

MidAmerica Region, UUA
Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
December 5, 2018
Approved January 2, 2019

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

Trustees absent: Mitra Jafarzadeh

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 Tammy to serve as facilitator for the meeting.

Opening Words & Check-in

In keeping with our discussions about intersectionality, Tammy shared opening words from Kimberle Williams Crenshaw. We shared check-ins focusing on the upcoming holiday season.

November Board minutes

Sarah moved to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2018 Board Meeting. Omega seconded, and the motion carried.

Ian's announcement

Ian elaborated on the news that he had recently shared with us – that he is retiring from his position as Regional Lead, and that he expects his last day to be April 20, 2019. Jessica York, the UUA's new Director of Congregational Life, will lead the process of selecting the next Regional Lead. We expect that an opening will be announced in the next month, and that the selection will be made in spring 2019 so that the new Lead can begin in summer 2019. Brian offered that Board members may be able to fill in to assist the staff during the gap between Ian's retirement and time when the new Lead begins.

Discussion of *Justice on Earth*

Sarah led a discussion about the first two essays in *Justice on Earth*, a collection of essays about intersectionality that is this year's UUA "Common Read." Among other things, members discussed how the damages caused by environmental hazards are borne disproportionately by poor communities of color (e.g. the water crisis in Flint and lead poisoning in Chicago). We will be reading and discussing two more essays during each of our remaining meetings this year.

2018-2019 Board Goals

Members were reminded to complete their IDI personal assessments, and we ask each member to engage in and report on a micro-action by our March meeting.

Procedure for Submission of Agenda Items for Regional Assembly

David moved the adoption of a proposed procedure for congregations to submit agenda items for our business meeting at Regional Assembly. Brian seconded, and the motion carried. That procedure has since been communicated to the leaders of our congregations.

Nominating Committee business

David shared that the Nominating Committee wanted our thoughts regarding the attributes that would be desirable in a nominee to fill our open position. Members shared feedback that David has since forwarded to the Nominating Committee.

Report of Bylaws Workgroup

The Nominating Committee also requested clarification about the process for nominating members to the Camp UniStar Board. We talked generally about the relationship between the Camp and the Region, and the consensus was that this is a topic that warrants further discussion. No action was taken at this time.

Process Observer Comments:

Tammy noted that the meeting ran longer than expected because of additional agenda items that we had not planned to discuss.

Closing Words:

Tammy shared closing words from Mary Oliver.