

*MidAmerica Region, UUA*  
*Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting*  
*November 7, 2018*  
*Approved December 5, 2018*

Trustees present: Brian Bach, Kyrie Bock, Omega Burckhardt, Janell Hill, David Lauth, Tammy Lemmer, Mitra Jafarzadeh, Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan

Trustees absent: None

Regional Staff present: Ian Evison, Sharon Dittmar

Call to Order: President David Lauth called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm Central and invited Mitra to serve as facilitator for the meeting.

Opening Words & Check-in

After sharing a story of statues along a river, Mitra invited Trustees to identify a person for whom we would dedicate a statue.

October Board minutes

A motion was made by Brian to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2018 Board Meeting. After a second by Omega, the motion carried.

Congregational Calls

Ian shared that the Annual Program Fund (APF) calls are now expected in “late fall.” This was translated to be after Thanksgiving but before the end of the year. One delay has been in compiling and managing the spreadsheet with all of the congregational budget data. The priority for calls will continue to be congregations facing the largest changes, with an opening question on whether they have received their letter and if they have any questions. There will be anomalies, and we should be prepared to address concerns. Sharon noted an upcoming gathering of large congregations, and they are expected to receive their letters at that time.

Report from UUA Regional Leaders Group and Board

David attended the meeting (formerly known as the District/Regional Presidents) in Boston October 11-13. Conversations on theology occurred there that could be tested at Regional Assembly. He reported that The Commission on Institutional Change appreciates their invitation to be part of this year’s Regional Assembly.

The original function of the group may no longer be relevant, and may morph into a National Advisory Council providing a linkage between the UUA Board and congregations. Board members and 2 individuals named by UUA leadership will likely be asked to contact each congregation at least once every two years. The individuals, identified from traditionally marginalized groups, will help in connecting with other individuals across the denomination.

David also recounted an incident at the meeting which involved hate mail being sent to a youth member of color (the son of UUA Board Secretary.) David appreciated the flexibility of UUA leadership in addressing the issue and ministering to the needs of those directly affected and in attendance.

### 2018-2019 Board Goals

Members should have received a link from Lisa Presley and were asked to complete the IDI personal assessment within the next two weeks (Nov 20).

Everyone should be receiving their copy of the UUA Common Read, Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, Environment. The book of essays is 156 pages. The Executive Committee will discuss a proposed timeline for dividing up the sections and will look into the possibility of one or both of the editors joining a conversation over the course of the year.

David confirmed plans to hold the first of two in-person meetings of the Board for 2019 at the Friday of Regional Assembly (April 5) in St. Louis. The traditional retreat will be October 25-27 in the Twin Cities area. Arrival should be planned for Friday, with meetings through Sunday and departure on Sunday night.

### Report of Bylaws Workgroup

Tammy shared the proposed changes as identified by the workgroup. The consensus was to simplify the identification of officers by making all Trustees- at large positions and creating a process within the Board to elect Officers. Board members did not object to this approach and agreed it should help alleviate some of the difficulty regarding vacancies when they occur.

Besides this and some minor clean-up, there are also some proposed changes to the language regarding Camp Unistar Board nominations. The workgroup wanted some additional feedback. Per a conversation with David, current Unistar President Steve Mosborg is “content to relieve the Region of responsibility.” However, the MA Board does have remaining questions about our liability and wants clarification of the original intent of maintaining “connection but not responsibility.”

It was proposed that Steve join a future Board call, and that perhaps Kathy Burek and Bill Sasso (original Regional Board members) be involved in conversations as well. David and Tammy will review the current Unistar Bylaws and Tammy will reconnect with the workgroup.

### Process Observer Comments:

There were technical difficulties, and several people were not able to participate in the video aspect of the meeting.

### Closing Words:

Mitra shared a quote on blessings.