

MidAmerica Region, UUA
Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
December 4, 2017

Trustees present: Brian Bach, Kyrie Bock Janis Cheney, Eric Huffer, David Lauth, Tammy Lemmer, Mitra Jafarzadeh.

Trustees absent: Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan, Dixie Collinson

Staff present: Ian Evison, Sharron Ditmar

Call to Order: President Eric Huffer called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm Eastern and reviewed the Board Mission Statement.

Consent Agenda:

- Appointment of Timekeeper – Janis Cheney
- Appointment of Process Observer – Janis Cheney
- Appointment of Advocate – Mitra Jafazadeh
- Minutes of the November 11, 2017 Board Meeting

Once it was clarified that the 10/3 meeting was a board meeting, Tammy Lemmer moved approval of the Consent Agenda, David Lauth seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Check In:

Members shared updates on items of note in their lives this evening.

Report on New APF conversation

David Lauth, Brian Bach and Ian Evison reported out on their conversation with Carey McDonald and Vail Weller from UUA Stewardship & Development. Ian Evison and Lisa Presley were also on that call.

Options for payment include calculating a regional percentage of congregational gifts based on Fiscal Year 2017 or Fiscal Year 2018 figures.

Board Members discussed wanting to have a letter of agreement or memorandum of understanding to formalize the decision. Said document would articulate our desire to make the transition as simple as possible while protecting the interests of the region.

Benefits to the region include access to UUA tools and dashboard and UUA management of check collection and administration of the ask. Brian Bach and David Lauth were charged with further dialogue with the UUA.

Review of 2017-2018 Board Expenses/Discussion of FY 19 Budget:

Tammy Lemmer inquired as to whether coverage of board member expenses to attend the Regional Assembly Business Meeting could be considered. The current practice is to cover only

those board members with a specific identified role at the meeting (President and Secretary.) She noted and others agreed that as Board Members we are all expected to be present in our capacity as leaders of the Region.

Brian Bach will include this request in the budget development conversation with Lisa Presley for the new fiscal year (July 1-June 30.) When final decisions are made, it may not be feasible to include these Board expenses in the budget.

Additional Fall Call Feedback

No additional feedback has been received.

Janis Cheney suggested somehow standardizing how responses are consolidated and shared among members in the future to make review and consideration easier.

Brian Bach noted that he has participated in Lisa Presley's webinars.

Administrator update:

Ian Evison gave an overview of the search process from when the Region originally posted the position, withdrew it, and relaunched the search. Staff are excited to have Andrew Zallar on board as the new Administrator, and are impressed with his approach to evaluating processes and incorporating best practices.

Process Observer Comments:

Janis Cheney noted that Board Member engagement was positive with good discussion and a successful meeting.

Early comments referring to the UUA conversations as positive and candid reflected that we are regaining some of the connection that was lost after the departure of Scott Tayler.

Advocate Comments:

Mitra Jafazadeh shared an observation related to efforts at her congregation that was relevant to our ongoing efforts towards inclusion and the issue of white supremacy. She also noted that Ian Evison sharing the full back story of the hiring process, and ultimate success in identifying a wonderful new staff member, was storytelling toward social justice.

One of the check-in comments referenced a local police shooting and how the local congregation and community was dealing with it. The reaction to that comment reflected a keen awareness of the implications of these issues.

Closing Words: Eric Huffer offered closing words.

Adjournment: Janis Cheney moved for adjournment and Brian Bach seconded. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m