

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND  
BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING  
January 30, 2023**

**Final Minutes**

The regular meeting of the ABCORI Board of Ministries Meeting was held via Zoom on January 30, 2023.

**Present:** President Beth Berry; Rev. Dr. Courtney Davis Olds, Executive Minister; Rev. Dr. Cal Lord, Vice President; David Coon, Treasurer; Rev. Wendy Kiefer-O'Brien, Robert Butzier; Rev. Bob Auld; Eva Irby-Davis; Rev. Leigh Johnson; Rev. Kathryn Palen, Judy Butzier, Rev. George Barclay and Lynne Linden, BOM Clerk.

**Call to Order:** President Berry called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Opening Devotions:** President Berry led the devotions.

**Approval of Minutes from November 28, 2022:** The minutes of the meeting were approved as presented. Moved by David Coon and unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Continuing Business:**

- **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Coon presented the Financial Statement for 2022 and the Treasurer's Report. See the report of Financials for the 2022 full year and the Treasurer's Report of January 30, 2023. There were no questions. Rev. Keifer-O'Brien made a motion to receive and file the report. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by a show of hands.
  
- **Top Priorities from January 21st planning retreat**

Two task forces discussed at the January 21, 2023 planning retreat were formally proposed by Rev. Dr. Davis Olds.

- **Purpose Task Force** – See submitted proposal to clarify ABCORI's purpose (3 months' time frame)
  - Proposed members: George Barclay; as chair, Judy Butzier, and Courtney Davis Olds and additional persons to be named.
- **Property Task Force** – See submitted proposal to explore financially responsible options for stewardship of the Canonicus property (4 months' time frame)
  - Proposed members: David Coon, Cal Lord, Courtney Davis Olds and additional persons to be named. Chair will be determined.

It was asked who selects the members for the Task Force. The by-laws state that task forces are called and assembled by the ABCORI Board of Ministries. The Executive

Minister created a list of possible members from outside the board. It was also proposed that each task force be authorized to fill any vacancies that might occur.

A vote to approve forming the Purpose Task Force with the members proposed above, if all accept, with the authority to fill any vacancies, was made. So moved by Cal Lord. Passed unanimously by a show of hands.

A vote to approve forming the Property Task Force with the members proposed above, if all accept, with the authority to fill any vacancies, was made. So moved by George Barclay. Passed unanimously by a show of hands.

- **Interim Board Structure** – See submitted proposed structure. The following two changes were proposed by Rev. Dr. Davis Olds:
  - Finance Committee – 5 Members: **Revised wording:** responsible for budget, capital expenditures, assets (investments and properties), and Baptist Fund.
  - Personnel Committee – 3 Members: chair would now have a vote and the number of members would be reduced to three members

The Interim Board Structure could be presented for vote at the March annual meeting and, if approved, would be for one year. A task force would be formed this summer to create a proposed structure for the future.

It was asked if the Nominating Committee was waiting on this decision by the BOM before filling any available openings and the answer was yes. The slate will be presented to the body at the annual meeting. Rev. Kiefer-O'Brien stated that seven ABCORI members have expressed interest in openings and these names will be presented to the Nominating Committee.

- It was indicated that the Board structure change should be framed as an amendment to the by-laws to be presented at the annual meeting. Two weeks' notice to the March annual meeting will need to be given and it will be stated that the amendment will supersede any place where it contradicts the current by-laws and that, if approved, it will be in place for one year. The wording of the amendment will be sent to members of the BOM via email and will need to be approved by consensus in time to send to all ABCORI members by February 20<sup>th</sup>. The by-laws will be reviewed during the coming year.
  - A revised draft will be circulated by email for comments. A final draft will be sent via email for a vote in time for sending the proposal out to the churches.
- **Sharing minutes and opening BOM meetings to the public**
    - Best Practices for BOM meetings will be:
      - A synopsis of the meeting will be put in Connections after approval by the Executive Committee
      - Approved minutes of actionable items will be reviewed by the Board and posted, with confidential information deleted, to the ABCORI site for transparency
      - Meetings will not be open to the public due to confidentiality
        - By-laws may need to be revised to specifically state this
      - Best practice will be to record only actionable items in minutes

- **Reports from Staff**
  - Elder Care Ministries
    - See submitted notes from Rev. Palen.
  - Executive Minister
    - See submitted notes from Rev. Davis Olds
    - Nominations for the General Ministries opening
      - Mallory Davis
      - Amy Chilton
- **New Business**
  - Forest Easement application due by 2/17/23
    - A motion to have Cal Lord and Beth Berry review application was moved by Rev. Auld. The motion was passed unanimously via a show of hands.
    - An email requesting approval to submit the application and granting the authority to sign it will be sent to the Board
  - Date of February meeting to receive 2024 budget – February 27 at 6:30 via Zoom
  - Dates for 2023 BOM meeting and retreats will be set at next meeting
  - Annual Meeting at Wakefield Baptist Church: March 6, 2023: registration at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 PM

### **Adjourn/Closing Prayer**

The motion to adjourn was made by Judy Butzier at 8:42 P.M.

Rev. Davis Olds gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Linden

Clerk