

MidAmerica Region Board Meeting
February 1, 2022
Minutes
Approved March 1, 2022

Present: Jim Moir, Dorit Bergen, Rae Jane Araujo, Autumn Mahoney, Sharon Dittmar, Tammy Lemmer, Patty Notch, McKenna Revel, David Pyle, Hans Kelson

Tammy opened the meeting at 7:31 PM/6:31 PM

Opening Words by Patty

Check-in

Rae Jane moved to accept the January 4, 2022 Board Meeting minutes as written and Patty seconded. Motion carried.

Regional Assembly Update

Sharon reported that registration is open now, it's free for board members to attend, the keynote speaker is CB Beal, promotions have been sent out, please spread the word in our congregations. The cost is a sliding scale of \$25-\$50 with scholarships available. Not charging for people who just attend the business meeting was discussed. It was agreed that this can be considered for future years but that this year it will be handled by offering scholarships upon request.

BIPOC Commitments & Scholarship Process Discussion

McKenna sent out a document listing her proposals for how we might use our money. She reviewed this document with us. Thanks to McKenna, this is a great start and a great guide for us to work from.

David added that McKenna's work helped give the staff a lot of guidance as well. David reported that he and Andrew are working on draft policies related to this issue.

Tammy suggested that the GA scholarship should be discussed now and that the grant proposals be discussed at the retreat. David will prioritize GA scholarship policies first and have those drafts ready for the March Board meeting. Should we limit GA scholarships to voting delegates? Not this year. David thinks we should be recruiting for these scholarships, that there be an active as well as a passive component. For example, we could ask MAR religious professionals if they know of BIPOC folks who we could reach out to. Hans feels that we should resume calling congregations. We agreed that we want to offer these scholarships beginning for this year's GA. We can refine the process in future years. David and Andrew will work hard to put a system in place for this year. The last suggestion of distributing money to each congregation is a good idea but will need a lot of thought and work so it's not feasible to do this year. \$5000 has been allocated for the scholarships, we asked if there should be an individual cap. David recommended running it as a pilot program this year. David would recruit two BIPOC leaders this year rather than opening it up to applicants, then use this year as a way to "advertise" the program for a full launch the following year. The Board agreed on this approach. David will have a draft of policy language around this issue for the March Board meeting which will then be followed by an in-depth discussion at the retreat.

GA Registration

David reported that there is an increased amount of funding available for this year. Board members should communicate their interest in being funded, in whole or in part, to Tammy. In general, members are reimbursed but a member can apply for funding in advance. **Let Tammy**

know about your needs or interests. Proof of vaccination will be required at GA.

Spring Retreat Planning

We will hold an in-person retreat at a Hilton Garden Inn in Westchester, north of Cincinnati on April 8-9. There will be an option to check in on April 7 and stay until April 10. We will wear masks. Thanks to Rae Jane for arranging this. There will still be a digital option for anyone who wishes. Andrew and Kathy will set up the details.

Sabbatical Update

David worked on developing a MAR policy handbook draft. He showed us the table of contents and an example of one specific policy. It's organized into three categories: foundational documents (by-laws, three way covenant), governing policies (that are approved by the board) and operational policies of the staff (that are approved by the regional lead). Board members will be able to watch the development of the policy handbook as it happens and will have ample opportunity to provide feedback. Once the handbook is finished and has been approved by the Board, the first two categories at least will be made public. David expressed his satisfaction at having at least the beginnings of a policy handbook. Tammy thanked David for working on this during his sabbatical.

Process Observation

Closing Words given by Patty

Tammy adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM/8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted by Dorit Bergen, secretary