

Annual Business Meeting of the MidAmerica Region
(MAR)

April 30, 2022

Minutes

Approved May 3, 2022

President of the MAR Board Tammy Lemmer called the meeting to order at 11:12 pm Eastern/10:12 am Central/9:12 am Mountain Time following a review of the Whova app and voting procedures by MAR staff.

President Lemmer offered words of welcome from Rev Laura Thompson, Lead Minister from Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship, and thanked the staff and board members of the MidAmerica Region.

Dorit Bergen, Secretary of the MAR Board, gave the credentials report. Per Article IV, Section 4 of the Bylaws of the MAR, "A Quorum for Business Meetings is defined as consisting of delegates representing at least twenty five (25) congregations located in at least five (5) states." Quorum was declared.

Quorum

- Lay Delegates 112
- Professional Delegates 39
- Total Delegates 151
- Number of Congregations 67
- Number of States Represented 11

President Lemmer introduced Kathy Burek, former MAR Board member and current member of the UUA Board of Trustees, who offered greetings from the UUA.

President Lemmer then introduced Elizabeth Terry, UUA Congregational Giving Specialist, who offered additional greetings from the UUA. She outlined the recognition categories for congregational giving. The UUA celebrates each congregation no matter where they are in those categories. Elizabeth outlined some resources including a free UUA curriculum to help adults think more about giving entitled Wisdom Path, Adults: Money, Spirit and Life.

Rules of Procedure

Patty Notch, Vice President of the MAR Board, moved acceptance of the proposed Rules of Procedure. McKenna Revel of the MAR Board, seconded. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 108-0.

Nominations

The Report of the Nominating Committee was given by Mel Priese, Co-chair. This was a difficult year and it was hard to find candidates. The committee tried in a variety of ways to reach out, including using social media, but still was not able to offer a complete slate. The report raised the question of the ethics of asking for unpaid work, especially for people from marginalized groups. We need to have dialogues about this in our congregations.

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate.

Board Of Trustees

Patty Notch (Incumbent, 2022-2025) from First Unitarian Church of Des Moines, IA

McKenna Revel (Incumbent, 2022-2025) from UU Church of Lexington, KY

David Jackoway (Incumbent, partial term, 2022-2024) from UU Church of Indianapolis, IN

Nominating Committee

Jim Wilbur (2022-2024) from Olympia Brown UU Church of Racine, WI

Dr. Mary Sheldon (2022-2024) from Countryside UU Church of Palatine, IL

Mel Priese moved approval of the slate. Helen Dwyer, Co-chair of the Nominating Committee, seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 116-3.

President Lemmer spoke about the value of serving at the regional level. Secretary Bergen offered words of appreciation from the MAR Board to Tammy for her leadership as Board President as she completes her term of service.

Two members of the Board of the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference (MUUC), Barb Gutsch and Kathy Wire, are also completing their service and President Lemmer thanked them. She also noted that there is still an opening on the MUUC Board and on the MAR Board of Trustees.

Rev. David Pyle, MAR Lead, offered appreciation and farewell to MAR staff member, Gretchen Ohmann, who will be retiring at the end of this year. A special video message was shared from Rev Ian Evison, former Regional Lead of the MAR.

A slide showing opportunities to make a financial contribution was shared.

President Lemmer offered closing words by Gwen Mathews and adjourned the business meeting at 11:53 pm Eastern/10:53 am Central/9:53 am Mountain Time.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Dorit Bergen.