

MidAmerican Region, UUA
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Trustees Present: David Lauth, Brian Bach, Tammy Lemmer, Kyrie Bock, Dorit Bergen

Trustees Absent: Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan

Staff Present: David Pyle, Sharon Dittmar

Call to Order:

David L. called the meeting to order at 7:05 CST.

Tammy facilitated the meeting and offered opening words.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kyrie moved and Brian seconded adoption of the November minutes. Motion passed.

Regional Lead Report

People found the detailed report David P. sent out to be useful. David explained the various staff projects listed in the report. If staff integration with the UUA takes place, which would affect three regional staff members, it would happen in July 2020. If financial integration with the UUA takes place, it would happen in July 2021.

Another staff project will involve one person being the primary contact for our 90 smallest congregations, defined as having fewer than 75 members, less than a half time ministry and having some sense of isolation. David considers this will be a test case for the possible reorganization of all regional staff consultants according to congregational size rather than geographical location. Two other regions have organized themselves this way. The main concern with this new configuration would be travel time for staff.

Regional Advisory Council

Sharon will be the staff person working with the Board in its capacity as the Regional Advisory Council.

The UUA has created an online form to be used when calling congregations. David P. walked us through the form. He has begun compiling possible procedures for us to follow in making the calls.

Jessica York would like us to begin making calls in January and David P. will have a list of some congregations for us next month.

The Board could decide to create the Regional Advisory Council as a Board committee. Members of the Council would be the trustees and any other members we would want to add.

This arrangement might facilitate the inclusion of people from marginalized groups and would help spread out the calls amongst more people.

Based on past experiences with calls, concern was expressed as to whether or not trustees would actually be willing to make these calls. Questions were also raised as to the purpose of these calls - what will happen to the data? David P. explained that the questions to be asked fall into three categories. The UUA is very interested in finding out if congregations feel connected to the UUA and one programming area will be addressed each year, with this year's focus being ethnicity, race and dismantling white supremacy. The third category, which David P. is particularly interested in, is how connected congregations feel to the regional staff. It was pointed out that these calls should also be about forming a real connection between the Region and the congregations. David P. will send each of us the documentation related to the Regional Advisory Council.

Jessica is now focused on forming the National Advisory Council, made up of one or two people from each of the Regional Advisory Councils. The National Advisory Council will be in conversation with senior UUA staff and the UUA Board of Trustees

MAR Board Covenant

We discussed how to implement our commitment to making Board meetings a safe space and to staying in conversation when difficult feelings or conflicts arise. Brian sent each of us the covenant from 2016. David L and Dorit will work on a draft to be sent to the nominating committee that they will use with prospective board members. Dorit brought up a possible conflict for her regarding discussions about the book we are reading.

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States Book Discussion

People shared their initial impressions of the book. There was not sufficient time to discuss in depth. It was agreed that at our next meeting, the book discussion would be at the beginning of the agenda.

Tammy shared closing words, and the meeting was adjourned.