

MidAmerica Region Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – Nov. 2, 2021

Approved December 7, 2021

Present: Patty Notch, Jim Moir, Dorit Bergen, Rae Jane Araujo, Hans Kelson, David Pyle, Autumn Mahoney, Mandy Beal, Sharon Dittmar

Absent: McKenna Revel, Tammy Lemmer

David Pyle opened the meeting at 6:31 PM CDT.

Opening Reading from Patty

Hans volunteered to facilitate the meeting.

Check-in

October Minutes

Rae Jane moved acceptance of the minutes as submitted, Autumn seconded, motion was approved.

Financial Update

David reported that the financial transition has begun, Andrew is now in the financial management role, our auditing firm will begin work in December and they will look at our accounts and at the new standards we have put into place.

David asked if there were any questions about the Financial Report for end of FY 21 and First Quarter of FY 22. There were none. He said that we are in a solid place at the moment. We did make the \$80,000 transfer from the operating fund into the investment account that the Board authorized in July. The investment account has done well except for September, which was down by about \$20,000 due to vagaries of the market and covid. Still the investment account is up for the year.

Scholarship Subcommittee Report

Rae Jane presented two draft proposals on what to do with some of our investment money.

- 1) Create a scholarship for BIPOC lay leaders to attend GA or Regional Assembly.
- 2) Establish a grant to fund consultation by a UUA program called Hope For Us, which provides support for congregations experiencing conflict with religious professionals. Our grant would be available when those professionals are people of color. This would be in accordance with what is outlined on page 120 of Widening the Circle.

We will continue the conversation. Trustees expressed appreciation for the subcommittee's work and support for the concept of putting some of our investment proceeds to good use in dismantling white supremacy culture. Sharon believes that being able to access skilled support would be very helpful to congregations and people in pain and commended our desire to provide the finances to enable such support. David talked about how we lose ministers in the first 5 years of ministry due in part to lack of such support.

Rae Jane and McKenna will meet again and come up with some numbers and more details for both proposals. David will be available to assist if needed.

Fall Retreat Planning

The retreat starts at 9:00 AM ET on November 13th.

Prior to the retreat, we will all read Financial Transitions Summary by RL 2021, which Hans sent again to all of us.

We will be treated to lunch or dinner in some way that staff will figure out. David and Andrew are preparing a retreat packet that will be sent to us.

Process Observations

Executive Session

Closing Words from Rae Jane

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43PM CT

Respectfully submitted by Dorit Bergen, secretary