

MidAmerica Region Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – October 19,
2021

Approved November 2, 2021

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

Absent: Sharon Dittmar

President Tammy opened the meeting at 6:32 PM CDT.

Autumn presented some opening thoughts about where and how to find inspiration, especially now.

Check-in – All

September Minutes Dorit noted that the September minutes needed amending to reflect that McKenna was present. Jim moved and Hans seconded a motion to approve the amended minutes of the September 7, 2021 Board meeting. Motion passed.

Covenant and Purpose Discussion

We agreed that mission and purpose is distinct from covenant. There is a covenant that a former Board established, we can amend that one to suit our purposes or we can start over. We are a very new Board. Mission and purpose and covenant will be on our agenda for our November Retreat. We should not just read through a book or other document just to say we did. We should also commit to discussing our personal reactions to what we read. What we choose to read should be connected to our mission and purpose. The question of our fiscal role versus our role in working for social justice was raised. It was noted that in the past, the Board desired to play a role in promoting social justice

work, but was often not able to tie that desire to actions. We need to spend time building relationships with each other so that we are prepared to constructively handle conflicts that come up. In the past, Board members had a tendency to leave when conflicts arose. David will send out the mission and purpose statement, the covenant and the history of the Board from 2015-2021 that Sharon wrote. It was agreed that these documents will be our common read for the next few months. Reading at least some of them is our work to prepare for the retreat.

It was agreed that we would have a one hour Board meeting at our regular day and time in November to deal with two specific issues:

1. McKenna and Rae Jane have some proposals to put before the Board related to their work on how we can support Widening the Circle recommendations.
2. David's first quarter financial report

The retreat will take place on November 13, 9:00 – 4:00 EST with a break for lunch. The agenda will include **mission** and **covenant** (two different things) **financial integration** and **team building**. David will do our spiritual opening and Mandy and Jim will do our spiritual closing.

Rae Jane reported that the National Advisory Council is not meeting and since the Board decided not to participate in Article 2 meetings, Rae Jane has not joined those meetings.

On Dec. 11 & 12, Compass is being presented by all the regions and the Article 2 Commission will make a presentation during it. However, David reported that registrations for that event are very low, reflecting a general sense across congregations that people are burned out, so the Compass event might be canceled. Board members can talk up the Compass event to our congregations.

Process Observations:

- This was a productive meeting with a sense of engagement
- It felt a bit frantic
- A lot of time can be consumed with discussion on a Zoom meeting
- Does using the chat during our meetings create a distraction or is it productive?
- David will consult with Andrew and create a google drive for the board
- Sometimes the agenda needs to be set aside for an important, in-depth discussion

David offered closing words.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dorit Bergen, secretary