

**American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
BOARD OF MISSION
Calvary Baptist Church
October 30, 2007
Minutes**

Present: Nancy Bancroft, George Barclay, Marie Carpenter, Dan Cottrell, Liliana DaValle, Vonnie Dutton, Jim Essex, Cliff Hockensmith, Orlando Irizarry, Peggy Johnson, Liz Lussier, Susan Maiocchi, Fran Pedersen, Hank Pedersen, Vivian Searle, Don Waterman, Don Wolfe.

Excused: Ann Aldrich, Kathy Black, Ethel Corbin, Reppa Cottrell, Paul Hanson, Janet MacGray, Linda Spoolstra, Barbara Staples

Guest: Matt Black.

Devotions

George Barclay read devotions from Ephesians 3:20 "Now to him who by the power is able to do far more abundantly in all that we ask or think". We need to be in prayer and should not be surprised in God's world, looking at a vision from God, which is sometimes beyond what we know or conceive.

Minutes of Last Meeting

There being no changes or additions the minutes of the August 21, 2007 meeting were accepted as circulated.

Rev. Dr. David Kilpatrick was invited as a representative from TABCOM. He will be attending Board of Mission meetings when available to do so.

Treasurer's Report

Don Wolfe distributed and discussed the Treasurer's Report. The report shows sound fiscal condition through September 2007. Total revenues were ahead of projections due to a strong performance from retreat fees. Summer Camp fees still lag behind and will fall short due to low attendance as well as less summer staff campers and counselors. Expenses overall are in line with projections. Overall the organization is about \$11,000 ahead of budget to date and on target to break even this year.

Liliana DaValle has studied the reports on United Missions and the figures are low. Some of our ABCORI churches are at least \$7,000 behind from the same time last year. This may have been overlooked but church treasurers need to be made aware of this.

Liz Lussier clarified with Rebecca DeLuise, ABCORI bookkeeper, on the Treasurer's Report the one item that is at the end of the first column under Net Income (Loss) an additional \$8,000 which should have been in "Other Revenue" was classified incorrectly. Therefore, the correct amount should be \$13,878.00 and not \$21,878.00.

November Leadership Retreat

President Cottrell asked Liliana if there was any information she needed to share with the Board concerning the Leadership Retreat that will be held on November 17th. Liliana DaValle shared with the Board members how the Envisioning Planning Team has been working together to pull the retreat together. The registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with coffee. Program starts promptly at 9:00 a.m. Liz Lussier will lead dynamics for the day and Cliff Hockensmith will be the

facilitator. There is expectation that those attending the retreat will come out with some answers to the structure of ABCORI.

Part II of the retreat was to be held on February 9, 2008 but it was announced at the meeting that the American Baptist Women are planning a retreat that weekend in Massachusetts. This date may need to be changed.

Stewardship Conferences

Nancy Bancroft updated the Board on the recent combined TABCOM & ABCORI Stewardship Conference that went very well. The attendance was around 100. It was decided that this retreat will be held every other year since the Ecumenical Stewardship Conference is held every other year and the next one will be held in April, 2008 in Worcester, MA with Roy Medley as speaker. Also on March 1, 2008 TABCOM Mission Works in Fitchburg will take place.

Baptist Heritage Center

Paul Hanson was not present to report.

ABCORI Staff Manual Revisions

Hank Pedersen, together with Liz Lussier have been working on the revisions to the ABCORI Staff Manual. This is a work in progress. It is necessary to keep getting items approved. By doing this ABCORI will become closer to coming within the rules of state and federal labor laws. .

Motion was made by Hank Pedersen that the manual as presented by the Personnel Committee be approved. Motion seconded by Don Waterman.

Staff Reports

Executive Minister

Liliana Da Valle gave an overview of what she has accomplished to date as well as programs in progress. She has preached at 27 churches at present, and is training with six consultants for change and envisioning processes with three facilitators for search processes as well as an Evangelism Training which was attended by 20. She has attended General Board, GEC, Biennial and has been involved with the restructuring process for ABCUSA. On the subject of Ecumenical, she is working with Don Anderson on possible collaboratives as well as Chuck Barnes of UCC on common ministries. Liliana attends bi-monthly breakfasts with interfaith clergy and is working with PBS on a special about Prayer in America. Liliana reported meeting with the Executive Board of ABMen and had organized a special meeting on October 28th in which 25 were in attendance. She has also been actively involved in the following: Children in Poverty, Baptist Fund, ABCORI Leadership Retreat, Communication Task Force, Staff Relations, Missions, and Churches. (please see report distributed to members for further details)

Director of Administration

Liz Lussier presented a written report to the Board; it included pictures of the 2007 capital improvements at Canonicus. The Hansen Trading Post is nearing completion; the Raiders' volunteers, with support from maintenance staff, are doing the work. In total, \$15,500 was donated in 3 segments for the completion of this project. The dam inspection has been completed. Engineer, Matt Bellisle, drafted the plans for the dam and worked along with Whitney Bancroft, chair of Properties Committee. Liz apprised the DEM of this work. Dave Burnham from First Baptist North Kingstown completed all the work; he also re-graded the road leading to Meadowwood for no cost. Snell has a new roof. Breezymere's exterior has been repainted. The interior renovations of Breezymere, Snell and Cedarholm will begin in January.

The staff manuals continue to be revised as needed in cooperation with the Personnel Committee; the revisions are brought to the board for approval. A written strategic plan for support staff projections (both full & part time) for 2008 and beyond is underway. Liz coordinated an MMBB Financial Planning Workshop & luncheon for the staff with our representative, Hazel Roper. The Food Service Manager has been terminated. A replacement will be sought in the New Year; meanwhile our cook, Buzz Perry, has agreed to oversee food service. A new full time maintenance supervisor, Chris Lussier, was officially brought on staff as of September 11th.

The 18th Fall Festival was a success with many thanks to our volunteers. Revenue for conference bookings remains above projections through the remainder of 2007. In recognition and appreciation of the staff members' excellent work and dedication managing a balanced budget in 2007, Liz extended an additional three days' vacation time to be taken during Christmas week. 2008 budget preparations are underway; a new budget format will unite the 2 former separate budgets for ABCORI and Canonicus.

Liz reported that she is now serving on the Investment Committee since her appointment as the administrator of the Pooled Fund. She also serves on the Envisioning Planning Team for the ABCORI retreat in November. She worked with Nancy Bancroft on a Communication Task Force survey that will be sent out via e-notes to see how effective we are communicating with constituents. Canonicus may be hosting a Tick Awareness Program that URI is putting on. Upwards of 1,000 people could possibly attend this.

Matt Black and Liz have met several times to debrief about camp programs and plans are underway for the upcoming winter and summer camp seasons. Liz has scheduled a camp debriefing and "think tank" roundtable for November 6th that will include all 8 of the camp pastors and four additional staff.(report distributed)

Eldercare Ministries

A written report on Eldercare Ministries was distributed to the Board members. Kathy Black was not in attendance to discuss this report. President Cottrell suggested the members review her report later.

New Business,

The Annual Gathering is scheduled for May 17th, 2008. Liliana DaValle pointed out the many events such as May breakfasts at the beginning of May; Andover Newton Graduation May 10th. ANTS 200th anniversary, Mission Fair in which ABCORI churches participate in as well as May 24th Memorial Day weekend. Liliana suggested ABCORI change the month and date of the Annual Gathering.

Liliana Da Valle made a motion to propose Saturday, April 26th as the new date for Annual Gathering 2008. Motion was moved, seconded and passed to change the date of Annual Gathering to April 26th.

Reports from Departments, Committees and Affiliated Organizations (as necessary)

Department of Church Life

Vonnie Dutton did not have a written report but the departure of Paul and Vi Becker was acknowledged at their last meeting.

Department of Stewardship & Administration

No report.

Recruitment committee

Nancy Bancroft reported three vacancies on Stewardship and Administration along with vacancies in Department of Church Life and Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry. Any suggestions for these positions please email Nancy Bancroft. The descriptions are in the ABCORI By-Laws

ABW of Rhode Island

Sue Maiocchi gave her report of which she mentioned the Spiritual Growth Retreat on the second weekend in February 2008 that will include the ABC women in Mass. Special White Cross meeting starting March 1st. on rolled bandages.

Baptist Heritage Center

This coming weekend is the Baptist Heritage Weekend in which expected attendance will be between 50-60 at Seekonk on November 3rd.

Baptist Home Board

Vivian Searle gave her report to the Board. The next meeting of the Baptist Home Board will be on November 5th. The agenda will consist of the budget, report from the Nominating Committee, a report from Nicki Cicogna, Administrator of the John Clarke Retirement Center and a presentation by the Rev. Dr. Janice Thompson, pastor of the River of Life Church.

The treasurer, assistant treasurer and the president of the board will be guests of the Bernstein Co. at a breakfast to be held in Boston on November 7th.

Ministers Council

Marie Carpenter reported that the Fall Conference of the Ministers Council on Storytelling in Preaching and Worship held on October 23rd went well. The conference leaders were Ken and Pat Parker. Their next meeting will be held on Thursday of this week.

RIBES

Marie Carpenter reported that eleven students are attending seminary this year. The diversity is amazing. Several Hispanic students as well as one African American male and several females are currently enrolled.

ABCUSA General Board

Hank Pedersen reported that General Board has not met for awhile but gave an update of information he is aware of. The sale of the Mission Center property is progressing and the board passed the right of the first offer. MMBB has to make an official action. Once that occurs the property will be sold to a group of four entities. The building itself does not suit ABCUSA any longer. Five acres which were written in the contract will be retained and the rest will be sold. The 2007 World Mission Conference was held in Canandaigua NY. The 2008 World Mission Conference will be held from September 19-21st in Suffield CT.

CCSAA

No report.

President Cottrell noted under scheduled dates on the agenda the meeting date of May 17th for the Annual Gathering has been changed to April 26th.

January 22, 2008 next Board of Mission meeting agenda will be discussing the budget.

Hank Pedersen will do devotions for the January meeting and the location for January will be First Baptist in Wickford.

We will add another line to the agenda for any participation Dr. David Fitzpatrick, representative from TABCOM, would like to share at future meetings.

April 22nd meeting will be at Berean. Sue Maiocchi will do devotions for the April meeting.

Nancy Bancroft pointed out on Sunday, June 22, 2008 Unity and Celebration Event will be held at Calvary, with hymn sing, and joy in Christianity. Everyone is invited.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Libby Doherty".

Secretary