

# *The MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

## *Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2023*

(approved May 2, 2023)

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

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

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

**Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes** – David Jackoway moves to approve minutes as submitted. Hans seconds. Approved unanimously.

**Regional Lead Report** – Progress is being made on hiring for new positions. The last of the second-round interviews for the Congregational Life Consultant position will be held tomorrow. All of the candidates are qualified, so it will be a difficult decision.

Drafts for the potential praxis position have been developed. David will meet with UUA staff soon to possibly move forward with the development of that opportunity. To make the praxis position attractive, we might want to make it a two-year commitment. David asks that the board consider affirming that we may offer the position for two years, even though the budget for the second year is not yet under development. One advantage of a praxis position rather than a half-time Congregational Life Consultant position is that it can be a one- or two-year commitment rather than a longer-term employment commitment.

Dorit moves that we commit to funding the development/investment/praxis position for two years, representing a minimum of \$65k of additional staffing through the 2024–2025 fiscal year. Patty seconds. Approved unanimously.

The position for Events and Communication Assistant is now live on the uua.org website. Over 170 applications have been received already in the four days the position has been posted, though the majority of those are automated from Indeed. Plenty of applications are coming in organically, though. It appears likely that there will be about 30 viable applications, about 7 of which will be invited for a first-round interview. The hope is to begin interviewing by the end of the month and to make an offer by the end of May.

David Jackoway asks how the current ministerial search season is going, noting that he has not seen as many announcements of matches as expected this early in the process. David Pyle points out that currently-settled ministers have to delay announcements until after informing their current congregations. Overall, the availability of ministers is not as bad as expected this year, but still tight compared to pre-shortage years.

The discussion of the Annual Program Fund is tabled until next meeting. David Pyle quickly notes that after two strong years, there are some signs of softening of fund contributions, but that MidAmerica Region appears to be doing better than some other regions.

### **Policy Report from Subcommittees**

*Policy on Relationship Between UUA and MidAmerica Region* – Committee is writing a draft and is planning an in-person meeting in Chicago on the weekend of April 15<sup>th</sup> to work on language. The committee is on track to share the draft with the UUA sometime in May and may be able share some details about it at the region’s Annual Business Meeting.

*Camp Unistar* – Met with Alison from the Camp Unistar Foundation board, making good progress, and it appears that the Foundation board is in favor of implementing reasonable youth safety guidelines. Discussed camp leadership, and they have questions for us. Committee is pausing the writing of policy until it can get a clearer sense of the foundation’s direction and intention to remain affiliated with the MidAmerica Region.

*MUUC/MUUF* – Committee is meeting tomorrow.

*Covenant* – McKenna shared draft covenant and invited others to collaborate on document. Explained how this draft evolved from the covenantal parts of the old three-way covenant.

**Next Meeting** – Next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm Eastern / 6:30pm Central.

**Adjournment** – Rae Jane shares closing words. Meeting adjourned at 9:11pm Eastern.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Autumn Mahoney*

Secretary to the Board of Trustees