

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Year ending 2012

Material in the Annual Yearbook is current as of December, 2012. All information contained in it is for the exclusive use of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island, its constituent organizations and churches. Please do not release information from this Report to other businesses, non-profit organizations, or persons without express approval. Corrections or changes should be e-mailed to info@abcori.org or phoned to the ABCORI office at 401-294-6318

The annual reports, statistics, financials and by-laws are contained in this publication.

ANNUAL REPORTS

PRESIDENT	3
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS.....	3-4
DIRECTOR OF ELDER CARE MINISTRIES	4-5
RECRUITMENT	5-6
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY	6
MINISTERS COUNCIL	6
MINISTRY TEAMS	7
PASTORAL LEADERSHIP	7
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	7
SOCIAL WITNESS	7
CAMPING AND YOUTH	8-9
EVANGELISTIC MISSION	9
OPERATIONS TEAM	9-10
BAPTIST FUND OF RI	10
INVESTMENT	10-11
PROPERTIES.....	11
PERSONNEL.....	11-12
REPRESENTATIVES TO BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES, ABC-USA	
REV DR JONATHAN MALONE.....	12

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OF RHODE ISLAND	13-14
BAPTIST HOME OF RHODE ISLAND	14
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-2013	15
RHODE ISLAND BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY	16
MEMBERS OF THE RIBES BOARD.....	16
REPORT OF THE RIBES TREASURER.....	17
BAPTIST HERITAGE CENTER	18
BAPTIST HERITAGE CENTER FINANCIALS	19
FINANCIALS ABCORI	20
2012 YEAR END FINANCIALS	20-22
ANNUAL BUDGET 2013	23-25
BAPTIST HOME BOARD FINANCIAL STATEMENT	26

CONVENTION RECORDS

MINUTES OF THE 186TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING March 5, 2012	27-28
PAST CONVENTION RECORDS	29-30
PASTOR ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES/CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES ALUMNI	30

DOCUMENTS

COVENANT OF RELATIONSHIPS..... 34-35
COVENANTING CHURCHES 36
WILLS AND CODICILS 37
COVENANT AND CODE OF ETHICS FOR PROFESSIONAL CHURCH LEADERS 38
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS..... 39-45

2012 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

This has again been a challenging year, but because of the blessings of our Lord and the dedication of ABCORI staff, board, and volunteers, we have come through triumphantly, and we look to 2013 as a time of new beginnings. Our Executive Minister Search Committee re-started its work in June, and fulfilled its charge in December, presenting Rev. Tom Wiles as the candidate for Executive Minister. The board unanimously approved this recommendation, and Tom was called to be our settled Executive, beginning work in February, 2013. This is an occasion for rejoicing throughout the region. Tom is a faithful servant, and I believe he will lead us wisely into the future.

The year began on a sad note, with staff layoffs and cutbacks. We continue to miss the joyful personality of Sandra Kelly and the great cooking of Jim Goodwin, whose jobs were eliminated. But the remaining staff has worked diligently to continue the work of ABCORI, and we are very thankful for their faithful service even in those difficult days at the beginning of the year.

Operations Manager Rev. Nikita McCalister kept things running smoothly all year. Her skills are many, and she was able to both lead and minister to people, pastors, and churches throughout the region. A Transition Team worked with her to ensure that our mission of Healthy Pastors and Healthy Churches was maintained and advanced.

Janet Essex led a fund development effort, with some talented volunteers. This work resulted in a Champlin Foundation grant for renovations to our Meadowwood Conference Center. Some work has already been completed, with more in the planning stage. The conference center is a very versatile resource, and we have great hope for its expanded use later this year and in the years to come.

We were fortunate to have a superb financial team, with Treasurer Randy Lundquist, Operations Team Chair Don Wolfe, and Budget Chair Bob Sherman working with Nikita to upgrade and update our financial systems. Thanks to their diligence, audits are almost up to date, accounting and bookkeeping systems are fully functional, our balance sheet is accurate, and our shortfalls have been substantially reduced. The Pooled Fund continues to grow under the chairmanship of Tom Kennedy and the management of Sanford Bernstein, and regular distributions are made.

Sadly, we have seen a decline in membership of some of our ABCORI churches, and even some closures. We do not know what the Lord has planned for the future, but we have also seen excitement and growth in other churches, so we pray for His Lordship to help us bring the whole gospel to the whole world. Our membership has met in fellowship several times this year at an educational seminar, a conference and an annual celebration. Our strength is in our association, so we need to rejoice together and strengthen our ties in order to serve Him and support each other more effectively.

I could not possibly name each of the people who have labored so loyally for our association, and have supported me in my role as President, but I am deeply grateful to each one. It has truly been a joy to serve with you. I pray for our future leadership, especially for Tom Wiles and Bob Auld as they settle into their new positions, and for God's guidance for our ABCORI association.



Donna D. Sherman, President

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

2012 continued to be a year of transition for the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island (ABCORI). It's hard to believe that I have had almost two years of ministry with ABCORI. In that time I have seen God move in amazing ways.

In the absence of a settled Executive Minister, I have provided continuity, stability and leadership for the Region during this transitional time. In my role as Director of Operations, I have witnessed the untiring, dedication and commitment of our staff, board, and volunteers. As my ministry as Director of Operations comes to an end, I feel proud to have been a part of the internal processes to chart a long term course of financial and spiritual health for our Region.

I have overseen our generous resources, human, financial and physical. Financially, the Region is in a healthier position for future growth. Through the efforts of many diligent volunteers we have successfully completed several past years' audits and acquired new donated assets.

Administratively, I worked with Fund Developer, Janet Essex, Grant Writer David Burnham, and a volunteer team (Rev. Don Anderson, Rev. Lynn Baker-Dooley, Mr. Frank Cook, Rev. Harry Bronkar, and Mr. Eric and Polly Erickson on the Champlin Foundations

Capital Grant, in which we were awarded \$62,470 for renovations of Meadowwood. This past February 2013, Rev. Rosalie Norman-McNaney and I wrote and applied for The Virginia and Gordon Palmer Jr, Trust Grant Program of the American Baptist Foundation with the help of volunteer team (Rev. Jabulani McCalister, Rev. Wendy Kiefer- O'Brien, Rev. Cynthia Smothers, Rev. Bob Auld, Rev. Kathryn Palen, Dr. Linda Bausserman, and President Donna Sherman); we are awaiting notification. I was awarded the New Root's Providence Grassroots Training Collaboration Performance Management Grant.

The following updates concern our physical properties. We have completed the installation of the air conditioning units and carpeting/flooring for the both Meadowwood and Peirce Lodge. In caring for spacious Canonicus 308 acre property, we continue to address the lower level outlet violation with The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) regarding Lake Adams. We have signed a purchase and sales agreement for Niantic Baptist Church building with Joy Fellowship Assemblies of God. We are in the process of entering a purchase and sales agreement for our property on 260 Victory Highway with Faith Fellowship Community Church.

I have worked with President, Donna Sherman, The Board of Ministries, and the Transition Team to uphold our mission and vision of ABCORI to support *"healthy pastors and healthy churches"*. To that end, I appreciate the prayers and participation of all of our member constituents. I am grateful to so many pastors, members, and friends of ABCORI who have invited me to participate in many celebratory events. In nearly two years, I have been invited into more than half of our seventy member church organization. Your kindness, support, and acceptance have been an enriching and fulfilling experience for me. These opportunities allowed me to connect with member churches, thank them for their continued support of ABCORI and witness the extraordinary work, growth, and ministry demonstrated in our wonderfully diverse association of congregations. For example, I participated in the Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church Dedication Service, First Baptist Church of Bristol Bi-Centennial Anniversary, Allendale 165th Church Rededication Service, Iglesia Bautista Hispana El Calvario Church's Community Christmas Program; Phillips Memorial Church's Black History Celebration, and several ordination and installation services throughout the Region.

I have preached at First Baptist West Warwick Church, Greenville Baptist Church, Union Baptist Church, Congdon Street Baptist Church, Olney Street Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church, Sheldon Street Baptist Church, Church, First Baptist Church of Pawtucket, Chepachet Union Baptist Church, Phenix Baptist Church, Divine Deliverance Baptist Church -Consecration Service, Ebenezer Baptist Church Women's Day Services, The Baptist Church of Warren, Central Baptist Church, Jamestown, Summit Baptist Church, Berean Baptist Church, Bristol Baptist Church, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Warwick Central Baptist Church, Community Baptist Church in Newport - Women's Day Service, and the ABCORI North & West Cluster Good Friday Service.

I have attended various meetings of the Board of Ministry, Operations Team, Personnel Team, Property Team, All Teams, and the Transitional Team. I attended several ABCORI and/or affiliate functions such as the ABW Women's Winter Retreat as the Bible Study Facilitator, ABCORI Women's Tea, and workshop leader for the "From Wilderness to New Beginnings" Conference. I also attended the Regional New England Executive Minister Conference, Rhode Island Council of Churches Breakfast of Heroes, Common Cause Rhode Island Awards Dinner, Panelist for Brown University MLK Dream at 50 Conversation, Retired Ministers and Missionary Benefits Luncheon, ABCUSA National Leadership Council in Orlando, FL, Bi-Regional Staff Team (BiRST), and the Minister Alliance of Rhode Island's Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast and as a Preacher for the Good Friday Seven Last Words Service. Lastly, I will be attending the ABCUSA Transformed by the Spirit Conference in Chicago, IL next week.

In Closing, I would like to express my gratitude to God for the opportunity to be used as a Servant Leader in this Region. I KNOW that God is still doing something new in our midst and that as a Region we have a bright future. For God continues to be faithful to our Region and to His beloved children. God has answered our prayers and has provided us a new Executive Minister in the person of Rev. Tom Wiles. I am excited about our future as a Region under his capable leadership.

In Christ Service,
Rev. Nikita McCalister

DIRECTOR OF ELDERCARE ANNUAL REPORT 2012

The position of Eldercare Director for ABCORI is a very unique position, as there are no other Protestant denominations that employ a full time director. As a result of this uniqueness, I am often asked to part of state wide discussions pertaining to Aging. At the end of this report there is a list of all of the organizations, boards, committees and task forces that I have participated in this year. But my ministry extends far beyond a mere list, albeit extensive. I often find myself meeting or talking on the phone with families of elders who are concerned with their parents' safety, health and living conditions. Aging with dignity can be a challenge, especially as our population lives longer and our numbers are growing. Rhode Island is number one in the United States with a percent of their population over 80. As a result of these numbers families and congregations are struggling with new ways of making decisions and approaching ministry to seniors. This struggle is where I see Eldercare Ministries being a great asset to our ABCORI family.

As a clergy member of ABCORI during 2012 I have served as Ministers Council President for three years. This also means that I sat on the Recruitment Committee, the Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry and the Baptist Fund of RI. I also was a member of the Consultant team and worked with several churches on a course called "Preparation for the Future". As an employee of ABCORI I also attend the Board of Ministry meetings and consult with the Social Witness Team. Unfortunately, both my husband and I had some health issues this year that prompted my resignation from most of the committees that I enjoyed so much. Thankfully, we both seem to be getting healthier so I am hoping to take on a few new projects for ABCORI. One thing Eldercare was able to do this year was provide the refreshments for the ABCORI Annual Gathering in September as well as host a Christmas Party for our Retired Pastors.

Eldercare acts as a resource to our churches as they look at their ministry to their aging population. It is the director's task to oversee the Baptist Home Board's grant program. When a church has completed the work on their project, I make a site visit and submit a report to the grant committee of the Home Board so that payment may be made.

Eldercare sponsors a Chaplain's Support Group, oversees Spiritual Care Coordinators at Tockwotton, Elmhurst and St. Elizabeth's Court and also participates in a Prayer Shawl Ministry at Scandinavian Home. Plus maintaining a relationship with the John Clarke Retirement Center. One of my disappointments this year was not being able to have Body Recall (a fall prevention exercise program for seniors) become a statewide resource. Eldercare sponsored Tina Perry to be trained as an instructor. She was able to try one or two venues for programs but had to leave ABCORI to pursue a full time job. She will be missed.

As an individual I am Vice President of the RI State Council of Churches, a position I have held for two years. I also have been the chair of the Heroes of the Faith Breakfast which has been a very rewarding experience.

State wide Eldercare is a member of several coalitions and organizations and as director I sit on a number of boards. These membership's often mean that I am asked to make presentations throughout the state. I have participated in a Senior Fair in Foster, led a workshop at the annual Senior Agenda Conference and was a speaker at the RI Generations Symposium.

The highlight of the year for speaking was being chosen to lead a workshop at the National American Society On Aging Conference in Washington, D.C in March. Because I spend most of my time in the Greater Providence area, the Baptist Home Board approved moving my office to the city. I am now sharing space with the RI State Council of Churches.

Eldercare Activities for 2012

ABCORI

Ministers Council President; Baptist Fund of RI; Board of Ministries; Social Witness; Consultants; Standing Committee on Ordained Ministries

Churches

Pulpit Supply; Workshops, Bibles Studies, etc.; Visitation Committee at East Greenwich

Long Term Care Ministry

Chaplains Support Group; Spiritual Care Coordinators; Prayer Shawl Ministry; John Clarke: visits, projects, story workshop; Body Recall (also with ABCORI)

RISCC

Vice President and Executive Committee; Heroes of the Faith Breakfast Chair

State Wide Ministry

Senior Agenda Coalition Board of Directors; RI Generations Board of Directors
Interfaith Poverty Coalition: Steering Committee; Respite Care Coalition; Interfaith Eldercare Directors; Teaching at Providence Bible Institute; Older Women's Policy Group; The Fund for Community Progress

National Ministry

Member of National Council on Aging

SUMMER CAMP DIRECTOR ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012

This summer was exceptional. The summer ministry team worked very well together and rose to any challenge that presented itself. This was evident in the quality of experience provided for our campers. Although not a full compliment, we had several excellent camp pastors who participated. We continue to be grateful to the volunteers who add wonderful dimension to the program. We increased camper attendance again, though not as large an increase as last year. We were able to manage the direct expenses so well that we had enough surplus to keep Colleen Tolhurst on for one day a week for the rest of the year. Our thanks must also be extended to several churches and individuals who contributed to the success of our camp ministry through financial giving and the donation of craft supplies and other items. Most important, we thank so many who held up the camp ministry, staff and volunteers in prayer throughout the season.

Getting a handle on the financial picture has been a significant challenge over the last three years. It has been impossible to get financial history, and cost analysis had not been able to be completed. For 2011 and 2012 I decided to track all camp income and expenses independently so that cost analysis could be done, and an accurate budget developed. This was very time consuming, but the access to information was critical to our ability to manage camp effectively. I am excited to report that the budget I have proposed for summer camp 2013 represents the fruit of this labor, and is based on actual data. It still only takes into account direct costs, but going forward, it is my hope that larger scale cost analysis will be able to be conducted and help set a balanced approach to the future.

Since July 2010 Canonicus has not had a Director to participate in the Rhode Island Association of Camps, a group that we actually helped establish. This fall, I began to participate on our behalf. Relationships with colleagues are valuable for a variety of reasons, and I believe Canonicus will benefit from participation with RIAC. Going forward, it is my hope that we can find ways to be more engaged with the New England Section of the American Camp Association also.

We have much to look forward to in 2013. This will be our 65th year of camp! We are assembling a brief celebration video that will include a montage of camp brochures back to the 1950s and some photos of the same vintage. Once completed, this video will be posted on our website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melanie Towle

Summer Camp Director

REPORT OF THE RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE 2012

The basic task of the Recruitment Committee is to nominate candidates for ABCORI officers, the Board of Ministries, ministry teams, and various committees. Should resignations occur, the Committee is tasked with finding replacements whose names are submitted to the Board of Ministries for approval.

This year has been a busy one, as a new slate of officers had to be filled. There were also several key resignations where persons could have continued for another year or term. We are grateful to our ABCORI family, first for all those who joyfully said "yes" when asked, and secondly, for all those who suggested names to us. This was most helpful. Nominations from among our members are always welcome.

My thanks to my colleagues of this past year for their faithful attendance at meetings, and their diligent work on the phones. Thanks to Ann Aldrich, Bob Auld, Alex Gaete, Betty Rae Hopkins, Paul Lawrence, Nikita McCalister, Kate Perry, and Donna Sherman.

Respectfully submitted: Jim Essex, Chair.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY 2012-2013 Annual Report

The Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry (SCOM) meets on the first Thursday of each month to address the ongoing issues of professional ministry—both in the preparatory stages leading to ordination and after ordination to promote healthy pastor/church relationships and, when necessary, to deal with questions of ethics or clergy misconduct. SCOM is charged with maintaining ministerial standards and discipline; coordinating pre-ordination licensing; overseeing the ordination process; and providing continuing education and counseling referrals for clergy.

The committee has four teams that focus on specialized areas:

- ***In-Care***: Provides guidance for candidates who have received their pre-ordination licenses and are now preparing for ordination. Each candidate is assigned an in-care pastor and must meet a standard list of criteria.
- ***Interim Ministries***: Establishes and provides oversight for effective interim ministries in ABCORI.
- ***Ministerial Health***: Coordinates educational opportunities and assumes responsibility for conducting misconduct investigations and following through with ethical issues that may arise. Also works with clergy from other denominations who seek to have their credentials/ordination recognized by ABCORI.
- ***Ordination Procedures***: Works with the candidate and the ordaining church to conduct the council and the ordination service.

Candidates currently under care in preparation for ordination are Virginia O'Shan, Irving Scoby, Michelle Sullivan, Wesley Wagnac, James Whitney, and Lee Williams.

Recognition of pre-ordination licenses or renewal of licenses:

- Virginia O'Shan renewal of license recognized on June 7, 2012

Ordination councils and services:

- Linda Watkins ordination council on July 28, 2012
ordination service on September 22, 2012
- Rebecca Law ordination council on November 18, 2012
ordination service on December 9, 2012
- Michael Mercier ordination council on November 11, 2012
ordination service on January 20, 2013

We offer a special word of appreciation to Robert Auld, who completed his service on SCOM this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Palen, chair

MINISTERS COUNCIL OF RHODE ISLAND Annual Report for 2012

The Ministers Council had a terrific start with our annual retreat in Block Island. Rev. Marie Carpenter coordinated everything relating to this great time of relaxation coupled with learning. We did not have a guest preacher but had our own presenters. Rev. Tom Wallis, Rev. Rosalie Norman-McNaney, Dr. Linda Bausserman and, Rev. Stephen and Becca Hollaway made great presentations on different topics. Rev. Marie Carpenter's term as president expired and Rev. Dr. Paul Lawrence took over as the new president with Rev. Tom Wallis becoming the vice president. The new president gave the sermon at the close of the retreat followed by participation at the Lord's Table.

Rev. Bob Auld, the program Chair publicized 3 TABCOM events held in September and October of 2012 and encouraged all our members to attend. Some of the members did attend them and it was great. One of the very special events that took place at Canonicus was a prayer Breakfast with more than 20 both clergy and bi-vocational pastors in attendance. It was an encouragement to see a revival of interest to pray for ABCORI with an emphasis on holding many such events and inviting more people to attend. Dr. Evan Howard gave a remarkable presentation on Story Telling during the Lenten season. One of the high lights of the Annual Gathering of 2012 was Rev. Dr. Joe Cutter speaking at the event and the Ministers Council making the donation of \$250 made for his air fare. His message was thought provoking to serve the Lord Jesus with consecration and enthusiasm. Let us pray for ABCORI, ABCUSA, AMERICA and all our American Baptist Missionary programs all over the world!

Dr. Paul Lawrence, President

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS Year Ending 2012

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Our primary focus over the last year has been an effort to start ABCORI Relational Ministers:

ABCORI Relational Minister (ARM)

- Pray for each of your assigned pastors and churches (let Pastors know to share their churches concerns and joys with you)
- Contact each of your assigned pastors and church bodies at least quarterly.
- Meet with Executive Minister as needed
- Attend celebratory services of your assigned congregations. ie: church and pastor anniversaries, ordinations, installations, etc.

We have divided our ABCORI region into 10 clusters (approximately 7 churches in each cluster).

Bob Auld, Linda Bausserman, Esther Irish, Reppa Cottrell, Bettye Williams Clanton and Shirley Fortin have all agreed to become ARM's. Don Rasmussen agreed to meet with churches in transition. A couple of clusters are already up and functioning. Please pray for this potentially valuable ministry and consider becoming an ARM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Auld- Facilitator of PLT

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2012

The Congregational Life Team took on a new direction with the Annual Gathering for 2012. The 186th Annual Gathering and Celebration took place on Sunday, September 23, 2012, 2:00 PM at the Baptist Church in Warren. The Theme was "We are one in the Bonds of Love". The Scripture was Ephesians 4:4-6. Church anniversaries and ordination anniversaries were recognized. Keynote speaker was Dr. Joe Kutter former Executive Director of the Minister's Council left us with an inspiring and moving message. The event was well attended by many churches.

The Team attended All Team Building Meetings throughout the year. We also met monthly to plan the 2013 Annual Gathering and All Church Celebration that will take place on Sunday, April 28, 2013, 3:00 PM at the First Baptist Church in America who is celebrating the 375th Anniversary! Musical guests will include the First in America choir along with their organist Steven Martorella and the Mount Hope Baptist Church Praise and Worship Team. The Scripture is Isaiah 40:31 "but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." The Keynote speaker is ABCORI's newly appointed Executive Minister, Reverend Thomas Wiles. There will be a fellowship hour directly following worship. It is our joy to serve the body of Christ in and through ABCORI and the Congregational Life Team.

Respectfully submitted,

Congregational Life Team

SOCIAL WITNESS TEAM Annual Report 2012

With new members added to the team this year we felt that we needed to develop the following mission statement to help guide us: "The Social Witness Team advances the mission of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island by supporting the social justice work of our member congregations. The team also encourages the development and execution of programs, events, and ecumenical and interfaith initiatives to address such issues".

We hope to further the development of other church's social witness programs by highlighting their efforts in the E-notes and by improving efforts to develop a directory of their programs by utilizing the tools of internet social media.

One of the goals of the Board of Missions is to develop diversity awareness. Our team is working on ways to promote this goal by developing a training plan, explore venues for workshops and having church gatherings where their experiences of diversity can be shared.

Submitted by the Social Witness Team

CAMPING AND YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM (CYMT) Annual Report 2012

The 2012 CYMT: Rev. Barry Arruda (Convener), Deb Guilmain (Rep. on the Board of Ministries), Ann Aldrich, Michelle Burnham, Rosa Tysor, Rev. John Houliker and Antonio Lombardi (until 9/12). And, our Canonicus Summer Camp Director, Melanie Towle, faithfully attended our meetings.

The CYMT exists to support and facilitate ABCORI Youth Ministry by: Supporting and encouraging existing/on-going quality Youth Ministries, facilitating the creation of new Youth Ministries and strengthening struggling Youth Ministries. Currently, the three areas of concentration for ABCORI Youth Ministries are: Summer Camping ministry at Canonicus, Regional or statewide youth ministry and Youth ministry in the local church.

The Role of the CYMT is generally administrative and supportive in nature, with the "hands-on" ministry being carried out by (or under the supervision of):

1. The Summer Camp Director (currently Melanie Towle) and the summer staff/volunteers for the Summer Camping ministry at Canonicus
2. The Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT) for regional/statewide youth ministry events/training
3. Various staff, Youth Leaders and Christian Educators (for local church Youth Ministry)

The CYMT meets monthly for prayer, fellowship, reporting on YMPT meetings & activities, the Canonicus Summer Camp ministry, any Board of Ministries' actions, old and new business and event planning (as needed). We also received updates on preparations for *Immerse* (AB National Youth Gathering in 2012), offered assistance with those preparations and received follow-up reports after the event.

After having planned & worked the 2011 Fall Festival, the responsibility fell to the CYMT once again. Realizing the time & effort it would take, we invited the ABCORI leadership & membership to attend a meeting with us to determine the feasibility of adequately organizing & holding a Fall Festival in 2012. Sadly, we needed to make the decision to cancel the 2012 Fall Festival. Perhaps in 2013, a similar event could be created, if there are enough people to share in planning & preparations.

At the end of 2011, we developed the following lofty goals for 2012:

1. To plan and lead a Christian Education Teacher Training event in Summer 2012
 - o Our first annual CE Workshop was held on 8/25/12, at Canonicus. 55 people from 19 churches attended. Workshops were: One Room Schoolhouse, Addressing Special Needs in Christian Education, Lesson Preparation & Youth Ministry. Excellent feedback from attendees. Our second annual CE Workshop is scheduled for 8/24/13.
2. To finish creating a ABCORI Youth Ministry Workers Directory
 - o The development of a youth ministry directory for ABCORI local congregations & regional ministries that was begun in 2011, was completed in 2012. The directory, as well as our youth ministries email contact list, is managed and updated, as needed, by Michelle Burnham.
3. To continue providing support for those attending Immerse in Summer 2012
 - o Individually and/or as a team, we supported our RI group's efforts by: offering ideas/suggestions/feedback regarding fundraisers & travel arrangements, attending fundraisers, encouraging teens to attend the gathering and praying.
4. To work toward increasing 2012 summer camper registrations by 8% (20 campers) over registrations in 2011, which would make summer camper registrations able to fully fund the 2012 summer camp budget. **Our challenge goal is to increase 2012 summer camper registrations by 25% (80 campers) over 2011 registrations.)**
 - o In an attempt to influence an increase in 2012 summer camper registrations, we: offered feedback to Melanie regarding the brochure & camping programs, attempted to clarify amounts & sources available for camperships, encouraged active promotion of Summer Camping programs within & outside of ABCORI, sent out a letter to all ABCORI congregations hoping they would purchase one or more lawn signs to advertise Canonicus & display the signs in their communities. While we did not realize an 8% increase in camper registrations for 2012, there was a nominal increase. And our Canonicus Summer Camping program ended its season in the black!
 - o Additionally, we sought to support the ministry of the Canonicus Summer Camp by: being a resource & support for Melanie, continuing in prayer for that ministry, visiting Canonicus while camp was in-session and the majority of our team serving as summer camp volunteers at various times throughout the camping season.
5. To plan and lead 4 regional youth ministry events in 2012, and 6 regional youth ministry events in 2013.

- *Immerse* required a lot of the YMPT's time & energy. So, holding 4 regional youth ministry events was a challenge. The YMPT planned and led a youth retreat at Canonicus on 3/31/12, and a Halloween Party on 10/28/12. They also organized meet and greet events for those attending *Immerse* from RI, and a reunion for them as well.
- 6. To work toward the establishment of an ABCORI Regional Youth Minister staff position within 5 years (by 2017).
 - We did not address this goal in any way in 2012. With our new Executive Minister in place, perhaps the CYMT will take up further discussion on this in 2013.
- 7. To create a functional, on-going, regional Leadership Training Program for Youth
 - We did not address this goal in any way in 2012.
- 8. To develop an ABCORI Regional Youth Ministry Procedures document to complement the Youth Ministry Policy document we created in 2011.
 - We did not address this goal in any way in 2012

Please continue with us in prayer for our teens, their families and those who have accepted & will accept the call to ministry to/with this awesome generation.

In His Service, and Yours,
 Rev. Barry Arruda (on behalf of your Camping and Youth Ministry Team)

EVANGELISTIC MISSION MINISTRY TEAM Annual Report 2012

The Evangelistic Ministry Team faced tough challenges this past year. We needed to define our mission and begin to explore ways in which that mission could be accomplished. This is what we have done so far.

1. We have defined "evangelism" as the sharing of one's own story of faith.
2. We have acknowledged that many people feel they either do not have a story which is worth sharing or are apprehensive about sharing it.
3. We set a goal to find churches and/or individuals within ABCORI who can share their stories and are willing to share how they do it with others.
4. We set a goal to announce to all ABCORI churches and individuals that we have resources to help people define and share their faith stories.

These tasks are only in their initial phases. We need your help. Here are ways to help us.

1. If you are excited about your faith story, find it easy to share, and want to help others do the same, contact us.
2. If your church is actively helping you and others share your stories of faith, contact us.
3. If you would like to become part of our team, contact us.
4. Pray for us, that God would continue to help us define and fulfill our mission.

On behalf of the team,

Bill Aldrich, "convener"

OPERATIONS Annual Report 2012

2012 marked the beginning of a fiscal turnaround for ABCORI. The continued loss of revenue in the areas of camping and conferencing has again caused deficits, but tighter controls and cuts to personnel and operations has kept the deficit to its smallest in several years.. Excellent work by the budget committee and the Treasurer has contained the deficit for this year, while maintaining an active ABCORI presence. ABCORI ended 2012 with a deficit of \$6,500, a substantial improvement over the \$71,255 deficit of-year 2011. Additionally all fiscal audits through 2009 are complete and we hope to be current in 2013. We believe that this result demonstrates that the ABCORI financials are now in control and provide a solid basis for going forward, The Operations team is proud of its efforts to control the spending and (almost) balance the budget.

The Baptist Fund of Rhode Island continues to provide loans and grants to our churches for improvements to programs and property. All budgeted grants for supported mission activities were paid. The committee also assisted in funding the renovation of Meadowood.

The Budget Committee, under the leadership of Robert Sherman, worked very hard again this year to control spending. As they did in 2011, the committee met quarterly to review spending and make recommendations. In September the committee started the 2013 budget development process. This continued throughout the fourth quarter and entailed some very difficult and painful decisions to provide a budget that would provide for a new Executive Minister and provide overlap coverage from the Director of Operations. Currently projected revenues do not cover the projected expenses and the 2013 budget shows a \$70,000 one year deficit. It is hoped that ABCORI can increase revenue by aggressively marketing the Conference Center this year and reduce the continuing draw on our endowment.

Investment has substantially improved its reporting and accounting of the performance of the Pooled Fund. It has hired an accounting firm to track and report on transaction and performance. The fund continues to recover along with the stock market in general, and performance has exceeded the benchmarks for the year.

Personnel Carla Gardner served as Chair in 2012 and was assisted by Rev. Dan Cottrell during the fourth quarter. The committee had a busy schedule as they addressed staff restructuring changing job descriptions and smoothing out communications issues. They conducted a salary review, surveying local firms and other ABC regions to insure that our salary schedule was competitive. They will be busy in 2013 working with the new Executive Minister to further review the structure of the ABCORI staff.

Properties is the Operations Committee's hidden gem. They work mostly behind the scenes and accomplish near miracles every week. This year in addition to the necessary maintenance that is required to keep the campus in top shape they dealt with DEM and the dam, coming to resolution of the problems with the outlet. They also dealt with the results of the hurricane and flooding of the bottom of Lawrence. In the meantime this group oversaw the refurbishment of Meadowwood and a series of improvement to the building. These upgrades will continue in 2013 and will make Meadowwood more attractive as a Conference and Retreat Center in the years to come. Every year this group makes an outstanding contribution to the success of Canonicus.

I would like to thank the members of the Operations Team and the members of the various committees who contribute hours to the operation of ABCORI. These wonderful volunteers work largely in the background making sure that the mission and vision of ABCORI receive the required support. In particular I want to recognize the efforts of Nikita McCalister, our Director of Operations. Her attention to the myriad of tasks, both large and small, has been a major contribution to the successful operation of ABCORI for these past 2 years and I am very thankful for her efforts. Thank You All!

Respectfully
Don Wolfe Chair

BAPTIST FUND OF RHODE ISLAND (BFRI) Annual Report 2012

In January the members of the Committee approved a budget that enabled BFRI to continue the grants supporting our Partners in Ministry. They are RI State Council of Churches, South Providence Ministries, Shekinah House, ABCORI Ministers' Council, Camp Canonicus, American Baptist Women Ministries, and Mission Works New England. The funding sources were Contributions from ABCORI Churches, an annual draw from funds held in Trust and Church Loan repayments. BFRI also responded to requests for Church Programs support and emergency financial help for Ministers (and family members) In Crisis. In the recent years our sources of funds have diminished as a number of local ABCORI churches have reduced their financial support. BFRI Committee members have been faithful in following the ABCORI policies and procedures that ensure BFRI carrying out its fiduciary responsibility. Randy Lundquist, treasurer of BFRI, has been a great support, not only in his handling the funds, but with his sharing his wisdom when funding is requested. Members of the Committee in 2012:

by virtue of their structural positions – Operations Team Chair: Don Wolfe, ABCORI President: Donna Sherman: ABCORI Treasurer: Randy Lundquist: Operations Manager; Rev. Nikita McCalister: Ministers' Council Rep: Rev. Bob Auld, followed by Rev. Dr. D. Paul Lawrence, and Members at Large: Barbara Staples, Rev. Ethel Corbin.

Carolyn-Yvonne (Vonnie) Dutton, Chair, BFRI (February, 2013)

REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE Annual Report 2012

The ABCORI Pooled Investment Fund. Trustee: American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. Oversight Responsibility: The Investment Committee and Operations Team. Investment Adviser and Fund Manager: Bernstein Global Wealth Management, a division of Alliance Bernstein L.P

Fund Value as of 12/31/2012, **\$5,852.971**

As we move into 2013 we continue to see the markets undulating between highs and lows throughout the year. For last year the return on the portfolio came in at 2.7%. Although there remains a certain amount of volatility in the markets the overall outlook for 2013 is more positive than the past year. Bernstein is suggesting we invest a modest 10% of the portfolio in hedge funds which have been producing a better rate of return. We are currently evaluating this recommendation. We have elected to continue with our 4.5% distribution rate to members who need income from their accounts. Our confidence in Bernstein still remains high.

We are presently preparing to distribute \$235,000 of funds reclaimed from investments previously made outside of the portfolio to those members who were invested in the portfolio when these funds were originally distributed. Also the final consolidation of the accounting work will happen at the end of the first quarter when NRS account reporting is moved to our accounting firm Fradin & Co. CPA in Warwick, RI This year our Annual Banquet will be held at Canonicus Conference Center on May 6, 2013. Watch for details on this event.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas A. Kennedy, Chairman

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE Annual Report April 2012 to February 2013

This committee serves under Operations Team and has as its mission to work cooperatively with ABCORI administration to ensure long and short range quality care of the properties of ABCORI. At the same time we deal with those issues that are sometimes considered immediate concerns to prevent long term problems.

The dedicated work of the members of this committee is appreciated: Walter Lawrence (Phenix Baptist), Lucien Martin (Phenix Baptist), Holly Swift (First Baptist, East Greenwich), Alex Pearson, Bruce Wilcox (First Baptist Church in Hope Valley), Facilities Manager Matt Black and Operations Manager Rev. Nikita McCalister.

Work days were held during the year. The Raiders, working with the Facilities Manager, have worked nearly every Monday throughout the year, as has been the case for many years.

This year as in past years, the Properties Committee has kept its focus on the upkeep and improvement of Canonicus.

Highlights of accomplishments include:

The updating of Meadowwood has been started. A grant has been received for some of the major work. The completion of the remaining updating will be done as money becomes available.

A lot of time has been spent on Lake Adams the low level outlet which needs to be made operational. With the OK from DEM of the plan to repair the low level outlet we have started to lower the pond level so the outlet can be fixed. We owe a special thanks to Matt Bellisle for all his help on design and working with DEM. This is a major project that has to be dealt with.

Many other jobs are on our agenda for the future. Some jobs have been on the agenda for sometime; and others are added weekly.

Bruce F. Wilcox, Chair

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE Annual Report 2012

From "Constitution and By-laws of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island" (March 7, 2011):

Article X, Section D: Personnel Committee

1. The Personnel Committee shall consist of five (5) persons to be divided into three classes (2, 1, and 2), for a term of three years. Members shall be eligible for one additional three-year term and be eligible for a new appointment after the lapse of one year.
2. This Committee shall develop and publish personnel policies and provide for regular evaluation of all staff.
3. This committee shall serve as a forum for grievances or concerns among staff which any staff member feels is not being addressed by the organization and/or its staff.
4. This Committee shall consult with the Executive Minister regarding salaries, wages, and benefits for each staff member. The Committee will make recommendations to the Budget Committee.
5. This committee shall participate on search task forces for executive staff as outlined in Article VII, A3.

Comments on the fulfillment of our duties:

1. Members of the current Personnel Committee are Dan Cottrell, chairperson, Meredith Eckel, Carla Gardner, Jim Miller and Roberta Ritchie.
2. The Committee continued to receive concerns and suggestions about the Employee Manual. There is now a current Employee Manual available. The Committee continues to pursue the refinement of this document to be consistent with all federal and state requirements while providing a faithful and positive work environment for our employees. Under the excellent leadership of Nikita McCalister evaluation of staff was conducted.
3. Among the Committee and other leadership within ABCORI has been an effort to clarify and implement best practices of a Personnel Committee within an organizational structure. Representatives of the Committee have worked in concert with executive leadership of ABCORI to be responsive to employee concerns. It was a consensus among Personnel members that unless there were a filed grievance it is the role of our Committee to facilitate direct communication between involved parties rather than attempt to be a third party to communications or arbiter in management. There were no grievances filed.
4. Personnel has fulfilled its role in consulting with our Executive leadership to be stewards of resources of ABCORI. This has often been an emotionally painful task but the Committee fully participated in discussion and decisions regarding job configuration and funding thereof.
5. The Committee was represented on the Executive Search Committee by Dan Cottrell. The Search Committee concluded its duties and a call was extended. Please see other sections of the Annual Report for details about the successful discernment of God's will for the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island.

Respectfully, submitted
Daniel Cottrell, Chair

**REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES,
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES, USA, 2011-2012 End of the Year Reports**

Dr. Jonathan Malone:

It has been a year of changes in the denomination on the national level. In June 2011, at the biennial in Puerto Rico, the majority of delegates from churches around the country voted in favor of adopting the new bylaws for ABCUSA. Due to this vote, the denomination has embraced a new structure that is designed to save money, to simplify things, and to encourage ministry among American Baptists. One change that effects my position is that I am no longer on the Board of Directors of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS). I am now solely on the Board of General Ministries. This board works with the Office of the General Secretary and the national face of the denomination; it is similar to what was the General Board.

I continue to serve on the Christian Unity Committee that works towards unity and cooperation among other Baptist groups, other Protestant groups, and other Christian groups. Part of this work sent me to Manado, Indonesia this past October for the 2nd Global Christian Forum, a gathering of more than 300 Christians from around the world to consider places of connection among Pentecostals, Evangelicals, and traditional Christian groups.

As I continue to represent ABCORI, one of my major concerns is communication: *How do I share the concerns of the local churches in Rhode Island and the region of ABCORI with the national denomination in a way that effective?* On the flip side: How do I share the concerns, actions, and opportunities that are available through ABCUSA with the region and local churches in ABCORI? I believe that a lack of communication is one of the major wounds in our denomination that weaken relationships and possibilities for ministry. I will continue to consider and pray over this issue.

It is a privilege to represent Rhode Island on the Board of General Ministries.

Blessings and Peace,
Dr. Jonathan Malone

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OF RI Annual Report 2012

In commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to the mission of the Church, and through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, American Baptist Women's Ministries provides opportunities for each woman and girl to become and develop as God's person; build God's faith community and serve God's world.

It's always a challenge to capture a year's activities in a few words. In pursuit of our mission statement above, the following stands out for 2012.

Provides opportunities for each woman and girl to become and develop as God's person ...

AB Women of RI and AB GIRLS (Girls in Relationship, Leadership and Training) partner through the year to provide opportunities for women and girls to cultivate deeper personal relationships with the Lord, develop leadership skills, discover gifts, and then to exercise those talents and gifts in ministry ... locally, regionally, and nationally.

AB Women's Ministries is structured to support vital aspects of ministry and body life: Personal Development, Church and Community, and Missions and Service. Three events during the year are keyed to these areas: (1) a spiritual growth retreat; (2) a spring gathering and election of officers; and (3) a fall mission gathering, respectively. An Annual Conference for Women and Girls rounds out the year's activities ... all developed and planned in conjunction with the national theme: *In the Potter's Hands* (2011-2013).

The Spiritual Growth Retreat led by Sharon Johnson, Coordinator of Personal Development, was held at Canonicus, January 27-28, 2012. The theme "God Speaks Your Love Language" was interpreted and presented by Sharon in such a way that women and girls were brought into a deeper understanding of the scope of God's love for us. Total attendance was 58 (53 adults and 5 girls).

The Spring Women's Day and Election of Officers led by Ruthann Lombardi, Coordinator of Church and Community, was held at Norwood Baptist Church on March 24, 2012. There were approximately 70 women (and some men) in attendance, representing 18 churches. Rev. Ethel Corbin engaged us in a meaningful Bible study. Annette Corley of the Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center provided an informative overview of elder abuse, designed to increase our awareness of a form of domestic violence often overlooked.

Fall Mission Day, led by Peggy Johnson, Coordinator of Missions and Service, was held October 20, 2012, at Oak Lawn Community Church. The theme was "Shaped to Serve" (Isaiah 64:8). Corenne Garrison Smith was the guest missionary. There were workshops on White Cross and we made bags for White Cross. Corenne led a Bible Study that included time for questions and answers about her missionary work in Brazil. The ABGIRLS also met with us and made book marks with the theme Scripture verse on them which were then presented them to the first timers. Everyone left with a greater appreciation of missionary work in other lands.

The 85th Annual Conference for Women and Girls, coordinated by Donna Landry (Break the Chains Advocate), was held at Canonicus on June 1-2, 2012. Keynote speaker was Rev. Cheryl Harris from Massachusetts. The conference theme was *In the Potter's Hands*. Workshops and a "paper shower" for SPNM were conference highlights. There were 66 in attendance, 11 first-timers, and 7 ABGIRLS.

Speaking of ABGIRLS, under the capable leadership of Mary Vo, a small but increasing number of young woman gather at all of our statewide events. Girls in grades 3-12 are welcome to take part in this ministry. Care is taken at each event to have specific programming to meet the girls' needs. Care is also taken to bring girls and women together for interactive and intergenerational activities and worship. The GIRLS we nurture now ... are the women of tomorrow.

In addition to all of the above, the women of RI were pleased to partner in the first ever National Young Adult Women's Conference, held at Canonicus in September: *C2R4 ... Confidence through Christ: Retreat, Reflect, Renew, Relate*. Fifty young adult women (ages 18-40) came together for a time of refreshing, blessed by the preaching ministry of Rev. Dr. Trinette McCray, the music ministry of Hornrette Washington, and Alexandra Kuykendall, of MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers). Two young women from RI (Katie Woolf and Dawn Whaley) received scholarships from national AB Women's Ministries and ABW-RI, which allowed them to participate in the retreat. Many RI women provided transportation between airport and Canonicus.

Build God's faith community and serve God's world ...

AB Women and GIRLS devotedly support White Cross and Love Gift, two national ministries supported by women, but which involve everyone in our churches as goals are publicized and then reached. Thanks to the many men and women and boys and girls who join forces to keep these ministries vibrant and growing.

In addition, special mission projects for RI are determined and goals set each year. The State Mission Project goal for 2011-2012 was to raise \$2,000 for H2O (Healing to Overcomes) equally divided between clean water in Haiti (installing latrines, filters, tanks, purification systems) and surgery for women in Congo who suffer with fistulas. We are happy to report that we exceeded our goal. The State Mission Project for 2012-2013 is also a two-part project, seeking to raise \$2,500 to help pay for renovations at Hopi Sunlight Mission in Arizona and provide scholarships for children's after-school programs at South Providence Neighborhood Ministries.

In May 2012, Carla Gardner was one of 11 women chosen to take part in a national mission trip to Alaska. The trip was sponsored through the American Baptist Home Mission Societies and American Baptist Women's Ministries. The ladies visited the Alaska Children's Services in Anchorage, Cordova Community Christian Center in Cordova, and Kodiak Baptist Mission in Kodiak. If you have never experienced the life-changing nature of a mission trip, I encourage you to put it on your bucket list ... make it a priority to be part of one.

The Johnsons (Peggy, Sharon, Rachel) provided retreat leadership in West Virginia. Rev. Betty-Rae Hopkins led a retreat for the CT women.

Many more of our women are unsung heroines ... going where called ... ministering in Jesus' name ... without fanfare or applause. We give God our grateful thanks for such women.

Rev. Betty-Rae Hopkins, President

BAPTIST HOME BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND Annual Report 2012-2013

President's Report:

This has been a very busy year.

The Baptist Home Board of Rhode Island has met quarterly throughout the past year. (May, August, November and February). Our principal function is the stewardship of a substantial endowment, supervising those investments and using the resources the endowment provides to "do all that is necessary or incidental to carry out the object of assisting and providing a Christian living environment for aging men and women by ministering to their spiritual, educational, recreational and related needs."

These funds provide for the Eldercare Ministries of ABCORI by funding the salary and work of the Eldercare Minister, Rev. Marie Carpenter, whose report is printed elsewhere in this packet and details the nature and extent of her work. We are grateful for the energy she brings to her task. To better enable her to meet with churches and other eldercare agencies more efficiently, the board approved the move of her office physically to space in Providence. No other changes in the administration of the eldercare ministry are intended nor anticipated.

Our endowment provides substantial support for the John Clarke Retirement Center. Areas of support include apartment subsidies, the Chaplaincy program, transportation facilities, and Security. This year the board approved the appointment of two of our members to represent us by visiting with the staff and residents at John Clarke to expand mutual communication. In addition we have held a joint meeting of the Baptist Home Board and the John Clarke Board to begin to further expand this effort.

Our Finance Committee reviewed the budget requests from Eldercare Ministries and John Clarke Retirement Center in detail with Rev. Carpenter and John Clarke Administrator, Nicki Cicogna. We are pleased to report the BHB was able to approve both requests in full for the current year.

To the extent limited funds permit the BHB makes grants to local churches to assist them in making their facilities more accessible and comfortable for the elderly as well as assisting with funding for programs directly benefiting elderly participants. This year we approved three grants to Rhode Island American Baptist churches.

Respectfully submitted,
L. Vernon Robinson, Jr.
President

By-Law change voted on at Annual Business Meeting, March 4, 2013

Provide for an annual audit by a certified public accountant who is not affiliated with the Corporation. The Board will determine each year the level of audit required. A copy of the Auditor's Report will be forwarded to the Board of Directors for the Secretary's permanent records.

Baptist Home Board of Rhode Island

2013 Officers

President	L. Vern Robinson
Vice President	Michael D. Burch
Secretary	Virginia Mancini
Treasurer	Jack Rawcliffe
Assistant Treasurer	Randy Dittmar

Board of Directors

Term Ends 2014

Peggy MacNie
Vincent L. Thompson, Jr. +
Claire Walker

Term Ends 2015

Carl H. Balark, Jr.
Virginia O'Shan
Rosalie Norman-McNaney

Term Ends 2016

William K. Austin +
Linda Boyd
Idela Wilson +

+ *nominees to be voted 2013*

Staff of American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island

The Rev. Marie Carpenter, Director of Elder Care Ministries
The Rev. Thomas Wiles, Executive Minister

THE RHODE ISLAND BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY Annual Report 2012

The Society (RIBES) continues its mission of supporting seminarians and ordination candidates by providing educational advances to students of our ABCORI family. The yearly deadline for applications is March 31.
For the school year 2011-2012, we supported the following four students with educational advances:

Continuing Students:

Alejandro Gaete
Joseph Campbell
Wesley Wagnac
James Whitney

As a Society, we support our students by paying a portion of the cost for attending the required Center for Career Development and we also support our students who take an Ethics-Boundaries course.

Our Funds are held in accounts with Merrill Lynch, The ABCORI Pooled Fund and Citizens Bank.

RIBES Board of Directors 2013-2014

Class of 2013-14	Class of 2014-2015	Class of 2015-2016
Rev. Cynthia Smothers (1)	Rev. Robert Auld (2)	Rev. Darin Collins (1)
Susan Colantonio (2)	Rev. Shirley Fortin (1)	Ernie Carpenter (2)
Rev. Virginia Alvarez (1)	Rev. Shyral Wallis (1)	Janice Fletcher (2)
Rev Donald Rasmussen (1)	Vacancy	Vacancy

Our roster changes for RIBES in the spring of each year.

(1) = First 3 year cycle

(2) = Second 3 year cycle

President: Rev. Robert Auld

Vice President: Vacancy

Corresponding Secretary: Janice Fletcher

Recording Secretary: Rev Shyral Wallis

Treasurer: Sue Colantonio

Rhode Island Baptist Education Society
Annual Treasurer's Report
December 31, 2011 thru 12/31/2012

Cash Balance, Checking Account, as of 12/31/11		\$ 11,252.84
 <u>Receipts:</u>		
RIBES invested funds income	25,000.00	
ABCORI Barney fund income	671.26	
Total Receipts		25,671.26
 <u>Disbursements:</u>		
Payments to theological schools	9,652.00	
Center for Career Dev	1,000.00	
Cayer Caccia (audit fee final pmt)	1,250.00	
Total Disbursements		\$ 11,902.00
 Bank fees	 54.00	 \$ 54.00
 Cash Balance, Checking Account, as of 12/31/12		 <u><u>\$ 24,968.10</u></u>
 RIBES Money Market Balance @ 12/31/11		 \$ 11,687.28
Interest earned	5.86	
RIBES Money Market as of 12/31/12		<u><u>\$ 11,693.14</u></u>
 Motter Fund Money Market @ 12/31/11		 \$ 18,378.15
Scholarships awarded	500.00	
Interest earned	9.14	
Cash Balance, Motter @ 12/31/12		<u><u>\$ 17,887.29</u></u>
 ABCORI Fund Market Value as of 12/31/12		 \$ 31,657.29
ABCORI Barney Fund Market Value as of 12/31/12*		\$ 12,717.00
RIBES Long Term Investment Fund @ 12/31/12		<u><u>\$452,596.30</u></u>

*RIBES receives income but does not own fund

Respectfully submitted,
Susan R. Colantonio, Treasurer

RHODE ISLAND BAPTIST HERITAGE Annual Report 2012

The purpose of the Rhode Island Baptist Heritage Center is to help our American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island to connect the past with the present, ever looking to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with each generation of the future.

In 2012, we met every other month to fulfill our stated purpose in a variety of undertakings.

We republished the little booklet The "Hometown" of Baptist in America. Copies are available upon request from our Secretary, Don Rasmussen or from any member of the BHC.

We continued to be active in the preservation of the records of several of our Baptist churches that have closed in the previous years.

1. December 2011: to the RI Historical Society: large painted portrait of Mrs. Helen A. Metcalf, benefactor of the Roger Williams Baptist Church.

photographs of the Weeden Mill of North Providence.

2. March 2012: to the RI Historical Society: some duplicate photos of the Roger Williams Baptist Church.

3. March 2012: to the John Hay Library at Brown University: the records and papers of the Meshanticut Park Community Baptist Church / Orchard Church

4. April 2012: to the John Hay Library at Brown University: the records and papers of the Roger Williams Baptist Church, Providence.

5. April 2012: to the John Hay Library at Brown University: the records and papers of the Niantic Baptist Church, Bradford.

6. May 2012: to the John Hay Library at Brown University: the records and papers of the West Exeter Baptist Church.

In the fall of 2013, we plan to offer the Baptist Polity course for those in our churches who want to learn more about being an American Baptist. The course is taught over three sessions: Baptist History; Baptist Distinctives; and ABC Denominational Structure.

In conclusion, let me say that the Baptist Heritage Center is here to serve our local ABCORI churches by answering questions about preserving vital church records as well being a resource for learning more about our rich RI Baptist heritage that began in 1638. To contact the BHC email the Rev Paul Hanson at ubcnpt@verizon.net or by calling 401-847-3210.

The following is our Board of Directors for 2013

The Officers and Board of Directors of the Baptist Heritage Center

Officers

President	Rev. Dr Paul Hanson
Vice President	Nancy Cyr- Larson
Secretary	Rev. Dr. Donald Rasmussen
Treasurer	Donald Waterman

Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. Charles Hartman
Rev. James Miller
Rev. Delphain Demosthenes
Rev Steve Hollaway
Rev. Dr. Johnny Wilson
Rev Clay Berry

The Baptist Heritage Center' Financial Statement 1/1/2012-12/31/2012

Cash Balance 1/1/2012	\$3,469.18
Receipts	
Booklets	28.00
Expenses	
ABCORI Donation	\$ 300.00
Booklet Printing	<u>426.00</u>
Total Expense	\$ 726.00
Cash Balance 12/31/2012	\$2,771.18
Assets	
Coventry Credit Union Share Account	\$ 5.00
Coventry Credit Union Checking Account	<u>2,766.18</u>
Total	\$2,771.18

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Dr. Paul M. Hanson

FINANCIALS 2012

American Baptist Churches of RI, Inc.
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2012

	<u>12/31/12</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1002 · Petty Cash - Admin	400.00
1004 · Petty Cash - Conference	100.00
1010 · Checking - Gen Fund 3366	33,508.42
1015 · Checking - Baptist Fund 1081	68,603.23
1020 · Checking - Pooled Fund 7316	13,966.23
1025 · Savings - Champlin Grant 9273	36,232.05
Total Checking/Savings	152,809.93
 Accounts Receivable	
1601 · Accounts Receivable	5,339.40
Total Accounts Receivable	5,339.40
 Other Current Assets	
Prepaid Expenses	
2004 · Prepaid Other	3,000.00
Total Prepaid Expenses	3,000.00
1412 · N/R - Haitian BC of RI	7,842.37
1602 · Receivable - Other	225.74
Total Other Current Assets	11,068.11
 Total Current Assets	 169,217.44
 Fixed Assets	
2009 · Buildings - New ABCORI O	475,060.00
2010 · Resource Center	6,044.00
2400 · Leasehold Improvements	21,742.13
2601 · Land Owned - Churches	1.00
2602 · Land Held In Trust - Church	5.00
2608 · Land - Canonicus Camp &	35,901.00
2610 · Ad Building - Project #7	8,327.00
2611 · Buildings Owned - Churches	65,001.00
2612 · Building In Trust - Churches	5.00
2613 · Cabins & Activity Ctrs. Proj	208,827.47
2614 · Roads & Signs - Project #5	13,994.00
2615 · Conference Center - Project #	1,897,343.00
2616 · Water Systems - Project #10	71,783.00

2618 · Buildings - Canonicus C&C	405,588.44
2619 · Buildings - Director's House	116,510.13
2620 · Buildings - Retreat Houses	206,496.75
2621 · Equipment - Hope Street	126,647.53
2622 · Landscape	174,700.00
2623-01 · Land-West Greenwich Church	190,000.00
2623 · Properties Committee	73,038.52
2624 · Capital Improvements	50,343.29
2625 · Buildings-Rathbun	18,050.88
2626 · Buildings-Motter	6,638.38
2627 · Hanson Trading Post	10,456.09
2628 · F, F & E - Canonicus	392,244.01
2629 · Canonicus Septic System	61,535.00
2630 · New Bath House Project	55,160.00
2631 · Cliff Shelter Project	646.28
2632 · Meadowwood	14,290.00
2633 · Shaub	17,970.91
2635 · Vehicles	44,536.47
2711 · Accum. Depreciation F,F & E	-478,565.00
2718 · Accum. Depreciation Build.	-2,678,766.00
2719 · Accum. Depreciation-Vehicles	<u>-26,904.00</u>
Total Fixed Assets	1,629,773.05
Other Assets	
1012 · Fidelity-Church Bldg & Ext	25,721.55
1040 · ABC Clinton Edna Philips Memorial	25,941.08
1041 · Investments-AB Extension	71,368.24
1200-07 · Wells Fargo fka Evergreen Invest	3,559.26
1295 · Pool Fund Investments	5,714,616.27
1296 · Due To Pooled Fund Members	-125,140.35
1297 · PIF Deposits Received	246,780.11
1299 · Margin Account A. Bernstein 039	-175,628.47
1451 · ABEC - Note# 2	25,000.00
1452 · N/R Phillips	175,628.47
3001 · N/P-Pooled Funds - ABEC Note# 1	-74,993.04
3002 · N/P-Pooled Funds - ABEC Note# 2	<u>-25,000.00</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>5,887,853.12</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>7,686,843.61</u></u>

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RI, INC.
 Balance Sheet
 As of December 31, 2012

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

3100 · Accounts Payable 30,621.15

3110 · Accounts Payable - Pooled Fund 337.35

Total Accounts Payable 30,958.50

Other Current Liabilities

1700 · Due To/From Baptist Home 31,647.13

2000-02 · Due to Pooled Fund 2,743.61

3200 · Security Deposits - Rentals 2,000.00

3202 · Unearned Income 57,228.49

3251 · Due to others 7,985.00

3252 · Due to AB Peacemakers of RI 1,522.43

3604 · Accrued Expense & Liabilities 22,000.00

Total Other Current Liabilities 125,126.66

Total Current Liabilities 156,085.16

Long Term Liabilities

3400 · Due To Member Churches 1,317,565.87

Total Long Term Liabilities 1,317,565.87

Total Liabilities 1,473,651.03

Equity

4000 · Fund Balance 1,312,744.99

4001 · Temp. Restricted IBT Net Assets 1,986,634.00

4003 · Perm. Restricted Net Assets 2,075,596.00

4011 · Retained Earnings 838,052.98

Net Income 164.61

Total Equity 6,213,192.58

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 7,686,843.61

ABCORI ANNUAL BUDGET FOR – 2013

	Jan - Dec 13
Income	
5000 · REVENUE	
5010 · America for Christ Offering	5,000.00
5020 · Kingdom Building	12,000.00
5030 · United Mission Giving	120,000.00
5040 · Honoraria	2,000.00
5060 · Gifts & Donations-Unrestricted	10,000.00
Total 5000 · REVENUE	149,000.00
5100 · REVENUE - GRANTS	
5120 · Grants - Other	5,000.00
Total 5100 · REVENUE - GRANTS	5,000.00
5200 · REVENUE PROGRAMS	
5210 · Summer Camp Fees	80,000.00
5230 · Youth Ministries	1,500.00
5410 · Camp Store	5,000.00
Total 5200 · REVENUE PROGRAMS	86,500.00
5300 · CONFERENCES	
5320 · Retreat Fees General	225,000.00
Total 5300 · CONFERENCES	225,000.00
5500 · OTHER INCOME	
5560 · Management Fee- Special Project	20,000.00
5565 · Management Fee - ElderCare	8,600.00
5500 · OTHER INCOME - Other	36,000.00
Total 5500 · OTHER INCOME	64,600.00
 Total Income	 530,100.00
 Gross Profit	 530,100.00
Expense	
6000 · ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	
6020 · Copyright License	245.00
6030 · Fees & Dues	4,000.00
6040 · Workers Compensation Insurance	7,500.00
6045 · Insurance - Umbrella	6,000.00
6090 · Office Supplies	3,500.00
6100 · Office Equipment Expense	1,000.00
6110 · Postage	2,000.00
6120 · Telephone	9,000.00

6140 · Consultants	4,000.00
6150 · Investment Fees	15,000.00
6160 · Audit & Consulting	22,000.00
6170 · Accounting Fees (Bookkeeping)	16,000.00
6180 · Legal Fees	<u>1,500.00</u>
Total 6000 · ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	91,745.00

6200 · PERSONNEL SERVICES

6210 · Payroll - Regular Employees	110,000.00
6212 · Payroll - Support Staff	25,000.00
6215 · Temp Staff - Outside Service	48,000.00
6225 · Employee Medical Insurance	27,935.00
6230 · Payroll Tax Expense	13,725.00
6240 · Payroll Service Expense	2,500.00
6250 · Prof Exp Exec Min (trav/enter)	20,200.00
6255 · Prof. Exp Staff Development	700.00
6260 · Travel - Other Staff	500.00
6300 · Payroll - Professional Salaries	58,460.00
6310 · Professional Staff - Housing	27,700.00
6315 · Professional Staff - Pension	<u>14,200.00</u>
Total 6200 · PERSONNEL SERVICES	348,920.00

7000 · OCCUPANCY EXPENSES

7010 · Custodial	18,000.00
7020 · Cleaning Expense	7,000.00
7030 · Domestic Furnishings	2,500.00
7040 · Electricity	23,000.00
7050 · Natural Gas	18,000.00
7060 · Insurance - Buildings	16,400.00
7080 · Maintenance Supplies	11,500.00
7090 · Heating Oil	13,000.00
7110 · Propane	9,000.00
7120 · Equipment Repairs	12,000.00
7130 · Vehicles Maintenance	4,500.00
7140 · Gasoline	4,500.00
7150 · Vehicle Insurance	4,500.00
7160 · Water	6,000.00
7180 · Contractual Services	<u>20,000.00</u>
Total 7000 · OCCUPANCY EXPENSES	169,900.00

8100 · PROGRAM EXPENSES - CAMP

8110 · Seminars & Workshops	500.00
8115 · Marketing & Dev Printing	4,000.00
8120 · Marketing & Dev Advertising	500.00
8140 · Youth Ministry	<u>1,500.00</u>
Total 8100 · PROGRAM EXPENSES - CAMP	6,500.00

8200 · CAMP EXPENSES	
8245 · Program Supplies	6,500.00
8250 · Medical Supplies	<u>350.00</u>
Total 8200 · CAMP EXPENSES	6,850.00
8300 · CONFERENCE EXPENSES	
8310 · Food - Conferencing	40,000.00
8320 · Kitchen Supplies	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total 8300 · CONFERENCE EXPENSES	45,000.00
8400 · FUND RAISING EXPENSES	
8410 · Store Supplies	3,000.00
8420 · Annual Gathering	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total 8400 · FUND RAISING EXPENSES	4,000.00
9940 · AMS Payment of Loan	17,000.00
9950 · Authorized Draw	<u>-90,000.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>599,915.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-69,815.00</u></u>

Baptist Home of Rhode Island

	2012	Financial	Statement	2012	2013
	2011	2011	2012		
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Proposed
BHB REVENUE					
Portfolio Income & Transfers	290,235	279,264	260,000	249,692	258,000
Interest Income (ckg, ABEC, loans)	2,000	581	1,000	228	1,000
Trust Transfers (Roberts)	10,000	11,177	10,000	7,774	10,000
Trust Fund Distribution (Dec)	5,000	10,583	5,000	5,020	5,000
GRAND TOTAL INCOME	307,235	301,605	276,000	262,714	274,000
BHB EXPENSES					
Elder Care Ministry					
Salary				31,000	31,000
Housing	55,000		55,000	24,000	24,000
Pension (MMBB)	9,473		9,480	9,473	9,480
Medical	13,934		9,816	9,589	9,692
FICA (Social Security offset)	4,208		4,208	4,207	4,208
Wk's Comp/Grp Life Ins	300		300		300
Total Compensation	82,915	82,450	78,804	78,269	78,680
Program Development - payroll	1,000	2,770	450	1,380	
Professional Expense (Mileage)	1,200	1,118	2,000	3,465	2,450
Continuing Education	300	235	400	65	400
CPE Scholarships	1,000		750	500	750
<i>Spiritual Care Coordinators</i>	25,000	16,360	26,000	14,804	28,000
Chaplain's Support	900	1,881	1,000	675	1,000
Volunteer Banquet	1,200	1,420	1,000		
Clerical Support Payroll- (Kelly)	2,640		2,846	824	2,500
Pastors (Circle I)	2,500	2,201	2,000	1,262	2,400
Churches (Circle II)	2,500	2,522	2,000	2,131	2,400
Wider Mission (Circle III)	2,500	7,889	2,000	4,630	2,400
Office Supplies & Postage, Equipment	500	365	450	927	820
Fees and Dues	150		400	145	400
Resources & Literature	250	290	200	75	200
Older Adults Programs			2,500		2,500
Seminary Intern	1,800		0		
Grandparents Camp, Campers. & Sr. Conf.	1,700				
Rent of office space	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,625	5,100
TOTAL Elder Care Ministry	135,255	126,701	130,000	116,777	130,000
BHB Special Ministries					
Grants (to other churches)	10,720	3,440	10,000	7,730	20,000
L&P Fees / (Consulting) Bank fees	200	96	100	58	100
Accounting Serv & AUDIT	5,000		2,000	6,400	1,100
Postage & Supplies	50	52	50	0	50
Sec. of State Filing Fee	30	20	20	20	20
Subtotal BHB Spec. Ministries	16,000	3,608	12,170	14,208	21,270
John Clark Retirement Center					
Nursing Services	65,833	43,891	40,000	39,344	40,000
Nursing Home Chaplains	35,890	29,316	28,000	27,000	28,800
Transportation	12,000	12,935	12,000	9,409	6,500
Security Expense	12,000	13,000	12,000	13,521	12,000
Rent subsidies (6 residents)	40,000	42,920	40,000	32,113	32,640
Held Bed Days		5,405	2,000	0	
Subtotal - JCRC Program	165,723	147,467	134,000	121,387	119,940
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	316,978	277,776	276,170	252,372	271,210
Surplus / (Deficit)	-9,743	23,829	-170	10,342	2,790

J. Whitney Bancroft, Treasurer

2/11/2013

Minutes - 186th Annual Meeting
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
Monday, March 5, 2012, Check-in 6:45; meeting begins 7:00 p.m.
at Warwick Central Baptist Church

Donna D. Sherman, President, opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates and guests.

The opening devotion was given by Rev. John Houliker.

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

7:10 – see written reports

Highlighted - 3rd Biennial Baptist Heritage weekend

Baptist Polity Course developed, will be held again in the fall of 2012

Brochure – “Hometown of Baptists in America”

Motion made to accept the report and the nomination of officers, seconded. Approved

Adjourned – 7:15

Annual Meeting of the Baptist Home Board of RI was called to order by Mr. Richard Pierce, President

7:15 – see written reports

\$ 277,776 was disbursed in 2011, primarily to John Clarke Retirement Center and Eldercare Ministries.

Also provided grants to churches for projects for the elderly.

Election of new officers and directors. Motion made to accept, seconded. Approved.

Adjourned – 7:20

RIBES – Rhode Island Baptist Education Society was called to order by Rev. Bob Auld, President

7:21 – see written report

Changes to written report:

Class 2014-2015 - Cheryl Wallace, and Barbara DaCosta added

Motion made to accept, seconded. Approved.

9 seminarians under care in 2011

Adjourned – 7:23

Call to Order of ABCORI ANNUAL MEETING - Donna Sherman called the meeting to order - 7:24

Clerk:..... Rev. Leigh Johnson

Parliamentarian: Richard Pierce

Roll Call of Churches Rev. Leigh Johnson

Minutes - March 7, 2011 Annual Meeting..... Rev. Leigh Johnson

Paul Hanson moved to accept, seconded by Doug Hopkins, accepted.

2011 Treasurer’s Report and 2012 Budget Randy Lundquist, Treasurer

Reports

Report of the Operations Manager..... Rev. Nikita McCalister Nikita presented her report.

Randy Lundquist presented the Treasurer’s report – goal for 2012 was to break even, fell a little short (\$ 18,990) but is hopeful to make up the difference. Motion made to accept by Barbara Staples, Paul Schoonmaker seconded. Accepted.

Report of the Director of Elder Care Ministries Rev. Marie Carpenter

See written report.

Highlighted the resources available through Eldercare Ministries.

New – Tina Perry was trained as a Body Recall Exercise Therapists, will be holding classes.

Has been actively involved in many agencies.

Has spoke in churches on Spirituality of Aging

Commented on the high ratio of seniors in RI.

Newest project - Older Women’s Policy Group.

Report from the General Board of ABC-USA..... Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone

See written report

Antonio Lombardi presented report as RI representative. Due to restructuring will no longer be our delegate but will continue to be involved with Baptist Home Mission Society.

Jonathan Malone gave his report. Concerned about how to bring the churches' concerns to the General Board.

Prayer for the ministries of the American Baptist Churches of RI was led by Rev. Rosalie Norman-McNaney.

A moment was taken to show appreciation to the ABCORI staff.

Continuing Business - none

New Business

Request for ABCORI recognition: Divine Deliverance Baptist Church Donna Sherman
Rev. Ernest Ward spoke briefly about the church. Started meeting at Allendale Baptist. Seconded motion from Board of Ministries. Approved.

Proposed By-law Revisions Donna Sherman
Seconded motion from Board of Ministries. Approved.

Proposed Revision of the Covenant of Relationships..... Don Waterman
Don Waterman spoke of the reasons for revising the covenant and how it might strengthen us as a region. It was suggested that the word 'then' could be removed from the first line of the second paragraph under 'ABCORI AND ITS INFRASTRUCTURE'. Motion made to make this change, seconded. Approved. Seconded Motion from the Board of Ministries to accept the amended covenant. Approved

Report of the Recruitment Committee and Election James R. Essex, Chair
Voting on those names underlined in the report. Seconded motion from Recruitment Committee. Approved.

Report of the Executive Minister Search Committee Walter Horridge, Chair
Walter described the process. Jeff Woods serving as search advisor. Expressed thanks to ABCORI staff members for their input. In January the search was suspended until June 2012, with the goal of having a new Executive by Jan. 2013.

Donna Sherman commented on the difficult decisions that have been made and the actions taken to make sure that ABCORI business continues smoothly. Described the work of the Transition Team.

Other Business to Come Before the Meeting

Rick Robison from Social Witness presented information on inequities in the tax structure. Looking for feedback and people interested in working on this issue.

Announcements

- *From Genesis to Exodus* Conference Rev. Rosalie Norman-McNaney
March 23-24 in Northborough, for churches in transition to meet with Jeff Woods about new models for doing ministry.
- Annual Gathering Announcement Rev. Betty-Rae Hopkins
Sept. 9, Baptist Church in Warren, Roy Medley will be keynote speaker. Theme: "We Are One", Scripture - Eph. 1:4-6. Emphasized that this is not just for delegates.
- Report from the Baptist Fund of Rhode Island Written

Introduction/Installation of newly elected members

Closing Prayer Rev. Alex Gaete

Adjourned – 8:56

187TH ANNUAL MEETING (SESSION A)
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND
Organized 1825 – Chartered 1826 PAST CONVENTION RECORDS

YEAR	PLACE OF MEETING	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY/ EXECUTIVE	BAPT ISMS	MONEY EXPENDED	WORLD MISSION GIVING
1950	Providence, First	Mrs. H.C. Johnson	Kenneth L. Cober	686	56,099	86,965
1951	Providence, Church of the Master	Leon F. Kenney	Kenneth L. Cober	688	49,964	86,700
1952	Wakefield, First	John A. Mitchell, Jr	Kenneth L. Cober	551	58,311	84,088
1953	Warren	Frederick E. Gardner	Chris E. Lawson	642	53,762	87,013
1954	Westerly, Central	Lewis L. Allen	Chris E. Lawson	802	49,094	107,917
1955	Prov, Cran. St-Roger Williams	Hinson V. Howlett	Chris E. Lawson	783	43,961	112,562
1956	Phillips Memorial	Mrs. Ruth Skoog	Chris E. Lawson	802	47,530	117,881
1958	Providence, Central	Frank H. Snell	Chris E. Lawson	697	51,508	136,390
1959	Providence, Central	Harold L. Brown	Chris E. Lawson	830	68,865	135,572
1960	Westerly, Central	J. Edwin Ring	Chris E. Lawson	721	73,759	142,265
1961	Providence, Central	Elihu W. Wing Jr	Chris E. Lawson	754	72,728	149,493
1962	Providence, Calvary	George H. Long	Hale F. Thornberry	638	76,694	162,054
1963	Prov, Cran. St-Roger Williams	Wesley B. Drolette	Hale F. Thornberry	633	86,576	159,920
1964	Providence, First	Miss Alberta Brown	Hale F. Thornberry	606	80,289	167,212
1965	Providence, Central	Homer L. Trickett	Hale F. Thornberry	640	114,980	168,062
1966	Cranston, Phillips Memorial	Donald A. Jones	Hale F. Thornberry	588	139,978	171,207
1967	Providence, Calvary	R. Leroy Moser	Hale F. Thornberry	436	130,479	176,065
1968	Prov, Cran. St-Roger Williams	Thomas Palazzi	Hale F. Thornberry	427	132,136	178,557
1969	Westerly, Central	Forest L. Parsons	Hale F. Thornberry	488	140,824	174,262
1970	Providence Central	Stewart R. Essex	Warren L. Adams	458	136,149	175,353
1971	Cranston, Phillips, Memorial	George H. Moseley	W. Eugene Motter	391	138,834	171,231
1972	Warren	Lois Hopkins Deware	W. Eugene Motter	430	143,797	171,360
1973	Providence, Ebenezer	Roscoe C. Robinson	W. Eugene Motter	456	159,908	182,314
1974	Greenville	William R. Guise	W. Eugene Motter	454	163,931	180,160
1975	Providence, Central & First	Wilma S. Waterman	W. Eugene Motter	346	178,027	182,670
1976	Springfield, Massachusetts	L. Edgar Stone Jr.	W. Eugene Motter	486	182,171	182,963
1977	Providence, Calvary	Earl M. Pearson	W. Eugene Motter	336	181,491	190,411
1978	Cranston, Phillips Memorial	Blanche L. Jones	W. Eugene Motter	401	181,158	224,944
1979	Pawtucket, First	W. Gordon Carter	W. Eugene Motter	400	189,191	286,937
1980	Westerly, Central	Joshua A. McClure	W. Eugene Motter	446	197,528	285,268
1981	Greenville	Ethel J. Stickney	W. Eugene Motter	430	256,211	293,397
1982	Warwick, Central	P. Bishop Covell	W. Eugene Motter	339	289,285	304,472
1983	Providence, Central	Vito DePalma	Orlando L. Tibbetts	367	320,855	340,976
1984	Foster, North Foster	Dorie Zuber Daneker	Donald H. Crosby	294	418,743	398,026
1985	Cranston, Phillips Memorial	Donald R. Rasmussen	Donald H. Crosby	329	621,249	456,533
1986	Scottish Rite Cathedral	David Ryone	Donald H. Crosby	245	650,131	439,758
1987	Westerly, Central	Joyce Duerr	Donald H. Crosby	223	772,148	459,793
1988	Providence, Central	Thomas Moye	Donald H. Crosby	221	687,394	457,308
1989	Newport, Community/United	P. Gerald Small	Donald H. Crosby	255	768,346	445,766
1990	Providence, Calvary	Margaret Johnson	Donald H. Crosby	247	826,019	479,881
1991	East Greenwich, First	Harry Bronkar	Donald H. Crosby	380	920,613	478,634
1992	Pawtucket, First	Raymond Clement	Donald H. Crosby	290	971,467	477,744
1993	Westerly, Central	Raymond Clement	Donald H. Crosby	295	1,079,741	486,057
1994	Warren	Barbara J. Staples	Donald H. Crosby	320	1,080,491	556,736
1995	Harrisville, Berean	Barbara J. Staples	Donald H. Crosby	213	1,164,083	533,148
1996	Providence, Ebenezer	Robert L. Carter, Jr.	Donald H. Crosby	272	1,220,076	493,449
1997	Cranston, Phillips Memorial	Robert L. Carter, Jr.	Donald R. Rasmussen	297	1,189,823	469,633
1998	Exeter, Canonicus Camp/Conf Ctr	Thomas A. Kennedy	Donald R. Rasmussen	195	1,121,077	473,522
1999	Lincoln High School	Thomas A. Kennedy	Donald R. Rasmussen	176	1,050,230	490,146
2000	East Greenwich High School	Gail W. Fraser	Donald R. Rasmussen	151	1,119,010	436,454
2001	Providence, First in America	Gail W. Fraser	Donald R. Rasmussen	135	1,074,634	480,130
2002	Cranston, Phillips Memorial	Ethel Corbin	Donald R. Rasmussen	137	1,144,233	482,327
2003	Canonicus/Prov, Ebenezer	Ethel Corbin	Donald R. Rasmussen	190		416,729
2004	East Greenwich, First/N Scituate	Paul Becker	Donald R. Rasmussen			
2005	Canonicus/ Providence, Calvary	Paul Becker	Donald R. Rasmussen			
2006	Cranston, Phillips/ Greenville	Nancy Bancroft	Donald R. Rasmussen			
2007	Warwick Central/Meshanticut Park	Nancy Bancroft	Liliana Da Valle			
2008	Phillips, Cranston/ Central Baptist & Pleasant St. Westerly	Daniel Cottrell	Liliana Da Valle			
2009	1 st East Greenwich / Newport: Central & United Baptist Churches	James Essex	Liliana Da Valle			

YEAR	PLACE OF MEETING	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY/ EXECUTIVE	BAPT ISMS	MONEY EXPENDED	WORLD MISSION GIVING
Continued						
2010	Community Church of Providence	James Essex	Liliana Da Valle			
2011	Phillips Memorial Baptist & Canonicus Camp and Conference Center	Donna Sherman	David M. Brown, Interim			
2012	Warwick Central Baptist & The Baptist Church in Warren	Donna Sherman	Nikita McCalister, Appointed			
2013	First Baptist Church in America	Robert Auld	Tom Wiles			

***The American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
Pastor's Ordination Anniversaries we celebrate in 2013***

J. Francisco Litardo L.	1963	50 years
James C. Miller	1963	50 years
John A. Kearns	1963	50 years
John H. McCulley	1963	50 years
Byron Eddy Waterman	1968	45 years
Luc Javier	1978	35 years
Vincent L. Thompson, Jr.	1978	35 years
Reppa M. Cottrell	1983	30 years
Lynne C. Holden	1983	30 years
Donna Maggi	1983	30 years
Johnny Wilson	1983	30 years
Lynn Baker-Dooley	1983	30 years
Sammy Vaughn	1988	25 years
Nancie Mooney	1988	25 years
Constance Young	1988	25 years
Barbara E. Hubbard	1998	15 years
Nancy L. Phelan	1998	15 years
Wilfredo Rodriguez	2003	10 years
Geneva Urquhart	2008	5 years
Nate Manderson	2008	5 years

**We offer our sincere congratulations and deep appreciation
to all these pastors as they look back upon
God's providence and ahead to many more years
of service in Kingdom building ministry**

***The American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
Church Anniversaries we celebrate in 2013***

First in America, Providence	375 years
United, Newport	375 years
Church of the Master, Providence	185 years
Memorial, Seekonk	185 years
First Baptist, Woonsocket	180 years
Queens River, Usquepaugh	170 years
Cross Mills, Charlestown	140 years
Tabernacle, Hope	140 years
Mt. Pleasant, Providence	130 years
Ebenezer, Providence	125 years
Emmanuel, Providence	115 years
Union, Pawtucket	120 years
St. James, Woonsocket	60 years

Run Date 7/10/2012
 Rpt. Name ANNUAL
 Rpt. No. 5.3.7

American Baptist Churches Information Systems
 ABC of Rhode Island
 2011 Church Annual Statistics Report

Page: 1

----- Membership -----						Attendance				Churches Sorted By Area	----- Benevolences -----				
Gains			Losses			Total	Resident	Weekly	Church		Local	United	ABMS	Other	Total Church
Baptism	Letter	Other	Death	Letter	Other	Members	Members	Worship	School	Expense	Mission.	Total	Mission	Income	
127	63	51	112	35	149	6,579	3,673	2,908	853	\$4,181,502	\$226,437	\$343,453	\$187,692	\$4,645,203	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	5,075	6,339	0	0	
0	0	2	1	0	0	55	0	45	10	0	300	744	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	4,236	5,468	0	0	
8	4	0	0	0	0	107	66	32	6	50,283	874	1,305	3,127	52,950	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	5	0	5	0	24	0	55	6	81,197	3,031	3,031	3,021	86,618	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	275	275	0	0	
0	0	3	3	1	0	206	70	60	30	99,136	3,000	6,031	2,483	118,367	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	2	1	0	305	60	35	13	63,152	0	852	1,159	62,944	
0	2	0	11	0	0	435	435	135	40	0	13,650	22,048	0	0	
2	0	2	3	0	0	425	150	116	0	263,903	8,056	14,734	6,071	410,034	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	1,650	5,987	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	913	978	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	300	300	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	1	0	0	263	47	35	5	67,348	2,825	3,063	0	102,739	
6	10	0	0	0	0	101	70	45	20	76,514	4,588	7,239	0	81,047	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	2,776	7,235	0	0	
1	5	0	7	3	0	311	266	96	26	203,004	3,161	6,580	12,972	239,539	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	1,375	2,595	0	0	
1	6	3	2	6	0	290	0	74	18	183,214	4,341	7,782	4,674	175,499	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	2,369	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	420	569	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	3,818	4,255	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9	7	4	11	3	0	422	368	180	38	251,833	0	0	8,320	292,533	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	2,461	3,760	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	2,016	3,456	0	0	
5	9	7	10	0	1	448	289	129	47	275,316	51,480	56,279	8,666	311,376	

Run Date 7/10/2012
 Rpt. Name ANNUAL
 Rpt. No. 6.3.7

American Baptist Churches Information Systems
 ABC of Rhode Island
 2011 Church Annual Statistics Report

----- Membership -----						Attendance				Churches Sorted By Area	---- Benevolences ----				
Gains			Losses			Total	Resident	Weekly	Church		Local	United	ABMS	Other	Total Church
Baptism	Letter	Other	Death	Letter	Other	Members	Members	Worship	School	Expense	Mission	Total	Mission	Income	
127	63	51	112	35	149	6,579	3,673	2,908	853		\$4,181,502	\$226,437	\$343,453	\$187,692	\$4,645,203
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Pawtucket, Bethany Free Baptist Ch	0	600	800	0	0
11	0	0	3	0	0	136	0	60	24	Pawtucket, First Baptist Church	171,940	1,125	3,098	6,115	190,550
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Pawtucket, Union Baptist Church	0	0	200	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		PIBLA	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Providence, Allendale Baptist Church	0	1,500	1,830	0	0
16	0	7	4	3	0	284	200	200	72	Providence, Calvary Baptist Church	210,942	6,000	14,544	6,200	214,835
1	0	1	6	5	0	193	0	60	16	Providence, Church of the Master	72,499	1,256	2,594	250	49,016
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Providence, Community Church	0	7,593	9,256	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Providence, Congdon St Baptist Church	0	0	0	0	0
21	1	11	4	3	0	507	453	425	100	Providence, Ebenezer Baptist Church	300,000	2,400	3,150	38,000	375,000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Providence, Emmanuel Baptist Church	0	300	650	0	0
1	0	1	6	0	7	106	95	95	47	Providence, First Baptist Church	379,398	14,700	19,138	10,453	379,726
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Providence, Igl Hispana El Calvario	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Providence, Iglesia Hispana	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Providence, Iglesia La Esperanza	0	0	0	0	0
15	6	0	8	1	0	0	0	275	0	Providence, Mount Hope Community Baptist Church	369,000	4,000	4,000	52,000	384,000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Providence, Mt Pleasant Baptist Ch	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Providence, Olney St Baptist Church	0	0	25	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	123	127	104	0	0	Providence, Pond Street Baptist Ch	78,243	0	0	0	77,101
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Providence, River of Life	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	2	0	0	111	111	65	17	Providence, Sheldon Street Church	92,730	1,200	1,950	2,100	94,890
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Rumford, First Baptist Church	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	7	0	0	170	143	115	28	Seekonk, Memorial Baptist Church	0	2,645	6,647	0	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	82	60	28	12	Tabernacle B C-Fiskeville	40,258	1,375	5,250	1,007	45,275
2	1	0	0	0	0	206	82	40	0	Tiverton, First Baptist Church	111,056	570	1,115	0	112,079
3	0	0	4	0	4	368	153	95	54	Wakefield, Wakefield Baptist Church	175,991	17,187	26,888	4,819	234,142
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Warren, The Baptist Ch In Warren	0	0	102	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Warwick, Lakewood Baptist Church	0	2,299	5,552	0	0
14	7	4	1	0	0	254	0	150	102	Warwick, Norwood Baptist Church	181,000	8,554	9,877	3,780	195,500
4	0	0	1	2	14	117	102	53	27	Warwick, Spring Green Mem Bapt Ch	83,535	584	783	25	28,473
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Warwick, Warwick Central Bapt Ch	0	14,702	21,570	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		West Kingston, Queens River Baptist Ch	0	0	484	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		West Warwick, First Baptist Church	0	516	541	0	0

Run Date 7/10/2012
 Rpt. Name ANNUAL
 Rpt. No. 6.3.7

American Baptist Churches Information Systems
 ABC of Rhode Island
 2011 Church Annual Statistics Report

----- Membership -----						Attendance				Churches Sorted By Area	--- Benevolences ---				
Gains			Losses			Total	Resident	Weekly	Church		Local	United	ABMS	Other	Total Church
Baptism	Latter	Other	Death	Latter	Other	Members	Members	Worship	School		Expense	Mission	Total	Mission	Income
127	63	51	112	35	149	6,579	3,673	2,908	853		\$4,181,502	\$226,437	\$343,453	\$187,692	\$4,645,203
1	0	1	1	0	0	139	63	50	31	West Warwick, Phenix Baptist Church	0	8,288	11,023	0	0
1	5	0	12	2	0	257	176	100	26	Westery, Central Baptist Church	300,010	1,050	6,834	12,450	200,600
0	0	0	1	0	0	80	60	60	38	Westery, Pleasant St Baptist Ch	0	300	635	0	130,370
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Wickford, First Baptist Church	0	7,073	11,111	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Woonsocket, First Baptist Church	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Woonsocket, St James Baptist Church	0	0	534	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Woonsocket, Un Nuevo Comercio	0	0	0	0	0
127	63	51	112	35	149	6,579	3,673	2,908	853		4,181,50	226,437	343,453	187,692	4,645,203

DOCUMENTS

COVENANT OF RELATIONSHIPS THE PREAMBLE

INTRODUCTION

This Covenant of Relationships outlines basic areas in which autonomous local congregations relate to their sister churches in the association we call "ABCORI." It also gives shape to the adopted organizational structure that is entrusted with carrying out the association's purposes.

This Covenant is not to be seen as a strict set of rules to determine every possible aspect of a relationship. Rather, it is a Covenant about a *relationship between churches*, within which the partners have room to grow and contribute their own unique strengths and gifts. It is in that spirit that this Covenant of Relationships is offered, and it is hoped that in that spirit it will be accepted so that we may grow in our common mission as followers of Jesus Christ.

ABCORI AND ITS INFRASTRUCTURE

As Baptists, we affirm the worth, integrity, and autonomy of the local congregation as a true church and community of faith. We also recognize that it is important for each local church to voluntarily associate with other congregations, for a broader sense of identity and a unity that provides a greater Baptist witness in the world. When this happens, these churches become accountable to support and encourage the health of their sister congregations, and maintain an infrastructure that enables this partnership of churches to carry out its purposes.

The American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island (ABCORI), then, is an association of autonomous American Baptist congregations in relationship with each other.

The purpose of this association is to carry out a more influential Baptist witness in the world through healthy congregations that are united in identity and strength.

BENEFITS TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

There are several advantages that a relationship with other congregations creates for the local church.

1. By associating with sister congregations, especially within our American Baptist movement, the local church has a **broader identity** than it would have by itself. The ABCORI and ABCUSA distinctiveness enhances the uniqueness of each participating congregation.
2. Associating with sister churches reminds the local congregation that its church, no matter how small or large, is **not isolated from others**. The implied accountability that comes with these relationships means that other congregations will be renewing the strength of each church, and that each church has a role in supporting sister congregations when they have that need.
3. The association **broadens the theological perspective of the local church**. Its theological, cultural, social, and biblical understandings are naturally stretched in a way that builds *unity from diversity* rather than *uniformity*.
4. An association provides opportunities for *worship, fellowship, training, and mutual support* that are greater than an individual congregation can offer. That is, the local community of faith is enlarged **in the ways we practice our faith**.
5. Because of pooled resources from churches and individuals, programs and services can be provided that are possible only because these churches have covenanted together. Thus, each participating church has **access to services, programs, and ministries** that are offered by the ABCORI infrastructure and staff. These benefits include supportive visits by ABCORI representatives, events and ministries planned for individual churches or clusters of churches, help in locating competent interim and pastoral leadership, scholarship aid for campers, opportunities for churches to pool their financial resources for expanded investment possibilities, and provide the opportunity for property protection. Further, local church members, Boards, and Committees have access to the ABCORI-owned Canonicus property, continuing education events for pastors and lay leaders, inter-church or regional mission trips, joint VBS ventures, other training or inspirational programs, and care for our pastors and their families, including the opportunity of full participation in the American Baptist retirement program.
6. By joining forces with other churches, the local congregation has a more profound **Baptist witness in the world** than one church can have by itself. In association, the local church is able to more adequately fulfill the Great Commission and advance the kingdom of God into the world.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH PARTICIPATING CONGREGATION:

There are expectations that covenanting churches have of one another:

A. TO THE OTHER CHURCHES

Because ABCORI indicates a *relationship between churches*, the participating congregations covenant with each other to:

1. Be a strengthening fellowship by encouraging and supporting sister churches,
2. Communicate with other covenanting congregations in times of joy and grief,
3. Work cooperatively to strengthen one another in witness, ministry, and mission, and
4. Be in prayer for and with one another.

B. TO MAINTAIN AN APPROPRIATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Covenanting churches can expect ABCORI's elected, appointed, and employed leadership and volunteers to carry out the purposes of the association. To enable this to happen, participating congregations covenant to:

1. Accept the stated purposes of ABCORI,
2. Provide responsible financial support for the corporate work of the association,
3. Welcome opportunities for fellowship among churches and consultation with the staff and officers of ABCORI,
4. Take an active part in the work of ABCORI through delegate and voluntary representation,
5. Participate in ABCORI-offered programs and resources that are relevant to the local church, and
6. Give full consideration to ABCUSA educational and missionary materials and missionary visits.

RESPONSIBILITY OF ABCORI LEADERSHIP TO ITS CHURCHES

ABCORI is an organizational infrastructure with elected leaders and appropriate staff. It has been formed to enable the association to function effectively and efficiently. For this reason, the *leaders and staff* of ABCORI covenant with the individual churches to:

1. Respect the freedom of the local church to order its inner life and determine its own relationships;
2. Concern itself with the corporate identity, welfare, and health of all the churches in association together;
3. Expand the vision of the association and its churches;
4. Promote a nurturing fellowship among the churches and pastors;
5. Provide facilities, support staff, and programming opportunities for camping, conferencing, retreats, and day outings for participating churches, their staff, officers, and members;
6. Provide meetings for inspiration, celebration, conducting business, resourcing, sharing concerns, and receiving information;
7. Manifest a pastoral concern for each congregation through periodic visits by officers and staff;
8. Provide information about and resources for ministerial training, including continuing education for professional church leadership;
9. Provide placement counseling for pastors and other church staff and aid congregations seeking to fill ministerial and other staff vacancies;
10. Provide a nurturing atmosphere for members of individual congregations who are preparing for the ministry;
11. Produce and distribute annual reports concerning the work of participating congregations and related organizations;
12. Provide information on a regular basis concerning the ministries of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island and the American Baptist Churches, USA;
13. Work with covenanting churches to plant other churches; and
14. Because of our stewardship responsibilities for Canonicus, provide opportunities for creation care, recycling, and strategic management of our natural resources.

THE COVENANT

We, the _____ church of _____ hereby covenant with our sister congregations in the association of churches known as "ABCORI." We appreciate the value that this covenant provides, encouraging us to accept responsibility to support our sister congregations in their times of need, pray for and with each other, and maintain an ABCORI organizational structure and staff that will serve our churches, unite us in common identity and ministries, enable us to carry out the purposes of associating together, and represent us to larger constituencies.

Revision Proposed by Board of Ministries, January 9, 2012
Covenant adopted by delegates at Annual Meeting, March 5, 2012

American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island

**COVENANTING CHURCHES
as of December 2012**

Warwick Central Baptist Church	May 26, 1993
Lakewood Baptist Church, Warwick	Fall 1993
Lime Rock Baptist Church, Lincoln	September 29, 1993
First Baptist Church in America, Providence	October 17, 1993
Bethany Baptist Church, Pawtucket	October 26, 1993
Phillips Memorial Church, Cranston	October 26, 1993
Carolina Free Baptist Church	November 4, 1993
Cross Mills Baptist Church, Charlestown	November 7, 1993
The Baptist Church in Warren	January 6, 1994
First Baptist Church, Hope Valley	January 16, 1994
Tabernacle Baptist Church, Fiskeville	January 20, 1994
Central Baptist Church, Westerly	January 23, 1994
Norwood Baptist Church, Warwick	January 23, 1994
Harbor Baptist Church, Block Island	January 27, 1994
North Scituate Baptist Church	January 30, 1994
People's Baptist Church, Cranston	April 17, 1994
First Baptist Church in Allenton, North Kingstown	September 15, 1994
Calvary Baptist Church, Providence	January 15, 1995
Central Baptist Church, Jamestown	October 24, 1997
Central Baptist Church, Providence	January 29, 1998
Pawtuxet Baptist Church, Cranston	January 31, 1998
Georgiaville Baptist Church	January 31, 1999
Chestnut Hill Baptist Church	May 30, 2001
First Baptist Church, East Greenwich	March 23, 2003
Phenix Baptist Church, West Warwick	May 19, 2003
North Foster Baptist Church, Foster	July 30, 2006
Wakefield Baptist Church, Wakefield	May 20, 2007
Divine Deliverance Baptist Church, North Providence	February 21, 2012

“Strengthening Congregations as Together We Serve Jesus Christ”.

The trust funds of the Corporation are administered by Operations through its Investment Team. The portfolio is managed by Bernstein Investment Research and Management. These funds constitute the most satisfactory depository for money the donor wishes used for Christian ministry in Rhode Island. The principal or interest becomes a dependable supplement to the annual support from our churches.

WILLS AND CODICILS

You may continue your ministry into the future by remembering the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island in your will. We suggest the following form of bequest:

“I give, devise and bequeath to the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island and its successor (the sum of _____ dollars, or (describe personal property or real estate given, and here describe the property) to be used for the religious work of said Region as the Board of Mission thereof may direct.”

To the above form may be added any desired directions of applying the gifts to any particular branch of work such as church development, mission, or to any ongoing ministry.

The American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island is incorporated under the laws of the state of Rhode Island and is a permanent institution, organized to promote and extend the interests of the American Baptist Churches, USA, within the Region.

The American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island is a federally tax-exempt organization under the IRS Tax Code Section 501 (c) (3). Donors may deduct contributions to our ministry as provided in Section 170 of the IRS Code. Bequests, legacies, devices, transfers, or gifts are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes under Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code, but donors are advised to consult their financial advisor or lawyer for details regarding tax implications.

Anyone interested in promoting Baptist ministry in Rhode Island may rest secure in the assurance that any money entrusted to this Region will be wisely, economically, and faithfully administered and so applied as to carry out the wishes of the giver and accomplish the greatest possible good.

For further information, phone 1-800-294-6318 or write:

Office of the Executive Minister
The American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
54 Exeter Road
Exeter, RI 02822

**COVENANT AND CODE OF ETHICS FOR PROFESSIONAL CHURCH LEADERS
OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES IN THE U.S.A.**

Having accepted God's call to leadership in Christ's Church, I covenant with God to serve Christ and the Church with God's help, to deepen my obedience to the Two Great Commandments; to love the Lord our God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength; and to love my neighbor as myself.

In affirmation of this commitment, I will abide by The Code of Ethics of The Ministers Council of The American Baptist Churches and I will faithfully support its purposes and ideals. As further affirmation of my commitment, I covenant with my colleagues in ministry that we hold one another accountable for fulfillment of all the public actions set forth in our Code of Ethics.

MY CODE OF ETHICS

- † **I WILL** hold in trust the traditions and practices of our American Baptist Churches; I will not accept a position in the American Baptist family unless I am in accord with those traditions and practices; nor will I use my influence to alienate my congregation/constituents or any part thereof from its relationship and support of the denomination. If my convictions change, I will resign my position.
- † **I WILL** respect and recognize the variety of calls to ministry among my American Baptist colleagues, and other Christians.
- † **I WILL** seek to support all colleagues in ministry by building constructive relationships wherever I serve, both with the staff where I work and with colleagues in neighboring churches.
- † **I WILL** advocate adequate compensation for my profession. I will help lay persons and colleagues to understand that professional church leaders should not expect or require fees for pastoral service from constituents they serve, when these constituents are helping pay their salaries.
- † **I WILL** not seek personal favors or discounts on the basis of my professional status.
- † **I WILL** maintain a disciplined ministry in such ways as keeping hours of prayer and devotion, endeavoring to maintain wholesome family relationships, sexual integrity, financial responsibility, regularly engaging in educational and recreational activities for professional and personal development. I will seek to maintain good health habits.
- † **I WILL** recognize my primary obligation to the church or employing group to which I have been called, and will accept added responsibilities only if they do not interfere with the overall effectiveness of my ministry.
- † **I WILL** personally and publicly support my colleagues who experience discrimination on the basis of gender, race, age, marital status, national origin, physical impairment or disability.
- † **I WILL**, upon my resignation or retirement, sever my professional church leadership relations with my former constituents, and will not make professional contacts in the field of another professional church leader without his/her request and/or consent.
- † **I WILL** hold in confidence any privileged communication received by me during the conduct of my ministry. I will not disclose confidential communications in private or public except when in my practice of ministry I am convinced that the sanctity of confidentiality is outweighed by my well-founded belief that the parishioner/client will cause imminent, life-threatening or substantial harm to self or others, or unless the privilege is waived by those giving the information.
- † **I WILL** not proselytize from other Christian churches.
- † **I WILL** show my personal love for God as revealed in Jesus Christ in my life and ministry, as I strive together with my colleagues to preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline and promote the integrity of the vocation to which we have been called.

(Revised 5/91)

Signed: _____

Date: _____

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
of the
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
March 4, 2013

Preamble

We, the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island,

- Committed to the prayerful faith that all persons are dependent upon God, the Giver and Sustainer and Redeemer of life, and that we may most please God by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and conforming our lives to His Spirit and way; and
- Believing that though each congregation of believers is a true church, a community of faith, our larger life as American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island is also a form of expression of the church. It partakes of churchly character and performs churchly functions, and is thus an agency for the mediating of divine grace, for the enabling of the Holy Spirit to work, and for preaching of the Gospel among all people; and
- Having freely associated ourselves together as local congregations for the more perfect obedience to Christ's command and the carrying out of His mission in the world, we do adopt this Constitution as descriptive of the way in which we order our common life as American Baptist churches in Rhode Island.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the Organization shall be American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island (hereafter may be identified as ABCORI). It is an organization incorporated in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations and recognized under section 501 (c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as exempt from taxes being a non-profit religious organization.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island is an expression of the universal Church of Christ. As a creation of local congregations of Christian believers, it becomes an extension of their life, their work and their witness in and to the world. The American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island shall establish, maintain and assist American Baptist churches in the state. It shall relate its local congregations to each other, the American Baptist Churches in the USA (hereafter may be identified as ABC-USA) and to other Baptist bodies such as the Baptist World Alliance. It also shall promote the cooperation of Baptists in Rhode Island with other Christian believers, looking toward a greater unity in Christ's Body, the Church.

ARTICLE III - POLITY

Ultimate authority for the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island shall reside with the voting delegates of its constituent members and voting members of the Board of Ministries assembled at the Annual or any Special Meeting.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A. CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

1. The associating churches of ABCORI shall be deemed constituent members of the corporation.
2. An associating church shall be an American Baptist Church which has agreed to become a constituent member of the corporation and which has been accepted for such membership at an Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island or its Board of Ministries. The nature of the mutual responsibilities between ABCORI and its covenanting churches is set forth in the document "The American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island, A Covenant of Relationships."
3. An associating congregation may be dually aligned with another Christian denomination or Baptist convention.

SECTION B. CHURCH DELEGATES

Each constituent member church shall be entitled to representation at the Annual or Special Meetings of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island by its pastor(s) and two (2) delegates for the first fifty (50) resident members (as reported annually to the office of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island), plus one delegate for each additional fifty (50) members, or the major portion thereof. Each pastor and delegate shall be entitled to one vote. Delegates shall be appointed by the member church.

ARTICLE V - ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

SECTION A. ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island shall include but not be limited to: establishing ministry priorities; acting on the report of the Recruitment Committee; receiving and acting on a report of the financial status; and any other appropriate business to come before the delegates.

1. The Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island shall be held between March 1 and May 31 of each year at such date as shall be determined by the Board of Ministries. The date and location of the Annual Meeting shall be determined by the Board of Ministries at least one year in advance.
2. A quorum for transaction of business shall consist of one or more delegates representing at least one-third (1/3) of constituent members. Less than this number may adjourn a meeting and a notice of such adjournment shall be sent in the same manner as notice of meetings.
3. The Annual Meeting may be recessed or rescheduled by the Board of Ministries in case of emergency. The Board of Ministries shall have authority to transact business until such time as it is possible to call an Annual Meeting which it must do within 60 days.

SECTION B. SPECIAL MEETINGS

1. A special meeting of American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island shall be called by the President whenever requested by the Board of Ministries or by the written request of ten (10) constituent member churches. The call shall state the time, place and purpose of the meeting.
2. A quorum shall be the same as required for an Annual Meeting.

SECTION C. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Notice of annual or special meetings of ABCORI shall be sent by mail by the Secretary to each constituent member church at least two weeks prior to the day of the meeting.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS, THEIR ELECTION AND DUTIES

SECTION A. ENUMERATION

The officers of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary (who shall be the Executive Minister), Clerk, and Treasurer. All officers shall be members in good standing of an ABCORI church.

SECTION B. ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE

1. Other than the Secretary, the officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island, take office at the end of the adjournment of the meeting at which they are installed and shall serve their complete term(s) or until their successors are installed.
2. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by election by the Board of Ministries for the unexpired term of such office upon recommendation of the Recruitment Committee unless stated elsewhere in these By-laws.
3. The President and Vice President shall be eligible to serve for one two year term. No person shall be eligible for re-election to the same office until three years have elapsed from the completion of a prior term in that office.
4. The Clerk and Treasurer shall each be eligible to serve for a maximum of three consecutive two year terms in the same office, and shall not be eligible for re-election to the same office until three years have elapsed from the completion of a prior term in that office.

SECTION C. PRESIDENT

The President shall preside at all meetings of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island and the Board of Ministries and shall be a member ex-officio of all Ministry Teams, the Operations Team, and all Committees. The President or Treasurer, when authorized by the Board of Ministries, shall execute on behalf of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island all deeds, mortgages, transfers and discharges of mortgages and assign all securities for transfer or sale. The President shall perform such other duties as are set forth elsewhere in these By-laws, including appointing:

1. The Chair and at large members of an Executive Staff Search Committee
2. The Chair of the Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry
3. The Chair of the Operations Team
4. Committees and task forces to carry out the work of the Board of Ministries
5. The By-law and Constitution Review Committee (every five years)

SECTION D. VICE PRESIDENT

In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President. If a President is not able to complete his/her term, the Vice President shall become President until the next Annual Meeting Installation. The Vice President shall then be eligible to serve another full term as President. A Vice President shall then be elected by the Board of Ministries according to the process in Article VI, Section B2. This person shall serve until the next Annual Meeting Installation, and be eligible for another full term. The Vice President shall be a member ex-officio of the Operations Team.

SECTION E. SECRETARY

The Executive Minister shall serve as the Secretary of the corporation, as indicated in the covenant of relationships with ABC-USA. This is a non-voting position on the Board of Ministries. The Secretary in cooperation with the clerk shall maintain copies of all ABCORI policies.

SECTION F. CLERK

The Clerk shall be responsible for recording minutes of all ABCORI meetings and preserving them at the offices of ABCORI. The Clerk shall send copies of the minutes to the Baptist Heritage Center and any other affiliated organizations that request them. The Clerk shall also maintain copies of all ABCORI policies in cooperation with the Secretary. In the event the Clerk is unable to complete his/her term, an elected person shall be considered to have served a full term if serving more than half of the unexpired term.

SECTION G. TREASURER

The Treasurer shall have responsibility for all monies, books and accounts, securities, contracts, and financial papers of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. Policies regarding finances and the reporting of finances shall be established by the Board of Ministries and made public. The Treasurer or President, when authorized by the Board of Ministries, shall execute on behalf of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island all deeds, mortgages, transfers and discharges of mortgages and assign all securities for transfer or sale. In the event the Treasurer is unable to complete his/her term, an elected person shall be considered to have served a full term if serving more than half of the unexpired term.

1. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Operations Team and the Baptist Fund of Rhode Island.
2. The Treasurer shall be bonded for the faithful discharge of duties in such sum and with such sureties as the Board of Ministries may require and approve.

ARTICLE VII – STAFF

SECTION A. EXECUTIVE STAFF

The executive staff shall be the Executive Minister and such others as from time to time shall be deemed necessary by the Board of Ministries for the accomplishment of ABCORI's mission. Executive staff shall be American Baptists.

EMPLOYMENT

- a) To fill the position of Executive Minister, a Search Task Force shall consist of: 3 members elected by the Board of Ministries, a member of the Rhode Island Ministers Council, a member of the Personnel Committee, one representative from American Baptist Women's Ministries of Rhode Island, a young adult (age 18-35); and two to four at-large members appointed by the President. Every effort shall be made to form a task force that is as inclusive and diverse as possible.
- b) Ex-officio members (without vote) of the Executive Minister's Search Task Force will be a representative of the General Secretary of ABC-USA and the President of ABCORI.
- c) To fill other executive staff positions, a search task force representing the Board of Ministries and the Personnel Committee shall be appointed by the President to work with the Executive Minister. All executive staff shall be offered employment and employment terms with vote of the Board of Ministries.

SECTION B. OTHER STAFF MEMBERS

The Executive Minister shall be responsible for the employment of all other staff members following written Personnel Policies. The Executive Minister may delegate hiring and supervisory responsibilities to other staff as appropriate.

SECTION C: TERMINATION OF STAFF

All issues related to resignation, retirement, dismissal, and disability will follow written Personnel Policies.

ARTICLE VIII - BOARD OF MINISTRIES

The Board of Ministries shall be the governing board of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island, and shall have responsibility for all ABCORI assets. The Board of Ministries shall establish all policies for American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. The Clerk and the Secretary shall maintain copies of these policies. All voting members of the Board of Ministries have voting privileges at all ABCORI business meetings. All members of the Board of Ministries shall be members in good standing of an ABCORI church.

ARTICLE VIII: SECTION A. COMPOSITION

The Board of Ministries shall consist of: The Officers and (non-voting) executive staff of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island; the ABC-USA Board of General Ministries Representative; the chair of the Operations Team; one representative from each ministry team; the immediate past president of ABCORI; the chair or a representative of the Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry; three (3) at-large members; a representative of American Baptist Women's Ministries of Rhode Island; and a representative of the Baptist Home of Rhode Island (without vote).

SECTION B. TENURE - Tenure for members of the Board of Ministries shall be as follows:

1. Representatives of affiliated organizations and ministry teams shall be members for as long as they hold office.
2. At-large members shall be elected for a three-year term and in such manner that one third (1/3) of the terms shall expire annually. At-large members shall be eligible for one (1) additional full three-year term.
3. Vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Ministries after receiving nominations from the Recruitment Committee.

SECTION C. DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF MINISTRIES

The Board of Ministries shall be responsible to:

1. Establish policy for ABCORI;
2. Establish, implement, and evaluate ABCORI priorities and objectives;
3. Approve an ABCORI budget to recommend for adoption at the ABCORI Annual Meeting;
4. Confirm all Presidential appointments;
5. Evaluate the Executive Minister according to the Personnel Policies;
6. Establish any Task Force or Committee necessary for the functioning of the Board of Ministries;
7. Exercise all powers of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island between Annual Meetings.

SECTION D. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF MINISTRIES

1. There shall be at least six (6) meetings held during the year as scheduled by the Board.
2. Special meetings may be called by the President or by the Executive Minister upon receipt of written request of one-third plus one members of the Board of Ministries.
3. Each member of the Board of Ministries shall be notified at least two weeks prior to the day of the meeting.
4. Quorum shall consist of 50% plus one of the voting members of the Board of Ministries.
5. At the discretion of the President, an Executive Session of the Board of Ministries may be held during any regularly scheduled Board of Ministries meeting.
6. In the intervals between meetings, the Board of Ministries may conduct business by conference call or electronic vote, following the meeting procedures above.

SECTION E. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF MINISTRIES

1. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of Ministries which shall act as a leadership team of the Board to assist the President and Executive Minister in planning and prioritizing board activities between meetings of the same. The Executive Committee shall meet on the call of the President or the Executive Minister, or when requested by two or more members thereof.
2. The Executive Committee of the Board of Ministries shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Clerk, Treasurer, Executive Minister, and the Chair of the Operations Team.

ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES

There shall be committees and task forces formed to carry out the work of the Board of Ministries. Members of ad hoc committees and task forces shall either be appointed by the President with approval of the Board of Ministries, or hold membership by virtue of their position. The President shall designate the Chairperson of each committee from the membership of the committee subject to the approval of the Board of Ministries. All committee members shall be members in good standing of an ABCORI church. Committee members may serve two full three-year terms in any position.

SECTION A. RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE

1. The Recruitment Committee shall be composed of the immediate past president of ABCORI who will serve as Chairperson; the President or a designee of the American Baptist Women’s Ministries, the President of the Rhode Island Ministers Council; the chair of the Operations Team or a designee, and three members-at-large, who shall serve for three (3) year terms.
2. The Committee shall serve as the nominating committee for officers of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island, its Board of Ministries, Operations Team, Personnel Committee, Investment Committee, Properties Committee, Recruitment Committee, Ministry Teams, members of the Executive Minister’s Relations Committee, and all delegates to other recognized groups. All nominations shall be confirmed by vote of the Annual Meeting or the Board of Ministries.
3. The Committee shall make recommendations to the President for all positions filled by presidential appointment.
4. This Committee, in presenting nominations, shall give consideration to adequately represent its diverse constituency.

SECTION B. EXECUTIVE MINISTER’S RELATIONS COMMITTEE

This Committee of five (5) persons shall consist of three members nominated by the Executive Minister and two members nominated by the Recruitment Committee. These members shall all serve a maximum of two (2), three-year (3) terms on a rotating basis. This committee shall foster constructive communication between the ABCORI constituency and the Executive Minister and shall encourage the professional and personal well-being of the Executive Minister.

SECTION C. STANDING COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY

1. The Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry shall be responsible for all aspects of ordering Pastoral Ministry within the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. It shall create and publish policies and procedures pertaining to all issues of Ordained Ministry, which shall be ratified by the Board of Ministries.
2. Composition: Three lay persons and three pastors shall be appointed for a three year term, each in such a manner that the term of one layperson and one pastor will expire annually. Five (5) officers of the Rhode Island Ministers Council shall serve on the committee by reason of their office. A representative of Rhode Island Baptist Education Society (RIBES) shall also serve on the committee. The Executive Minister shall be ex officio with vote. Appointed members shall be eligible for one additional three-year term and be eligible for a new appointment after the lapse of one year.
3. The chairperson shall be appointed annually by the President from among the ordained members of the committee.
4. The chairperson or a designee shall be a voting member of the Board of Ministries.

SECTION D. TASK FORCES OF THE BOARD OF MINISTRIES

1. Task forces may be formed by the Board of Ministries for programmatic or task work of the board upon the presentation of a proposal and/or budget request. Membership of a task force shall be recruited from constituent member churches and a Chairperson designated.
2. A task force may function for up to three years and shall be evaluated periodically.
3. Funding for all task forces will be through the approved budget process.

ARTICLE X- OPERATIONS TEAM

The Operations Team shall have the responsibility for administering the stewardship, personnel, financial, and business affairs of the corporation. All Operations Team members shall be members in good standing of an ABCORI church.

SECTION A: RESPONSIBILITIES

The Operations Team shall be responsible for the following:

1. Reviewing and monitoring the annual budget for American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island.
2. Overseeing all investments.
3. Having responsibility for all fund raising and development activities within ABCORI.
4. Administering all designated funds.
5. Being custodian of all properties of the corporation.
6. Manage human resources of the organization.
7. Overseeing the following committees: Personnel, Budget, Baptist Fund of RI, Properties, and Investments.
8. Convening other committees and task forces as needed.
9. Periodic review of all operational policies and procedures of the organization.

SECTION B: COMPOSITION

The Operations Team shall be led by a Chair who is appointed by the President for a two-year term. The following positions shall be elected for three year terms: development, fundraising, grant writing, and up to three at-large members. In addition the following shall serve by virtue of their positions: ABCORI Treasurer, such staff as are responsible for ABCORI operations, and chairs of Operations committees who shall be appointed annually by the chair of Operations from among the elected members. Elected members may serve two consecutive full terms. Members of committees of the Operations Team shall be nominated by the Recruitment Committee in consultation with the individual committees.

SECTION C: MEETINGS

The Operations Team shall meet at least six times each year.

SECTION D: PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

1. The Personnel Committee shall consist of five (5) persons to be divided into three classes (2, 1, and 2), for a term of three years. Members shall be eligible for one additional three-year term and be eligible for a new appointment after the lapse of one year.
2. This Committee shall develop and publish personnel policies and provide for regular evaluation of all staff.
3. This committee shall serve as a forum for grievances or concerns among staff which any staff member feels is not being addressed by the organization and/or its staff.
4. This Committee shall consult with the Executive Minister regarding salaries, wages, and benefits for each staff member. The Committee will make recommendations to the Budget Committee.
5. This committee shall participate on search task forces for executive staff as outlined in Article VII, A3.

SECTION E: BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Budget Committee shall consist of a Chair, the Operations Chair, the Treasurer, the Executive Minister, and ABCORI staff and committee chairs as invited by the Budget Committee Chair. The Budget Committee shall prepare the annual budget. On a quarterly basis, the Committee shall review and compare actual financial performance to budget and make recommendations to the Operations Team.

ARTICLE X: SECTION F: BAPTIST FUND OF RHODE ISLAND

The Baptist Fund of Rhode Island (BFRI) exists to serve ABCORI churches, and also helps ABCORI pastors and spouses who find themselves in a financial crisis when all other sources of money have been explored. The Fund makes grants to Partners in Ministry in the community. The three sources of income to support this ministry are endowment income designated for BFRI, repayment of loans, and annual contributions from ABCORI churches through line items in their budgets. BFRI consists of the ABCORI President, ABCORI Treasurer, Chairpersons of the Operations Team and the Rhode Island Ministers Council, the Executive Minister, and three members at large.

ARTICLE X: SECTION G: INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The ABCORI Investment Committee is charged with overseeing the management of the ABCORI Pooled Investment Fund. The committee is responsible for selecting the Fund Manager and accounting firm to process the activity of the Investment Fund providing reports to each fund participant. This committee is responsible for working with the Fund Manager to determine the investment strategy for the fund and the rate of return paid quarterly to the participants. The committee reports regularly to the Operations Team, and annually to the Board of Ministries. Membership of this committee shall consist of up to six (6) at-large members, the Treasurer and the Chair of the Operations Team.

SECTION H: PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

The Properties Committee shall work with the ABCORI administration to ensure both long and short range quality care of the properties of ABCORI. The Committee shall provide guidance regarding the prioritization of work on the properties and capital expenditures, as well as the annual properties budget. Membership of this committee shall consist of six (6) at-large members.

ARTICLE XI: AREAS OF MINISTRY TEAMS

The Areas of Ministry Teams shall have the responsibility for planning and implementing programs in the ABCORI areas of ministry.

SECTION A: COMPOSITION

Each Ministry Team shall consist of a minimum of five (5) members, who shall be elected on a rotating basis for three year terms. Each member may serve two full terms on a team and may return to serve two more terms after a one-year absence. All members must be members in good standing of an ABCORI Church. The members of the team may choose to distribute responsibility for some of the functions in order to guarantee continuity. Staff with responsibilities related to the ministry teams may serve as ex-officio members. The Executive Minister shall assist in coordinating the work of the Ministry Teams.

SECTION B: MEETINGS

The individual Ministry Teams shall meet as needed to complete their work.

COORDINATING MEETINGS

1. The Executive Minister will convene a Coordinating Meeting quarterly
2. At least one member of each Ministry Team shall attend the Coordinating Meeting.
3. The agenda for each meeting will be to coordinate programs, spiritual life, and communications.

SECTION C: RESPONSIBILITIES

The Ministry Teams will:

1. Elect a convener and a representative to the Board of Ministries from among the members of the teams.
2. Establish annual goals
3. Meet at least six (6) times a year and establish the agenda for each meeting, based on appropriate functions, and specific and appropriate requests from churches.
4. Issue individual and public invitations to people interested in the topic to be addressed.
5. Keep records of all projects underway.
6. Assist persons who undertake particular responsibilities such as making phone calls or writing emails or letters, making visits or organizing side meetings, or overseeing production of promotional materials.
7. Oversee the progress of particular projects.
8. Send a representative to the Coordinating Meetings.

SECTION D: PASTORAL LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES TEAM

The Rhode Island Ministers Council will be invited to participate in all dialog meetings related to the functions of this area of ministry in order to insure the continuation of a collegial relationship between ABCORI and the Ministers Council. The Pastoral Leadership Team shall:

1. Collaborate with SCOM on issues relating to ordained ministry.
2. Oversee the interim ministers' network.
3. Support new pastors, church planters and covenant pastors.
4. Address pastoral development issues.
5. Address pastoral support matters.

SECTION E: CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRIES TEAM

1. Oversee public relations and special events including the Annual Gathering.
2. Oversee new church planting, envisioning, pastoral searches, and church renewal.
3. Oversee church administration and resourcing issues.
4. Facilitate conflict management within local congregations.

SECTION F: SOCIAL WITNESS MINISTRIES TEAM

1. Oversee interfaith and ecumenical work.
2. Oversee peace, environmental and social justice issues.
3. Consult with the Ministry of Eldercare on chaplaincy and eldercare issues.
4. Oversee local mission efforts.

ARTICLE XI: SECTION G: EVANGELISTIC MISSION MINISTRIES TEAM

1. Oversee evangelism training.
2. Oversee evangelism efforts.
3. Promote American Baptist local, national, and international mission.
4. Oversee mission explosions.
5. Oversee mission trips and missionary speakers.

SECTION H: CAMPING AND YOUTH MINISTRIES TEAM

This team collaborates and advises a variety of special groups, including, but not limited to, the ABCORI Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT) and the Program Advisory Team (PAT) to accomplish the following:

1. Advise and collaborate with staff regarding camp curriculum and programming.
2. Focus on youth ministry, discipleship, inter-generational ministry and Christian Education.
3. Focus on spiritual growth and development within local churches, groups, and communities.
4. Promote youth, camping, and other specialized ministry within ABCORI, local churches and communities.

ARTICLE XII – AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION A. DEFINITION

Affiliated Organizations are those whose constitution and by-laws have been approved by the delegates of ABCORI.

SECTION B. ENUMERATION - The following are recognized as affiliated organizations:

American Baptist Women's Ministries of RI (ABWMRI)
Baptist Heritage Center (BHC)
Baptist Home of RI (BHRI)
Rhode Island Ministers Council
RI Baptist Education Society (RIBES)

SECTION C. RELATIONSHIP TO ABCORI

1. American Baptist Women’s Ministries of RI has representation with vote on the Board of Ministries. Baptist Home of RI has representation on the Board of Ministries without vote.
2. Affiliated organizations will submit an annual report, including financial statement(s) and a list of officers and board members for publication in the ABCORI Directory and Yearbook.
3. In all matters not specified in this Constitution, affiliated organizations are autonomous, nor does ABCORI have any administrative, fiscal, legal or other responsibility for any affiliated organization.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and By-laws may be amended or revised by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present and voting at an Annual Meeting or a special meeting of the delegates as defined under Article V. Written notice of all amendments and/or revisions shall be mailed to all constituent churches and delegates at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE XIV- BY-LAW AND CONSITUTION REVIEW

This Constitution and By-laws shall be reviewed every five (5) years by a committee appointed by the President.

ARTICLE XV – INDEMNITY

The power of indemnification under the laws of Rhode Island shall not be denied or limited by the By-laws.

ARTICLE XVI - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in *Robert’s Rules of Order, the Modern Edition* shall govern the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-laws and special rules of the corporation. The President should appoint a parliamentarian for annual and special meetings.

Amendments of ABCORI Constitution and By-laws

- Amended by delegates -- March 6, 2006
- Amended by delegates -- May 19, 2007
- Amended by delegates – March 7, 2011
- Amended by delegates—March 5, 2012
- Amended by delegates—March 4, 2013

Note: to assist in implementing the By-laws, the Board of Ministries has approved a set of “Policies and Procedures”. Copies of these are available from the ABCORI office.