

MidAmerica Region, UUA  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 3, 2020  
Approved July 1, 2020

Trustees Present: David Lauth, Tammy Lemmer, Kyrie Bock, Autumn Mahoney, Dorit Bergen, Rae Jane Araujo, Jim Moir

Trustees Absent: Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan, Hans Kelson

Staff Present: David Pyle, Sharon Dittmar

Call to Order:

David L. called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM CT and led with opening words. The main topic of conversation during the check in was the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police and the resulting protests across the region and country.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Jim moved and Autumn seconded adoption of the May minutes. Motion approved.

Regional Lead Report:

David P. reported that the main activity of regional staff has been the pastoral care of our congregations around the death of Mr. Floyd and how to respond. Region staff was able to make the recording of the service at First Universalist Church of Minneapolis last Sunday available throughout the UUA.

David P. further reported that staff will be working over the next 6 months to coordinate webinar content, which will now be organized in part nation-wide and in part by region. Also, the webinars are moving away from being content focused to being focused on helping

congregations to make connections with each other. Regional staff will be serving a convening role to facilitate these connections.

#### Board Retreat in South Dakota:

The MidAmerica Region Board is currently scheduled to hold an in-person retreat in South Dakota in October. The UUA has directed its staff that they should not be traveling for the rest of this calendar year, however, so our staff would likely not be able to attend. There are a few options the Board can consider, including canceling the retreat or holding it with staff attending virtually. There is no urgency around making a decision because we will not lose any (more) of our deposit as long as we cancel before early September. The sense of the meeting was to hold off on a decision for now, but that it seems unlikely at this point that the retreat will take place.

#### General Assembly:

David P. and Sharon reported on GA. GA workshops are currently listed on the UUA website. There was discussion about the benefits of a virtual GA, including the greatly reduced costs of attending. David P. speculated on the eventual possibility of regularly alternating in-person with virtual GAs and Regional Assemblies.

#### Goodbye and Thank You:

Various trustees and staff offered Kyrie their deep appreciation for her 6 years of dedicated service to the Board, after which Kyrie spoke about how this service has affected her life in many positive ways. David L. shared that Sarah has accepted an interim minister position outside of the MidAmerica Region and will, therefore, be leaving the Board.

#### Check Out:

Jim shared about the work he does as a children's librarian in Dearborn Heights, MI, which focuses on creating an inclusive and welcoming space for all.

Closing:

Tammy had closing words and David L. adjourned the meeting at 8:03 CT.

Respectfully submitted by  
Dorit Bergen  
Secretary