

# *The MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

## *Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes – August 2, 2022*

**Approved September 6, 2022**

### **Welcome/Check-in**

**In Attendance** – Autumn Mahoney, Sharon Dittmar, Dorit Bergen, David Jackoway, Hans Kelson, Jim Moir, RaeJane Araujo, David Pyle, Patty Notch. *Absent:* McKenna Revel.

**Call to Order** – Dorit calls the meeting to order at 7:31pm Eastern. RaeJane shares opening words.

**Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes** – David Jackoway moves to accept minutes as submitted; Jim seconds. Approved unanimously.

**Fall Retreat Planning** – Reviewed possible dates for the fall board retreat. David Pyle reports that November 18–20 would be preferred due to UUA leadership availability and a possible partial overlap with the MidAmerica staff retreat which will be held November 14–18. All board members in attendance indicate that November 18–20 could work for their schedules, and David Pyle reports that absent board members had previously indicated that they would also be able to attend those dates.

David Pyle will ask Andrew to begin looking into options for retreat centers and hotels.

**Regional Lead Report** – Report by David Pyle focused on personnel transitions over the next six months, as described in written report. Two hires are planned within the next six months:

The first is for a Congregational Life Consultant with Faith Development focus. David Pyle is working on a job description to be posted in approximately 2–3 weeks after approval by HR. The goal is to begin the hiring process for this position by the end of August.

The second is for a full-time Technology Assistant / Administrative Assistant / Events Coordinator. Staff is currently working on a position description with plans to begin the hiring process around October.

David Jackoway asks if geographic location is a consideration for these positions. David Pyle answers that applicants must reside within the Region.

David Jackoway asks about the interview process. David Pyle answers that the hiring team will include David Pyle, Jessica York, one faith development coordinator from another region, and a religious educator from a congregation within the Region.

**Policy Documents** – Reviewed the list of policy documents that still need to be written and approved. These include policies regarding: Nomination Committee Relationship; Congregational Communications; Board of Trustees Ethics, Confidentiality, and Conflict of Interest; Financial Oversight, Board-Directed Scholarship / Reparative Funds; Relationship between Region and MUUC/MUUF; Relationship between Region and Camp Unistar; Management and Approval of Policies; and Regional Business Meeting Governance.

Created list of Board and Staff members interested and willing to work as a group on each policy. David Pyle will work on convening these small groups in the upcoming month. The goal is to have most of these policies ready for review by the full Board at the November retreat.

**Regional Assembly 2023** – Discussed three options for next year’s Regional Assembly, in order of increasing complexity:

- 1) Online business meeting only as a minimum to meet bylaw requirements.
- 2) Online Regional Assembly similar to 2022 with workshops and worship in addition to the business meeting.
- 3) Hybrid / Multi-Platform Regional Assembly, in person with a full online component

Hans points out that option #3 may not be the best option for 2023 but may be a better option in the future after new technology and event coordinator is on staff.

Sharon notes that Regional Assembly planning needs to happen starting six months ahead of time with a planning team that stays together the entire time.

**Dorit moves that the 2023 Business Meeting for the Mid-America Region be held as an online business meeting held in conjunction with General Assembly, rather than holding a Regional Assembly. RaeJane seconds the motion.**

Dorit suggests we can plan ahead for a hybrid Regional Assembly in 2024. Hans suggests that the goal should be to hold what we reasonably can from Regional Assembly, keeping in mind that staff transition and event planning challenges could lead to overworked staff.

David Pyle notes that the process of developing policy documents may lead to identifying proposed bylaw changes that would need to be voted on at the next Business Meeting.

Dorit calls the vote. **Motion passes unanimously.**

**Meeting Date and Time** – Nobody requests a change to the meeting schedule for the new business year. Monthly regular board meetings will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm Eastern / 6:30pm Central.

**Executive Session** – Patty moves to enter executive session to discuss personnel issue, with Sharon excused; Dorit seconds; approved unanimously. Executive session begins at 9:00pm Eastern.

Patty moves to exit executive session; Autumn seconds; approved unanimously. Exited executive session at 9:17pm.

**Next Meeting** – Next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm Eastern / 6:30pm Central.

**Adjournment** – Autumn shares closing words. Dorit moves to adjourn; Hans seconds. With no objection, meeting is adjourned at 9:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Autumn Mahoney*

Secretary to the Board of Trustees