

MidAmerica Region, UUA
Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
March 6, 2019

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

Trustees absent: Tammy Lemmer

Regional Staff present: Sharon Dittmar, Ian Evison, Lisa Presley

Call to Order: President David Lauth called the meeting to order and invited Omega to facilitate.

Opening Words

Omega shared a reading from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1957 speech entitled "Opposing Racial Segregation by Direct Non-Violent Protest."

Welcome Christopher Sims

We welcomed Christopher to his first call with the Board.

Check-in

Participants shared personal updates. There were comments about difficulties arising from Regional Assembly planning and from an article just published in the UU World about trans issues.

February Board minutes

David moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2019 Board Meeting. After a second by Mitra, the motion carried.

2020 Revised Budget

Lisa provided a revised budget. There were minor adjustments from the proposed budget we saw in February, with respect to the cost of benefits for regional staff and the expected income from congregational giving and honorarium revenue. Sarah moved that the revised budget be approved. Brian seconded, and the motion carried.

Regional Assembly update

Our Board meeting at Regional Assembly will be on Friday, April 5 from 8:00 am through 4:00 p.m.

Ian shared some concerns that have been raised about our Regional Assembly theme of "Intersectionalities" being selected and developed without involving women of color, especially considering the origin of this concept. Ian said that our efforts to address some of these concerns have ended up making things worse. The staff is planning to include a public apology at the beginning of the assembly, and perhaps some additional programming.

This led to a lengthy discussion about the mistakes that were made here, and about the recent UU World article. There was a shared recognition that people have been harmed, and that many of us need to figure out how to make amends for this harm and what to learn from these experiences.

Update on congregational calls

David shared that few of our calls have been completed. He invited Board members to connect with him offline to discuss any challenges they are encountering in completing their calls.

Interim appointment to Nominating Committee

At the request of the Nominating Committee, David moved that Helen Dwyer (from the All Souls congregation in Indianapolis) be appointed to the Nominating Committee effective immediately as an interim member. Helen will be on the slate of nominees at Regional Assembly to be elected to the committee. Mitra seconded, and the motion carried.

Update on Board microactions, and UUA Common Read Discussion

Because of our lengthy discussion regarding the issues that have arisen regarding Regional Assembly, these two agenda items were deferred.

Process Observation and Check Outs

This was a difficult call, focused largely on some very significant challenges as to which we are not reaching closure. Appreciation was expressed that we did not avoid confronting these challenges. Sharon commented that she was leaving with a question for herself (and each of us) in such situations: "How will I center more voices unlike my own?"

Closing Words:

Omega shared closing words entitled "Be About the Work" from Andrea Hawkins-Kamper.