

MidAmerica Region, UUA
Board Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2021
Approved April 6, 2021

Trustees Present:

Rae Jane Araujo, Dorit Bergen, Hans Kelson, David Lauth, Tammy Lemmer, Autumn Mahoney,
Jim Moir, Patty Notch, McKenna Revel

Staff Present: David Pyle, Sharon Dittmar

Preliminaries

We welcomed Patty and McKenna to the board. At approximately 7:30 pm Sharon led an activity to help us get to know one another.

Call to Order

Tammy presided. The meeting was called to order at 7:57 EST.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Dorit moved approval with second from Rae Jane. The minutes were approved.

Regional Lead Report

David P. highlighted some of the stresses experienced by UUA staff due to the pandemic and the resulting impediments on relationships. It appears that staff at congregations are also feeling tension and stress. It is probable that the UUA will continue restrictions on staff travel and face to face meetings through the rest of 2021.

David P. shared plans for an expected 10-week sabbatical that is timed for minimal impact on MA operations. Board members expressed no objections to the plan.

MidAmerica will have its annual business meeting virtually on Saturday, June 26. This will be part of General Assembly, but the meeting will be free of charge and open to anyone. Members of the MidAmerica board are encouraged to attend, and can also be reimbursed for attendance at the larger General Assembly.

Budget Review

David P. provided a quick overview of the budget for fiscal year 2021-22. He explained some of the assumptions and estimates that went into the numbers. Generally, the finances are in good order. The board was reminded that we will need to provide guidance regarding the formula for using capital gains from our reserve funds. The three options were quickly reviewed and we will make a decision at the April meeting. In April, the final version of the budget will then be presented.

David L. said he would schedule an orientation for newcomers to the board that will include the budget options.

At the next meeting we will discuss *Religious Professionals* from ***Widening the Circle***.

Our Recent Calls to Congregations

Most of us reported successfully contacting our target congregations. One congregation failed to respond.

Members were told to enter the responses into the online Google form.

We assigned targets for March calls.

Regional Lead Report

David P. said that the draft budget is not needed by April, because the MidAmerica business meeting will not happen until June. Our business meeting will occur during General Assembly, late morning on Saturday, June 26.

Three plans were described for making use of the UUA Common Endowment Fund to invest MidAmerica dollars that are not immediately needed. David P. is considering several plans for how we might make use of earnings year-to-year. He said that he would “run the numbers” for our upcoming budget and present all three options at our next meeting.

National Advisory Council

Rae Jane said that the NAC is working on some new questions but these will probably not be finalized until April. One optional question is to ask leaders if their congregation is doing anything that others might wish to try.

We cleared up some issues about the process for posting responses to the google doc. Members shared successes and frustrations encountered in making the calls. New assignments were made.

Widening the Circle

We will discuss TWO chapters in April--
Religious Professionals and ***Education for Liberation***

Process Check-in

Closing

Tammy provided a closing.

The next meeting is slated for Tuesday, April 6.

Adjourned at approximately 9:20 pm EST

Respectfully Submitted by
Jim Moir
Secretary