

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

Approved October 19, 2021

Present: Tammy Lemmer, Patty Notch, Jim Moir, Dorit Bergen, Rae Jane Araujo, Hans Kelson, McKenna Revel, David Pyle, Autumn Mahoney

Absent: Mandy Beal, Sharon Dittmar

President Tammy opened the meeting at 6:33 PM CDT.

Rae Jane presented the opening words written by Sharon Wylie.

Check-in – All

Rae Jane moved and Patty seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2021 Board meeting. Motion passed.

Jim moved and Patty seconded approval of the nomination of Meredith Smith to serve on the Camp Unistar Foundation Board. Motion approved. David explained that Camp Unistar is a membership organization with one member, the MidAmerica Region, so we approve their board.

The Board did a *get to know you* activity – we shared about a favorite teacher or educational experience.

The Board spent time getting caught up back and forth with David after his sabbatical. David told us that he really did unplug from UUA work. This is part one of his sabbatical, part two will be the month of January. David is to be the recipient of the Chaplain of the Year Award for the Army Reserves and will therefore have to miss our October meeting. We will move the October meeting to the 12th (provided that also works for Mandy and McKenna) so that David can be there. We filled

David in on some of the highlights of the Board meetings he missed. We agreed that Board work went well and David reported that staff work also went well. The UUA travel ban for staff is still in place, but staff can request specific travel permission, all travel must be approved ultimately by Susan Frederick-Gray. The ban will likely be lifted in January, but it will continue to be the case that travel plans must be approved by the respective regional lead. There is some tension between the MidAmerica approach to travel and the other regions. We now have roughly the same travel budget that the other regions have.

The Board did not discuss any fiduciary issues while David was gone. David let us know that we are financially solid, no major changes while he was gone. David will report in October on how bringing our accounting in house has gone.

Mandy's question about the purpose of the Board was discussed. We agreed that this needs a much more detailed discussion about covenant and mission. Hans suggested that the statement(s) should always be a part of the Board packet.

Covenant and Purpose Agenda Item – Tammy's goal for the discussion this month was to set up how we talk about this during the retreat. We don't just want to put words on paper but to really embrace what our roles are and how we want to move forward. Mandy and McKenna should be part of the planning discussion.

Our homework is to review the documents on covenant and mission that David will send us and to come prepared to discuss this in October in preparation for the retreat. Consider if there are specific questions that will help guide our retreat discussion and bring those to the October meeting.

It was felt that the discussion of the last chapters of Widening the Circle was not very inspiring.

What should we read next? Breathe is the next UUA Common Read. Dorit suggested You're Not Listening. David suggested 3 titles: Shelter in This Place, The Through Line and The Black UU Survival Guide. Rae Jane suggested Living in the Tension. The question was raised if the book we read should connect with our purpose as a Board. **David will send the links out to his three recommendations.** Please send other recommendations if you have them. Tammy will connect with Mandy and McKenna about possible titles. **Please come to the October meeting with your first and second choice so we can narrow it down.**

Fall Retreat Planning – besides the covenant and purpose conversation, we do want to do some team building. The retreat will be from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM EST on Saturday, November 13th. **Dorit will talk to Sharon about team building ideas and how much time it will take.** She volunteered to lead those activities. Financial integration with the UUA and Covenant and Mission will be our two major agenda items. We should have opening words and light a chalice. David volunteered to do an opening or closing ritual.

National Advisory Council did not meet this past month and Rae Jane is not sure there will be any more meetings. She will keep us posted.

Process Observation

Autumn volunteered to do opening words. Patty will facilitate the meeting and Tammy will do the closing for next month unless Mandy or McKenna wants to.

Rae Jane had closing words from Linda Susan Ulrich.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dorit Bergen, secretary