

*MidAmerica Region, UUA*  
*Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting*  
*July 9, 2019*

Trustees Present: Brian Bach, David Lauth, Christopher Sims, Tammy Lemmer, Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan, Mitra Jafarzadeh, Kyrie Bock, Dorit Bergen

Trustees Absent: None.

Staff Present: Sharon Dittmar

Call to Order: President David Lauth called the meeting to order at 7:07pm Central Time and served as facilitator.

Opening Words: David offered opening words from Anne Lamott and invited those present to check-in.

Introduction of Dorit Bergen: David introduced and welcomed Dorit, our newest Board member, who was participating in her first Board call.

Approval of June 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes: Mitra moved to approve the minutes of our June call. Dorit seconded. The minutes were approved, with the addition of a note that there was no May meeting.

Discussion about General Assembly: Sarah, Christopher, and Mitra shared comments from their attending this year's General Assembly. There was discussion about certain workshops and worship experiences. The main topic of conversation was the distribution of a group of essays by Todd Eklof, the minister of the local Spokane UU congregation, which was very disruptive at GA. Both DRUUMM and a group of white ministers have since issued statements that are critical of the essays.

Our members who attended GA reported differing views of the essays and the reaction they have provoked. Two of our members dropped off the call during this discussion, and the remaining trustees spent several minutes processing our discussion and the events that occurred at GA.

Appointment of Officers for 2019-2020: David moved to appoint a slate of officers that include David - President, Mitra - Vice President, Tammy - Secretary, and Brian - Treasurer. Sarah seconded, and the appointment was approved.

Schedule for this year's Board meetings: We will meet in person on October 25 - 27 at a retreat center near the Twin Cities, arriving on Friday evening and meeting through mid-day Sunday. In other months, we will meet via zoom call the first Wednesday each month.

Reading: We plan to read and discuss an article every month, at least until the UU Common Read for this year is named. This month, Sharon led a discussion of a New York Times article by

Thomas Friedman entitled “President Trump, Come to Willmar.” We talked about the parallels of the article and our congregations – what we do well and what we don’t do that well.

Process Observation Comments: Members offered observations regarding what had been a challenging call.

Closing words and Adjournment: David shared a meditation by Rev. Victoria Stafford entitled “Set in Stone,” from her book “Walking Toward Morning.”