

## **Minutes of the NAUA Board of Trustees Meeting, May 14, 2025**

The May NAUA Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 10:00am 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:**

The minutes of the NAUA Board of Trustees meeting of April 9, 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 1, 2025 were as follows:

Checking: 1,818.03

Savings: 41,655.30

The monthly spending year-to-date and the transaction detail reports were reviewed (see Appendix I).

### **President's Report:**

1. Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof asked that Board members submit requests for agenda items for Board meetings to be submitted to Board Secretary Stephen Polmar 10 days before the next Board meeting. He explained that he and the Secretary meet approximately 1 week before the Board meeting to plan the agenda for the meeting.
2. Rev. Eklof said that he plans to organize an in-person event in Spokane during the period of the next Summit meeting. He encouraged other members of the Board to consider organizing in-person meetings in their own regions as well.
3. Rev. Eklof asked that a procedure be developed that would permit NAUA members, not nominated by the Nominating Committee, to run for Board positions.
  - a. After discussion, Marga Hanna, who is a member of the Nominating Committee, volunteered to take the lead in developing such a process and present it to the Board at its July meeting. This was felt to provide adequate time prior to the Summit meeting at which new Board members will be elected.

### **NAUA Budget for 3-4Q 2025 ( July-Dec 2025)**

Treasurer Bob Simoni presented the budget requests received from NAUA Committees and included estimated expenses for the President's travel as well as other operating expenses. These are summarized in the table below.

NAUA Budget - 2nd half 2025							
Team	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Tech Team (Website, Zoom, etc) \$295 mthly + \$120 hrly supportX3 + \$60 mthly Dev site	\$715	\$715	\$715	\$715	\$715	\$715	\$4,290
Communications - Staff 60hrs/mth@\$31/hr & Training \$500	\$2,360	\$1,860	\$1,860	\$1,860	\$1,860	\$1,860	\$11,660
Member Services Committee - 1 Zoom account	\$160						\$160
Worship - guest speakers		\$250	\$250		\$250	\$250	\$1,000
Summit Planning - no subsidies expected from NAUA							\$0
NAUA Academy - 1 speaker				\$250			\$250
International Alliance Committee - \$250 for a speaker in Oct, \$500 for dues for International Association for Religious Freedom in Nov-Dec				\$250	\$500		\$750
Travel Expenses for Rev. Todd to visit interested congregations	\$1,250						\$1,250
Misc Org Expenses - Insurance, prof services							\$0
NAUA 501(c)(3) filing legal assistance ????							\$0
							\$0
Totals	\$4,485	\$2,825	\$2,825	\$3,075	\$3,325	\$2,825	\$19,360

Jan Anderson asked about the estimate of a \$500 contribution requested by the International Alliance to the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF). Stephen Polmar explained that the \$500 was an estimate of voluntary dues for this year assuming that NAUA is accepted into membership of the IARF. He further explained that if and when NAUA becomes an IARF member, the Board will then determine and vote on an amount for a contribution. The contribution amount need not be the same annually.

Since the single largest item on the budget was the Communications Committee request for a contracted Communications Manager, the contract for a Communication manager was discussed prior to approval of the overall 3-4Q 2025 Budget.

### Communication Manager

A scope of work for the Communications Manager was discussed with a proposal for modification of the original scope of work that was proposed in the pre-meeting documentation. A broad scope of work was proposed and will be specifically defined in the contract for this position. While addition of some general administrative responsibilities were suggested, this was not generally supported and thus not included in the proposed scope of work. During the course of this agenda item there was also a discussion of fund raising issues for NAUA.

**Motion:** Terry Anderson moved that Joanne Krettek be offered the position of Communication Manager with compensation of \$31/hr for 20 hours per week for a period of

6 months starting June 1, 2025. **The motion was defeated with a vote of 4 for and 6 against the motion.**

**Motion:** Jan Anderson then moved that Joanne Krettek be offered the position of Communications Manager with compensation of \$31/hr for 15 hours per week or 60 hours per month. **The motion was approved with 8 votes for and 2 abstentions.**

#### **Budget Approval:**

The original budget was revised with the change in the compensation for the Communications Manager. The final budget is that noted above with a total budget of \$19,360 for the period of July 1- December 31, 2025. **Motion to approve the proposed revised budget was approved unanimously.**

**In order to accommodate the discussion of NAUA's 501 c(3) status, Rev. Eklof made a motion to extend the Board meeting for 30 minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.**

#### **Application for 501 c(3) Status:**

Mike Long proposed that we obtain legal advice to review our current situation in regard to our tax exemption status and take steps to assure that we are in compliance with state and federal law and regulations and that we do so before the 27 month grace period expires at the end of May and that we engage the Apex Law Group of Seattle, WA at an estimated cost of \$3,000 - \$4000 plus \$600 for the IRS registration fee.

Lynn Jinishian described her and Robert Jinishian's prior efforts with respect to applying for 501 c(3) status for NAUA, use of the 1023 EZ form that was rejected and fee returned, and the filing of form 990. Lynn stated that IRS agents with whom she interacted were very helpful and she concluded that a 1023 filing was not necessary for NAUA. Rev. Eklof stated that as a church, NAUA was a 501 c(3) organization, even if it had no official validation of this from the IRS. Extensive discussion followed, concerns about risk and benefit of having a 501 c(3) letter were expressed, information shared about what other religious denominational organizations had or had not done and Board members expressed their opinions.

**Bob Simoni moved that NAUA formally file a 501 c(3) application (form 1023) with the IRS and contract with the Apex Law Group to handle that filing. The motion was approved with 8 votes for and 2 votes against.** Mike Long will take responsibility for contracting with Apex Law Group, communicating and aiding them. Stephen Polmar offered his assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Polmar

Secretary Board of Trustees

**Minutes approved by Board of Trustee on June 11, 2025**