or 3 additional members to be selected by the Committee to oversee the orderly, timely and successful implementation of the plan.
4. The Board members discussed the plan, questions were asked and clarifications given. Terry Anderson pointed out that both the plan itself and current activities of NAUA focus primarily on serving individual members and not members whose relationship to NAUA results from being part of an NAUA affiliated congregation, fellowship or organization. The Committee felt that this was an important point that needs to be evaluated and as necessary the Strategic Plan amended to address this important issue.
5. There was extensive discussion by the Board members about other factors which include the political situation in the United States which may impact NAUA in that people now are focusing on other concerns. Judi Durham suggested that this issue was not adequately addressed in the current Strategic Plan. The recent decrease in participation in NAUA programs was mentioned as well as the decrease in the rate of new members joining. Rev. Eklof pointed out that this was to be expected; nonetheless, the creation of a Strategic Plan and its implementation was felt absolutely necessary at this time to ensure the future of both NAUA and of Liberal Religion,
6. After thorough discussion of the Strategic Plan the following motions were made:
 - a. **Motion by Stephen Polmar: Moved that the Board approve the Report of the Strategic Planning Committee and support moving to the Implementation Phase of the Strategic Plan.**

- i. Motion was seconded and after brief discussion **the Board approved the motion with 9 voting in favor and 1 abstention.**
- b. **Motion by Stephen Polmar: Moved that the Board approve the formation of an Implementation Oversight Team to guide and monitor putting the Strategic Plan into action.**
 - i. Motion was seconded and after brief discussion of the motion the **Board approved the motion with 9 voting in favor and 1 abstention.**

Conflict of Interest Policy

1. NAUA filed our application (form 1023) for tax exempt non-profit 501 (c) 3 status with the IRS on May 30, 2025 primarily through the efforts of Board Member Mike Long with some assistance from Stephen Polmar, Board Secretary, and legal consultation of Apex Law Group of Seattle, WA.
2. The application requires a Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy, which is mandated in our Bylaws but had not yet been approved by the Board.
3. We obtained a sample COI policy from Apex, reviewed it, modified it and submitted it to the Board for their review. The Board requested the removal of one Article of the proposed conflict of interest statement, which was done.
 - a. **Motion by Stephen Polmar: Moved that the Board approve the proposed Conflict of Interest Statement.**
 - i. The motion was seconded and after minimal discussion, **the proposed Conflict of Interest Statement was unanimously approved by the Board.**

Designation of Signatory Authority for Contracts and Legal Agreements for NAUA

1. At the present time there is no formal designation of who may sign a legally binding contract or agreement for NAUA.
2. It was generally agreed that this authority should be limited to the Officers of the Board of Trustees. Wording of such a motion to designate signatory authority was discussed. A motion was proposed by Stephen Polmar and modified by Rev. Todd Eklof.
 - a. **Motion by Stephen Polmar, amended by Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof: Moved that the Board give signatory authority to the Officers of the Board for contracts and other legal agreements for matters approved through standard Board processes and policies.**
 - i. The motion was seconded and after brief discussion was **approved unanimously by the Board members.**

The Meeting of the Board was adjourned at 11:45 am Pacific Time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Polmar

Secretary, NAUA Board of Trustees

Minutes approved by voted of the Board on July 9, 2025