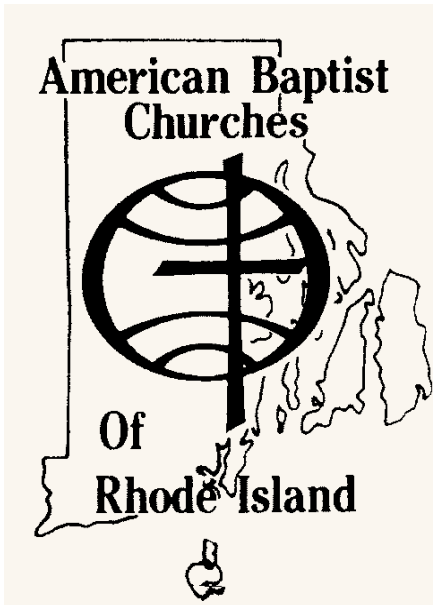


2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT YEARBOOK



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MISSION STATEMENT

Based upon our commitment to Jesus, the Christ
and the leading of the Holy Spirit
We, the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island,
exist to resource our people and
to engage in Christ-centered ministries by promoting
and building healthy pastors and healthy churches
to bring the whole gospel to the whole world.

Adopted by the Board of Ministries
2008

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Material in the Annual Yearbook is current as of March, 2014. 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 colleen@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.

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REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER:

It's hard to believe it has been a year. I began my tenure as your Executive Minister in mid-February (and mid-snow storm) 2013. And now, it is mid-February (and mid-snow storm) 2014.

I am thankful for this opportunity. You have been welcoming and gracious in your hospitality as well as earnest and consistent in our ministry together.

One of the things that attracted me to ABCORI was the regional motto: "*Healthy Pastors and Healthy Churches.*" After journeying with you for 12 months, I can report that this is more than a mere motto. In the face of the 21st century challenges for local church and pastoral ministry ABCORI can celebrate many healthy pastors and healthy churches. It has been my privilege to worship with 30 of our congregations as well as spend personal time with many of our pastors and I am amazed as how many diverse ways you are participating with God in God's mission. I am honored to share in ministry with all of you. Even as I provide support and leadership for many of our shared ministries, I am learning from you. You have helped me become more aware that "healthy" is not defined by age or size, but by faithfulness, vision, and courage. You have encouraged me to begin to understand some of the unique challenges and opportunities of ministering in New England and Rhode Island, specifically. I have been made aware of the fruitfulness of ministries that have grown out of your unique passions and gifts. And, you have taught me to eat stuffies, crab cakes, chowder, and calamari, as well as to always pack a lunch if my regional travels require me to range so far afield that I must cross a bridge.

In this book of reports you will read of the variety of ministries which you have shared in 2013. I hope you take time to celebrate the accomplishments, of which there were many, and be challenged by the vision which is growing. Our various ministry teams continue to seek fresh and accessible ways to serve our local congregations and facilitate our shared ministries. Their work is both challenging and energizing. Our operations team and various administrative groups have been faithful in their leadership and discernment. We are in a healthier place financially and administratively due to their good efforts.

On a personal and professional level much of my joy has come from the privilege of working alongside your good staff. These individuals bring both gifts and commitment to our shared ministry. I am thankful every day for their insights and expertise. Although their professional foci are on specific areas of ministry (elder care, conferencing, camping, financial health, grounds and facilities, and more) they share a passion for our work together in all our local congregations as well as at that shared sacred space we call Canonicus.

I look forward to the coming year. We will see new opportunities for local and regional ministries. Some of you will take holy risks and celebrate sacred moments. Others will gain confidence and perspective on how God is calling and empowering you to join in God's mission in your local neighborhoods and beyond. Together we will build on the opportunities for training, connection, and encouragement that have served us in the past by reaching out to one another in new ways. Not everything we do will have the appearance of immediate success; but we are Rhode Island churches. We know something about persistence. We know God's work is not measured by mere weeks and months. God has been working in and through Baptists in Rhode Island for several centuries and although much has changed, God is still present and we are still listening to God's word and available for God's mission. That is why we continue to say together: "*Based upon our commitment to Jesus, the Christ, and the leading of the Holy Spirit, we, the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island, exist to resource our people and to engage in Christ-centered ministries by promoting and building healthy pastors and healthy churches to bring the whole gospel to the whole world.*"

Thankfully,
Tom Wiles
Executive Minister

2013 REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

2013 has been a year for developing a passion for ministry within our ABCORI family. We have been blessed to have The Rev. Tom Wiles join us early in the year and he has provided a tremendous spark to our church life. Tom is a man of deep devotion to the Lord and he has shared his gifts of ministry to many of our ABCORI churches and has provided stability after a number of years of transition. The Executive Minister Search Committee should be commended for their excellent recommendation. We have held seven Board of Ministries meetings during the year. We were hosted by our Canonicus Summer staff at our August meeting and we had the opportunity to share and reflect on the value of our camping programs. We are blessed to have Melanie Towle and her visionary leadership. At our October meeting, Stan Lemons gave us a tour of First Baptist America. We have a shared history that is worthy of remembrance.

The ABCORI teams are providing visionary leadership in helping to plan peace advocacy training, church school teacher training and cluster gatherings for pastors. I pray that our roles as ministry teams continue to expand and grow along with the Spirit's prompting.

On Sunday, April 28th, The Congregational Life and Pastoral Leadership Teams planned and held an inspiring All Church worship at First Baptist of America. Rev. Tom Wiles was our featured speaker and we took the occasion to thank Rev. Nikita McCalister for all her work as Operations Manager. We were also thankful that Nikita continues serving our church family in her present financial overseer role.

On Sunday, July 21st, our body installed The Rev. Tom Wiles as our new Executive Minister. It was a privilege to participate in the inspiring service of worship. May God continue to bless Tom with wisdom and His Spirit as we go forward into the future. On Sunday, September 8, 2013, I was privileged to attend a portion of a worship service at Foster Center Baptist Church and welcome them into our ABCORI family. I pray that other church families may be encouraged to join our ABCORI family in the future.

In 2013, I was very grateful for the work done in the area of finances by Tom Wiles, Jim Essex, Nikita McCalister, Bob Butzier and John Tucker. We "held the line" on expenses as much as that was possible and we recommend a budget for 2014 that is very close to balanced. Praise God for the resources available to us and His ministries!

Marie Carpenter has continued to offer exciting programs and activities for our seniors and those serving that population through her position as Elder Care Director. ABCORI should appreciate the fact that we are one of the few denominations that provides this ministry. Let us never forget the value and worth of each and every person in God's Kingdom from the youngest to the oldest.

I also want to extend a word of thanks to our staff at Canonicus who help communicate our common mission by serving in a number of different capacities. The next time you see one of our staff members, please say thanks for a job well done.

I want to personally thank Donna Sherman for her mentorship as she acted as the Nominating Committee chair for this cycle. Thank you to all who have accepted positions and special thanks to those who have served and are taking a well-deserved break. May we all continue to honor God as we share our gifts of ministry.

In His Service,
Bob Auld

ELDERCARE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

2013 has been a very busy year for Eldercare. I am finding more and more of my time is spent with organizations that understand the concept of the spirituality of aging and the need for have a faith voice at the table. My work with palliative care and end of life issues has gained momentum in the past year.

I have been working with the End of Life Task force to bring MOLST (medical orders for life sustaining treatment) into existence in RI. We were able to get the law passed in 2012 but it was finally approved by the Department of Health in September of 2013. The next step will be the education piece.

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse is trying to bring CTAC (coalition to transform advanced care) to RI. I have been working with Rev. Dr. Donald Anderson in my role as vice president of the Council of Churches to assist in this effort.

I have been a member of the steering committee for Health Centric Advisors to fulfill a grant to bring Palliative Care into nursing homes. Also, I am a member of the Palliative Care work group through the Partnership to reduce cancer. But the greatest honor was to be appointed to the State Palliative Care Advisory Board. This is a nine member board that was made a law in June of 2013 to educate the medical profession and the public as to what palliative care means and it's implication for chronic illness and end of life.

The other two major issues that eldercare works on are Caregivers and Spiritual care to nursing homes. I am a member of the Caregiver Alliance which held its first Award Reception in November at the State House. What a thrill is was for me to reconnect with a special needs student I had from my teaching days. She is all grown up and had nominated her caregiver.

One of the frustrations of trying to bring Spiritual care to nursing homes is that tight budgets necessitate nursing homes to rely on volunteers for worship services for residents. Eldercare is in the process of developing a program to make contact with Protestant churches in the vicinity of a nursing home and train church members to be visitors and to conduct interdenominational services.

Our ABCORI family is one of the joys of working in Eldercare. I have visited many churches and brought greetings and I have done workshops in several churches often bringing goodies from the ABCORI kitchen. Eldercare hosted a Valentine luncheon and helped our John Clarke residents to attend the Thanksgiving Feast. And the retired pastors Christmas party and the Christmas reception at John Clarke Residence are always a highlight of the year.

God has truly blessed the Eldercare Ministry of ABCORI. We have a unique ministry in this state and are blessed with the Baptist Home Board's grant to continue.

Marie Carpenter
Director of Eldercare Ministries

RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2013

In keeping with its charge, the Recruitment Committee has worked diligently to fill open positions on the Leadership List this year. The 2014 Election Ballot is presented to the body for a vote at the annual business meeting. Throughout the year, the Committee recommends candidates to the Board of Ministries to fill vacancies that occur. The members also continue to seek qualified persons for the annual elections.

We respectfully request that each member of the ABCORI family prayerfully consider where their talents can best be used. We welcome self-nominations. We also ask members to be “talent scouts” for ABCORI, nominating other qualified candidates to the committee for consideration.

Membership on the ABCORI Ministry Teams is open—there are no limits on the number of members, so please be particularly mindful of where you or others could bring talents to serve this program arm of our work.

My deep appreciation goes to the members of the committee for their faithful service this year: Kate Perry, Rev. Alex Gaete, Ann Aldrich, Rev. Dr. Paul Lawrence, Rev. Betty Rae Hopkins, Rev. Bob Auld, and Rev. Tom Wiles.

Donna D. Sherman, Chair

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY 2013-2014 Annual Report

The Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry (SCOM) meets bimonthly 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; and overseeing the ordination process.

As of the end of March 2014, candidates who are under care in preparation for ordination include Virginia O'Shan, Irving Scoby, Michelle Sullivan, Wesley Wagnac, James Whitney, and Lee Williams.

We offer a special word of appreciation to Paul Lawrence, who completed his service on SCOM, and to Ethel Corbin, who concluded her dedicated service as coordinator of SCOM's in-care program.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Palen, chair

MINISTERS COUNCIL REPORT 2013

The period between 2013 and 2014 was an exciting time for the Ministers Council to serve the American Baptist Ministers of Rhode Island. The Block Island Retreat held in May of 2013, was honored to have Dr. Debra Jackson, the Executive Director for the National Ministers Council as our guest speaker. During the Fall we had a picnic for the pastors and their families at Camp Canonicus. The Executive Board decided to have some special speakers to speak on multifarious topics of interest that would benefit the clergy and others. Rev. Joseph Campbell made an excellent presentation on the topic of love and so did, Rev. Tom Wallis on, "Diversity." Both these sessions were held at the Quidnick Baptist Church in Coventry. The audience participation was terrific and the interaction between the clergy was really illuminating. Rev. Dr. Paul Lawrence offers his profoundest and sincerest thanks to the Executive Board and all the members of the Ministers Council of Rhode Island for their enthusiastic support and cooperation during his term as the President of the Ministers Council for the past 2 years.

In His service,
Rev. Dr. Paul Lawrence

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013

The Pastoral Leadership Team has been busy establishing cluster gatherings for pastors. Four clusters are presently up and running and it is our hope that more may be facilitated in the future. Our thanks to Shirley Fortin, Esther Irish, Linda Bausserman, Reppa Cottrell and Bob Auld for providing leadership in this area of ministry. Our team also helped plan the All-Church Worship held at First Baptist Church of America on Sunday, April 28th. We had a lively gathering and both the music and preaching were fabulous! Thanks to our Executive Minister Tom Wiles and Nikita McCalister for their talents! We also were asked to participate along with the Baptist Peacemakers in an event and Linda Bausserman and Bob Auld were involved in the planning. Our team is more than willing to share in other events in the future.

Sincerely,
Bob Auld

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013

The Congregational Life Team met twice last year with the goal of refocusing and revitalizing our mission with ABCORI. We are looking forward to working with Rev. Tom Wiles to further the mission and ministry of the church here in RI.

Respectfully submitted
Richard Johnson
Congregational Life Team Leader

SOCIAL WITNESS TEAM ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013

The Social Witness Team met regularly in 2013 and sought to support the social witness activities of ABCORI churches. Among these are efforts to help the homeless, provide food for the hungry, visit prisoners, eradicate human trafficking and prostitution, reduce the incidence of child poverty, encourage healthy dialogue on the issue of homosexuality, raise awareness of political issues that have moral implications, teach and promote nonviolence, and many other activities.

During 2013 we became more active in posting notices about social witness opportunities in the ABCORI e-notes. We were also a co-sponsor of a Conflict Transformation training event, and we supported ABCORI's application for a Palmer Grant geared toward improving prison conditions in Rhode Island.

In response to a request from the Board of Mission, we also began to plan a workshop or educational event on diversity. We recognize that people who attend ABCORI churches come from a wide variety of backgrounds racially, culturally, geographically, theologically, and in many other ways. We also live in an increasingly complex and multidimensional world. We hope that this workshop will provide us with helpful perspectives and resources so that we may more effectively live out the love of Christ in our time.

Rev. Evan Howard

CAMPING AND YOUTH MINISTRIES TEAM

Over the last year we have been working on bringing Christian Ed workshops to our churches as well as trying to better enrich the youth programs within our denomination. We are always available to the youth workers in our local churches and enjoy being able to collaborate and encourage them in what they are doing

We have also been available to Melanie Towle, Director of Camping Ministries, and the summer camping programs, where we are able, and as much as needed. Many from our team are a presence on camp throughout the summer to give a prayer, an encouraging word, or even just a smile to the staff and campers.

Deborah Guilmain

EVANGELISTIC MISSION MINISTRIES TEAM REPORT

In the past year, members met four times to brainstorm ways to offer assistance to our churches in planning mission trips, evangelism training, and promote American Baptist missions. Judy Brown, who is a past member and continues to volunteer with the team, is involved with the planning of the Mission Works event hosted by the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island and the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts (TABCOM). Judy keeps the team updated on the event.

The team submitted information to e-notes the name and contact information of one of its team members for help with building a mission team and suggested steps to take in order to plan a successful and fulfilling mission trip. The team has requested from ABCORI guidance for ways in which information can be more efficiently disseminate so that churches can know what resources are available. Our hope is to have the ABCORI website updated so churches and individuals can find information about the local, national and international trips sponsored by ABC churches in Rhode Island and perhaps neighboring states. The team members who have been on mission trips attest to the fact that it is life-transforming for the individual and also positively impacts the congregations they attend.

The team is in need of new members who have a passion for mission and spreading the Good News of Jesus. If you are interested in being part of such a team, contact the ABCORI liaison, Linda Martin.

Blessings,
The Evangelistic Mission Ministries Team

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS TEAM American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island

The following are among the major accomplishments and/or actions taken by the Operations Team since March 1, 2014. Items marked with an asterisk were recommendations to the Board of Ministries, all of which were in turn approved by same.

- *1. Approval given to making a change in the Budget Covenant with ABCUSA. It had the effect of our agreeing to the request of General Secretary A. Roy Medley to remove the category, "Designated Giving" from the Covenant.
2. Voted to have McCrillis farm house taken down, due to safety concerns, expense of repairs, and the fact it is an eye sore. The Property Committee is working on this matter, but it is a complicated issue for several reasons, and more costly to take this step than we would like.
3. The "Meshanticut Church" property in Cranston has progressed, due to legal work, to the point where it can soon be listed for sale.
- *4. Approved corporate release of the West Exeter Baptist Church property to South County Habitat for Humanity.
5. Changes to the pay structure of several employees living on the Canonicus property were approved. These changes take into account the cost related to their living in ABCORI housing on the property.
6. The West Greenwich property is still in ABCORI hands at this time, as the Faith Fellowship purchase of the property has been put on hold. The congregation is in need of re-working financing for the sale to be completed. They continue to pay monthly rent, in the mean time.
7. Work is resuming as this report is written on repairs to the dam on the Canonicus property. The pond has again been drained quite low to accommodate this work.
8. Repairs to the Meadowwood Conference Center are well on their way to completion, although some work remains.

My thanks to the members of the Operations Team for their good work, and for their patience.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Essex, Chair

ABCORI BAPTIST FUND OF RHODE ISLAND

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Thanks to the seventeen ABCORI churches who supported BFRI 2013 with over \$20,000 and the far sighted individuals who left money for the continued support of BFRI after they passed (held in pooled fund accounts), the Fund was able to maintain support for the ABCORI Partners in Ministry, provide emergency funds for Pastors/Families in Crisis, respond with two grants for a major church program and Peirce/Meadowwood building needs.

The Partners in Ministry support enables local programs to share the Gospel
----with children and families in the inner cities,
----to enhance faith journeys of adults and youth,
----to provide opportunities for congregations to interact with ABCUSA missionaries,
----to enable continued local support of and leadership in ecumenical ministries .

All this is possible through the efforts of a small group of elected representatives of ABCORI churches voted to serve as stewards of church and individual gifts designated for the unique ministry of BFRI.

We give thanks for those who share their wisdom in carrying out the fiduciary responsibilities of the Fund under the umbrella of the Operation Team.

Most of the Fund work is now carried forward through the use of internet connections as we strive to take seriously our stewardship of fuel and time, etc.!

We thank each 2013 member of BFRI, especially .Barbara Staples for her thoughtful participation. We look forward to welcoming Yvette Kenner as a "member at large". And give God the glory for all that the Fund has enabled ABCORI churches together to accomplish.

Vonnie Dutton
Carolyn-Yvonne Dutton, Chair

ABCORI POOLED FUNDS INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT 2013-2014

The Investment Committee oversees the investments of the ABCORI Pooled Fund Portfolio. The value of our Portfolio as of September 12, 2014 was as follows:

Combined Pooled Fund value as of 9-12-2014 \$7,077,207.00

Our funds are managed by Bernstein Global Wealth of New York through its Boston office. The total return yield on the portfolio for 2013 was a hefty 16%. However market conditions for 2014, according to our fund manager, indicate a projected return to a more modest yield of 5 to 7%. They also predict that interest rates will start creeping up in mid-2015. We are very pleased with Bernstein's management of our portfolio.

Accounting work for the portfolio is performed by Fradin & Co. CPA's of Warwick, RI and year end audited statements for ABCORI which includes the Pooled Fund is done by Bloom Shapiro CPA's of Providence and New York. All policies and

procedures are followed and tested by our audit teams. We are pleased with the work performed by our Pooled Fund Administrator, Nikita McCalister, and we contribute to her compensation package for her time spent tending to the needs of our clients. We also pay for all accounting expenses associated with the portfolio.

Our annual investment dinner was held in April of 2014 and was well attended with a very informative presentation by Sharon Lewis, SVP Bernstein Global Wealth. We welcome Jamestown Baptist Church as a new member of the Pooled Fund. Should your church be interested in joining the Pooled Fund please contact Nikita at the ABCORI main office.

Thank you to the members of the Pooled Fund Investment Committee; Rev. Tom Wiles, Tom Archer, Sue Colantonio, Bob Butzier, Rev. Bob Auld, Bob Sherman, Don Wolfe and Rev. Nikita McCalister. A big thank you goes to Tom Archer, who has served as my backup and consultant on financial matters.

Respectfully submitted
Thomas Kennedy, Chairman

ABCORI PROPERTIES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT **April 2013 to February 2014**

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), Kevin Williams (Summit Baptist Church), Bruce Pino (North Scituate Baptist Church), Bruce Wilcox (First Baptist Church in Hope Valley), Facilities Manager Matt Black and Executive Minister Rev. Tom Wiles.

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 continuing. Also a lot of time has been spent on repairs due to leaks caused by broken pipes. We will continue to look at upgrading both the conference center and surrounding areas.

As in the previous year a lot of time has been spent on Lake Adams the low level outlet which needs to be made operational. We were not able to finish it this past year due to rain, procuring item needed for the low level outlet. 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 and should be completed in 2014.

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 TO
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND**

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 O'Neill, Osbourne Easter and Ludy Romano.
2. The Committee continued to receive concerns and suggestions about the Employee Manual. Several minor changes are being proposed as of this writing. All parties affected have been consulted. The Committee will continue to refine this document to be consistent with all federal and state requirements while providing a faithful and positive work environment for our employees. Again this year we thank Nikita McCalister for her expertise and input. Committee members were also involved in discussions and decisions about refining a number of Position Descriptions.
3. Representatives of the Committee have worked in concert with executive leadership of ABCORI to be responsive to employee concerns. Consensus among Personnel members continues that unless there is 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 in discussions. There were no grievances filed.
4. The Personnel Committee has fulfilled its role in consulting with our Executive leadership for the goal of faithful stewardship. It is no easy task.

ABCORI REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ABC/USA BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Our denomination continues to celebrate the success of the Biennial Mission Summit and the work of the program, *Transformed by the Spirit*. At the Biennial close to 2,000 Baptists gathered in Overland Park, Kansas to worship, learn, and listen for the movement of the Spirit. Part of the meeting included time for people to gather in groups and discuss various topics that are pertinent to the denomination including: generational connection, communication, mission, and evangelism. From those conversations emerged a handful of major themes that are on the hearts and minds of many people within the denomination. As a follow-up to the experience, in November the denomination hosted the first ever Mission Summit Table where 100 people looked at the major themes and considered ways the denomination can respond to those. Throughout this process people continued to open themselves to an awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit which is the focus of the program, *Transformed by the Spirit*, guiding the denomination to have an awareness of the movement of the Holy Spirit as it moves forward.

This year the Board of General Ministries approved continuing Dr. A. Roy Medley's contract with ABC/USA as the General Secretary for two more years. Many would have like to have Dr. Medley continue for a full four years (each contract is for four years), but this was done at Dr. Medley's request. He is looking forward to retirement and spending time with his family but feels it is important to continue to see the denomination through the *Transformed by the Spirit* program. Our president, Rev. Don Ng, is already working to put together a search committee so the transition will be as smooth as possible. At the next Biennial in 2015 we will have Dr. Medley's wonderful ministry to celebrate.

I continue to serve with the Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations as well as on the Board of Directors of the American Baptist Historical Society. It is an honor and privilege to serve on both.

As a family the American Baptists are involved in powerful and wonderful ministries. I encourage you to go to the web site (www.abc-usa.org) to see some of the many things that we are doing through our denomination.

I am thrilled to be your representative to the Board of General Ministries and am always willing to answer any questions or take any suggestions.

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OF RI ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2013

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.

Each year, ABW Ministries of RI strives to provide resources and opportunities for women and girls to fulfill the mission statement above.

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

AB Women's Ministries of RI and AB GIRLS (Girls in Relationship, Leadership and Training) partner throughout 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 supports 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 25-26, 2013. The theme "Shaped to be a Light Bearer ... in the Potter's Hand" was reflected in the Bible study led by Rev. Nikita McCallister. Sally Freestone of Freestone Pottery drew pertinent analogies from Scripture as she created an oil lamp commissioned by AB Women's Ministries of RI. Other workshops contributed to the overall theme.

The Spring Women's Day and Election of Officers led by Ruthann Lombardi, Coordinator of Church and Community, was held at First Baptist Church, Hope Valley on April 20, 2013. "Ready!! Set!! Go!! To Be Transformed" featured an interactive Bible study led by Rev. Linda Watkins. Rev. Dr. Joyce Duerr held an information panel on the Missional Church Project. Workshops enhanced the theme.

Fall Mission Day, led by Peggy Johnson, Coordinator of Missions and Service, was held October 6, 2013, at Central Baptist, Westerly. The theme was "Button, Button, Who's Got the Button?" and the theme Scripture was Ephesians 4:7. I was honored to bring a Bible study on spiritual gifts. Workshops covered a wide range of subjects from fun and light to serious and in depth. Katherine Niles, missionary to the Democratic Republic of Congo, was our guest and gave us insights into her and Wayne's ministry there. Everyone left with a greater appreciation of missionary work in other lands.

The 86th Annual Conference for Women and Girls, coordinated by Ann McGloshen, was held at Canonicus on June 14-15, 2013. The conference theme was *Shaped for God's Purpose*. Rev. Reppa Cottrell took us deep into the Word in a Bible study on the theme Scripture 2 Timothy 2:20-21. Keynote speaker was Lois Olmstead from Montana. An acclaimed author and speaker, Lois took us from laughter to tears and back again with her faith experiences as wife, mother, rancher, and cancer survivor. Under the leadership of Mary Maradiaga, girls in grades 3-12 join with AB women in ministry. Each event includes specific programming for the girls, but also includes time for girls and women to come together for interactive and intergenerational activities and worship. The GIRLS we nurture now ... are the women of tomorrow.

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

AB Women and GIRLS wholeheartedly 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 faithfully collaborate 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 2012-2013 is to raise \$2,000 for the purchase of a much needed school bus in Assam, India. The bus carries many of our MK's (missionary kids) to and from school. The bus currently in service needs to be replaced. If as you read this, the Lord speaks to your heart to contribute toward this worthy cause, you may send your donations to AB Women's Ministries of RI, c/o Elaine Williamson, Treasurer, 404 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02888.

Many 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 Report for 2013 – 2014

President's Report:

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 Director of Eldercare Ministries, 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.

Our endowment provides substantial support for the John Clarke Retirement Center. Areas of support include apartment subsidies, the Chaplaincy program, transportation facilities, and Security. Our efforts this year to continue to expand communication with the John Clarke board have been met with limited success.

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 again able to approve both requests with minor adjustments, 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 specifically for the elderly as well as assisting with funding for programs directly benefiting elderly participants. This year we approved two grants to Rhode Island American Baptist churches.

Respectfully submitted,
L. Vernon Robinson, Jr.
President

Notice of proposed amendment to the by-laws of the Baptist Home of Rhode Island:

As an addition to Article VII – Parliamentary Authority

“Voting by the Board of Directors may be conducted by electronic methods.”

Given quarterly meetings it is sometimes useful to conduct votes between meetings to insure efficient transaction of business. This amendment will update our procedures into today's environment.

Baptist Home Board of Rhode Island

2014 Officers

President	L. Vernon Robinson
Vice President	
Secretary	Virginia Mancini
Treasurer	Randy Dittmar
Assistant Treasurer	

Board of Directors

Term Ends May 2015

Virginia O'Shan
Michael D. Burch
Rosetta Williams

Term Ends May 2016

Linda Boyd
Idela Wilson
Rev. Vincent Thompson

Term Ends May 2017

Peggy Macnie
John Bellisle *
Clyde Bennett *

*New nominees presented 2014

Staff of American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island

Rev. Marie Carpenter, Director of Eldercare Ministries
Rev. Thomas Wiles, Executive Minister

THE RHODE ISLAND BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

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, we supported the following four students with educational advances:

Continuing Students:

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. We also partially supported the ABCORI run polity course. We are considering changes our bylaws and thereby broadening our outreach.

Our Funds are held in accounts with Merrill Lynch, The ABCORI Pooled Fund and Citizens Bank (See Treasurer's Report for Details).

RIBES Board of Directors 2014-2015

Class of 2014-15

Rev. Robert Auld (2)
Rev. Shirley Fortin (1)
Rev. Shyral Wallis (1)
Vacancy

Class of 2015-2016

Rev. Darin Collins (1)
Ernie Carpenter (2)
Janice Fletcher (2)
Vacancy

Class of 2016-2017

Rev. Virginia Alvarez (2)
Rev. Donald Rasmussen (2)
Rev. Cynthia Smothers (2)
Cristobal Soto (1)

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: Cristabal Soto

**Rhode Island Baptist Education Society
 Annual Treasurer's Report
 December 31, 2012 thru 12/31/2013**

Cash Balance, Checking Account, as of 12/31/12	\$	24,968.10
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Receipts:

RIBES invested funds income	6,250.00	
ABCORI Barney fund income	616.46	
Baptist Heritage reimb	200.00	
Total Receipts		7,066.46

Disbursements:

Payments to theological schools	3,600.00	
Baptist Heritage Ctr	600.00	
Cayer Caccia (audit fees)	5,000.00	
Total Disbursements		9,200.00

Transfer to Merrill Lynch	(25,000.00)	
Transfer from Money Market	11,697.05	
Bank fees	(50.00)	
		(13,352.95)

Cash Balance, Checking Account, as of 12/31/13	\$	9,481.61
--	----	----------

RIBES Money Market Balance @ 12/31/12	\$	11,693.14
Interest earned	3.91	
Transfer Balance to Checking	(11,697.05)	
		\$ -

Motter Fund Money Market @ 12/31/12	\$	17,887.29
Gifts Received	1,000.00	
Interest earned	8.98	
		\$ 18,896.27

ABCORI Barney Fund Market Value as of 9/30/13*	\$	13,846.34
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*RIBES receives income but does not own fund

Respectfully submitted,
Susan R. Colantonio, Treasurer

Baptist Heritage Center Annual Report

*One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4*

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 the fall of 2013, we conducted 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 focusing on Baptist History, Baptist Principles, Baptist Polity, and ABC Denominational Structure.

This year the meetings were held at the Meeting House of the First Baptist Church in America on September 28 and at Meadowwood Conference Center on October 26 and November 30. The instructors were Charles Hartman, J. Stanley Lemons, and Donald Rasmussen. For the session on Baptist polity, Kathryn Palen, chair of the Standing Committee on the Ministry, Bob Auld, president of ABCORI, and Peggy Johnson, past president of ABCUSA, contributed their insights and knowledge of Baptist structures and the ordination process.

Originally, eighteen students enrolled in the polity course, but four, for various reasons, withdrew. Four of those who completed the program were taking the course to fulfill a requirement for ordination, but one of them failed the course. The other participants took the course for their own enlightenment and pleasure. The ordination candidates were required to read a number of books, papers, and articles and to make reports that were evaluated by the instructors. The level of the work required was what anyone taking a graduate-level course would be expected to do. Those taking the course as an "auditor" were encouraged, but not required, to read the books and do the assigned essays and reports. As was true when the course was first offered in 2011, some of the "auditors" read and wrote papers.

The students taking it for ordination:

Myria Conationi
Linda Moore
Darcia Parham
Michele Sullivan
Melanie Towle
Kurt Ward

The others enrolled in the course:

Dr. Nancy Austin
Nancy Bancroft
William Cotton
Rev. Reppa Cottrell
Nancy Cyr-Larson
Vonnie Dutton
Rev. Paul R. Ford
Rev. Betsy Aldrich Garland

Theodus Jordan
Mark Lindsay
Roy Savasta
Rev. Walter Smothers

The Texts for the course included the following:

- Edwin Gaustad, *Liberty of Conscience: Roger Williams in America*.
- Sydney James, *The Legacies of John Clarke*.
- Everett Goodwin, *Down by the Riverside*.
- Walter Shurden, *Four Fragile Freedoms*.
- Wm. Brackney, *A Capsule History of Baptist Principles*.
- Edwin Gaustad, "Where are the Lions When You Need Them?" *Christian History*, Vol 4, No. 2.
- 1663 Covenant of the church in Swansea
- Maring & Hudson's *A Baptist Manual of Polity and Practice*
- Wm. Brackney, *The Genetic History of Baptist Thought*
- By-laws and manuals of local churches

Looking to the November of 2014 - we are planning to hold a conference focusing on Baptist Hymns and how they shaped our worship and lives.

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.

Respectfully submitted
Rev. Dr. Paul M Hanson

The following are the Officers and Board members of the Baptist Heritage Center.

2014 - 2015

Officers

President: Rev. Dr. Paul M. Hanson
United Baptist Church

Vice-President: Rev Dr. Charles Hartman
First Baptist Swansea

Secretary: Nancy Bancroft
Wakefield Baptist

Treasurer: Don Waterman
Berean Baptist Church

Board of Directors

- 2015** Rev. James C. Miller
 Emmanuel Baptist Church
- Rev. Delphain Demosthenes
 Memorial Baptist Church, Seekonk MA
- 2016** Rev. Clay Berry
 Wakefield Baptist Church
- 2016** Rev. Dr. Johnny M. Wilson, Jr.
 Olney Street Baptist Church
- 2017** Dr. J. Stanley Lemons
 First Baptist Church in America
- Rev Stephen E. Hollaway
 First Baptist Church, Block Island

BHC TREASURER'S REPORT as of 02-11-2014

Beginning balance as of last report 12-8-2013	\$4670.67
Withdrawals 1 check	\$100.00
Deposits	\$ 30.00
Balance as of 02-11--2014	\$4600.67

Respectfully submitted
Don Waterman

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND
PROPOSED BUDGET 2014

INCOME

Basic Revenue			
Mission Giving from Churches	137,000		
Honoraria	2,000		
Other Gifts and Donation	26,000		
Total Basic Revenue		165,000	
Grants			
Baptist Home Board	130,000		
Other	11,875		
Total Grants		141,875	
Camping Revenue		87,510	
Conference Revenue		225,000	
Other Income			
Rentals	34,920		
Management Fees	22,400		
Fire Wood Sales	2,400		
Total Other Income		59,720	
TOTAL INCOME			679,105
DRAW FROM INVESTMENTS			123,114
TOTAL RESOURCES			802,219
EXPENSES			
Administrative Expenses		87,865	
Personnel Services		247,817	
Church Life		9,975	
Occupancy Expenses		133,250	
Camping Ministries		87,368	
Conferencing Expenses		131,943	
Elder Care Expenses		130,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES			828,218
Net Resources under Expenses			-25,999

American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2013

	Dec 31, 13
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1010 · Checking - General Fund 3366	40,308.14
1020 · Checking - Pooled Fund 7316	13,508.99
1030 · Checking - Baptist Fund 1081	55,139.50
1050 · Savings - Grant 9273	10,037.45
1080 · Petty Cash - Admin	300.00
1085 · Petty Cash - Conference	100.00
Total Checking/Savings	119,392.08
Accounts Receivable	
1100 · Accounts Receivable - Conf.	14,923.60
1110 · Accounts Receivable - Camp	717.50
Total Accounts Receivable	15,641.10
Other Current Assets	
1300 · Receivable - Other	10,231.28
Total Other Current Assets	10,231.28
Total Current Assets	145,264.46
Fixed Assets	
1810 · Buildings & Improvements	4,039,215.55
1820 · Land	120,018.62
1830 · Office Furniture & Fixtures	46,311.08
1870 · Vehicles	43,675.00
1880 · Church Bldgs & Land not in serv	65,012.00
1890 · Accumulated Depreciation	-3,178,128.55
Total Fixed Assets	1,136,103.70
Other Assets	
1410 · Fidelity Invest - 2bw-380466	25,163.38
1420 · ABC Clinton Edna Philips	30,367.60
1430 · AB Extension Invest - 057202	73,365.76
1440 · Wells Fargo f/k/a Evergreen	3,689.62
1460 · IBM Stock 30 shares	5,627.10
1510 · N/R - Haitian BC of RI	7,842.37
1550 · N/R - Phillips Margin Loan Rece	172,425.62
1900 · Sanford Bernstien - PIF Invest	6,915,474.00
1902 · Bernstien Margin Payable	-172,425.62
1903 · PIF Receivable Due from General	11,371.44
1920 · ABEC - Note #2	25,000.00
Total Other Assets	7,097,901.27
TOTAL ASSETS	8,379,269.43

American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2013

	<u>Dec 31, 13</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
3000 · Accounts Payable - ABCORI	50,032.69
3010 · Accounts Payable - Pooled Fund	37,848.41
Total Accounts Payable	<u>87,881.10</u>
Other Current Liabilities	
3100 · Due to others	15,000.00
3120 · Accrued Expenses & Liabilities	18,500.00
3130 · Due to AB Peacemakers	1,262.68
3140 · Due To PIF From General	11,371.44
3180 · Security Deposit - House Rental	2,000.00
3220 · Due To/From Baptist Home	15,769.96
3900 · Due to Member Churches	1,310,699.35
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>1,374,603.33</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,462,484.43</u>
Total Liabilities	1,462,484.43
Equity	
4010 · Fund Balance	1,198,635.01
4020 · Temp. Restricted IBT Net Assets	2,223,591.00
4030 · Perm Restricted Net Assets	2,257,198.00
4090 · Prior Period Adjustment	19,475.11
4900 · Net Asset Released Restriction	-168,210.93
Net Income	<u>1,386,096.81</u>
Total Equity	<u>6,916,785.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>8,379,269.43</u></u>

**187th Annual Meeting (Session A)
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island**

**Monday, March 4, 2013, 7 p.m.
Calvary Baptist Church, Providence**

MINUTES

Welcome
Devotional

Donna Sherman, President
Rev. Jabulani McCalister

A hymn was sung

Introduction of the executive minister, Rev. Tom Wiles Donna Sherman
The Executive Minister Search Committee was thanked, and appreciation was expressed for the work of the transition team and ABCORI staff.

Annual Meeting, RI Baptist Heritage Center

Rev. Dr. Paul Hanson, President

The meeting was called to order by the president.

The booklet "Hometown of Baptists" has been reprinted and is available for a \$1 purchase. The board is able to assist churches in knowing what records are of historical value and how best to preserve them. Another polity course will be offered in the fall. There will be no biennial event this year because of the 375th anniversary celebration at First in America and the 350th at First, Swansea. Also, the state will recognize the 350th anniversary of the state charter. A motion was made and seconded to accept the following slate of officers and new board members for 2013-2014:

President: Rev. Dr. Paul Hanson	Vice President:– Ms. Nancy Cyr-Larson
Secretary: Rev. Dr. Donald Rasmussen	Treasurer : Dr. Donald Waterman
Board; Rev. Dr. Johnny Wilson (2016)	Board: Rev. Clay Berry (2016)

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed

Annual Meeting, Baptist Home Board

Mr. Vern Robinson, President

The meeting was called to order by the president.

The board meets quarterly and continues support of the John Clarke Retirement Center and the Elder Care Ministries program. Three churches were awarded grants during the year.

The following amendment to the by-laws was moved, seconded and voted: Article 1, section 4e, "...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.*ⁱ A copy of the Auditor's Report will be forwarded to the Board of directors for the Secretary's permanent records."

A motion was made and seconded to accept the following slate of officers and new board members for 2013-2014:

President: Mr. Vern Robinson	Vice President: Rev. Michael Burch
Secretary: Ms. Virginia Mancini	Treasurer: Mr. Jack Rawcliffe
	Assistant Treasurer: Mr. Randy Dittmar
Board: Rev. Dr. Vincent Thompson, Jr. (2014)	Board: Ms. Rosetta Williams (2014)
Board: Mr. William Austin (2016)	Board: Ms. Idela Wilson (2016)

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and passed.

The president acknowledged delegates and guests who had received assistance from RIBES. RIBES assisted four students this year one of whom will be graduating in May and three others who will complete their work soon. Delegates were encouraged to let seminarians know of the ability of the society to grant assistance. The meeting was called to order.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the following slate of officers and new board members.

President: Rev. Robert Auld	Vice President: Vacancy
Corresponding Sect'y: Ms. Janice Fletcher	Treasurer: Ms. Sue Colantonio
Recording Secretary: Rev Shyral Wallis	Board: Rev. Darin Collins Class of 2015-2016
Board: Mr. Ernest Carpenter Class of 2015-2016	Board: Rev. Dr. Donald Rasmussen Class of 2013-2014

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed

Call to Order: ABCORI 187th Annual Meeting (Session A)

Donna Sherman, President
Rev. Dr. Donald Rasmussen

Clerk *pro tem*:

Parliamentarian: Ms. Peggy Johnson

Roll Call of Churches:

Don Rasmussen

Present were: 49 churches; 24 pastors; 89 delegates and 25 guests for a total registered attendance of 138.

A quorum was present.

Minutes of the March 7, 2012 annual meeting as distributed were approved by voice vote.

2012 Treasurer's Report: Due to the illness of Treasurer Randy Lundquist, Nikita McCalister, Operations Manager, presented the report. She indicated that the books for 2012 were not yet closed. It appears there will be a 2012 deficit of about \$50,000. Audits of several past years are now being completed and QuickBooks software is in use. The 2013 Budget was presented showing a deficit of about \$70,000. After discussion, it was moved, seconded and voted to adopt the 2013 budget. A \$62,470 grant was received from the Champlin Foundation for upgrading the Meadowood Conference Center. Nikita encouraged visits to the Canonicus campus. In her personal report, she indicated that her work for ABCORI will conclude on April 30, 2013. She expressed thanks for the opportunity to serve and received a standing ovation.

Elder Care Ministries Report:

Rev. Marie Carpenter

A written report was distributed at the registration table in which Marie listed the six foci of ECM. In her verbal report she indicated that she will be offering assistance to care givers, an often neglected part of elder care. Palliative care and end of life issues are also foci. She announced a May 5 Interfaith event from 2 – 4 p.m. at Roger Williams Park in Providence. Other ministries include training of Simeon Ministers and aging in place.

ABCUSA General Board:

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone

Our representative highlighted the June 21-23 Summit (Biennial) in Overland Park, Kansas and the "Transformed in the Spirit" focus of our national denomination. This will be the first "summit" under the new bylaws.

Camping Celebration

Melanie Towle, Director

A musical PowerPoint presentation of 65 years of camping at Canonicus was shown. It demonstrated the wonderful history of our beloved property in Exeter and gave evidence to the many lives that have been touched by the love of Christ at Canonicus.

New Business

Report of the Recruitment Committee

James Essex

Board of Ministries: A motion was made, seconded and voted to elect the following:

President: Rev. Robert Auld (2015)	Vice President: Mr. Ken Marrocco (2015)
Secretary: Rev Tom Wiles, staff	Treasurer: Mr. Robert Butzier (2014)
	Clerk: <i>Vacant</i>

Mr. Essex proposed a bylaw change to Article IX Committees; 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, ~~and~~ 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.” The changes, (strikeout and underlined), were adopted by voice vote.

Other Business

Michele Burnham of the Camping and Youth Ministry team was called upon to announce the youth delegates to the national biennial. They will be Jonathan Gaye and Crystal Perry.

One delegate asked that new pastors be recognized.

Kate Perry of the Congregational Life Team announced an “All Church Worship” to be held at First Baptist Church in America on April 28 at 3 p.m. Rev. Wiles will be the speaker.

The Baptist Fund of Rhode Island report had been distributed earlier.

President Sherman thanked Matt Black for his PowerPoint presentations during the various meetings.

Rev. Marie Carpenter installed Robert Auld as president.

The gathering saluted outgoing President Donna Sherman with a standing ovation.

Rev. Wiles led the closing prayer and the assembly adjourned with the singing of “Blest Be the Tie”.

Donald R. Rasmussen

Clerk, pro tem

¹ New sentence in italics

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
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	Calvary Baptist Church & First Baptist Church in America	Robert Auld	Tom Wiles
2014	Canonicus Camp & Conference Ctr & Phillips Memorial Baptist Church	Robert Auld	Tom Wiles

**The American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
Pastor's Ordination Anniversaries we celebrate in 2014**

Rev. Steven Guilmain	2009	5 years
Rev. Shelton Rucker, Jr.	2009	5 years
Rev. Alejandro Gaete	2004	10 years
Rev. Delphain Demosthenes	1999	15 years
Rev. Dr. Joyce Duerr	1999	15 years
Rev. Patricia Harrison	1999	15 years
Rev. Nancy Phelan	1999	15 years
Rev. Earl Henrichon	1994	20 years
Rev. Wendy Kiefer-O'Brien	1994	20 years
Rev. Barbara DaCosta	1989	25 years
Rev. William Aldrich	1984	30 years
Rev. Judith Bucklin	1984	30 years
Rev. Joshua McClure	1984	30 years
Rev. Harry Rix	1984	30 years
Rev. Carlos Mooney	1964	50 years
Rev. Dr. Donald Rasmussen	1964	50 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 2014**

The Baptist Church in Warren	250 years
First Baptist Church East Greenwich	175 years
Mount Vernon Baptist Church	125 years

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 ABC of Rhode Island
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Membership						Attendance				Churches	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	
38	31	35	59	14	5	3,422	1,788	1,423	474	\$ 3,163,314	\$ 157,247	\$ 259,549	\$ 132,709	\$ 3,049,129	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,961	4,961	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	142	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,831	4,996	0	0	
0	0	0	1	0	0	57	41	0	0	62,941	549	1,065	1,583	45,081	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	0	0	
0	0	7	0	0	1	33	0	40	3	76,658	2,677	2,786	3,203	80,638	
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	3,000	5,515	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6	4	0	1	1	0	311	50	50	13	68,645	0	825	200	69,201	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14,894	22,983	0	0	
0	0	8	4	0	0	436	190	104	27	248,687	4,584	8,143	6,415	282,966	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,250	4,976	0	0	
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	16	15	2	12,273	533	673	0	19,937	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	200	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	43	30	10	48,892	1,002	1,139	367	47,056	
0	4	0	3	0	0	105	65	60	13	68,794	2,316	6,111	3,931	71,418	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,588	4,393	0	0	
0	0	0	10	0	0	302	197	90	29	399,178	2,409	4,341	23,999	306,329	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	725	0	0	
3	5	0	6	9	0	235	230	60	25	194,760	2,665	5,816	13,838	196,704	
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	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,224	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	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,624	1,661	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	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,879	2,857	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,658	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,227	22,951	0	0	

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Membership						Attendance				Churches	---- Benevolences ----			
Gains			Losses			Total	Resident	Weekly	Church		Local	United	ABMS	Other
Baptism	Letter	Other	Death	Letter	Other	Members	Members	Worship	School	Expense	Mission.	Total	Mission	Income
38	31	35	59	14	5	3,422	1,788	1,423	474	\$ 3,163,314	\$ 157,247	\$ 259,549	\$ 132,709	\$ 3,049,129
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	800	800	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	300	1,614	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	400	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	412	519	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	7,390	16,037	0	0
1	1	3	6	2	0	178	0	50	14	64,746	0	0	100	53,517
0	3	2	1	0	0	235	100	70	21	0	10,400	11,757	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	2,200	2,950	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	300	650	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	4	110	197	0	49	485,675	12,200	17,850	11,425	484,546
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	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	50	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
20	5	0	4	0	0	220	0	295	78	399,643	0	0	42,949	402,966
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	750	750	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	0	107	72	72	7	0	0	0	0	0
0	2	0	2	0	0	109	82	70	13	82,604	1,200	1,400	2,121	10,044
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	743	3,503	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	1,375	4,973	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	794	945	0	0
0	3	2	4	0	0	358	151	80	27	186,510	17,000	29,789	8,110	224,925
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	536	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	1,780	2,540	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	7,128	8,992	0	0
0	2	1	2	0	0	109	65	44	29	79,095	802	851	415	77,952
3	0	6	7	0	0	172	172	115	28	258,712	8,727	14,840	4,954	254,982
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	312	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	1,653	2,064	0	0

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38	31	35	59	14	5	3,422	1,788	1,423	474		\$ 3,163,314	\$ 157,247	\$ 259,549	\$ 132,709	\$ 3,049,129
3	0	0	3	0	0	140	67	48	25	West Warwick, Phenix Baptist Church	87,226	6,454	8,088	800	93,146
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Westerly, Central Baptist Church	0	1,272	7,004	0	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	80	50	50	38	Westerly, Pleasant St Baptist Ch	160,275	0	245	0	153,720
1	0	5	2	0	0	125	0	80	23	Wickford, First Baptist Church	178,000	5,957	9,692	8,300	174,000
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	157	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Woonsocket, Un Nuevo Comienzo	0	0	0	0	0
38	31	35	59	14	5	3,422	1,788	1,423	474		163,314	157,247	259,549	132,709	3,049,129

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 2013**

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, devises, 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 1 Two (2) representatives of the Minister's Council, one (1) representative of Rhode Island Baptist Education Society (RIBES), and one (1) representative of the Pastoral Leadership Team 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
- Amended by delegates – March 3, 2014

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.

ⁱ New sentence in italics