

182 Annual Gathering  
Saturday–April 26, 2008  
Central Baptist Church, Westerly, RI

Forty-five churches were represented

8:45 – Opening music & prayer – Scott Roberts

9:00 - Welcome & Call to Order – Dan Cottrell

Introduction

Annual Gathering committee

Host pastors

Hospitality people

Prayer

9:05 - Worship led by Scott Roberts

9:33 - Jeff Jones – God’s People Called to Discipleship

We live in a changing, stressful time – old answers/paradigms no longer work, new ones have not been found yet. How will we respond?

- How we choose to see and understand the world we live in – new possibilities, new hope
- Many congregations are more concerned with maintenance than mission. We go through the motions, have the right forms, but have forgotten our calling. Is our faith still worth dying for? What does it mean to be the church in the postmodern world?
- Reclaiming and revitalizing the old – identity as disciple-forming communities
- What forms disciples? – deepening relationships: God, self and others; equipping, growing in gifts and recognizing our calling; ministering in service, mostly done out in the world.
- Need to change, take some risks, be willing to fail, let go of some things to take hold of new things.

Song led by Pleasant Street Baptist Church choir

Introductions of staff and seminarians – Dan Cottrell

Recognizing anniversaries

2:38 – A time of singing

3:02 – Jeff Jones – What is Discipleship? – Participating in God’s work in the world

Redeeming all creation – restoring to God’s intention

God has a plan for each of us, has gifted each of us

3:18 - Worship & Communion

3:47 - RIBES Business Meeting called to order by Marie Carpenter

Gave brief overview of history and purpose.

Elect officers of board of directors – motion made and seconded to accepted, approved

Add Virginia Bradley to class of 2009,

3:52 - **ABCORI Business Meeting called to order by Dan Cottrell**

Don Wolf presented the proposed new model from Structure Planning Team for ABCORI.

Motion made and seconded to suspend articles 6, 8, 9, and 10 of bylaws, immediately implement new structure, have new structure in place for 1 year and then evaluate after 1 year.

**Discussion:**

George Barclay spoke, saying his church made a similar restructuring. Stressful but more effective.

Sue Maiocchi spoke on behalf of ABW. They would like to have not only a voice but a vote. Under the new structure affiliated organizations would not have a vote.

Vote was taken: 77 in favor; 5 opposed

Dan thanked Peggy Johnson as parliamentarian and Leigh Johnson as clerk.

Thanks to Sandy Kelly and office staff for all their work.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:07**