

**American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island  
Board of Mission  
Norwood Baptist Church  
January 22, 2007**

**Present:** Don Anderson, Tom Archer, Nancy Bancroft, George Barclay, Paul Becker, Kathy Black, Ken Chaffee, Dan Cottrell, Liliana Da Valle, Jim Essex, Paul Hanson, Orlando Irizarry, Peggy Johnson, Liz Lussier, Sue Maiocchi, Janet MacGray, Fran Pedersen, Hank Pedersen, Vivian Searle, Linda Spoolstra, Don Wolfe.

**Excused:** Ethel Corbin, Susan Grisliiss, Cliff Hockensmith, Don Waterman, Ann Aldrich, Marie Clarke-Carpenter, Donald Hansen.

**Guests:** Matt Black

President Bancroft called the meeting to order at Norwood Baptist Church at 7:05 p.m.

President Bancroft introduced Rev. Dr. Liliana Da Valle, new Executive Minister for ABCORI as well as Colleen Tolhurst, Administrative Assistant, who will be taking the minutes for the Board of Mission meetings.

There being no changes or additions the minutes of the November meeting were accepted as circulated.

Liliana Da Valle led a devotion reading from the Book of Joshua addressing the different journeys he encountered.

Tom Archer, Treasurer, presented the financial report for the 11 months of 2006. He reported the revenues thru November of 2006 showed a slight improvement in Conferencing, reflecting a 2% increase compared to Budget YTD. However, the increase hardly offsets the \$45,000 shortfall in Camping & lag in United Mission giving. By year end it is anticipated that we will be \$50,000 short of the Income Goal for 2006. Expenses YTD show a deficit of \$45,000 or 6% compared to Budget. Of this \$17,000 is related to Camping and \$21,000 is related to Conferencing expense categories. At the close of 2006 it appears that the largest deficit in the last four years and greater than the combined results of the last three years which will be approximately \$75,000 to \$100,000. This deficit will reduce the Unrestricted Reserves by almost 20%. This deficit could be narrowed by the enforcement of greater fiscal controls, the challenge for Stewardship and Administration will be to stem the leveling of our current income streams.

President Bancroft asked if there were any questions. She advised the Board that at the March 5<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting a twelve month report will be presented which will give a clearer picture of the finances. The report was put on file with no questions.

Liz Lussier, Director of Administration, presented her report. She has been working with Stewardship and Administration concerning salary budget for 2007. Liz will be working on hiring a part time receptionist to take Colleen's place. Liz has hired a new part time skilled maintenance staff person, Al Martin, since Matt Black has stepped into the role of Assistant Camp Director. Liz and the Property Committee met with Paul Raymond, Quest's Head of School, to discuss proposals for expanded use of the property in the fall of 2007. This proposal will be brought to Stewardship and Administration at their next meeting. Property Committee will begin the renovation and expansion of the adopted camp store which will be named Hansen Trading Post. Key items that are under review are the dam inspection and maintenance, building and fire code standards as well as the completion of Motter and Churchill-Cary renovations. The

month of December was busier than usual for conferencing with several new groups using the facilities. Liz has planned an upcoming First Annual Spring Fling Brunch to be held on March 20, 2007.

Kathy Black distributed written reports and spoke about the current status of the Chaplaincy Program in Rhode Island.. Kathy is preparing for Simeon's – type training to be held at Greenville Baptist Church. Kathy has had an interview with Prime Time magazine to promote the Winter Camp scheduled for February 18 -21<sup>st</sup> and this will be in their upcoming issue. Despite these efforts, Kathy has yet to receive any registrations. Plans are also underway for the eighth annual summer Grandparents Camp which will be expanded to two sessions this year. She is currently in need of additional volunteers to cover the front desk since two volunteers had to leave due to physical limitations.

Kathy is enjoying her work as chair of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches Search Committee for a new executive minister. The committee is on track for presenting a candidate of outstanding quality to the Executive Committee by the end of April.

Liliana Da Valle presented a brief report since she has only been in her position for merely a week. She is very thankful for the opportunity to serve ABCORI and has asked prayers for discernment, wisdom and grace. Liliana's report consisted of a summary of current activities which included attendance at as many meetings as possible in order to understand the ABCORI system, finding a comfort level with the staff, attending Religious Leaders Forum to better acquaint herself with the different ecumenical bodies, receiving appropriate orientation from General Secretary, continuing to explore the areas of synergy between TABCOM and ABCORI and planning her installation service which will be on May 6<sup>th</sup> at Calvary Baptist Church.

She also shared her list of dream areas for her future ministry with ABCORI. They consisted of planting new churches, evangelism, enhance church renewal, glorify God, train and resource lay leaders, engage churches in hands-on mission work and have a strong prophetic presence in the State and denominational family.

Liz Lussier, Director of Administration, reported that she has been working with the Personnel Committee on the revisions of the Non-Exempt Staff Personnel Manual. The purpose for the revisions to the manual was to better clarify what is expected of the employee. She emailed the manual in advance to the Board members for their review. A question from one of the Board members was raised in regard to the definition of Non-Exempt Personnel. Names were then given of all Non-Exempt Personnel at ABCORI. A Board member inquired if a flow chart could be made available. A flow chart will be sent to all Board members by Liz. It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously to accept the revisions as stated in the Non-Exempt Staff Personnel Manual.

Kathy distributed a proposal from Bill McAllister, consultant and former administrator of the John Clarke facility, regarding his vision of an on-site senior housing at Canonicus. Kathy explained this plan to the Board in hopes that the Board of Mission would wholeheartedly endorse the next step of meeting with Bill to learn more about this proposal. A few of the Board members had some thoughts on the subject. The Board of Mission agreed to set up a time in which to meet with Bill McAllister to discuss this plan further.

Don Wolfe distributed a written report. The report consisted of how S&A can help achieve the 5 year goals set forth by ABCORI which came from the June 2005 planning discussions. Also in the report were the 2005-2006 Goals for S&A.

Liliana Da Valle talked about a social issue in Rhode Island that is in crisis, children in poverty. Rhode Island ranks highest in childhood poverty in New England. There is a national program entitled "Transforming Communities for Children" that addresses this issue and Liliana would like to see participation from ABCORI churches especially in Providence. The region's financial responsibility

would be \$7,000 which would cover a 3 1/2 day workshop at Valley Forge, consultants, training leadership and outreach, etc.. National Ministries would be able to help financially for smaller regions such as ours. Liliana asked the Board for financial help as well. It was moved, seconded and accepted that the Board would financially commit \$2,500.

Paul Becker distributed a sheet with current status of Recruitment Committee. He has given thanks to all of the members of the Recruitment Committee for their diligence. Paul reported two vacancies on the Board of Mission, three vacancies on the Department of Church Life and six vacancies on Stewardship and Administration. Many people have been contacted to fill these vacancies and at least a dozen have been called for the vacancies on Stewardship and Administration to no avail. Paul asked to pray about this and if anyone knows of someone from their church who would like to serve on any of these committees to contact him.

Sue Maiocchi distributed a written report on ABWomen's Ministries of RI. New themes and goals will be introduced starting in June 2007 which is set by ABWomen's Ministries-USA. Their Spiritual Retreat will be next weekend at Canonicus. Plans are underway for ABWRI 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration for Love Gift. Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> is the Spring State Gathering which will be held at Georgiaville Baptist Church.

Baptist Heritage Center will soon announce a "Baptist Heritage Weekend" on November 3 and 4. Details are still forthcoming. The weekend will be co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Baptist Historical Society and the American Baptist Historical Society.

At the next Baptist Home Board meeting to be held on February 5<sup>th</sup> the main business will be to hear reports from the Nominating Committee and the continuing work of the Grants Committee. After hearing from John Polidori, their Bernstein representative, the Board empowered the Finance Committee to reconsideration their asset allocations in order to provide a more balanced fund.

President Bancroft distributed the following announcements to the Board.

Annual Business Meeting, Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. - Warwick Central Baptist Church.

Board of Mission, Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. – Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, Cranston

Installation date for Rev. Dr. Liliana Da Valle - Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. - Calvary Baptist Church.

Annual Gathering , Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> , 8:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Meshanticut Park Church

Stewardship Event - September 29<sup>th</sup> - First Baptist, North Attleboro.

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Liliana Da Valle  
Secretary