

MidAmerica Region, UUA
Board Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2020
Approved October 7, 2020

Trustees Present: David Lauth, Tammy Lemmer, Hans Kelson, Rae Jane Araujo, Jim Moir

Trustees Absent: Autumn Maloney, Dorit Bergen

Staff Present: David Pyle

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

The growing busyness in our lives was apparent during Check-in.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Rae Jane moved approval with second from David L. The minutes were approved.

We spent about 30 minutes discussing the newly published ***Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change***. This month we chose to focus on the first two chapters, **Trends**, and **Theology**. David P. facilitated the discussion, which was helpful because there were many questions raised in trying to understand the report and he had some useful background information. Our wide-ranging conversation highlighted how enormously challenging it will be for our UU movement to address these recommendations. We agreed to discuss the chapter on **Governance** for the October meeting.

Regional Lead Report:

In response to a question, David P. reported that UUA staff are feeling the same stress and pressure that everyone seems to be dealing with. One positive benefit from the pandemic has been that there is more opportunity to do staff development.

David P. reported that the Balance Sheets and Financials were pending and that there were few concerns.

David P. is also looking at some issues around staff compensation and how positive changes might be achieved.

There is a plan being explored that would feature all five Regional UUA assemblies on the same date in Autumn, 2021. This is a step toward holding General Assembly on alternating years.

Two remaining MidAmerica staff will soon become UUA staff. Once that occurs, we will not have to manage our payroll. David P. said that if MidAmerica and the UUA become fully integrated financially, all of the deal-making and negotiating will be over!

David L. made a motion to authorize David P. to continue the efforts at integrating regional staff into the larger UUA staff. Hans seconded. The motion passed.

National Advisory Commission

On the issue of a National Advisory Commission, David L. explained that there was once sentiment for regional leaders to engage in conversations with congregational leaders and then to report findings to the UUA Board. Because the UUA staff and Board seem ambivalent about this program, David L. recommended that we defer any action until the issue is clarified.

Retreat Plans

Retreat plans were advanced, but not finalized. Since we will be on Zoom (AGAIN) and for an entire day (UGHH) we discussed limiting the total hours and making sure to have breaks in the schedule. Rev. Jessica York will be able to join us for at least part of the time and David P. will arrange. Many agenda ideas were raised, probably all of them cannot fit into the allotted time.

It was agreed that we should meet as a board on October 7 to finalize our retreat plans.

Check Out: Very brief comments were shared.

Closing: Tammy shared a quotation from Cheryl Block.

Adjournment: Tammy adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:30pm EDT.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jim Moir
Secretary