

*The MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

*Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes – December 6, 2022*

Approved January 3, 2023

**Welcome/Check-in**

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

**Call to Order** – Patty calls the meeting to order at 7:30pm Eastern and shares opening words.

**Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes** – Dorit moves to accept minutes as presented; Rae Jane seconds. Approved unanimously.

**Regional Lead Report** – David Pyle commented on submitted written report. A large church staff conference was held for the first time, and the MidAmerica staff made it a successful event.

**Quarterly Financial Statement** – David Pyle commented on submitted written report. Discussed income projections being adjusted after three years of data showing projections to be too conservative. Currently projecting a balanced budget or possible surplus. Discussed whether any money not needed from the investment fund should be reallocated to new programs or put back into the investment fund. It could possibly be used to fund part of a new full-time co-employment staff position, all of a half-time position, or a shared position with a congregation or another region. If there is interest, David could prepare two versions of a budget showing what it might look like to support additional staffing.

If additional staffing ends up not being an option, the additional money could be used to increase the amount available for the new scholarship and grant funds, or offer additional training for congregations that may not have been otherwise feasible.

Hans suggests waiting to see how new funds work in practice before deciding whether to allocate more money to them.

The Hope for Us fund policies are in place and the program is ready to go. The grant program is still in the works, taking longer to develop, with a goal for it to be ready as well by the end of January. The Region will share information about the new programs in the newsletter, on social media, and in communications directly to presidents of congregations within the Region.

David Jackoway asked about Covid trends in the region. David Pyle says case numbers are likely going up, but the current climate makes that difficult to tell, and there is much less widespread testing occurring. There is currently no plan for the UUA or the Region to restrict travel, though some staff may be choosing to limit travel during the winter months.

**Annual Business Meeting** – Lisa Presley joined the meeting to discuss the annual business meeting and her role in supporting the board through the process. Only a business meeting is planned this year — not a full Regional Assembly. Lisa proposes having the business meeting in June this year, but not overlapping with General Assembly. Staff suggested a Saturday morning or a weekday evening meeting early in June. Autumn and Sharon both suggest a preference for a weekday evening time. The board needs to set the date and time of the meeting, and that informs the calendar for the necessary steps leading up to the meeting. David Jackoway suggests avoiding a meeting time that conflicts with any of the mini-assembly meetings prior to General Assembly. Thursday evenings seem to have the fewest potential conflicts for

board members. Lisa will research possibilities of June 8<sup>th</sup> or June 15<sup>th</sup>, including discussing the mini-assembly schedule with the GA team.

The board will create a process for submitting congregational action items. Lisa suggests giving 120-day notice, since there are a lot of steps and requirements involved, though there is no specific requirement in the bylaws. Notice of the annual meeting needs to be sent a minimum of 90 days prior, per the bylaws. Information about the congregational action item process could also be included in that meeting notification email or as a separate follow-up email shortly after it.

Dorit moves to set a policy about how to add a congregational action item to the meeting agenda, the notification of such policy to be sent to congregations one week after the notification of the meeting. Autumn seconds. David Jackoway asks about requirements in bylaws; Lisa confirms that bylaws state that the “board creates a process” but make no further specific requirements. Lisa described the policy that was communicated last year. Dorit amends her motion to specify that the board adopts the same policy as last year, to be sent out a week after the notification of the meeting. Autumn agrees and amends second. Motion passes unanimously.

### **Board Retreat Follow-up**

David Pyle did meet with co-chairs of nominating committee. They are struggling to find candidates. Rae Jane moves to formally appoint the two de-facto members of the nominating committee who were not properly elected at the last business meeting. David Jackoway seconds. Approved unanimously.

Meeting with nominating committee also raised the larger question of Camp Unistar and whether they still consider themselves to be a UU organization or even need a continued connection with the MidAmerica Region. We will plan to discuss this further at next board meeting. David Jackoway suggests talking directly with the Camp Unistar board members that were appointed by the MidAmerica Region. Any change to the governance relationship with Camp Unistar would require a change to the MidAmerica bylaws. David Jackoway proposes that we invite those board members to meet with a subcommittee of the MidAmerica board.

### Policy Subcommittee Assignments

*Covenant relationship with the UUA:* Autumn, McKenna, Sharon

*Policy relationship with the UUA:* David Jackoway, Dorit, David Pyle

*Camp Unistar:* Dorit, David Pyle, Hans

*MUUC/MUUF:* Rae Jane, Patty, David Pyle

The intent is for these subcommittees to begin work after the January meeting.

Autumn asked about new policy on UU Leadership Institute. David Pyle explained that they chose to open up the classes on their online training platform for free to any UUA board member. They agreed to also extend that benefit to MidAmerica Region board members. David will send an email to board members with more details.

David Jackoway asked about the process for reimbursement for GA registration. Board members can pay up front and submit expense reimbursement or contact Andrew about funding ahead of time. Confirmed that regional board members may also serve as congregational delegates to GA. David Pyle will confirm whether policy covers reimbursement for lodging, and will report back.

**Next Meeting** – Next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30pm Eastern / 6:30pm Central.

**Adjournment** – Patty shares closing words. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Autumn Mahoney*

Secretary to the Board of Trustees