

**MidAmerica Region, UUA
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 7, 2019
Zoom Conference**

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

Staff present: Sharon Dittmar, Jessica York

Call to Order: President David Lauth called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm CST.

Opening Words: Sharon shared opening words from the book “Love Like Thunder” by Jess Reynolds. It is a meditation manual available through the InSpirit bookstore, and the reading was called “After the Latest Mass Shooting.”

Check-in: Board members and staff introduced themselves and shared updates, summer reflections, and joys and sorrows from current events.

President’s Report: David shared an email received from Mitra Jafarzadeh, describing her decision to resign from the Board. Board members shared their reactions and wished her well. David will inform the Nominating Committee of the vacancy.

New Regional Lead Announcement: Jessica provided information on the new incoming Regional Lead, Rev. David Pyle. It was a competitive interview process, with David Lauth, Rev. Joel Miller and Natalie Briscoe working with Jessica as the interview team and Jessica making the hiring decision. David Pyle has previous experience in MidAmerica with connections to the Central Midwest District, Midland, MI, and Evanston IL. He also serves as a Military Chaplain with the Army Reserves. His start date is September 1, and he plans to attend the fall retreat in MN.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Dorit to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2019 Board Meeting. After a second by Sarah, the motion carried.

Camp UniStar Foundation Board: David reviewed the history of Camp UniStar and MidAmerica Board’s role in selecting a portion of the Foundation’s Board. He made a motion to appoint Alison Albrecht (UU Minnetonka) as recommended by the MidAmerica Nominating Committee. With a second from Tammy, the motion carried.

Reflections on July Conference Call: The last Board meeting was challenging and uncomfortable, with two members excusing themselves early from the call. David invited the Board to reflect on their thoughts about the call and asked members to consider “How do we want to be together and handle

disagreements?” Said another way, “How do we engage in the important and difficult work of fostering growth and supporting efforts to dismantle a culture of white supremacy while recognizing that this can be triggering and angering?”

As a body, the Board wants to make room for people to express themselves with an element of trust and support. Some concepts discussed included speaking up before discomfort becomes anger, and creating space for stepping away and/or calling out troubling language or behavior. The previous Board Covenant was mentioned, and it may be a way to outline some agreements or understanding. Our new Regional Lead will have a role in this as well. This will be a topic at the October retreat.

Process Observation Comments/Check-outs: Members were invited to share reflections on our call tonight.

Closing Words and Adjournment: Following closing words from Sharon, 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