

MidAmerica Region, UUA
Board Meeting Minutes
July 1, 2020
Approved August 5, 2020

Trustees Present: David Lauth, Tammy Lemmer, Rae Jane Araujo, Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan, Autumn Maloney, Dorit Bergen, Jim Moir

Trustees Absent: Hans Kelson

Staff Present: David Pyle

Call to Order: David L. called the meeting to order at 7:36 ET and shared opening words. Tammy presided for the rest of the meeting.

Many of us shared how we were coping with the stress of a continuing pandemic and our feeling of responsibility to participate in efforts for social change.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Autumn moved approval with second from Sarah. The minutes were approved.

Appointment of Board Officers: Candidates were proposed for the officers to serve in the new fiscal year. Tammy Lemmer, President; David Lauth, Vice President; Rae Jane Araujo, Treasurer; and Jim Moir, Secretary. A motion to appoint was made by David L. and seconded by Sarah. Tammy said that all of the nominees had agreed to serve. The motion passed.

Regional Lead Report:

David P. outlined changes in responsibilities for the administrative staff. Katie Phillips will be resigning at the end of August, and her responsibilities and hours will be shifted to other administrative staff. Andrew Zallar will be the Regional Financial Manager, freeing Lisa Presley to put more energy into congregational consulting. Gretchen Ohmann will have a new responsibility for monitoring incoming finances, which insures a two-party control for both incoming and outgoing finances.

2020-21 Meeting Schedule: The first Wednesday of each month is working well for our meetings so that plan will continue.

General Assembly Update:

David P. summarized the highlights of the recent (virtual) General Assembly.

1. Embodying human rights in our business and investments.
2. Amendments to Bylaws allowing more flexibility in Nominating Committee deadlines, and allowing the use of Co-moderators.
3. Formation of an Article II Task Force for revisions to the Principles & Sources, particularly the 8th Principle proposals
4. Actions of Immediate Witness were taken—White Anti-colonialism and Amen to Uprising, a Call to Action.
5. Responsive Resolutions:
Ongoing Commission

Sunset for Journey to Wholeness
Sunset for Commission on Institutional Change
Investing in Youth and Young Adults
Religious Response to the Pandemic

6. The Ware Lecture with Naomi Klein, which was highly recommended to those who missed it live.

Dorit mentioned an issue that arose regarding UU military chaplains after a leader suggested that we should get the military out of General Assembly. David P. suggested that the issue was resolved amicably.

The report from the Commission on Institutional change was characterized by David L. as “not flattering”!

Dorit went to the “Conversation with the Board” and learned more about the Advisory Councils idea. Susan Frederick-Gray said that due to the ongoing pandemic, Regional Outreach efforts are paused.

It may be that live General Assemblies and live Regional Assemblies will be held in alternating years, with virtual versions of each also alternating.

Common Read Proposal: After favorable discussion, we agreed that our common read will be the report from the Commission on Change—***Widening the Circle of Concern***. David P. arranged for members to receive copies of the publication.

Check Out: We wished Sarah well in her new Interim Ministry appointment.

Closing: Tammy shared a quotation from Anne Frank.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jim Moir
Secretary