

MidAmerica Region Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes – August 3, 2021
Approved September 7, 2021

Present:

Sharon Dittmar, Patty Notch, Jim Moir, Mandy Beal, Dorit Bergen, Rae Jane Araujo, Hans Kelson, McKenna Revel, Jessica York

Absent: Tammy Lemmer, Autumn Mahoney

Board Vice-President Patty Notch opened the meeting at 6:32 PM CDT. She read opening words from the book, Tuck Everlasting

Check-in – All

Dorit moved and Rae Jane seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2021 Board meeting. Motion passed.

Patty moved and Rae Jane seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the 2021 Regional Business Meeting. Motion passed.

Fall Board Retreat Planning and Updates – Discussion of options with Sharon Dittmar filling in for Kathy Charles, who could not attend. The UUA staff is on travel restrictions, exceptions need to be applied for, applications go to Jessica and then to Susan Frederick-Gray. The UUA has a multi-phase plan for reopening Farnsworth, still in Phase 1 and will not move to Phase 2 until October 1. Board members had various levels of concern about attending an in-person retreat, including eating in a common dining hall with many other people, which staff would be able to attend, the general uncertainty of the pandemic, what would happen to deposits if we had to cancel.

We then discussed a Zoom retreat. **It was agreed to hold a virtual retreat on November 13.**

If you have not already done so, please send current information to Andrew Zallar by this Friday, including contact information, dietary needs and accessibility needs.

Widening the Circle Chapter Review: Accountability and Resources and Final Thoughts (including next steps for Regional Board and tie in with National Advisory Council) –

Rae Jane led the discussion. We have already voted to discuss how to use some extra money from the region to help BIPOC people. McKenna and Rae Jane will meet to discuss ways to use the money and will report back to the Board by November. Discussed translating the actions recommended to the UUA to actions taken at the congregational level. There are not a lot of directly actionable items for congregations in Widening the Circle. The draft of the Board's mission statement was shared. Sharon noted that it's difficult to discuss this without David Pyle. **We should review our mission again at our next retreat.** Do we need more training in anti-oppression anti-racism work? Why do the training? What will we do with this? **Put anti-racism/anti-oppression training and its purpose on the agenda for our next meeting.** A report was submitted to the GA body as per the recommendations of the Article 2 Commission. Jessica posted a link to that report in the Chat.

Discussion of the National Advisory Council –

Rae Jane and Jessica gave its history. Currently the National Advisory Council is on hold while its members discern where the council goes from here. Some members of the Advisory Council have elected to work with the Article 2 Commission. We had decided not to do that, mainly due to the time commitment involved. We instead have chosen to continue our contacts with congregations and we will now be able to devise our own questions to discuss with congregations. **Put on retreat**

agenda, what kind of questions should we ask our congregations next year and how might we include Article 2 work? Jessica said that the Article 2 Commission will be developing a process that we could use and participate in.

Virtual or Multi-Platform/Hybrid Discussion-

Hans could be a resource for running the equipment with a hybrid model. Hybrid puts the most pressure on our staff and is the most expensive. Discussed having a Zoom business meeting separate from a physical gathering. Dorit moved that the Regional Assembly in 2022 be virtual and that the board and staff investigate future possibilities for alternative modes of gathering. Jim seconded. Motion passed.

7:50 pm Calls to Congregations Report – Sharon put the report at the end of the board packet. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

Process Observations-

Closing Words – Patty shared words by Kathy Huff

Meeting was adjourned by Patty at 7:55 PM CDT

Respectfully submitted by
Dorit Bergen – board secretary