

MidAmerica Region, UUA
Board Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2021
Approved May 4, 2021

Trustees Present:

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

Trustee Absent: Autumn Mahoney

Staff Present: David Pyle, Sharon Dittmar

Preliminaries

We did check-in.

Call to Order

David L. presided, as Tammy was delayed in signing on. The meeting was called to order at 7:46 pm EDT.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Two minor discrepancies were noted for the minutes from March. Jim said he would submit corrections. Dorit moved approval with second from Patty. The minutes were approved.

Widening the Circle Discussion

We covered TWO chapters --

Religious Professionals and ***Education for Liberation***

Sharon facilitated.

We noted that there are pressures on the Association to act more like a denomination. That is, anti-racism work requires accountability but our traditional structure provides a great deal of autonomy to member congregations.

Sadness was expressed regarding the reported experiences of staff who identified as IPOC.

To successfully change negative congregational culture, systemic, ongoing education and training must occur.

At the May meeting we will discuss two more chapters:

Innovations and Risk Taking

Accountability and Resources

Regional Lead Report

David P. expressed admiration for the resiliency of our congregations in facing more than a year of disruption. In some ways, our movement is stronger than before.

The plan for David P.'s sabbatical is going forward. He said that there will be a 10-week block in summer, and 4 more weeks in January, 2022. Other UUA staff will help MAR during his absence.

In October 2022, there will be a virtual "mini-GENERAL Assembly" which brings together programs for 5 regions.

The MidAmerica Regional Assembly is slated for April 2022. We must decide if this will be in-person or virtual, because it may be a "heavy lift" for staff.

Finally, General Assembly will be live in June, 2022.

Budget Review

David P. asked for a decision about how the board wished to use the earnings from funds kept in reserve this past year. After a discussion, Rae Jane suggested that instead of specifying a certain percentage, we could use any earnings to offset the deficit. The motion made by David L. called for the region to use some or all of the earnings to balance the budget in the upcoming fiscal year. Rae Jane seconded. The motion passed.

It was understood by all that this methodology could serve as a model for future budget years, but that the decision was not binding on future boards.

The 2nd Quarter Financials were reviewed with no issues being raised.

David P. said he was going to take action regarding some "restricted" funds—asking donors to either release the restrictions or take back the dollars.

Preparations for the Virtual Business Meeting on June 26

Three notices to the MidAmerica congregations were prepared—the official call, with details regarding the meeting, process for adding items to the agenda, and rules of procedure for the virtual environment. David L. made a motion for approval Patty seconded. The items were approved.

National Advisory Council

As this board is functioning as the Regional Advisory Council for MidAmerica, we are being asked to assume responsibility for work in support of the "Article 2 Commission". The information sought from congregations would be more specific and detailed, and would likely require more effort to accomplish. Several MAR board members expressed unwillingness to take on added responsibilities. We agreed to seek clarification. It may become necessary to form a separate body to take on the Regional Advisory role.

Contacts with Congregations

Given difficulties in completing the contacts for March, we added only 4 additional congregations to the list for April.

Process Check-in

Closing

Tammy presented a reading that had been chosen by Dorit (who needed to sign off early).

Hans volunteered to facilitate, and Rae Jane agreed to provide opening and closing for the next meeting.

The next meeting is slated for Tuesday, May 4.

Adjourned at approximately 9:30 pm EDT

Respectfully Submitted by
Jim Moir
Secretary