

# *The MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

## *Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2023*

**(approved March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023)**

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

**In Attendance** – Autumn Mahoney, McKenna Revel, Dorit Bergen, David Jackoway, Rae Jane Araujo, David Pyle, Patty Notch, Jim Moir, Sharon Dittmar, Hans Kelson. *Absent:* none.

**Call to Order** – Patty calls the meeting to order at 7:33pm Eastern. McKenna shared opening words.

**Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes** – Change wording to make it more clear that there will still be an annual business meeting even though there is no Regional Assembly planned. Dorit moves to accept minutes as amended; Rae Jane seconds. Approved unanimously.

**Regional Lead Report** – David Pyle commented on submitted written report. Interview will be held soon for 7 of the 19 applicants to the open Congregational Life Consultant position. Hoping to begin interviews around February 15<sup>th</sup>, work through the first round in the first week, with 2–3 second-round interviews the following week, and extend an offer by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The second open position description is still being vetted by UUA HR. Hoping for position to be posted with the week. Once posted, the hiring for this position should be faster than for the CLC position.

David further explained the discrepancy with double-counting of retained earnings discovered during conversations with our auditor. The auditor approves of the way that the problem has been solved. If and when we choose to use retained earnings to close budget deficit again in the future, there is now a line for it in the finances that does not count toward income totals. Andrew and David reviewed last year's books and determined a revised net income number that accounts for the overreported value.

Autumn asks if this has an effect on proposed budgets. David confirms that the new proposed budgets already take this into account and are working from the correct value.

### **Board Appointment**

The Nominating Committee has proposed Barbara Gutsch to fill the vacant Board Trustee position. Rae Jane moves to appoint Barbara Gutsch to fill the open partial Board Trustee term for 2022–2025. Dorit seconds. Approved unanimously.

Patty will inform the nominating committee of the appointment; David Pyle will inform the staff. Patty and David Pyle will schedule a conversation with Barbara for onboarding.

### **Annual Business Meeting**

Lisa Presley proposes that the annual business meeting be held on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm Eastern / 7:00pm Central. After discussion, Dorit moves that the 2023 Annual Business Meeting be held on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm Eastern / 6:30pm Central. Autumn seconds. Approved unanimously.

Lisa has already prepared a meeting announcement, including information about how items can be added to the meeting agenda, to be sent out this week.

## **Presentation of Draft Budgets**

David Pyle presented two related draft budgets as previously requested:

### *1) Balanced Budget*

This draft is a true balanced budget that does not rely on any previous year's retained earnings or investment fund income. Income estimates have been raised; Annual Program Fund is on track to at least match last year's values, with a possible increase in the APF grant. This budget assumes all of our staffing positions are filled, program registration fees are frozen from last year, an in-person Regional Assembly, and an expected increase in income from MUUC/MUUF. Overall, it reflects approximately \$10k in increased income from the current year's budget, even not including any retained earnings.

In this budget, general office expenses are increased from last year, partly because this category now includes PPE equipment. No software cost increases are expected, for the first time. Contracted and other services are lower because of a reduction in merchant service fees. Other President Expenses is lower, based on recent utilization. Board and governance expenses are lower based on recent usage and the trend toward one retreat per year rather than two. Staff professional expenses are increased mostly due to new event/communication coordinator. Independent contractor expenses are increased to give more flexibility in subsidizing consultants for congregations. The reduction in regional workshops and programs is partly due to the Region no longer being responsible for running youth ministry program.

### *2) Investment Budget*

This budget is the same as the Balanced Budget option, except it includes funds from retained earnings or investment income funding that could be used for additional staffing or other opportunities.

Further discussion about proposed budgets will be held during the March meeting.

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

**Adjournment** – Rae Jane shares closing words. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm Eastern.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Autumn Mahoney*

Secretary to the Board of Trustees