

***MidAmerica Region, UUA
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 12, 2019
Zoom Conference***

Trustees Present- Brian Bach, Kyrie Bock, Mitra Jafarzadeh, David Lauth, Tammy Lemmer, Christopher Sims

Trustees Absent- Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan

Staff present: Sharon Dittmar, Lisa Presley, UUA Director of Congregational Life Jessica York

Call to Order: President David Lauth called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm CST and invited Kyrie to facilitate.

Opening Words -Kyrie shared opening words on the topic of courage.

Check-in- Board members and staff introduced themselves and shared updates on personal and/or professional milestones.

Approval of Meeting Minutes- A motion was made by David to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2019 Board Meeting and the April 6, 2019 Regional Business Meeting. After a second by Brian, the motion carried. There was no May meeting.

Board membership Update-David provided an update on communication with and among Janelle Hill, staff, and other board members since her resignation. David will be in touch with the Nominating Committee about the new vacancy.

Third Quarter Financial Report- Lisa reviewed figures from the 3rd Quarter reports, noting that \$230,000 were received in gifts as of the March report. Staff are confident that the year will end strong. There are some pending expenses from Regional Assembly, but it appears that revenues will exceed expenses. Tammy moved approval of the financial report. David seconded. The motion passed.

Report on Regional Assembly – Jessica and Sharon led a review of the Regional Assembly. Observations included: The Right Relations Team reported fewer issues than in recent years, participants were reflective and open, the adaptability of staff was appreciated, especially reactions and response to intersectionality concerns. Questions raised during the bylaws conversation were important, and Sharon has sent resources to the Nominating Committee to support their efforts in seeking diverse leadership candidates.

2020 Regional Assembly Conversation

There is no decision on whether to hold a Regional Assembly next spring, with the idea of a virtual meeting using UUA technology proposed as an option. It was noted that some form of a business meeting must be held, and that there might be an opportunity for localized workshop sessions and a joint keynote address.

Pros and cons were discussed, including financial considerations for the region and participants, ease for keynote presenter (no travel) and staff (fewer logistics/no hotels), It was noted that the farther into the calendar we go without a decision, the harder it will be to book a large event. Jessica asked board members to consider whether having face to face meetings is sustainable, and if we are we truly reaching and engaging broad audiences or if we just have the same people attending year after year. Are we further marginalizing some, especially when factoring in the need to miss work, travel, etc.?

Board members value the opportunity that RA provides individuals, but acknowledged the hard work required of staff. It was also noted that staff are exhausted following this year's event, and are already stretched to capacity. Lisa and Sharon will look into potential barriers to a virtual/remote framework, such as access to high speed internet and willingness/ability of local congregations to host. An orientation on how to use a Zoom meeting room would also be helpful.

APF Status

Giving levels are approximately \$7,000 off from last year, although it is hard to compare to historical giving or to determine how giving to the region has been impacted by new formula. There are gifts from more congregations than last year.

Regional Lead Update - Jessica provided an update on the process for filling the Regional Lead position. The vacancy has not attracted as many inquiries as anticipated and Jessica is still accepting resumes. Jessica is serving as hiring manager, and will work with a team that will likely consist of David Lauth, Natalie Briscoe, (Acting Co-Lead for the Southern Region,) and one other individual.

Preliminary interviews will be conducted via Zoom, with the final interviews occurring in person or via zoom depending on logistics. Nothing will occur until after General Assembly.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 3. Some individuals have conflicts or would prefer not to meet, so David will poll members to identify another possible meeting date (Editor's note: The meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9 at 6 Mt/7 Central/8 Eastern.)

Process Observation Comments/Check-outs – Members appreciated the good discussion related to Regional Assembly planning. There was some question as to the full participation of all members, and if all felt comfortable to contribute.

Closing Words and Adjournment- following closing words from Kyrie, David moved to adjourn the meeting, and Brian seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm CST.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Tammy Lemmer