

MidAmerica Region, UUA

Board Meeting: Saturday, April 26, 2014

Call to Order 3:57 PM CST All present except Erin, with trustees-elect

Opening words by Amy Taylor

Welcome of Trustees-Elect Bill Sasso welcomed the Trustees-elect with rainbow webbing

Review of Our Board Covenant-the Board Covenant was read

Appointment of Process Observer (TBD)-Cindy Landrum was appointed as Process Observer

Consent Agenda

- Minutes of the March 3rd Board Meeting
- Staff Report (from Ian)-~~stricken~~
- 3/31/14 MidAmerica Financial Reports (from Lisa)
- Minutes of the April 12th MidAmerica Region Annual Business Meeting (from Eric)-~~revised version~~
- Other consent agenda items?

Amy Taylor moved for approval of the revised Consent Agenda second by Tom Sommerfeld, approved unanimously (See Attachment A)

Formal Affirmation of MidAmerica Region Board Objectives for FY2015-motion for adoption by Kathy Burek, second by Amy Taylor, straw vote taken including incoming trustees, unanimous for approval, formal vote taken with current voting members of the Board, approved unanimously – A workgroup was created to refine the objectives, Doug Cauble, Charlotte Preston, and Ian Evison committed a staff member (See Attachment B)

Formal affirmation of staff objectives added – 4 high level goals(look to packet), moved by Kathy Burek, second Amy Taylor – short discussion expressing appreciation for the staff's work on this process, how can Board be involved in shaping these next year? And timing. Budget implications, etc.? – Informal hand vote including trustees elect, unanimously, formal vote unanimously (See Attachment C)

Follow-up from Regional Assembly

- Next step(s) on Learning Community Covenant- Tom Sommerfeld moved that we approve for publication to website for review and comment, second by David Martin, discussion of newest version (what is changed, better example of ground rules, timeline changed), discussion of process, explanation of where the concept comes from (particularly regarding covenanting), Cindy Landrum proposed formation of task force to work on helping congregations reach readiness to covenant, straw poll – unanimously, formal vote, unanimously

Motion by Cindy Landrum, second Eric Huffer to create working group for collecting feedback, friendly amendment to hold creation until May meeting, straw poll, unanimously, Formal vote, unanimously

David left meeting 5:05 CST

- Other follow-up-**none**

Discussion and Action on Provisional Policy defining terms of those elected to serve on the MidAmerica

Nominating Committee (to specify terms until Bylaws are amended to do so)-**Cindy Landrum made a motion for adoption of provisional policy, second by Tom Sommerfeld – no discussion, approved unanimously (See Attachment D)**

Discussion/Possible Action: "Who should attend GA as representatives of MidAmerica?"- **Bill Sasso explained the need for Board representatives at GA, there was discussion of the need for a presence, it was determined that there was no need for action, at least 4 board members will be present**

Discussion and Action on principles to be expressed in a MidAmerica/Midwest UU Conference

Covenant (possible formation of a two-person team to work on this) - **motion for approval by Kathy Burek, Amy Taylor second, suggested that if group is formed that Treasurer should be included, formal vote, unanimously, group will consist of Ian Evison, Bill Sasso, and Tom Sommerfeld**

Discussion/Action: MidAmerica Governance Schedule (May 2014 to June 2015) - **moved by Tom Sommerfeld, second by Charlotte Preston, motion for changes Cindy Landrum, second Tom Sommerfeld, 8/26 mtg face to face changed to Friday-Saturday 9/5-6, plan to get together Friday afternoon of Regional Assembly, 5/15-16, 2015 face-to-face, remove 5/19/15 virtual mtg, vote for amendment approved unanimously, vote for amended motion approved with one abstention (see Attachment E)**

Executive Session- **Board went into executive session 5:51 CST regarding PSD**

Motion by Kathy Burek to exit executive session, second by Amy Taylor, approved unanimously exited at 5:58 CST

Brief progress report from PSD President on consolidation processes (Kathy B)**Title search conducted on Camp Unistar, was clear, attorney satisfied that should be able to start drafting documents, PSD board authorized Kathy Burek to proceed with filing dissolution, may be able to transfer property prior to IRS approval**

Recognition of Trustees whose terms will end June 30th - Amy Taylor, Kathy Burek & Erin McElroy recognized for their service and hours of work

Process Observer Comments- energy was flagging, but we stayed on task, were sufficiently informed, good balanced discussion, ARAOMC little attention except for goals-didn't really connect with our agenda, covenant was read and honored, discussion of learning covenant showed our commitment to creating new era

Closing Words (Tom Sommerfeld)

Adjournment- motion for adjournment by Amy Taylor, Tom Sommerfeld second, approved unanimously adjourned 6:15 CST

MidAmerica Region, UUA

Virtual Board Meeting: Monday, March 3, 2014

7:30 p.m. Eastern Time, 6:30 p.m. Central Time

Virtual Board Meeting Technology: Fuzebox

Subject: MidAmerica Board Meeting

The Purpose of the MidAmerica Region is "... to support, enrich, and extend Unitarian Universalism in the defined geographic area. The Region shall work in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Association." (Bylaws, Article II, Section 1)

Informal check-in as we arrive

Call to Order at 6:34 CST

Present:

Bill Sasso, President

Charlotte Preston, Vice-President

Eric Huffer, Secretary

David Martin, Board Member

Amy Taylor, Board Member

Kathleen Burek, Board Member

Cindy Landrum, Board Member

Ian Evison, ex-Officio Board Member

Lisa Presley, Mid America Staff

Nancy Heege, MidAmerica Staff

Tammy Lemmer, MidAmerica Nominating Committee

Opening Words (Nancy Heege)

Appointment of Process Observer (David)

Reading of Our MidAmerica Board Covenant: As we work together to govern boldly, empowering the MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we, the Board of the MidAmerica Region promise ourselves and each other . . . • To keep spirituality present within us as individuals and as a community, to remember always that we are doing religious work, and to remember that our Unitarian Universalist message can be salvific. • To show up for meetings prepared, actively participate, and learn together and from each other. • To communicate within agreed-upon response times using agreed-upon communication methods. • To hold a safe space when we gather and work together: assuming good intentions, being respectful, listening deeply, including all voices and honoring them. To that end, we encourage use of wisdom from our youth: "Ouch Oops" – recognize that our intentions may be different

from our impact; “No Spontaneous Combustion” -- speak up at the beginning of discomfort, and not wait until anger or frustration overwhelms us. “One Diva/One Mic” - speak one at a time. • To hear every voice at the table, voice disagreements, seek to understand and then to be understood. Our shared intention is not always to reach unanimity, but rather to leave the meeting with a commitment that each participant can affirm decisions reached, so the Board will speak with one voice to the public. • To locate authority in the Board, not in the individual board member. • To honor and respect our commitments to Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, and MultiCulturalism. To honor and respect our commitments to Youth and other constituencies as we work together. • To have fun and laughter in our shared experience, and to celebrate. • To embody the spirit of generosity and the experience of abundance in our work together. • To be in active and intentional relationship with other groups, part of a larger web of interdependence. We will keep this covenant present before us, and when we are having trouble keeping this promise, we will lovingly remind one another of our covenant.

Consent Agenda **motion to accept by Dave Martin, second by Kathy Burek, approved unanimously – Attachment A**

- Minutes of the January 23rd Board Meeting
- Approved FY2015 MidAmerica Region Budget
- MidAmerica Region Income Statement (12/31/2014) for Annual Meeting Packet
- MidAmerica Region Transition Budget (12/31/2014)
- Specifications of Restricted Funds from CMwD, HLD, and PSD
- FY 2013 Final Financial Reports from CMwD, HLD, and PSD
- Accountant's Comments re FY 2013 Reports

Review/Discussion/Action on Final Agenda for MidAmerica Region Annual Meeting (April 12, 2014) **motion to approve preliminary agenda as final by Kathy Burek, second by Cindy Landrum**
Discussion regarding changes

- Vote in affirmation of MUUC Director appointments? **Comments from Tammy Lemmer-Nominating Committee has concerns regarding how this fits with the MUUC bylaws, possible conflict and possibility of confusion, Discussion of whether the appointments are interim or not, Dave Martin moved for amendment to agenda to remove this item for vote of affirmation, second by Amy Taylor, affirmation that with removal there would still be acknowledgment of appointments, also in the MUUC report, Motion approved unanimously**

Some discussion of Nominating Committee terms of service (missing from bylaws), possibly could be handled in revision to Nominating Committee guidance document or board policy rather than bylaw amendment

- Learning Community Covenant? **Motion for amendment to include in agenda by Kathy Burek, second by Eric Huffer, discussion mostly centering around is this timely, what**

level of board member commitment is involved, possibility raised to put this forward as something we make a focus of the coming year, **amendment voted down unanimously**

Cindy Landrum moved to add the Learning Community process announcement at assembly as in process over the coming year with dates removed as well as reference to fair share changes, second by Eric, discussion, **motion carries with one nay**

- Business submitted by Congregational Action (if any)? **None were submitted**

Motion to remove reports from agenda and into delegate meeting packet, **approved unanimously**

Request for time from UUA Stewardship & Development Group to address Regional Assembly, motion to allow time by Eric Huffer, second by Dave Martin and Cindy Landrum, **motion approved unanimously**

Amended Prelim Agenda approved as final agenda, unanimously (See Attachment B)

Other Regional Assembly Planning (as required)

- Preparation and practice for Site Chairs – **Bill Sasso will send out a meeting wizard request**
- Arrangements for Board Conversations at each site – **Kathy Burek reports that Bloomington, Ann Arbor, and Wausau will have workshop sessions with PowerPoint, request for help with preparing posters with pictures of boards, web ribbons will be sent to board members,**
- Board member accessories for high visibility – **rainbow web ribbons will be provided to Board members for easy identification at Regional Assembly**
- Board member registration procedures - **covered**
- Other Board questions/planning? – **question from Tammy Lemmer regarding preference for presentation of slate, discussion**

Brief progress report from PSD President on consolidation processes (from Kathy)

- Possible review/discussion/action on fiscal agency relationship with CUF – **Camp Unistar title is clear, working toward being ready for transfer of title**
Request from Camp Unistar Foundation for MA board accepting fiscal agency on an interim basis

Motion from Kathy Burek that MidAmerica board accept Camp Unistar request that MidAmerica act as limited fiscal agent as laid out in the request, second by Amy Taylor, **approved unanimously (See Attachment C)**

Follow-up from Board Stewardship Calls to Congregations (if needed)

- **discussion delayed until April meeting**

Discussion and Planning for April 25/26 Board Meeting in Twin Cities (MN)

- Overall schedule and planning – Friday with staff – Eric will do overview of Appreciative Inquiry, we will do with staff, shared worship, discussion of year's objectives

Shared worship on Friday

Saturday board meeting, meet with Scott Tayler from UUA

- Location and travel information

Preliminary Discussion of Board Objectives for FY2015: - delayed until April meeting

- Fostering a stronger sense of connection, interdependence, and identity within MidAmerica?

- Becoming a more “Interculturally Competent” Board?

- Establishing and strengthening strategic relationships? Which ones?

- Fiduciary and legal oversight responsibilities

- Financial Stewardship of MidAmerica

- What else might go here?

Review of Timelines relative to Regional Assembly – deadline passed for addition by congregational action

March 6th deadline for submission of items for inclusion in meeting packet

March 8th deadline for submission of additional nominations

March 13th annual business meeting packet goes out

Process Observer Comments – energy and focus, board stayed on task mostly, did get sidetracked by discussion of Nominating Committee terms of office discussion, ARAOMC covered in covenant, but not raised up during discussion, no discussion of marginalized group, board honored covenant, discussion regarding learning covenant demonstrated commitment to “new era in UUism”, commitment to stakeholders demonstrated by work done tonight

Closing Words (Bill)

Adjournment-motion to adjourn by Kathy Burek, Amy Taylor second approved unanimously, meeting adjourned 8:52 CST

MidAmerica Region Board 2014-2015 Goals Brainstorm List as Prioritized on Saturday, 4/26/2014

Top Priorities, which have been adopted as FY 2015 Board Objectives at the April 26, 2014 Board Meeting

- [Commonality on how to move forward/decide governance model - 10 \[*Board only\]](#)
- [Serving as a regional advisory council - 7](#)
- [Inter-cultural competency \[ICC\] - 6 \[*Board only\]](#)
- [Sense of connection with congregations -- in conversation with staff - 7](#)
- [Steps to become a learning network covenant - 7](#)
- [Growing ministries of UUs throughout MidAmerica -- ID what the process could do - 6](#)
- [Figure out our respective roles in fundraising - 7](#)
- [Staff Appreciation - 7](#)
- [Identifying the work of the 3-way Covenant - 5](#)

Other high priorities:

- [Further visioning on use of technology - 4](#)
- [Fiscal responsibility for adequate resources - 3](#)
- [Each board member to touch UU congregations in measurable ways - 4](#)
- [Interpret UUA Branding for MidAmerica - 3](#)
- [Connections with other constituencies - 3](#)
- [Conversations of gifts and generosity with congregations - 3](#)

Board Development & Governance

- [Commonality on how to move forward - 10](#)
- [Serving as a regional advisory council - 7](#)
- [Inter-cultural competency \[ICC\] - 6](#)
- [Further visioning on use of technology - 4](#)
- [Fiscal responsibility for adequate resources - 3](#)
- [Establish board policy manual - 1](#)
- [More training on models, ex. Chait - 0](#)
- [Covenanting with UUA Board - 1](#)
- [Goal to not get lost in diligence & expand vision - 0](#)
- [Look at possibilities & resources that will expand the board's potential - 1](#)
- [Beyond ICC -- board as justice-making - 1](#)
- [Set criteria for distinguishing between board and staff work - 0](#)
- [Follow up on 5-year vision exercise from April 2014 - 1](#)

Board & Congregations & Beyond

- [Sense of connection with congregations -- in conversation with staff - 7](#)
- [Steps to become a learning network covenant - 7](#)
- [Growing ministries of UUs throughout MidAmerica -- ID what the process could do - 6](#)

- **Each board member to touch UU congregations in measurable ways - 4**
- **Interpret UUA Branding for MidAmerica - 3**
- **Connections with other constituencies - 3**
- **Conversations of gifts and generosity with congregations - 3**
- Communications from board - 0
- Have a way for congregations to share their stories - 0
- Do things that energize individual Board members/feed them - [Board development list]
- Database -- make it possible for laity to find their own ministries, shared gifts - 1
- Creating invitation to have point people in congregations to build connections with clarity of priorities - 0

Board & Staff & DCL

- **Figure out our respective roles in fundraising - 7**
- **Staff Appreciation - 7**
- **Identifying the work of the 3-way Covenant - 5**
- Calendaring with board and staff - 1
- Define success - 1
- Set criteria for distinguishing between board and staff work - 1

MAJOR GOALS

SUPPORTING GOALS

TASKS WITHIN THE GOALS

BY WHOM?

Goal 1:
**Smooth Transition to
Forward Looking
Regional Structure**

set up transition system and resources for religious education professionals
perfecting the transitions letters for congregations and ministers
creating videos with compensation consultants for populating our website
continue work with Admin staff on database set up and data entry
continue work with Admin staff on registration processes
continue work with Admin staff on financial reports
creating a unified schedule to clarify MA work and event timeline
continue design of system to support adjunct consultants
work to create a system to support congregational giving to MA
working to ensure that the work transitioning to the region forms a lesser part of the work of the regional

staff in finding ways to step away from the "perfect" in favor of the good enough to enable shift of work outward to support congregations

Lisa, Nancy CM
Lisa
Lisa
Nancy H
Nancy H
Nancy H and Lisa
Nancy H, Ian
Dori
Dori
Ian

Goal 2:
**Supporting transition
to new governance
structure and system**

continue review, improvement, and refinement of process for quarterly financial reports		Lisa
continue meeting with Board and Executive team, as needed		Lisa, Nancy H, Ian
continue to work with board on communications	assist Board's efforts in Communications - newsletter, e-postcards, etc	Nancy H, Ian
continue to support the board in its work		Ian
support the relationship between the board and the DCL		Ian

**Goal 3:
Continuity and
improvement of
programs and services
for MA**

DMIS	Next steps in cluster conferences for DMIS - cultural competency	encourage at least one cluster to have DMIS training	Lisa
DMIS	Next steps in cluster conferences for DMIS - cultural competency	webinars on snippets of DMIS/conflict information	Lisa
	create new evaluation system/structure for webinars and in-person workshops and consultations		Lisa
	Increase usefulness of our MA web site	Add more content and resources in every category	Nancy H
	MidWest Leadership School	Attend MWLS in 2014 to renew skills and knowledge of topics being taught and make connections with people from across the region	Nancy H
	Engage with regional and national youth ministry leaders on safety policies for youth programming	Work with national Youth Ministry task force on suggested safety guidelines for youth ministry events	Nancy CM

Engage with regional and national youth ministry leaders on safety policies for youth programming	Work with area youth councils in creating a regional safety guidelines for youth events	Nancy CM, Dori
Aid the MidAmerica Youth Advisor Network as staff liaison	Work with MAYAN on creating virtual and face to face youth advisor trainings	Nancy CM, Dori
Partner with national Young Adult ministry leaders with new YA initiatives	Help to create and promote multicultural/social justice young adult programs	Nancy CM
Spiritual Direction Programs	continue to offer spiritual direction training programs for congregations and their members	Phil
Spiritual Direction Programs	Develop online small group spiritual direction for religious professionals	Phil
Spiritual Direction Programs	Expand the number of clergy trainings in congregationally based spiritual direction	Phil
Continue to build relationships with people and congregations we haven't known before		All Staff
continue the first call for help roles in the three former district areas		Nancy H, Dori, Lisa
creating a network of generosity consultants to help congregations with stewardship		Dori
oversee regional assembly meeting in one location		Dori
regional assembly planning	various parts allocated to all staff members	All Staff
establish and create a sustainable structure for Youth Leadership School		Dori, Nancy CM
supervise the Chicago Chalice Connection project		Dori
supervise and support development of MA program staff		Ian

coordinate work and development of staff team
 work with congregations to determine adjunct consulting needs and assignments

Ian
 Dori

**Goal 4:
 Moving ourselves and congregations to a future-oriented stance that is multicultural, multigenerational and tech savvy**

DMIS continue the intercultural competency work by partnering with UUA staff on webinars/reading group, etc.

Lisa

DMIS work in collaboration with MA staff, Multicultural Growth and Witness staff, and Congregational Life Leadership team to forward intercultural competency work

Ian

DMIS develop on-going course on intercultural competency stuff
 make use of results of study of ministerial grief and impact on congregations

three-four session course on dmis and how to move it forward
 webinar on ministerial grief

Lisa
 Lisa

make use of results of study of ministerial grief and impact on congregations

workshop for RA, UUMA Chapters, possibly for GA

Lisa

DMIS continue reading, personal study on intercultural competency topics

Nancy H

DMIS	offer a webinar on becoming competent interculturally if you're an introvert		Nancy H
DMIS	continue to invite congregations and individuals into the intercultural work	create a read-along program and invite people to join in; enlist social justice state networks to help recommend books on social justice topics	Nancy H
	Continue in RE Credentialing program	Goal to meet with the RECC in May 2015, after completion of a multicultural/multigenerational Spanish immersion generative project (test piloted by a MA congregation)	NancyCM
	Online trainings and workshops	Encourage and assist other MidAmerica Staff in adapting trainings and workshops for online use.	Phil
	Online trainings and workshops	Continue to expand programming to on-line courses and trainings	Phil
	provide and communicate vision oversight and relevant interpretation of trends that will affect MA UU congregations		Ian
	ensuring generosity and adjunct consultants include multicultural and multigenerational framework in their work with congregations		Dori

Sabbaticals/Special Assignments

Ian Evison, sabbatical	July 14-Sept 14
Nancy Combs-Morgan, sabbatical	December 2014

BY WHEN?**3 I's**

6/30/2015

innovate

6/30/2015

innovate

6/30/2015

innovate, interconnect

6/30/2015

innovate

6/30/2015

innovate

6/30/2015

innovate

6/30/2015

impact

6/30/2015

interconnect, impact

6/30/2015

impact

6/30/2015

impact

12/31/2014	<i>innovate</i>
on-going	<i>interconnect</i>
on-going	<i>interconnect</i>
on-going	<i>interconnect, impact</i>
on-going	<i>interconnect, impact</i>

6/30/2015 *innovate, interconnect*

6/30/2015 *innovate, interconnect*

6/30/2015 *innovate*

6/30/2015 *innovate, interconnect*

7/30/2014 *innovate, interconnect*

Interconnection

Innovate

impact, innovate

innovate, interconnect

impact, innovate

innovate, interconnect

Innovate

interconnect, impact

on-going *interconnect, impact*

on-going *innovate, interconnect,
impact*

April, 2015 *innovate, interconnect,
impact*

April, 2015 *innovate, interconnect,
impact
interconnect, impact*

*innovate, interconnect,
impact
impact*

interconnect, impact

interconnect, impact

6/30/2015 *innovate, interconnect*

on-going *innovate, interconnect,
impact*

6/30/2015 *innovate, interconnect*

6/30/2015 *innovate, interconnect,
impact*

6/30/2015 *innovate, interconnect,
impact*

on-going *innovate, impact*

Proposed Policy Specifying Terms of the Members of the MidAmerica Region, UUA, Nominating Committee

Whereas it has been called to the attention of the Board of Trustees of the MidAmerica Region, UUA that the current MidAmerica Region Bylaws do not specify the dates on which the terms of those elected to serve on the MidAmerica Nominating Committee begin and end;

Therefore, be it resolved that the MidAmerica Board of Trustees declares its understanding that the terms of those elected to serve on the MidAmerica Nominating Committee begin on the July 1st subsequent to their election; and

Be it further resolved that the Board shall propose an amendment to the MidAmerica Bylaws, in terms of adding the following sentence to Article VII., Section 1, Item (a): "The term of the members of the Nominating Committee shall begin on the July 1st subsequent to their election, or immediately upon appointment in the case of a vacancy." and

Be it finally resolved that, upon amendment of the MidAmerica Region Bylaws such that the beginning date of the terms of those elected to serve on the MidAmerica Nominating Committee has been specified, this Policy shall be understood to have expired.

Submitted by Bill Sasso

April 15, 2014

MidAmerica Region, UUA**Approved Governance Schedule: May, 2014 to June 2015**

Tuesday, 5/27/14	Virtual Board Meeting (7 to 8:30 pm Central; 8 to 9:30 pm Eastern, either computer based meeting or conference call)
Wednesday, 6/25/14	District Presidents Association Meeting in Providence, RI
Wednesday, 6/25/14 to Sunday, 6/29/14	UUA General Assembly in Providence, RI
Friday, 9/5/14 to Saturday, 9/6/14	Face-to-Face Board Meeting (site TBD)
Tuesday, 9/23/14	Virtual Board Meeting
Tuesday, 10/21/14	Virtual Board Meeting
Friday, 11/14/14 to Saturday 11/15/14	Face-to-Face Board Meeting (site TBD)
Tuesday, 12/9/14	Virtual Board Meeting (if necessary)
Tuesday, 1/13/15	Virtual Board Meeting (FY 2016 MidAmerica Budget)
Tuesday, 2/10/15	Virtual Board Meeting (Notice of Mtg. Procedures)
Tuesday, 3/10/15	Virtual Board Meeting (Final Agenda & Meeting Packet)
Friday, 4/17/15 to Sunday, 4/19/15	Regional Assembly in Naperville, IL (Board to meet afternoon of 4/17/15)
Friday, 5/15/15 to Saturday, 5/16/15	Face-to-Face Board Meeting (site TBD)
Wednesday, 6/24/15	District Presidents Association Meeting
Wednesday, 6/24/15 to Sunday, 6/28/15	UUA General Assembly

***Minutes of the 2014 Annual Business Meeting
of the MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association***

Saturday, April 12, 2014

This multi-site business meeting was held simultaneously at four physical locations:

- **First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan**
4001 Ann Arbor Saline Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103-8739
- **Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana**
2120 N Fee Lane, Bloomington, IN 47408-1646
- **Topeka Ramada Hotel and Convention Center**
420 Southeast 6th Ave, Topeka, KS 66607
- **First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau, Wisconsin**
504 Grant St, Wausau, WI 54403-4738

Please note that the following reports are included in Annual Business Meeting Delegate Packet:

- Report of the MidAmerica Region President
- Report of the MidAmerica Regional Lead
- Report from MidAmerica Directors of the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference (MUUC)
- Report from the Prairie Star District
- Report from the Camp UniStar Foundation
- Report from the MidAmerica Region Nominating Committee
- FY2013 Year-end Financial Reports from CMwD, HLD, and PSD
- MidAmerica Region FY2014 Financial Reports (through 12/31/2013)
- MidAmerica Region FY2015 Budget
- MidAmerica Region Transition Budget Report

**Annual Business Meeting Minutes
MidAmerica Region, UUA**

The Purpose of the MidAmerica Region is "... to support, enrich, and extend Unitarian Universalism in the defined geographic area. The Region shall work in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Association." (Bylaws, Article II, Section 1)

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Opening Words

April 12, 2014 11:35 Am EST

2014 Annual Business Meeting called to order by Bill Sasso-

Introduction of Board members in each location.

Ann Arbor:

Tom Sommerfeld (Northwoods Cong'n in Woodruff, WI)

Cindy Landrum (Clarklake, MI)

Bloomington:

Amy Taylor (Bloomington, IN)

Eric Huffer (Lexington, KY)

Topeka:

Charlotte Preston (White Bear UUC in Mahtomedi, MN)

Dave Martin (Iowa City, IA)

Wausau:

Kathy Burek (Michael Servetus in Fridley, MN)

assisted with credentials work by volunteers Brian Covell,

Suzie DeBeers, and Arthur Thexton

Also in Bloomington was our Parliamentarian, Steve Dillon.

Opening Words were read by MidAmerica Treasurer, Tom Sommerfeld, and the Chalice was lit by Nancy Combs-Morgan.

2. Credentials Report and Certification of a Quorum

Credentials Report given by MidAmerica Secretary, Eric Huffer, recognizing that 183 delegates, representing 75

congregations, from all 13 states of the Region were present at the four sites of the annual business meeting.

As specified in Article IV, Section 4, of the MidAmerica Region Bylaws, we need delegates from at least 25 congregations located in at least 5 (different) states to form a quorum. Based on the Credentials report, a quorum was declared by Bill Sasso, MidAmerica President.

3. Approval of the Rules of Procedure

The delegates at the Ann Arbor site moved to approve the Rules of Procedure.

Seconded by the delegates at the Wausau site

All four sites reported no discussion of the motion.

The vote was taken at each site, with the following results:

Topeka (Dave) - Unanimous approval

Wausau (Kathy) - Unanimous approval

Ann Arbor (Tom) - Unanimous approval

Bloomington (Amy) - Unanimous approval

**** Results of the Visual Vote ****

Unanimous approval of the Rules of Procedure at all four sites

The chair declared the Rules of Procedure were adopted.

(See Attachment A)

4. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of MidAmerica Trustees, MidAmerica Nominating Committee members, and MUUC Directors

The slate of nominees was presented by the Rev. Barbara Childs, on behalf of the Nominating Committee (See Attachment B)

The delegates at the Topeka site moved to elect the full slate of nominees.

Seconded by the delegates at the Bloomington site.

The vote was taken at each site with the following results:

Topeka (Charlotte)-unanimous approval

Wausau (Kathy)- approved with 2 abstaining

Ann Arbor (Tom)-unanimous approval

Bloomington (Amy)-unanimous approval

The slate was elected with two delegates abstaining, with the following results:

Kyrie Bock elected as a trustee serving 3 year term

Doug Cauble elected as a trustee serving 3 year term

Janis Cheney elected as a trustee serving 3 year term

Rev. Barbara Child, D'Ann Prior, Kees DeWitt, and Katherine Daniels were elected to the Nominating Committee for 2 year term

Rae Jane Araujo and Jeffrey Reed were elected as MUUC Directors for 3 year term

The President recognized and thanked those completing terms:

Members of the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference:

Rev. Hillary Krivchenia (Countryside in Palatine, IL) and Larry Miller (Indianapolis, IN).

Members of the MidAmerica Region Nominating Committee: Diana DeWeese (Springfield, IL), Carol Jean Larsen (Bismarck-Mandan, ND), and Marty Sozansky (Duluth, MN).

The President noted that the MidAmerica budget is presented on pages 38 and 39 of my delegate packet, and a spreadsheet error appears in the very last line of the budget. The last three lines are labeled "Total Expenses," "Total Income," and "Net." On the "Net" line, the 2015 figure is incorrect. It reads "\$799,208) but should read (\$26,140).

5. Nic Cable, of the UUA Stewardship and Development Office, addressed the meeting from the Bloomington site with An Expression of Appreciation from our Unitarian Universalist Association

(see Attachment C for powerpoint presentation)

6. "Where's the New Era?" A Look Towards the Future of our
MidAmerica Region

Prior to making his presentation, Bill Sasso requested that we observe a moment of silence for Rev. Georgette Wonders, minister of the Bradford Community Church UU, Kenosha, WI, who had just died from a tragic accident the week prior to this meeting. A moment of silence was observed.

An announcement was made that the 2015 MidAmerica Regional Assembly would be at one site, Naperville, IL.

Bill Sasso then made a presentation regarding a proposed process for the coming year. This was the introduction of a general topic that we hope will become a formal business item for next year.

7. Recognition of Board Members Completing Their Terms This Year

The President recognized the following outgoing members of the MidAmerica Board of Trustees for their service:

Kathy Burek

Erin McElroy

Amy Taylor

8. Closing Words

Our closing words were spoken by Charlotte Preston, MidAmerica Vice-President and a member of White Bear UU Congregation in Mahtomedi, Minnesota, and our chalice was extinguished by Nancy Combs Morgan of MidAmerica staff.

Additional words read by Bill Sasso since not all sites got Charlotte's reading

The following people were thanked by the President for their work in support of this regional assembly:

- First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana
- First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau, Wisconsin
- The Topeka Site Planning and Organizing Committee
- The Tech Support Team and
- Our MidAmerica Region Staff Team

9. Adjournment

*Motion for adjournment made by the delegates at Bloomington – second by the delegates at Bloomington
The vote was taken with the following results:*

Topeka (Charlotte)-unanimous approval

Wausau (Kathy)-unanimous approval

Ann Arbor (Tom)-unanimous approval

Bloomington (Amy)-unanimous approval

**The 2014 Annual Business Meeting of the MidAmerica
Region, UUA Adjourned at 12:48 EST**

Financial Report to MidAmerica Board

Third Quarter Statements

Overview

Income:

Congregational Contributions:

The contributions from congregations continue to lag behind where we would like them to be. As of March 31, they are at 53% of the budgeted amount; by mid-April, they are up to 58%, but that is still below where we would like to see them. We will be sending statements to the congregation at the beginning of May which will likely increase the giving as well.

Each year, only a small percentage of our congregations submit pledge forms indicating what they intend to give to the Region, which makes estimating the bottom line in congregational giving a bit challenging. However, in prior years, we relied upon track records of past giving to be able to come up with realistic predictions. This year we do not have that information as it relates to how they will contribute to MidAmerica, thereby making a reliable estimate much more difficult.

The maximum amount outstanding (the total of unpaid pledges for those who have pledged, and the fair share amount for those congregations that haven't pledged) is roughly \$283,700. If we received that amount, we would exceed the budget by about \$44,000. That is unlikely, but it is exceedingly difficult to project where we will end up.

Friends of MidAmerica:

We have received over half of the amount budgeted for this--\$10,090 out of the \$17,000 forecast. We are anticipating a second "mailing" to possible donors to see if we can increase this amount. We are appreciative of the Board's support of this initiative.

Other Income:

Most other categories of income are coming in as anticipated.

Expenses:

To date, we are doing very well on the expense side. As of March 31st, we had spent only 50% of our projected expenses. Clearly, many of our expenses revolve around the Regional Assembly, and are not reflected in this budget, but it is clear that the Board and staff are being responsible with the Region's money. There is some lag time in recording expenses for staff travel as the March expense statements are not received until April, but we appear to be in good shape with the estimated costs. This provides a degree of

comfort as we wonder how the congregational contributions will end up. By and large, the idea of estimating income low and expenses high might serve us well this year.

We also notice that program expenses reflected in the budget are lower than initially budgeted. This results from several factors:

- Some events, such as last summer's planned Camp Star Trail, were canceled due to lack of significant registrations.
- Some large scale events that we anticipated holding when the budget was prepared in December 2012 were instead provided through other media, such as webinars and other on-line communications.
- Some of the events occurred, but the accounting for the expenses are reflected in the District records not the Regional ones. One key example of this is Youth MidWest Leadership School. YMWLS happens early in July, and it did not seem prudent to change their banking structure immediately before the event, and so the expenses were recorded in CMwD's records. Part of the reconciliation that we will be doing for MidAmerica at the end of its first year (June 30, 2014) will be to reflect the transactions that happened in the districts between the official merger date (July 1, 2013) and the date that the districts are financially closed out.

Transfers of Assets:

Although we have already transferred over all the investments from the three districts into MA, most, but not all of them, are accounted for on the balance sheet. Within the next couple of months, we will complete this posting. As well, we are gathering the information we can to ensure that we have as complete documentation on the restricted income as is possible, and will be able to state whether the restriction is by donors, board or staff.

As you know, the funds were not actually transferred on July 1st, but were done in bits and pieces over the next 7-8 months. So one necessary step will be to trace the changes in those amounts from the financial statements at the end of Fiscal Year 2013 to the amounts listed on our MidAmerica balance sheet. In several cases, operations continued in those accounts between July 1 and the actual transfer date. For example, the leadership schools major activity is mid-July, and rather than disrupt their effective functioning, we did not transfer those amounts until mid-September after they had completed nearly all the activity. We will need to be able to document what transpired between the FY13 year end and the actual transfer date in order to satisfy ourselves and our constituents that the money has been safeguarded, and that the records are accurate. Since we did not receive the year-end figures from the accountant until 4-5 weeks before Regional Assembly, it did not seem prudent to turn staff attention to these loose ends until after Regional Assembly. We will, however, have the reconciliation and posting of these amounts completed before the year-end.