

MidAmerica Region, UUA
Draft Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting, updated
March 6, 2018

Trustees present: Brian Bach, Kyrie Bock, Janis Cheney, Eric Huffer, David Lauth, Tammy Lemmer, Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan

Trustees absent: Dixie Collinson, Mitra Jafarzadeh

Staff present: Ian Evison, Sharon Dittmar, Lisa Presley

Call to Order: President Eric Huffer called the meeting to order at 8:04 pm Eastern and reviewed the Board Mission Statement

The following Consent Agenda was approved:

- Appointment of Timekeeper – Tammy Lemmer
- Appointment of Process Observer – Janis Cheney
- Appointment of Advocate – Brian Bach
- Approval of December 2017 Minutes (with correction of Sharon’s name and time keeper changed from Janis to Kyrie.)

Check In:

Members shared updates on items of note in their lives this evening. Many thoughts were related to work and travel.

Approval of Minutes of the 2/6/18 MidAmerica Board Business Meeting:

The following corrections to the minutes were made: 1) change date to Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 2) reference to budget timeline should read “since we have a later deadline for the Regional Meeting, and 3) under Report on New AFP discussions, the words “It was moved that” were added before David, Brian and Eric’s names.

T. Lemmer made a motion to approve minutes as corrected. J. Cheney seconded. Approved unanimously.

Secretary Conversation

In consideration of the skills and time necessary to fulfill the duties of Secretary, K. Bock submitted her resignation. She indicated a willingness to continue serving on the board in an at-large capacity. Her resignation was accepted with appreciation extended for her service and continued interest in working with the board.

A discussion of current MA bylaws followed, with some members expressing concern with lack of clarity relating to vacancies and whether officers are always elected rather than appointed. It was noted that the Nominating Committee has struggled with different interpretations and confusion in tracking completed and unexpired terms, especially for officers. Consensus was

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that officers are elected under Article V. It was also noted that Article V, Sec 2 C should be removed from the bylaws as it had an automatic sunset provision. The language was designed to stagger the terms of the inaugural Regional Board so they wouldn't expire at once.

J. Cheney moved to appoint T. Lemmer as Secretary for the remainder of the unexpired Secretary term. S. Oglesby-Dunegan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

T. Lemmer then moved to appoint K. Bock to the unexpired at-large trustee position. S. Oglesby-Dunegan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Report on Nominating Committee Progress:

E. Huffer and S. Dittmar recently met with the four remaining members of the Nominating Committee to discuss the challenges they've faced in identifying candidates. There is particular desire to recruit at least one minister to the group. There was also an issue with the online submission of applications which has been resolved. The Committee is open to recommendations of people who have participated in Midwest Leadership School. E. Huffer and T. Lemmer agreed to meet with the committee to offer clarity on the process and to offer support and understanding on behalf of the Board.

Because both Board and Nominating Committee Members want clarity, E. Huffer will include plans to form a Bylaw Review Committee in his President's Report at the Annual Meeting. Revisions would be submitted for vote at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Review and Discussion of FY2018 Financial Report

Acceptance of the Financial Report was tabled until the April meeting.

Review and Discussion of FY2019 MA Budget:

Income projections reflect an anticipated decrease of \$15,000. This includes removal of both income and expenses from youth leadership school. The proposed budget shows a deficit, which could be addressed by utilizing income on investments or by tapping reserves. The only realistic cuts would be to staffing or travel, even after cutting board travel or other areas. The Region has not dipped into its reserves in past years, so one year may be acceptable.

It was noted that MidAmerica Congregations currently give at the lowest levels of any region. We need further discussion with UUA and congregations on what a fully funded region looks like. "It's time to invest in the future" rather than budgeting from a scarcity perspective.

B. Bach moved to approve the budget as presented by L. Presley. J. Cheney seconded. The motion carried. Appreciation was extended to L. Presley for her efforts in preparing the budget proposal.

Report on UUA Budget Process from Ian Evison

I. Evison reported on a week-long meeting spent developing a proposed UUA budget for FY 2019. The process was transparent, with Acting COO Carey McDonald And President Susan

Frederick-Gray participating. The first proposal reflected a potential \$800,000 deficit. This was eventually balanced with steps including leaving vacant positions open or eliminating contractors. Congregational Life is not expected to face additional staff cuts. A generosity of spirit was reflected in support of MidAmerica by the Regions over the last year, and that is expected to continue.

Check-In Regarding April Face-to-Face Meeting:

All present on the call are planning to attend the in-person meeting in Iowa. It was confirmed that Cedar Rapids (airport code CID) is the appropriate airport. Members are asked to share their arrival and departure times via email so coordination of ground transportation may be possible. T. Lemmer has a work conflict so won't be arriving until Friday morning at 11:30. S. Dittmar volunteered to pick her up.

E. Huffer will connect with former Board member David Martin from Iowa City regarding possible social justice or other connections with local congregations.

Because discussion of quarterly financial reports will be on the agenda, the timing will correspond with L. Presley's availability.

Process Observer Comments:

J. Cheney noted that people calling in were at a disadvantage over those on the computer. All seemed engaged, however, and comments and questions were appropriate.

Advocate Comments:

B. Bach noted the effort was made to provide full access to documents and information (i.e. budget proposal) before decision making.

Closing Words:

E. Huffer offered thoughts from Rev, Phillip R. Giles.

Adjournment:

B. Bach moved for adjournment and J. Cheney seconded. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.