

MidAmerica Region, UUA
Draft Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
January 2, 2019

Trustees present: Brian Bach, David Lauth, Tammy Lemmer, Mitra Jafarzadeh, Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan

Trustees absent: Kyrie Bock, Omega Burckhardt, Janell Hill

Regional Staff present: Ian Evison, Sharon Dittmar

Call to Order: President David Lauth called the meeting to order at 8:03 pm Central.

Opening Words

Brian provided a quote from Science fiction author Octavia Butler.

Check-in

David invited the group to share what was on their minds. Themes of work-life balance, reentry from vacation, and a discussion of what constitutes an emergency emerged.

December Board minutes

A motion was made by Sarah to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2018 Board Meeting. After a second by Mitra, the motion carried.

Congregational Calls

Ian shared via email a list of the 20 Congregations who will have the largest increased ask with the new APF formula, with analysis compiled by Lisa Presley. It was noted that some of these congregations have historically NOT contributed to previous asks, so the impact of the change is unknown. Ian and Sharon will suggest 2-3 congregations for each board member to call. If there is a congregation we don't want to call, we should let Sharon know. (This may or may not include a Trustee's own congregation.) They will include notes for each congregation (giving history, pending conflict, etc.)

There were no concerns raised regarding David's proposed list of questions. These are intended to guide the conversation, and don't have to be used verbatim. Regarding the order (starting with white supremacy conversation then leading to the money questions,) it was thought that congregational leaders might appreciate that the call isn't only about money.

The goal is to complete the calls by the end of January.

Report of Bylaws Workgroup

Tammy shared some additional proposed changes as identified by workgroup members. There is currently no clear process outlined for filling vacancies on the Nominating Committee, so the proposal is to mirror the language used for filling board vacancies.

It was also noted that there is language regarding membership requirements for potential nominees that could inadvertently leave out Ministers, who are not always members of their congregations. This can be fixed by adding “or Ministers in service to MA Region Congregations.” This was well received, especially by the Ministers on the call. Conversely, there was no apparent membership requirement for MUUC nominees, so that will be added.

Finally, regarding Camp Unistar Board nominations, it is recommended that the bylaws language be clarified to show the Nominating Committees role in the process, but that no major changes be made at this time.

Tammy will compile these with the original proposal and submit for inclusion in the Regional Assembly Notice of Meeting materials.

UUA Common Read Discussion

Sharon provided a summary of the next two essays from Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, Environment. Participants on the call shared their takeaways and the impact of the readings.

Sharon also shared information about a 2013 documentary on Netflix called Virunga, a true story of the rangers risking their lives to save Africa's most precious national park and its endangered gorillas.

Process Observer Comments:

The call was thought to be productive, with several people stepping up to take active roles. Many noted appreciation for the conversations.

Closing Words:

Brian shared a quote from Ava DuVernay (an African American film director, producer, screenwriter, film marketer, and film distributor whose notable works include Selma, 13th, and Wrinkle in Time.)

Next call:

1st Wednesday of February (2/6) beginning at 7 pm Central.