

182nd Annual Meeting (Session A)
American Baptist Churches of RI
March 3, 2008
Philips Memorial Baptist Church

The Rev. Dr. Daniel Cottrell, ABCORI President, gave the welcome at 7:06 PM

Invocation was given by the Rev. Darren Collins, first reading from Luke – “who do people say that I am” and John 15 – “love one another, no greater love”

Next was a time of singing praise to God.

The Rev. Dr. Paul Hanson called The Annual Meeting of the Baptist Heritage Center to order

He reported that one of their goals was to help ABCORI churches connect the past with the present. On Nov. 3, 2007, a one-day conference was held at the Memorial Baptist Church in Seekonk, MA with over 70 in attendance. The keynote speaker was Dr. Walter Shurden, addressing critical issues facing Baptists today. A video will be available at the ABCORI annual meeting part B. There were also other presentations. Another Baptist heritage day is scheduled for 2009. Another goal is to help preserve local Baptist church records. The Center is discussing with Brown University how the John Carter Brown library can store and preserve these records. This past winter SCOM asked the Baptist Heritage Center to prepare and conduct a Baptist polity course for those seeking ordination. This is being done.

An election of officers was held. Nominated were Rev. Dr. Paul Hanson for President, Nancy Cyr-Larson for Vice President, Rev. Clay Berry for Secretary, and Rev. Lou Tripler for Treasurer. Also nominated to the Board were Vivian Searle and Rev. Henry Pederson for term ending 2011. Motion made and seconded to accept the nominations. Motion was passed. Meeting of the Baptist Heritage Center was adjourned.

President Vivian Searle convened the Annual Meeting of the Baptist Home of Rhode Island.

The following new slate of officers was presented: President – Rev. Harry Bronkar, Vice President – Richard Pierce, term ending 2010 – Rev. James Miller, term ending 2011 – Glenn Fresch, Rev. Alejandro Gaete, Aldyn Reid. A motion was made and seconded to accept the nominations. The motion was passed. Vivian expressed her pleasure at serving on this board. The meeting of the Baptist Home of Rhode Island was adjourned.

Call to Order of ABCORI Annual Meeting (Session A) – Daniel Cottrell, President

Clerk: Leigh Johnson

Parliamentarian: John Wolcott

Roll Call of Churches in Attendance – There were 43 of our 75 churches represented; overall attendance was 149. There were 38 Ministers, 97 delegates, and 14 Guests.

Review of Minutes of March 5, 2007 – Motion made and seconded to accept as printed. Passed

Perry Alexander and Liz Lussier presented 2007 Treasurer's report. Motion made and seconded to accept the report. The totals for 2007 income and expense given in the report are incorrect. Corrected figures will be e-mailed. Moved and seconded that report be tabled until the Annual Gathering in April. Passed.

Later in the meeting, it was moved and seconded to take report off the table. Passed. Some corrected figures were given. Line in first column under total giving 5802 – endowment transfer - should be \$147,001 giving a total of \$881,632. The report was accepted as corrected.

2008 Budget – A motion was made and seconded to approve. It was explained that line items with \$0 were moved to other accounts. Motion was passed.

Report of the Executive Minister – Rev. Dr. Liliana DaValle

Liliana expressed her pleasure to be working with us; she is happy to be here, doing what the Lord wants her to do. She referred to last year's report and highlighted what has been happening in the areas she outlined there. Church planting - seven projects are underway for new churches. Evangelism - an evangelism team has been formed, with a training day last August and one coming this spring. Lay Leadership - lay leaders are being trained in various areas. Prophetic presence – active in Children in Poverty campaign. Church renewal – 7 volunteers trained, working with churches. Expand hands-on mission work – we are now supporting two new mission fields: "Mission Explosion" in India and Honduras.

Report of the Director of Administration – Liz Lussier

Liz reported on capital projects that were completed in 2006-2007. Work on eight buildings and other major improvements were made possible through endowments and directed giving: \$100,000 from endowment; \$25,000 in giving. There were 47 additional donors, and 2,000 volunteer hours valued at \$20,000. New signs have been put up. Major repairs were made at Meadowwood & Pierce. Rathbun and Greene Lodges have been redone. The Lawrence building has been washed and stained. The Director's Lodge has new siding. Work was done by the bridge and dam, including a new railing. The Hansen Trading Post was repaired, has a new handicap ramp, and has been expanded. Tefft Chapel was re-shingled. Motter Pastoral Resource Center was remodeled. Snell has new roof and insulation. Liz expressed her appreciation to all the donors, volunteers, and the Property Committee.

On Sat., May 17, from 11 AM to 3 PM there will be an Open House.

Report of the Director of Elder Care Ministries – Kathy Black

Kathy reported that there have been changes this year. She has been involved with resident elder care in the state working to change the focus from the needs of the staff to the needs of the resident, including continuity of spiritual care. Three nursing facilities have chaplains supported by Elder Care Ministries. Elder Care Ministries is providing professional support for chaplains, including monthly chaplain meetings. She is working with the State Council of Churches in providing clergy ID badges. Kathy said that Grandparents Camp had fewer participants in 2007. She is looking at a new format for this year with more integration into the resident camp program. Five churches have received grants from the Baptist Home Board for improvements in ministry to elderly, either program or handicap accessibility. Kathy thanked

the many volunteers and expressed appreciation to ABCORI for greater integration of Elder Care Ministry into the overall program and budget.

Report from the General Board of ABCUSA – Rev. Hank Pederson

Hank is serving on the Board of Directors of International Ministries and several committees; the Board of Managers of the American Baptist Historical Society; and is chair of the World Relief Committee. He reported that the General Board is planning a restructuring to a federation model, which would make the Board smaller and more economical. Representatives would be elected at the Biennial. Most individuals would serve on only one board, allowing for greater participation. There would be smaller committees; one member of each would serve on the General Board. The new structure will be presented in June, debated in November, and voted on at the Biennial in 2009.

The American Baptist Historical Society is consolidating records at new building at Mercer University in Georgia.

International Ministries has 10 new missionaries in 2007. It is celebrating involvement working with the Baptist Convention of Vietnam. They are providing coordination and training for national leaders. The World Mission Conference is going on the road – Sept. 19-21, 2008 will be in Suffield, CT.

World Relief Committee – the OGHs offering was \$1,600,000. Examples of work done: relief to Bangladesh after typhoon; assistance to churches in India that were torched; assisted in resettling Burmese refugees in Thailand; gave relief for Baptists returning to Burundi after having been exiled to Tanzania.

The Rev. Olivier Bala read from Psalm 63 and offered prayer for the mission of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island asking for God's guidance and direction.

New Business:

Progress report on BOM Envisioning retreats

A new model for ABCORI's structure was presented, centering on Vision – Mission – Ministry. Informational forums will be held on March 13 at First Baptist in East Greenwich, March 30 at United Baptist in Newport, and April 2 at a place to be announced. The proposal will be offered for action at the Annual Gathering, part B.

Report of the Recruitment committee – Nancy Bancroft

Election - Moved and seconded to accept the report. Passed.

Petition of Affiliation

A petition to affiliate with ABCORI was presented by the International Family Tabernacle in East Greenwich and Pastor Jetro DaSilva. A motion was moved and seconded to allow affiliation. Time was taken for silent prayer. Motion was passed.

The Rev. George Barclay spoke about the ecumenical communion breakfast. This year it will be on a Saturday morning, April 19, at the Venus De Milo restaurant. He encouraged us to attend.

Pastor Jetro DaSilva who read from Psalm 133 gave a closing prayer.

Various announcements were made:

Reports from all departments, committees, task forces and affiliated organizations are due March 24, 2008.

The office should be notified of all corrections and updates for the Annual Directory ASAP.

Notify office of any pastor and/or church anniversaries.

The meeting was adjourned until Saturday, April 26, 2008 at Central Baptist Church, Westerly, hosted by Central Baptist and Pleasant Street Baptist Churches.

Submitted by
Leigh Johnson, clerk