

Board Business Meeting Agenda:

Saturday, November 15, 2014

3:37 pm Central Call to Order- Board members present- Bill Sasso, Eric Huffer, Tom Sommerfeld, Cindy Landrum, Janis Cheney, Doug Cauble, Kyrie Bock, Ian Evison, Staff present-Nancy Heege

3:38 pm Opening Readings: MidAmerica Vision Statement

3:41 pm Consent Agenda

- Appointment of Doug Cauble as Timekeeper
- Appointment of Janis Cheney as Process Observer
- Minutes of the 10/21/2014 MidAmerica Board Business Meeting
- 1QFY2015 MidAmerica Region Financial Reports and Analysis
- MidAmerica Region Staff Report

Motion for approval of Consent Agenda by Dave Martin, second by Tom Sommerfeld, approved unanimously

3:43pm Review and possible adoption of recommendation(s) from the Governance Model Working Group, motion for approval by Dave Martin, second by Doug Cauble, approved unanimously (Attachment A)

3:46 pm Review and possible adoption of recommendation(s) regarding Financial Audit/Review from the Financial Committee (if available), nothing to consider

3:48 pm Review and possible adoption of statement of preference regarding relationship between UUA and MidAmerica Region, motion for approval by Eric Huffer, second by Cindy Landrum, discussion regarding what happens next, approved unanimously (Attachment B)

4:00 pm Review and possible adoption of a Statement of Support for St. Louis UU Congregations, motion for approval by Cindy Landrum, second by Tom Sommerfeld, discussion of language, approved unanimously (Attachment C)

4:10 pm Review and possible adoption of Preliminary Agenda, motion for approval by Eric Huffer, second by Dave Martin, motion by Eric Huffer to strike Item 7 and add to Item 9 the phrase "the recognition of staff", amendment carried unanimously, motion by Cindy Landrum to add ~~St. Louis letter and support for~~ recognition of St. Louis UU congregations to the agenda, second by Dave Martin, amendment carried unanimously, motion to add introduction to MidAmerica prior to credentialing report by Cindy Landrum, second by Kyrie Bock, amendment carried unanimously, vote taken on main motion, approved unanimously (Attachment D)

4:20 Review and possible adoption of proposed Rules of Procedure for the 2015 MidAmerica Region Annual Business Meeting, motion for approval by Cindy Landrum, second by Tom Sommerfeld and Janis Cheney, motion by Eric Huffer to strike rule 8, second by Janis Cheney, amendment carried unanimously, vote taken on main motion, approved unanimously (Attachment E)

4:25 pm Status review of 2015 MidAmerica Board Objectives, Eric Huffer, Dave Martin, and staff member (Dori Thexton?) will serve on workgroup regarding 1b & 2c, Janis Cheney, Cindy Landrum, possibly Charlotte Preston, and ~~staff person (to be assigned)~~ Ian will work on framing the question for discussion of item 2d, 3b, 3c & 3f, Doug Cauble, Bill Sasso & Nancy Heege will work on 3e.

4:40 pm Status report on the covenant among the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference, the MidAmerica Region, and the /Mountain Desert District, report by Bill Sasso

4:45 pm Status Report on UUA Board outreach effort regarding General Assembly, report by Bill Sasso

4:49 pm Process Observer Comments, energy was there, flagged at moments, stayed on task, 2&3 were addressed in conversations, honored covenant, worked some on "New Era"

4:52 pm Closing Words – Bill Sasso

4:55 pm Adjournment, motion by Tom Sommerfeld, second by Kyrie Bock, approved unanimously

*We move that MidAmerica Board adopt the Chait model of governance, that incorporates three components (or modes) of governance/leadership: a fiduciary component that focuses on oversight and accountability, ensuring that resources are used efficiently and effectively in support of the region's mission; a strategic component that involves determining and organizing around strategic priorities, and a generative component that focuses on framing the problems and issues, and seeks new understanding of the organization and its mission. Understanding that models of governance are complex and must be adapted to the specific environment in which it is being used, we propose to spend the next year learning and experimenting. This will involve reading, discussion, group exercises, and training (if available.). At the end of a year we will evaluate our use of the model as we understand it.*

### **Resolution Requesting Recognition of Inheritance by the MidAmerica Region of UUA District Rights**

Whereas the Bylaws and Rules of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) recognize the MidAmerica Region as "autonomous and shall be controlled by its own member congregations to the extent consistent with the promotion of the welfare and interests of the Association as a whole and of its member congregations" (Section C13.4);" and

Whereas the Bylaws of the UUA (1) define districts more specifically, recognizing their bylaws, geography, and member congregations (Rule G-13.2.1); (2) reserve to districts the specific ability to add business resolutions to the General Assembly Agenda (section 4.11); and (3) reference districts in several congregational capabilities regarding business items for consideration by Special General Assembly (section 4.15) and nomination by petition of candidates for UUA office (section 9.6); and

Whereas the UUA Bylaws in their current form do not specifically recognize or empower governance regions in an equivalent manner; and the MidAmerica Region was created by a dissolution and merger of the Districts contained therein;

Therefore, be it resolved the Board of Trustees of the MidAmerica Region hereby requests that the UUA recognize that the MidAmerica Region has inherited the rights and responsibilities of the former districts that now comprise the region.

## MidAmerica Board Statement on Ferguson

The Board of Trustees of the MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association issues the following statement in response to the call from our MidAmerica congregations and their ministers in the greater Saint Louis area.

Our deep theology as a justice-seeking people calls upon us to engage this major civil rights work. We, the members of the MidAmerica board, are deeply committed to the work of anti-oppression, anti-racism, and multiculturalism. We stand on the side of love with the people of Ferguson as they seek justice in the case of the death of Michael Brown.

We see what is happening in Ferguson as part of a larger issue in our Region and all of America. It is about dehumanization, about racism, and about injustice. We note that we are all currently affected by the same culture of fear of difference that festers in Ferguson.

We encourage Unitarian Universalist congregations and religious leaders in the MidAmerica Region to engage thoughtfully in the suggestions for action put forward by the Ferguson Response team of Saint Louis area ministers and Unitarian Universalist Association and UU Service Committee leaders. Some resources can be found on the Standing on the Side of Love web page, [www.standingonthesideoflove.org/blog/withferguson](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/blog/withferguson), as well as the St. Louis Standing on the Side of Love Facebook page [www.facebook.com/stlstandingonthesideoflove](https://www.facebook.com/stlstandingonthesideoflove).

### MidAmerica Board:

Rev. Dr. Bill Sasso, President,  
Charlotte Preston, Vice President  
Eric Huffer, Secretary  
Tom Sommerfeld, Treasurer  
Doug Cauble, Trustee  
Janis Cheney, Trustee  
Kyrie Bock, Trustee  
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum, Trustee  
Dave Martin, Trustee  
Rev. Ian Evison, ex-officio

Preliminary Agenda of the 2015 Annual Business Meeting of the MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Saturday, April 18, 2015

This meeting will be held as part of the 2015 MidAmerica Regional Assembly at the Marriott Hotel in Naperville, Illinois.

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 Camp UniStar Foundation
- Report from the MidAmerica Region Nominating Committee
- MidAmerica Region FY2014 Financial Reports
- MidAmerica Region FY2015 Financial Reports (through 12/31/2014)
- MidAmerica Region FY2016 Budget (as approved by the MidAmerica Board)
- MidAmerica Region Transition Budget Report

Annual Business Meeting Preliminary Agenda 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
3. Introduction to MidAmerica Region
4. Credentials Report and Certification of a Quorum
5. Approval of the Rules of Order
6. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of MidAmerica Trustees, MidAmerica Nominating Committee members, and MUUC Directors
7. An Expression of Appreciation from our Unitarian Universalist Association
8. The MidAmerica Region Learning Network Covenant
9. Business Submitted by Congregational Action (if any)
10. Recognition of St. Louis Area Congregations

11. Recognition of Those Completing Their Service to the MidAmerica Region This Year

12. Closing Words (MidAmerica Expression of Appreciation)

113. Adjournment

## **RULES OF PROCEDURE**

### **Second Annual Meeting of the MidAmerica Region, UUA**

**April 18, 2015**

#### **RULE 1. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Consideration of and action upon items must proceed in the order set forth in the Final Agenda unless during the meeting that order is changed by majority vote.

#### **RULE 2. PARTICIPATION IN DEBATE**

Speakers recognized by the President shall identify themselves by name and congregational affiliation. Participation in debate is limited to delegates. The President may waive this requirement.

#### **RULE 3. MEANS OF VOTING**

So long as a quorum is present, action on any question, unless the Bylaws otherwise provide, will proceed by vote of the delegates. A vote will be called by the President, but the voting process at each site will be conducted by the Site Chair. When a vote is called, we will use a phased process. In the first phase, a visual report from each site will be communicated to the President. After all reports have been received, the President will announce each site's result. If, in the judgment of the President, these results leave room for uncertainty, the second phase will entail a counted vote at every site. Counted votes will be conducted at each site simultaneously under the supervision of the Site Chairs. When each site has completed its voting process, its results will be communicated to the President. When all results have been received at the chair-site, the President will announce the individual site results and the overall result. The required proportion of votes cast by delegates to approve any action or resolution will be as set forth in the Bylaws or these Rules of Procedure.

#### **RULE 4. PRESENTATION OF ITEMS**

The provisions of Rule 5 notwithstanding, the Board will, at its discretion, either move the item as printed on the Final Agenda or move an amended version of the item.



## **RULE 5. AMENDMENTS**

Except for clarifying amendments, amendments to the main motion and motions to refer, table or to call the question will not be in order until there has been at least ten minutes of debate, if that much is needed, on the merits of the main question as moved. No amendment or other change to any motion under consideration will be entertained unless it is submitted in writing. However, the President may waive this requirement.

## **RULE 6. TIME LIMITS**

The following time limits are imposed on all business transacted by the assembly. If, however, there is no objection from the floor, the President may grant minor extensions of time. Any time limits imposed by this rule may be extended by a two-thirds vote.

- a) No person may speak on any motion for more than two minutes, and not more than once, so long as there are others who have not spoken who desire the floor, except that persons having special information may, with the permission of the President, reply to questions.
- b) Twenty minutes is allowed for discussion of any proposed bylaw amendment, rule change, resolution, or action on a report that is on or admitted to the Final Agenda, unless the time limit is extended in the manner provided in the first paragraph of this Rule 6. Whenever possible, the discussion time will be equally divided by proponents and opponents and by the alternate recognition of Pro and Con speakers.
- c) A motion to call the previous question on the main motion shall not be in order if there are potential speakers at both Pro and Con microphones and the original or extended time for discussion has not expired. A motion to call the previous question on a motion to amend the main motion is in order after 8 minutes of discussion concerning the amendment.

## **RULE 7. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

At any stage of the meeting, the President, without a vote of the assembly, at his or her discretion from time to time may order the meeting resolved into a Committee of the Whole or reconvened in regular Session. While the meeting is acting as a Committee of the Whole, the following Special Rule will apply: The Presiding Officer, without a vote of the Committee of the Whole, may permit reconsideration of any

action taken by the Committee of the Whole and other departures of the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure if it appears to him or her that the work of the Committee of the Whole will thereby be expedited. When the assembly is reconvened, the only motion in order will be to adopt the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole. A motion recommended by the Committee of the Whole will not be subject to amendment, debate, or delay.

#### **RULE 8. AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE**

These Rules of Procedure will be adopted by a two-thirds vote and may be amended, suspended, or repealed during the course of the assembly only by a two-thirds vote.