

# 2020

# ANNUAL REPORT YEARBOOK

Prepared for 2021 Annual Meeting



**American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island**  
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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

# Table of Contents

## Annual Reports

Interim Executive Minister .....	2
President.....	4
Associate Executive Minister for Elder Care Ministries .....	6
Camping Ministries .....	7
Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry .....	8
Baptist Fund of Rhode Island.....	8
Investment Committee.....	9
Properties Committee.....	11
Representative to the Board of General Ministries of ABC-USA .....	12
Financial Reports	
2020 Balance Sheet .....	14
2021 Operating Budget.....	16
Recruitment Committee.....	21
Executive Minister Search Committee.....	21

## Affiliated Organizations

American Baptist Women’s Ministries of Rhode Island .....	22
Ministers Council .....	23
Baptist Home Board of Rhode Island .....	24
John Clarke Retirement Center .....	27
Rhode Island Baptist Education Society.....	28
Rhode Island Baptist Heritage Center .....	30

## Convention Records

Minutes of the 194 <sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting, March 2, 2020 .....	32
Pastor Ordination Anniversaries & Church Anniversaries.....	34

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## Report of the Interim Executive Minister

My grandson sings a song that goes, “Zoom, zoom, zoom we’re going to the moon.” We had no idea that in 2020 we would all learn how to Zoom on our computers, iPads, and phones! The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives forever. Our approach to being the church has had to adapt to this new reality. In the midst of it all we have found new ways to reach people with God’s love in Christ. We have discovered what is really important about being the church.

In addition to adjusting to the new realities of the pandemic, ABCORI has also gone through a major transition with the retirement of Rev. Dr. Tom Wiles. It was sad not to be able to have an appropriate retirement celebration with him. We are pleased to share that he is doing very well with regard to his health challenges.

I began work as your Interim Executive Minister on July 1, 2020. During July and August I served remotely from my home in Chicago due to pandemic concerns. Finally, on September 1, I arrived in Rhode Island to be with you all in person. Still, much of the work remained on Zoom even though we held some in-person meetings outside at Canonicus.

It has been a pleasure to get to know and work with the great staff of the region. We meet monthly together, and I meet often with them individually as well. In January I met with each one individually for a six-month evaluation session. We went over their work performance and discussed their concerns and dreams.

In addition to a great deal of administrative work, each Sunday I “attend” two to six worship services, which is possible when doing it remotely. It has been wonderful to experience the rich diversity of our congregations. The region’s pastors have had many Zoom meetings to support one another through the challenges of leading in a pandemic. I look forward to one day meeting face to face with them. I have regularly communicated with everyone through our *Connections* weekly newsletter.

Much of my time is devoted to assisting churches with their search for a new pastor. We are pleased that North Scituate Baptist Church called Rev. Kim Nelson to be their pastor in July and that Warwick Central called Rev. Samuel Chesser in December. There are still 14 churches in pastoral transition.

Recently I have focused on analyzing the financial health of the region as we prepare for the 2021 budget. I will be working more in this area in the next few months. We have before us the challenge of repairing the dam that creates beautiful

Lake Adams at Canonicus. We await word on our grant proposals as we try to reach our goal of raising at least \$100,000 to help pay the balance of the \$500,000 to \$600,000 total cost.

Finally, it was so impressive to watch the way the region came together to accomplish the ordination council for Linda Moore. It was certainly a challenge to adapt such an important region event to a virtual format. With Linda Bausserman as chair of SCOM, and Kathryn Palen, Associate Executive of Elder Care, working the technology, and Linda Moore's open spirit, it went very well. We hope the annual meeting will go as smoothly!

It is a pleasure to serve alongside the people of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. I pray that at the next annual meeting you will welcome a new settled Executive Minister in person rather than on Zoom!

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Douglas Harris (Doug)

## Report of the President

The year 2020 started off knowing that our Executive Minister, Rev. Dr. Tom Wiles, would be retiring in June. The Executive Committee of the Board of Ministries had the responsibility of finding an interim. We met with Dr. Jeff Woods of ABC-USA, who gave us helpful guidance about the search process. He recommended four excellent candidates, each of whom were interviewed via Zoom. I so appreciate the members of the Executive Committee with whom I worked: Vice President Beth Berry, Treasurer Bob Butzier, and Clerk Ann McGloshen. Together, we worked diligently and participated in many Zoom hours of first and second interviews and feedback with each other after each interview.

Up until mid-March, the Board of Ministries was meeting as usual, and our Annual Meeting was held at Lakewood Baptist Church. Pastor Ron Provencal and the congregation were excellent hosts.

We had hoped to have the All-Church Worship in June rather than the typical October date so we could celebrate with Tom Wiles the many years of his ministry as Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. Sadly, the pandemic prevented us from having such a gathering.

By April, all Board of Ministries meetings, as well as most other meetings, were on Zoom or over the phone. I appreciate all of the volunteers who serve on the many ministry teams and committees. ABCORI is blessed to have so many people who care deeply about our region and even more so about helping each other and our churches be the light of Christ in this world.

In July we welcomed Rev. Douglas Harris as our Interim Executive Minister. He worked his first two months remotely from Chicago. He arrived in Rhode Island in September. As the spread of COVID-19 increased exponentially, it was discussed that traveling back and forth from Rhode Island to Illinois was not in the best interest of his health, especially as the virus began to spike. Doug has recently had his first vaccination shot and by this meeting may have had his second. When it is safe for him to do so, he will be coming back to RI.

Financially, 2020 was a challenging year. Many thanks to our Treasurer, Investment Committee, and staff, who have been faithful in managing our finances and discerning the best ways to cover expenses, which included applying for and receiving the Paycheck Protection Plan loan.

The Board of Ministries is now appointing members for the Executive Minister Search Committee. It is hoped that we will find an Executive Minister by July 2022. Please keep the Executive Minister search and our region in prayer. 2020 was difficult in many ways, yet it taught us that the work of the church does not stop even when we cannot meet together.

It has been an honor to have served as President of ABCORI these past two years.

In Christ,  
Wendy Kiefer-O'Brien

## Associate Executive Minister for Elder Care Ministries

The old saying about “best-laid plans” proved to be true during 2020, but so did the saying that “when one door closes, another opens.”

When we set a 2020 goal to expand communications about the programs, resources, and assistance available through Elder Care Ministries, little did we know how crucial that goal would be. We have been able to reach out virtually through:

- A website—<http://eldercare.abcori.org>—that provides information about upcoming programs and opportunities; a wide variety of resources; and the *Traveling the Third Third of Life* blog.
- A Facebook group—Elder Care Ministries (ABCORI)—with a page that is updated daily and offers a variety of information, resources, and discussions.

While we were unable to offer in-person events during much of 2020, we had opportunities to design a variety of other programs and resources, including:

- **Coffee Chats:** Each Wednesday morning people in the third third of life gathered via Zoom to reflect on and chat about different topics. A new theme for these conversations was introduced each month.
- **Join the Conversation:** This integrated initiative allowed older adults in our region to share their thoughts and feelings about navigating the third third of life. The rich responses we received helped us shape exciting new resources.
- **Using Technology to Connect with Older Members:** This program provided grants to assist congregations with technology to enable greater connection with older members. Congregations received grants, as well as consultations, to assist with purchasing equipment, software, and related services.
- **Resources for Home Use:** We developed a variety of resources that could be used in different ways in home settings. Those resources included *Generation to Generation*, a series designed to help grandparents—or other adults—share Bible stories and activities virtually or in-person with the children in their lives; *Sharing Good News of Great Joy*, a set of daily ideas for conversations and activities for use during December; and *Looking Back*, a three-part series to help people reflect on the year that was about to end.

We also worked with a growing number of congregations and individuals to find resources for such concerns as health-care services for older adults; mental-health and grief support; and congregational programs in the face of COVID-19.

I am grateful for these opportunities and the ongoing support of our region.

Rev. Kathryn Palen

## Camping Ministries

Summer 2020 was surely one of the first of its kind at Canonicus. After accepting the position of director in February, I had the full intention of holding a summer camping program. But as COVID-19 rapidly spread I met with our Camping and Youth Ministry Team, and we decided otherwise. This was a very difficult decision, but we did not want to endanger our campers and their families.

During the summer I reached out to our middle-school and high-school youth by developing Camp Canonicus Mission Project. This free program offered our youth a chance to volunteer their time to help with projects on the grounds and to swim and spend time with me and one another. The program was extremely successful— with 24 youth volunteers, as well as six adult volunteers.

The camp theme for the summer was to have been about Jesus' walking on the water (Matthew 14:22-33). That theme still held true during the summer and helped us keep our eyes focused on God as we spent time evaluating our camping program and imagining how it might look in the future.

We will need to modify our programs for the 2021 camping season due to COVID-19. We plan to have a strong day-camp program, as well as a limited overnight program with a focus on our emerging leaders. We will continue to partner with Hasbro Children's Hospital for a modified camp, as well as with Butler Hospital, which plans to double their time at Canonicus during summer 2021.

As we look towards themes and the direction for our camping program this summer, I am inviting our camp pastors to help shape the curriculum for their "week at camp." Working with an overall theme of *Unshakeable Faith*, we hope to develop new curriculum focusing on different scripture passages for each week of camp.

I look forward to what is to come and cannot help but feel blessed, excited, and encouraged by all the God is doing in and around me and our camping staff. Thank you for your continued prayer and support for this ministry.

Warm regards,  
Amanda Hosley, Director of Camping



## **Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry**

It seems we began this year figuring out how to do our work remotely and undoing the plans for March and April. We postponed the dinner at Canonicus for ordination candidates scheduled for March because of the pandemic. We had hoped to make this an annual event. We have now tentatively scheduled to hold it this October. Linda Moore's Ordination Council, scheduled for April 26, was also postponed, and Lihua Zhou informed us that Community Church would postpone her ordination, which had been scheduled for March 22.

The rest of the year, however, was very positive. We met by Zoom with Rev. Peter Preiser from Harbor Church on Block Island in May and wholeheartedly voted to recognize his ordination as an American Baptist pastor. With extensive technical help from Kathryn Palen, we held the Ordination Council for Linda Moore by Zoom in November. It was well attended with 15 churches represented. She was unanimously recommended for ordination. We met with Elise Mancini from Ebenezer Baptist Church in December and have recommended to her church that they hold an Ordination Council for her.

As always, we continue to support all the candidates who are seeking ordination.

Linda Bausserman, Chair

## **Baptist Fund**

In 2020 Baptist Fund of Rhode Island did not disperse funds. Funds received during 2020 were placed in BFRI checking account in order to respond to ABCORI emergencies.

Carolyn (Vonnie) Dutton, Chair

## Investment Committee

The Investment Committee is a part of the Operations Team. Its purpose is to provide stewardship and governance for ABCORI's Pooled Fund. The committee consists of ex-officio officers (Executive Minister, Treasurer, Operations Chair) and at-large members (elected ABCORI representatives).

### ABCORI Pooled Fund

ABCORI's Pooled Fund (PIF) is a *Close-Ended* Investment Fund, established as an investment alternative for regional gifts, ABCORI member churches and select affiliates, and organizational endowed funds to meet the intent of *Dedicated* RI Baptists. The primary investment objective of the endowed assets is the preservation of principal and donors' corpus. The role of the committee is to set investment policy, determine asset allocation, coordinate activities with the financial advisor (Alliance Bernstein), custodial manager (Fradin & Co. CPAs), and ABCORI's financial manager (Nancy Faria) in meeting the requirements identified by ABCORI's annual budget.

### Performance

Throughout the past sixteen years our financial advisor has served the region in an exemplary manner in meeting the financial objectives of the PIF and in maintaining the value of the fund for the region and its members. During their tenure, our advisors have provided over \$4.3M in earnings, which have been critical to fulfilling ABCORI's mission. With each year the financial environment presents uncertainty that challenges a wealth manager's capabilities, as 2020 proved to be perhaps the most challenging—without exception.

As the market ended 2019 on an extremely positive note, the outlook was looking extremely optimistic, but an unforeseen disastrous event occurred at the end of the first quarter of 2020—worldwide pandemic. In just a matter of a few weeks, the market lost close to 17% of its value, and the value of the PIF dropped by some 15%. It has been 100 years since the occurrence of a global pandemic, and its impact will no doubt take years to recover from economically with the failure of many businesses and as the loss of lives in the U.S. continues to grow. Even today, ABCORI's operations have been dramatically reduced, severely affecting the region's income, but our *faith* remains strong! In addition to these challenges, our facilities at Canonicus are being threatened with the failure of the dam on Lake Adams.

However, like the early Christians who built their foundations on a rock and *not* on sand, we will persevere as we begin to see some improvement. The PIF has regained its value just prior to the beginning of the pandemic, and with the introductions of vaccinations we hope to see our operations start to resume in the second part of the year. Despite these misfortunes, our financial advisors were able to deliver a return on our investments (ROI) of just over 8% for the year. Most notably we are thankful for those donors and their gifts that comprise the PIF, which has helped to sustain and provide stability for ABCORI.

### **Outlook**

There is no doubt that 2021 will be dominated by the continuing threat of the pandemic and our ability to adapt. As a region, our church members face many obstacles with regards to meeting these challenges. We must remain vigilant in supporting the efforts of all those who serve our region and carrying on the mission of ABCORI.

Tom Archer, Chair

## Properties Committee

While the Properties Committee did not meet in 2020, there are a number of things that can be reported about the Canonicus property.

### Slocum Reservoir Dam

- Due to a drier than usual summer the water level Lake Adams was lower than normal, and the maintenance staff noticed that sink holes had formed behind the stone face of the spillway. Left unchecked this situation could cause the dam to breach.
- Based on recommendations of an engineer of Pare Corporation, the level of Lake Adams was lowered even more, with the goal of keeping the water from running through the sinkholes and furthering the damage.
- An agreement was entered into with Pare Corporation to analyze the issue, suggest repairs, and apply for permits when repairs were authorized. Current estimates of repairs are in the range of \$550k to \$650k.
- The Natural Resources Conservation Service was contacted to explore the possibility of financial assistance. We currently have an application in with them, as well as Coastal Resource Management Commission. Both applications are still in process.
- The current outlook for the project is that repairs would start sometime around the end of August to the beginning of September 2021. This timing is based on a number of factors, including camp and conferencing programming and the time needed to complete the work once started. The water level in Lake Adams will need to be kept low until the work is completed.

### Buildings

- The final upgrades requested by the North Kingstown fire marshal were completed at the Green and Rathbun Retreat Lodges.
- Minor repairs and upgrades were made to Cedarholm House and Snell House before the new food service manager and new camp director moved on site.
- The radio box attached to the fire panel in Meadowwood Conference Center has been upgraded. The previous unit was 25 years old and not functioning.
- Chipuxett Bathhouse roof and an out-building at the Breezeymere house were damaged due to storms. Insurance claims were filed. The Breezeymere out-building was determined to be a total loss.

### Property

- A young man from Phenix Baptist Church repaired/replaced a foot bridge connecting the Meadowwood Conference Center to a field on the other side of

the water as his service project associated with attaining the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts.

- In 2018 we entered into an agreement with NextPath Financial to explore the feasibility of leasing a section of the Canonicus property for the creation of a two-megawatt solar farm. It was determined that due to the current National Grid infrastructure such a project is not feasible for NextPath to engage in at this time. The agreement has come to an end.

## **Representative to Board of General Ministries**

ZOOM!! The WORD of the Year!!

### **Board of General Ministries**

As your representative to the BGM I participated in Zoom meetings. They were an interesting change to the way we do things.

At both meetings of the BGM, finances were reviewed, and it was noted that giving for United Missions was down about 12%. It was also noted that our costs were down, and hence we were holding our own. The 2021 budget that was approved in the fall reflects that 12% decrease.

Rev. Jeff Woods, the Interim General Secretary, reported that during 2020 his office and staff had been very active in the following areas:

- a) Helping churches reopen and continue to minister to their congregations during the Covid pandemic.
- b) Working with President Karen Posailiday, developing the "Call to Prayer Event," which has led to the creation of an Anti-Racism Task Force.
- c) Working with the National Insurance Program through Sovereign Insurance Group and Church Mutual Insurance to help ABC congregations save on their insurance costs.
- d) Hiring Weidenhammer to assess the technological needs of the regional and national users of ABCUSA technologies in order to upgrade and improve ease of access. The Mission Initiative gave a grant for \$118,000 for this upgrade.
- e) Rev. Marie Onbubuariri, the former Regional Executive for Wisconsin, was hired as General Secretary for Mission Resource Development. She will be working on ways to increase United Mission awareness and giving.

During executive session, the board reviewed the steps and processes necessary to move forward in the selection of a new General Secretary for ABCUSA. While the process continues, Rev. Jeff Woods will remain as the Interim General Secretary.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing–World Relief Committee**

I continued to be one of the two representatives from the BGM to the World Relief Committee. The committee also met via Zoom. Throughout the year, Home Missions and International Ministries worked to raise monies to help with Covid relief. They have already distributed \$116,603 in U.S. relief and another \$115,800 for international relief. The committee approved redirecting another \$250,000 for Covid relief. During the fall meeting, the committee approved development grants for International Ministries amounting to \$250,000. Grants for Home Mission were approved in the spring.

As I said last year, it continues to be a joy to serve as your representative to the BGM and World Relief. The opportunity to work with the many different faces of our American Baptist family is and continues to be a blessing for me. Thank you for the opportunity.

Jan Fletcher

**American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of December 31, 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1010	Checking - General Fund 3366	92,620.28
1020	Checking - Pooled Fund 7316	9,903.42
1030	Checking - Baptist Fund 1081	26,007.24
1050	Savings - B.O.A	7,998.72
1080	Petty Cash - Admin	400.00
1082	Petty Cash - Camp	130.00
1087	Petty Cash - Occupancy	<u>100.00</u>

Total Checking/Savings 137,159.66

Accounts Receivable

1100	Accounts Receivable - Conf	<u>-18,035.00</u>
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Total Accounts Receivable -18,035.00

Other Current Assets

1210	Prepaid Expenses	5,867.28
1220	Prepaid Insurance	2,987.84
1300	Receivable - Other	<u>11,626.79</u>

Total Other Current Assets 20,481.91

Total Current Assets 139,606.57

Fixed Assets

1810	Building & Improvements	3,977,896.49
1820	Land	35,900.62
1830	Office Furniture & Fixtures	56,119.81
1870	Vehicles	52,647.59
1880	Church Bldgs & Land not in service	12.00
1890	Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-3,539,503.26</u>

Total Fixed Assets 583,073.25

Other Assets

1420	ABC Clinton Edna Philips	33,712.99
1440	Wells Fargo f/k/a Evergreen	5,227.37
1460	IBM Stock 30 shares	3,776.40
1470	US Trust Maude Roberts	297,280.34
1550	N/R - Phillips Margin Loan Rece	129,949.80
1900	Sanford Bernstein - PIF Invest	6,062,423.00
1901	Sanford Bernstein - PIF Invest Mul	1,181,247.00
1902	Bernstein Margin Payable Philli	-129,949.80
1903	PIF Receivable Due from General	<u>-26,772.06</u>

Total Other Assets 7,556,895.04

**TOTAL ASSETS 8,279,574.86**

**American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of December 31, 2020

LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
3000 Accounts Payable - ABCORI	<u>19,843.30</u>
Total Accounts Payable	19,843.30
Other Current Liabilities	
3100 Regional Missions Due to others	7,691.55
3120 Accrued Expenses & Liabilities	29,480.00
3130 Due to AB Peacemakers	960.29
3140 Due to PIF from General	-26,772.06
3900 Due to Member Churches	<u>1,811,186.74</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>1,822,546.52</u>
Total Current Liabilities	1,842,389.82
Long Term Liabilities	
3300 Loan Payable - Bernstein #6750	229,981.05
3320 Lease Payable - Marlin	817.65
3330 Loan Payable - Wash Trust SBA PPP	<u>91,665.00</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>322,463.70</u>
Total Liabilities	2,164,853.52
Equity	
4010 Fund Balance	1,532,579.25
4030 Perm Restricted Net Assets	4,561,741.00
4900 Net Asset Released Restriction	-381,200.00
4930 PRNA Released Current year	-87,354.17
Net Income	<u>488,955.26</u>
Total Equity	<u>6,114,721.34</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>8,279,574.86</b>



**American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island**  
**Profit & Loss Previous Years & Budget Comparisons**  
**January 2021 through December 2021**

	<u>Jan - Dec 2020</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2019</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>
Income			
5000 REVENUE			
5010 America for Christ Offering	\$ 2,750.61	\$ 5,722.24	\$ 4,000.00
5020 Regional Support	\$ 7,336.68	\$ 10,214.97	\$ 10,000.00
5030 United Mission Giving	\$ 65,958.28	\$ 81,066.43	\$ 70,000.00
5040 Honoraria	\$ 2,725.00	\$ 6,865.00	\$ 4,000.00
5060 Gifts & Donations - Unrestricted	\$ 42,685.56	\$ 29,468.38	\$ 25,000.00
5062 Gifts & Donations - 2020 Team	\$ 2,580.00	\$ 2,680.00	\$ 500.00
5070 Gifts & Donations - Restricted	\$ 7,760.00	\$ 10,185.10	\$ 5,000.00
5080 Dam Repair Donations	\$ 10,700.00	\$ -	\$ -
5092 Restricted Income - PIF Draw	<u>\$ 114,618.00</u>	<u>\$ 123,035.00</u>	<u>\$ 149,860.00</u>
Total 5000 - REVENUE	<u>\$ 257,114.13</u>	<u>\$ 269,237.12</u>	<u>\$ 268,360.00</u>
5100 REVENUE - GRANTS			
5110 Elder Care Grants	<u>\$ 137,157.00</u>	<u>\$ 133,162.00</u>	<u>\$ 137,157.00</u>
Total 5100 - REVENUE - GRANTS	<u>\$ 137,157.00</u>	<u>\$ 133,162.00</u>	<u>\$ 137,157.00</u>
5200 REVENUE - CAMP			
5210 Summer Camp - Camp Fees	\$ -	\$ 43,468.03	\$ 40,000.00
5215 Summer Camp - Program Fees	\$ -	\$ 29,643.00	\$ 35,000.00
5220 Summer Camp - Donations	\$ 905.00	\$ 1,262.05	\$ 1,200.00
5222 Summer Camp - Restricted	\$ -	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,000.00
5225 Summer Camp - Grants Campers	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 9,000.00
5230 Summer Camp - Scholarships	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 4,332.57	\$ 1,200.00
5290 Restricted Income - PIF Camp	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 8,274.82</u>	<u>\$ 11,000.00</u>
Total 5200 - CAMP - REVENUE	<u>\$ 6,605.00</u>	<u>\$ 103,680.47</u>	<u>\$ 99,400.00</u>
5300 REVENUE - CONFERENCES			
5310 Revenue - Day Conferences	\$ 5,533.75	\$ 18,226.59	\$ 14,500.00
5320 Revenue - Overnight Retreats	\$ 26,505.00	\$ 88,804.52	\$ 50,000.00
5330 Revenue - Equipment & Misc Items	\$ 1,479.99	\$ 2,418.90	\$ 800.00
5340 Other Facilities - Fields/Chapel	\$ 7,069.00	\$ 7,140.00	\$ 4,000.00
5350 Surcharges	\$ 2,914.00	\$ 385.00	\$ 2,500.00
5360 ABCORI - Seminars & Workshops	\$ -	\$ 2,685.00	\$ -
5380 Revenue - Food Service	\$ 15,669.81	\$ 61,761.75	\$ 35,000.00
5395 Customer Discounts	<u>\$ (7,811.50)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total 5300 - REVENUE - CONFERENCES	<u>\$ 51,360.05</u>	<u>\$ 181,421.76</u>	<u>\$ 106,800.00</u>

5400	REVENUE - FUND RAISING			
5410	Camp Store	\$ -	\$ 3,104.84	\$ 1,500.00
5415	Book Store	\$ -	\$ 7.00	\$ -
	Total 5400 - REVENUE - FUND RAISING	\$ -	\$ 3,111.84	\$ 1,500.00
5500	OTHER INCOME			
5512	Rental - ABCORI Units	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 25,200.00
5520	Income - Fire Wood	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 500.00
5525	Income - Scrap/Salvage Items	\$ 2,668.35	\$ 1,488.50	\$ 1,500.00
5530	Mission Outreach	\$ -	\$ 31,225.45	\$ -
5540	Baptist Home of RI - Admin Serv	\$ 6,390.00	\$ 6,390.00	\$ 6,390.00
5560	Misc Income	\$ 62.32	\$ 1,190.24	\$ 500.00
	Total 5500 - OTHER INCOME	\$ 30,120.67	\$ 47,344.19	\$ 34,090.00
	Total Income	\$ 482,356.85	\$ 737,957.38	\$ 647,307.00

Expense

6000	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES			
6010	Bank/Credit Card Fees & Interest	\$ 1,939.83	\$ 13,129.20	\$ 1,000.00
6020	Copyright License	\$ 137.00	\$ 133.00	\$ 140.00
6027	Advertising Expense	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
6030	Fees & Dues	\$ 1,658.22	\$ 471.00	\$ 600.00
6035	Dues - ABCUSA	\$ 1,051.24	\$ 2,033.98	\$ 2,100.00
6040	Workers Compensation Insurance	\$ 10,850.45	\$ 10,920.33	\$ 14,400.00
6045	Insurance - Umbrella	\$ 2,539.25	\$ 2,618.90	\$ 2,540.00
6090	Office Expense	\$ 4,634.11	\$ 3,093.47	\$ 4,320.00
6100	Office Equipment Expense	\$ 988.41	\$ 3,454.55	\$ 600.00
6105	Lease Expense - Copier	\$ 2,655.12	\$ 2,476.65	\$ 2,280.00
6110	Postage	\$ 706.65	\$ 883.60	\$ 780.00
6120	Telephone	\$ 5,536.06	\$ 7,416.15	\$ 6,240.00
6130	Computer Services/Internet Expense	\$ 5,238.36	\$ 5,097.00	\$ 4,200.00
6160	Audit & Consulting	\$ 26,480.00	\$ 23,400.00	\$ 28,000.00
6170	Accounting Fees - Controllership	\$ 3,215.00	\$ 4,662.50	\$ 3,240.00
6172	Accounting Fees - Investment	\$ 6,230.70	\$ 8,060.48	\$ 6,240.00
6175	Bookkeeping Fees	\$ 20,361.25	\$ 20,587.50	\$ 20,400.00
6910	Interest Expense - NEC/Marlin	\$ 274.97	\$ 649.39	\$ 276.00
6920	Interest Expense - Margin	\$ 3,419.30	\$ -	\$ 13,980.00
	Total 6000 - ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$ 97,915.92	\$ 110,287.70	\$ 111,336.00
6200	PERSONNEL SERVICES			
6210	Payroll - Regular Employees	\$ 66,795.60	\$ 84,512.09	\$ 66,840.00
6212	Payroll - Support Staff	\$ 14,495.93	\$ 16,672.45	\$ 14,520.00
6214	Payroll - Medical Reimbursement	\$ -	\$ 950.82	\$ -
6220	Employee Pension	\$ 600.00	\$ 6,123.38	\$ 600.00
6225	Employee Medical Insurance	\$ 35,601.77	\$ 31,709.92	\$ 41,220.00
6227	Medical Insurance - Payroll Withholdings	\$ -	\$ (747.74)	\$ -

6230	Payroll Tax Expense	\$ 6,333.70	\$ 5,047.19	\$ 6,360.00
6240	Payroll Service Expense	\$ 2,066.98	\$ 2,500.95	\$ 1,980.00
6250	Prof T&E Expense Exec - E.M.	\$ 4,118.21	\$ 11,588.21	\$ 1,020.00
6252	Prof T&E Expense Exec - O.M.	\$ -	\$ 2,949.39	\$ -
6255	Prof Expense - Staff Development	\$ 318.04	\$ 781.59	\$ -
6260	Travel - Other Staff	\$ 424.47	\$ 1,270.09	\$ 360.00
6300	Payroll - Professional Salaries	\$ 44,717.03	\$ 51,204.67	\$ 42,000.00
6310	Payroll - Professional Housing	\$ 15,458.38	\$ 25,395.91	\$ -
6312	Payroll - Professional Medical	\$ 4,705.42	\$ 7,066.00	\$ -
6315	Professional Staff - Pension	\$ 419.85	\$ 958.69	\$ -
6317	Professional Staff - Medical	\$ 8,750.00	\$ -	\$ -
6320	Professional Outside Services	\$ 11,586.29	\$ 12,789.00	\$ 10,000.00
6330	Professional Housing	\$ 5,782.90	\$ -	\$ 22,200.00
	Total 6200 - PERSONNEL SERVICES	\$ 222,174.57	\$ 260,772.61	\$ 207,100.00
6500	DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH LIFE			
6510	Resources & Literature	\$ 7.53	\$ 261.35	\$ -
6515	ABCORI Seminars & Workshops	\$ 754.00	\$ 2,523.50	\$ 600.00
6517	Pastoral Leadership	\$ -	\$ 1,178.73	\$ -
6530	Mission Outreach Expense	\$ -	\$ 31,225.45	\$ -
	Total 6500 - DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH LIFE	\$ 761.53	\$ 35,189.03	\$ 600.00
7000	OCCUPANCY EXPENSES			
7040	Electricity	\$ 23,323.30	\$ 29,829.00	\$ 29,745.00
7050	Natural Gas	\$ 13,707.55	\$ 16,486.29	\$ 16,405.00
7060	Insurance - Buildings	\$ 29,015.46	\$ 28,697.81	\$ 31,000.00
7075	Maintenance - Buildings	\$ 9,908.84	\$ 5,225.73	\$ 4,520.00
7080	Maintenance Supplies	\$ 5,890.15	\$ 4,813.50	\$ 6,065.00
7085	Ground Maintenance	\$ 8,554.07	\$ 4,646.32	\$ 5,490.00
7090	Heating Oil	\$ 4,806.98	\$ 6,221.80	\$ 6,640.00
7110	Propane	\$ 4,504.09	\$ 7,447.57	\$ 7,480.00
7120	Equipment Repairs	\$ 4,512.81	\$ 13,813.41	\$ 9,775.00
7130	Vehicles Maintenance	\$ 1,718.84	\$ 6,153.07	\$ 4,475.00
7140	Gasoline	\$ 1,770.33	\$ 3,906.91	\$ 3,370.00
7150	Vehicle Insurance	\$ 1,780.70	\$ 2,581.81	\$ 1,900.00
7155	Vehicle Taxes	\$ -	\$ 197.39	\$ 127.00
7160	Water	\$ 4,491.70	\$ 5,125.51	\$ 5,150.00
7170	Waste Removal	\$ 4,692.60	\$ 5,772.30	\$ 6,000.00
7180	Contractual Services	\$ 4,806.58	\$ 11,614.78	\$ 10,180.00
7190	Permits/Inspections	\$ -	\$ 325.00	\$ -
	Total 7000 - OCCUPANCY EXPENSES	\$ 123,484.00	\$ 152,858.20	\$ 148,322.00
8100	PROGRAM EXPENSES - CAMP			
8110	Seminars & Workshops	\$ 650.00	\$ -	\$ -
8120	Advertising	\$ 270.00	\$ -	\$ -
	Total 8100 - PROGRAM EXPENSES - CAMP	\$ 920.00	\$ -	\$ -

8200	CAMP EXPENSES			
8210	Payroll - Camp Director	\$ 21,947.85	\$ 14,487.50	\$ 23,500.00
8215	Payroll - Camp Support Staff	\$ -	\$ 3,108.00	\$ 3,100.00
8220	Payroll - Camp Seasonal	\$ -	\$ 23,474.03	\$ 23,500.00
8230	Payroll Tax Expense - Camp	\$ 1,678.94	\$ 3,147.07	\$ 4,000.00
8240	Outside Services Expense	\$ -	\$ 504.00	\$ 500.00
8260	Food Cost - Camping	\$ 30.00	\$ 21,241.26	\$ 18,500.00
8262	Food Supplies - Camp	\$ -	\$ 410.90	\$ 2,000.00
8265	Travel Expense	\$ 53.48	\$ 2,561.39	\$ 1,000.00
8270	Program Supplies	\$ 965.90	\$ 4,931.17	\$ 5,000.00
8275	Medical Supplies	\$ -	\$ 79.23	\$ 2,500.00
8280	Permits/Inspections	\$ 665.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 210.00
8285	Fees & Dues	\$ 1,825.87	\$ 1,420.00	\$ 1,420.00
8299	Bad Debt Expense	\$ -	\$ 430.00	\$ -
	Total 8200 - CAMP EXPENSES	<u>\$ 27,167.04</u>	<u>\$ 76,004.55</u>	<u>\$ 85,230.00</u>
8300	CONFERENCE EXPENSES			
8310	Food - Conferencing	\$ 5,540.43	\$ 27,218.59	\$ 15,750.00
8320	Kitchen Supplies	\$ 701.09	\$ 2,141.97	\$ 5,250.00
8330	General Expenses	\$ 389.55	\$ -	\$ -
8345	Custodial	\$ 5,442.47	\$ 20,479.01	\$ 8,860.00
8350	Cleaning Expense	\$ 1,220.28	\$ 5,013.36	\$ 2,725.00
8355	Domestic Furnishings	\$ 514.66	\$ 2,779.94	\$ 250.00
8360	Marketing & Development Advertising	\$ -	\$ 60.00	\$ -
8362	Fees & Dues	\$ 10.25	\$ -	\$ -
8370	Outside Lifeguard Service	\$ 281.25	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
8375	Outside Kitchen Service	\$ 946.39	\$ 1,230.00	\$ -
8380	Payroll-Conference	\$ 35,008.57	\$ 35,627.31	\$ 35,050.00
8382	Payroll - Food Service	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00
8385	Payroll - Conference Support	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 38,120.85	\$ 14,000.00
8390	Payroll Taxes Conference	\$ 4,999.77	\$ 5,664.69	\$ 5,700.00
8395	Employee Medical Insurance	\$ -	\$ 316.94	\$ -
	Total 8300 - CONFERENCE EXPENSES	<u>\$ 85,404.71</u>	<u>\$ 138,802.66</u>	<u>\$ 112,735.00</u>
8700	ELDER CARE EXPENSES			
8710	Payroll - Salary	\$ 31,548.00	\$ 31,783.92	\$ 31,548.00
8712	Payroll - Housing Expense	\$ 29,000.16	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 29,000.00
8715	Payroll - Social Security Offset	\$ 4,632.00	\$ 4,497.12	\$ 4,632.00
8810	Rent Expense	\$ 2,790.00	\$ 2,790.00	\$ 2,790.00
8815	Administrative Expense - ABCORI	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
8912	Workers Comp Expense	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
8914	Medical - Health/Dental Expense	\$ 16,372.23	\$ 15,180.30	\$ 16,890.00
8916	Pension Plan Expense	\$ 10,428.84	\$ 10,125.00	\$ 10,429.00
8920	Ministry Training & Support	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,000.00
8922	Workshops & Conference	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00

8924	Outreach Projects	\$ 7,498.85	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 8,000.00
8930	Professional Expenses	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,999.66	\$ 3,000.00
8935	Fees & Dues Expense	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
8940	Continuing Education	\$ 399.92	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
8945	Resources & Literature	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,500.00
8950	Program Development	\$ 11,787.00	\$ 12,686.00	\$ 11,468.00
8970	Office Supplies Expense	<u>\$ 1,200.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,200.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,200.00</u>
	Total 8700 - ELDER CARE EXPENSES	<u>\$ 137,157.00</u>	<u>\$ 133,162.00</u>	<u>\$ 137,157.00</u>
	Total Expense	<u>\$ 694,984.77</u>	<u>\$ 907,076.75</u>	<u>\$ 802,480.00</u>
	Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ (212,627.92)</u>	<u>\$ (169,119.37)</u>	<u>\$ (155,173.00)</u>

## Recruitment Committee Report

The Recruitment Committee recommends that the following individuals be elected to the positions as indicated:

### **President**

Beth Berry term ending in 2023

### **Vice President**

Rev. Dr. Clayton (Cal) Lord, Jr. term ending in 2023

### **Treasurer**

David Coon 1<sup>st</sup> term ending in 2023

### **Board of Ministries Member-at-Large**

Erica Traub 1<sup>st</sup> term ending in 2024

### **Executive Minister Relations Committee**

Meredith Eckel 1<sup>st</sup> term ending in 2024

### **Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry**

Rev. Dr. Reppa Cottrell 1<sup>st</sup> term ending in 2024

### **Investment Committee**

Frederick C. Eckel, Jr. 1<sup>st</sup> term ending in 2024

### **Properties Committee**

Bob Nelson 1<sup>st</sup> term ending in 2024

### **Budget Chair**

John Tucker 1<sup>st</sup> term ending in 2024

**Note:** All terms of service begin at the annual meeting of election and end at the annual meeting in the year noted as “term ending in.”

## Announcement of Executive Minister Search Committee

Rev. Dr. Linda Bausserman

Beth Berry (ex-officio)

Rev. Delphain Demosthenes

Rev. Dr. Jeff Woods (ex-officio)

Meredith Eckel

Herman Falu

Rev. Leigh Johnson

Lauri Smalls

Don Waterman

Chris Wright

## **American Baptist Women's Ministries of Rhode Island**

What can I say? I certainly did not anticipate this kind of a year. It's been such a difficult time to get anything done, and ABWM has been pretty bogged down in the mud of COVID. We did have wonderful plans for several events, which mostly came to naught. We are blessed with a great bunch of talented women who consistently put their hearts and souls into providing splendid experiences for all the women of Rhode Island. Not so much this year.

We did offer one excellent event in October via Zoom. It was our annual Spiritual Retreat and was organized by our Personal Development Ministries Coordinator Joanne Brown and her team. It really, truly went very well. The theme was "Are You Your Old Self?" and was based on Ephesians 4:22-24. Our keynote speaker and Bible study leader was Chaplain Major General Lorraine K. Potter, USAF Retired, who was especially interesting and enjoyable. In addition, we heard testimonies, sang together, and shared a time for reflection. It was a special time for those who could participate, although a small event reflecting the limited capacity many have to use Zoom.

In addition, we did have a few board meetings during the year by spreading out at Canonicus. We were able to review the by-laws and make several changes. Voting was completed by email. And we have continued to publish our K.I.T. newsletter, which is distributed on a quarterly or tri-annual basis to all interested parties. Sorry to say that is the extent of our activity this past year, but I know better days are coming.

God Bless!

Meredith Eckel, President

## Ministers Council

As most of you know, 2020 was a challenging year. The annual meeting of the Ministers Council of RI was not held this year, due to some medical difficulties in February.

The officers during 2020 were:

President - Reppa Cottrell

Vice President –

Treasurer - Cal Lord (finishing 2nd year of 2nd term)

Secretary - Bob Auld (stepping in for one year)

Program Coordinator – John Houlker (finishing 2nd year of 2nd term)

Retreat Chair –

Regional Representative - Cynthia Smothers

Then due to Covid-19, my dropping the ball, and a limited slate of officers, little was done the year of 2020. National had given all local members their national membership for free.

The clergy did gather using Zoom meetings, which were held each week for a while. We THANK Rev. Kathryn Palen and Rev. Dr. Tom Wiles for organizing these meeting and hosting them. Thanks goes to Rev. Doug Harris for continuing them when he joined us as Interim Executive Minister.

Cynthia Smothers has done a great job as she continued to represent us at National MC meetings. I forwarded the national newsletter to members.

For the Ministers Council to remain active we must fill the slate of officers. Please keep this in prayer and step up if you can serve.

President – Since Reppa Cottrell is stepping down, this office needs to be filled.

Vice President – Needs to be filled.

Program Coordinator – Needs to be filled.

Secretary - Needs to be filled.

Treasurer – Cal Lord has fulfilled his terms but is willing to continue.

Regional Rep – Needs to be filled.

Retreat Coordinator – Needs to be filled.

Respectively submitted,  
Reppa M. Cottrell, President



## Baptist Home Board of Rhode Island

Using our regular schedule of quarterly meetings, we have continued the stewardship of a substantial endowment, supervising the investments and using the resources this 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.”

This endowment of approximately \$6,035,000 on December 31, 2020, continues to be under the day-to-day management of Bernstein & Co. The return derived allows for the funding of compensation and programs of the Elder Care Ministries of ABCORI. In addition, our endowment supports in a significant way the various services of the residence component of the John Clarke Retirement Center.

Our Finance Committee reviewed in detail the budget requests for Elder Care Ministries and John Clarke Retirement Center with Rev. Kathryn Palen and Hugh Hall, interim administrator of JCRC. We continue to budget a draw down from our endowment in a way to ensure the sustainability of continued support. This past year we supported the John Clark Retirement Center with a grant of \$146,740 and the Elder Care Ministries program with a grant of \$137,157.

We will continue to monitor our withdrawal percentage and carefully consider the impact this may have on the amount available to fund budget requests Thanks go to John Bellisle, our treasurer, for keeping track of our books and records and ensuring the timely reporting for the board.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randolph K. Dittmar, President

### Baptist Home Board of Rhode Island Nominations

#### Officers (two-year terms)

<b>President</b>	James Ellison (1)	<b>Treasurer</b>	John Bellisle (2)
<b>Vice President</b>	Rev. Dr. Reppa Cottrell (2)	<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	Idela Wilson (1)		

#### Board of Directors (three-year terms)

<u>Term Ends 2022</u>	<u>Term Ends 2023</u>	<u>Term Ends 2024</u>
Steve Girard (1)	Bobby Nelson (1)	Robert Kolb (2)
Linda Martin (2)	Donna Sherman (1)	Ron Provencal (2)
	Rev. Douglas Harris (ex-officio)	

**Baptist Home Board**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual**  
**January through December 2020**

	<u>Jan – Dec 20</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
4041 Interest Inc - Investments	132.78	352.01
4042 Int Inc ABEC	1,354.10	1,836.22
4043 Loan Interest, JCRC	4,889.29	4,889.27
4068 Rhode Island Foundation	0.00	5,880.00
4069 Maude Roberts Trust Fund	12,058.33	9,389.00
4099 Budgeted Draw Down	193,169.03	272,600.00
49900 Uncategorized Income	<u>9,181.53</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Income	220,785.06	294,946.50
Expense		
5010 John Clarke Retirement Center		
5012 Transportation Coordinator	19,842.72	19,842.72
5014 Chaplains, Nursing Home	30,556.80	30,556.80
5016 Transportation	11,280.00	11,280.00
5018 Security Expense	17,841.24	15,141.24
5020 Rent Subsidies	48,300.00	51,000.00
5021 Activities Director	<u>7,631.16</u>	<u>7,631.16</u>
Total 5010 John Clarke Retirement Center	135,451.92	135,451.92
5025 ECM Program Costs		
5026 Compensation	95,681.15	95,680.00
5040 Program Development	11,787.00	11,787.00
5045 Ministry Training & Support	5,000.00	5,000.00
5047 Workshops & Conference	8,000.00	8,000.00
5049 Administrative Expense-ABCORI	3,600.00	3,600.00
5053 Outreach Projects	7,498.85	7,500.00
5054 Supplies, Postage, Equipment	1,200.00	1,200.00
5055 Fees & Dues	400.00	400.00
5056 Resources & Literature	1,200.00	1,200.00
5058 Office Rental	<u>2,790.00</u>	<u>2,790.00</u>
Total 5025 ECM Program Costs	137,157.00	137,157.00

**Baptist Home Board**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual**  
**January through December 2020**

	<u>Jan – Dec 20</u>	<u>Budget</u>
5050 Church Grant Program	0.00	3,660.00
5230 Legal & Professional Fees	3,250.00	125.00
5251 Office Supplies	20.00	0.00
5252 Officers & Directors Liab Ins	800.00	1,345.00
5500 Filing Fees	20.00	20.00
66900 Reconciliation Discrepancies	<u>-0.22</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>276,698.70</u>	<u>277,758.92</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-55,913.64	17,187.58
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
4060 Dividends	183,908.43	112,463.77
4100 Inv Gain/Loss	1,715,919.45	300,000.00
4110 Draw Downs	<u>-193,169.03</u>	<u>-195,874.80</u>
Total Other Income	1,706,658.85	216,588.97
Other Expense		
5100 Investment Mgt Fees	19,812.49	19,952.05
5150 Foreign/Reclaimable Tax	<u>348.92</u>	<u>147.65</u>
Total Other Expense	<u>20,161.41</u>	<u>20,099.70</u>
Net Other Income	<u>1,686,497.44</u>	<u>196,489.27</u>
Net Income	<b>1,630,583.80</b>	<b>213,676.85</b>

## John Clarke Retirement Center

The Baptist Home Board supports a variety of needs at the John Clarke Retirement Center, including an activities coordinator, chaplain, and handicap-accessible minibus. Though the past year has been a challenge, the John Clarke Retirement community has faced the changes with resiliency and innovative leadership.

Our new chaplain, Racquel Ray, was called to serve in April 2020. By listening to ABCORI leadership, John Clarke resident historians (Madeline Millin, Juanita Bedard, Clara Motter, and Rev. Dr. Cynthia Smothers), and the community, Chaplain Ray set a vision of restoring former John Clarke traditions of chapel services on Sunday afternoons, Bible study, and Chaplain's Cupboard. She also brings Chaplain's Fireside Chats, Book Club, Music & Memory, and partnerships with Elder Care Ministries and ABCORI congregations, as well as neighboring churches, board members, and residents. In addition, technology allowed the addition of Zoom, YouTube, and hallway church; virtual Bible study, chaplain's office hours, and pastoral care; and residents' ability to be guest readers at their home churches. Memorial services were offered in the chapel; in the dining room with residents' inviting families to join virtually; and in nursing residents' rooms for grieving families. As a veteran, Chaplain Ray also served JCRC veterans, providing military trauma informed pastoral care and special observances.

With group activities on pause during the Covid pandemic, Activities Coordinator Mia Delanoy was limited by safety protocols. However, partnering with Activities Director Robin Hannon and her staff in the Nursing Center, she supported activities such as the Mother's Day and Father's Day parades; outdoor concerts on the lawn; coffee and donut deliveries; men's group; Bingo and Bunco; and weekly grocery trips for and with residents. She also led ice cream sundae and float deliveries and crafts, as well as timely change of holiday décor, lunch orders, calendar deliveries, and personal interactions with residents.

The handicap-accessible minibus is an invaluable resource during the Covid pandemic. The minibus safely transported residents to weekly shopping, as well as scheduled medical appointments. In addition, our activities staff used it to facilitate socially distanced changes of scenery for isolated seniors, including contactless family and friends' driveway visits; scenery drives; and a stop for ice cream in the heat of summer. In December, the minibus was decked out in holiday splendor and transformed into a Holiday Express that Santa and elves used to drive residents individually to visit their family and friends, facilitating Covid-safe holiday cheer.

## **Rhode Island Baptist Education Society**

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 students with educational advances:

Natasha Gordon - Gordon Conwell, M.Div. (finished 2020)

Karen East Robinson - Gordon Conwell, M.Div. (finished 2020)

Cheryl Barr Beale - Gordon Conwell, M.Div. (continuing)

As a Society, we also support our students by paying a portion of the cost for attending the required Center for Career Development. We have broadened our outreach in order to assist people who seek training through other educational institutions. We evaluate those applications on a case-by-case basis.

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 2021-2022**

(candidates voted in at Annual Meeting and serve to the next meeting)

<b>Class of 2021-2022</b>	<b>Class of 2022-2023</b>	<b>Class of 2023-24</b>
Rev. Jacob McGuire (2)	Rev. Dr. Reppa Cottrell (1)	Rev. Virginia Alvarez (1)
Sue Colantonio (2)	Sandra Kelly (1)	Rev. Robert Auld (2)
Linda Moore (1)		Rev. Dr. Cynthia Smothers (1)

The Executive Minister is ex officio.

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

(1) = First 3-year cycle

(2) = Second 3-year cycle

President - Rev. Jacob McGuire

Corresponding Secretary - Rev. Bob Auld

Recording Secretary - Rotating

Treasurer - Sue Colantonio

**Rhode Island Baptist Education Society**  
**2020 Annual Report**  
**January 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2020**

Beginning Balance January 1, 2020		\$ 8,446.61
Interest Payments from ABCORI funds	611.82	
Distributions from Merrill Lynch	6,250.00	
Payments to Caccia Cayer CPA	(3,560.00)	
Tuition Payments	(1,936.00)	
Payments for Polity & Pastor Professional Dev	(2,550.00)	
Purchase of checks	(38.70)	
Ending Balance as of 12/31/2020		<b>\$ 7,223.73</b>
Funds Invested with Merrill Lynch as of December 31, 2020		<b>\$ 716,855.68</b>
Funds Invested with Merrill Lynch as of December 31, 2019		\$ 643,852.73
Motter Fund included in Merrill Lynch as of 12/31/20		<b>\$ 26,940.13</b>
Motter Fund included in Merrill Lynch as of 12/31/19		\$ 22,170.02
Motter Fund merged with Merrill Lynch 10/18		\$18,093.03

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Colantonio, Treasurer RIBES

## Rhode Island Baptist Heritage Center

The coronavirus pandemic terminated the Baptist Heritage Center activities for nearly the entire year. The final two sessions of the biennial course in Baptist Polity and History occurred on January 11 and February 29—less than two weeks before the governor ordered the shutdown of meetings. Then our biennial Baptist Heritage Weekend, scheduled for November 7 and 8, had to be cancelled altogether. Baptist records that we collected have not been deposited at the John Hay Library at Brown University because the library has been closed, as well.

The polity course kicked off for its four all-day sessions on September 21, 2019, at Tefft Chapel at Canonicus with an enrollment of sixteen students, both lay people and those working toward ordination. Such a course is a requirement for ordination and is recognized by ABCORI and TABCOM (Massachusetts). The students included six lay people, but one of them switched to the full course requirements after the first session. Again, we had four instructors: Stanley Lemons on Baptist history, Jonathan Malone on theology, Johnny Wilson on the Black church, and Charles Hartman on Baptist practices.

In alternate years the BHC has staged a “Baptist Heritage Weekend,” and 2020 would have been the sixth time. We had secured Dr. Curtis Freeman, director of the Baptist House at Duke University, as our principal figure. Greenville Baptist Church had agreed to host our Saturday session, and the First Baptist Church in America had opened its pulpit to Freeman on Sunday. In addition, Adrienne Weimer, a professor at Providence College, was to join with Freeman in an afternoon session discussing Baptist dissent. Alas, it all fell victim to the pandemic. The only remnant was Curtis Freeman’s preaching by video for the morning worship service of FBCIA on November 8.

Before the pandemic closed everything, we had collected records from the Niantic Baptist Church and miscellaneous items, including the first annual report of the Woman’s Baptist Missionary Society of Rhode Island (1885), a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet of the Spring Green Memorial Church (1974), a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet of the First Free Baptist Church of Olneyville (1928), annual programs of the Narragansett Baptist Association (1955-1961), a book by A. D. Williams, *The Rhode Island Freewill Baptist Pulpit* (1852), among other things. We were given a memoir by Rev. John A. Kearns, the final pastor of the South Baptist Church of Providence, in which he tells the story of South’s final years. His material included a typescript copy, pictures, and a CD. The First Baptist Church of East Greenwich donated a box of sermons preached by Rev. Harry Bronkar, dating from 1986 to 1991; Sunday

school records going back to 1888; and miscellaneous file folders related to various committees, newsletters, and services. When we are given the green light by the John Hay, all of these items will be placed in permanent, safe storage and available to anyone wishes to see them.

The *American Baptist Quarterly* will publish an issue specifically devoted to topics involving Rhode Island Baptists, and the BHC greatly supported that effort. While Curtis Freeman is the general editor of the journal, Jonathan Malone was the guest editor of the Rhode Island issue, and he wrote an article that will appear in a later edition of the *ABQ*. Stanley Lemons wrote two other articles and prepared another for publication that was originally written by Rev. Don Rasmussen.

Events have reduced the board of directors of the BHC to a skeleton crew. A couple of board members declined re-nomination in 2019, our vice president retired in 2019, our president expectantly resigned in 2020, Rev. Tom McKibbens was felled with a heart attack, and three or four individuals who were approached declined to serve. Nevertheless, the BHC continues, and we hope that new people will join our board. If you are passionate about the Baptist heritage and witness, please join us. Contact Jonathan Malone, Stanley Lemons, or Don Waterman.

We stand ready to help churches in preserving their records. If your church wants a permanent, safe place for your precious church records, we will gladly transfer them to the John Hay to join the Baptist Heritage Center collection there. You may call Stanley Lemons or Jonathan Malone in that regard. We are planning for the seventh presentation of the Baptist polity and history course in the fall of 2021. Johnny Wilson has left Rhode Island for a church in Massachusetts, and Michael Browner will be our instructor in the history and practices of the Black church. Charles Hartman resigned, and Kathryn Palen agreed to lead the part of the course dealing with Baptist practices.



**194<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island**  
**March 2, 2020**

**Minutes**

**Opening and Welcome:** The 2020 Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island was held at Lakewood Baptist Church in Warwick, Rhode Island, at 7:00 p.m. Executive Minister Rev. Dr. Tom Wiles greeted all in attendance. Persons who had not registered were asked to do so. Pastor Ron Provencal of Lakewood Baptist Church also welcomed everyone to Lakewood and led us in singing.

**Opening Prayer:** Rendered by President Wendy Kiefer-O'Brien.

**The Annual Meetings of Affiliated Corporations** were held:

\*The Baptist Heritage Center: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone, presiding (pp. 32-25) – The 2019 annual report, slate of officers and board members for 2018-2021 and nominations for 2020-2023 was moved/seconded and approved. Rev. Malone also reported the Baptist Heritage Weekend will be held at Greenville Baptist Church the weekend of November 7-8, 2020. Dr. Curtis Freeman will be the keynote speaker.

\*The Baptist Home Board: Rev. Dr. Reppa Cottrell, presiding (pp. 26-29) – The 2019 annual report and the 2019 financial report were moved/seconded and approved. Rev. Cottrell also reported that John Clarke Retirement Center and Elder Care Ministries are major grant recipients. Berean Baptist Church received a grant for the repair of its ramp. She encouraged churches to apply for grants through the grant process.

\*The Rhode Island Baptist Education Society: Rev. Jake McGuire, presiding (pp. 30-31). The 2019 annual report, board of directors for 2020-2023, and financial report were moved/seconded and approved.

**Call to Order:** President Wendy Kiefer-O'Brien call the meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island to order and named Peggy Johnson as parliamentarian. Ann McGloshen, clerk, called the roll of churches in attendance and declared a quorum (27 churches were present) with 64 voting delegates (42 delegates, 22 pastors, and 8 guests). Please note: each church received a copy of the 2019 Annual Report Yearbook.

**Approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes:** Minutes of the 193<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting (pp. 36-37) were moved/seconded and approved as written.

**Financial Report and Recommendation:** Treasurer Bob Butzier presented the 2019 annual financial report (pp. 15-20). It was moved/seconded and approved as presented

and placed on file and is subject to audit. The recommended 2020 operating budget was presented and moved/seconded and approved.

**Recruitment Committee Report and Slate of Officers:** (p. 22) It was moved/seconded and approved, along with the joint recommendation of the Recruitment Committee and Board of Ministries.

### **Leadership Reports**

\***Report of the President:** Rev. Wendy Kiefer-O'Brien (p. 9) – annual report.

\***Elder Care Ministries:** Rev. Kathryn Palen (pp. 5-6) – annual report.

\***Camping Ministries:** (p. 7) – annual report. Amanda Ogilvie, newly appointed camping director, commented on her excitement in her new position and her aspirations for the camping ministry. An open house is planned for May 9, 2020.

\***Conferencing:** Kathy Black – 112 bookings; loss of three large bookings.

Other reports included in the 2019 Annual Report Yearbook include: Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry, Rev. Dr. Linda Bausserman (p. 9); Baptist Fund of Rhode Island, Vonnie Dutton (p. 10); Investment Committee (p. 11); Properties Committee (p. 12); Personnel Committee, Stanley Lemons (p. 13); American Baptist Women's Ministries of Rhode Island, Meredith Eckel (pp. 23-24); and Ministers Council, Rev. Dr. Reppa Cottrell (p. 25).

\***Executive Minister:** Rev. Dr. Tom Wiles (pp. 2-3) – annual report. Highlighted the past 7 years he has served as our executive minister and the joy he has received in serving us. He spoke of his impending departure and encouraged us as a region to: 1) continue to pay attention to one another; 2) continue to give generously to our shared mission, and 3) continue to improvise as we faithfully minister.

### **Future Gatherings**

#### \***All-Church Worship Service**

Sunday, June 21, 2020 – 3:00 p.m. – Greenville Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. C. Jeff Woods, Acting General Secretary, ABCUSA, guest speaker

#### \***Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island**

Monday, March 1, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. – First Baptist Church, Wickford

**Closing:** It was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn the annual meeting. The meeting closed with the singing of one song and benediction by Pastor Ron Provencal. A time of fellowship with refreshments prepared by the host church followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann M. McGloshen, Clerk

## **Pastoral Ordination Anniversaries**

**(five-year anniversaries we celebrate in 2021)**

Rev. Barry Arruda	15 years
Rev. Ernest Robillard	20 years
Rev. Cynthia Smothers	20 years
Rev. Jamie Washam	20 years
Rev. Patrick Crough	30 years
Rev. Robert Lancia	30 years
Rev. Ethel Corbin	35 years
Rev. Leigh Johnson	40 years
Rev. Malcolm McKenzie	40 years
Rev. Kim Nelson	40 years
Rev. Chuck Haines	60 years
Rev. Paul Schoonmaker	60 years

## **Church Anniversaries**

**(five year anniversaries we celebrate in 2021)**

Central Baptist Church, Westerly	75 years
Mount Hope Community Baptist Church	90 years
Olney Street Baptist Church	120 years
Norwood Baptist Church	130 years
Sheldon Street Baptist Church	145 years
Oaklawn Community Baptist Church	145 years
Summit Baptist Church	150 years
Quidnick Baptist Church	170 years
Peoples Baptist Church	170 years
Chepachet Union Baptist Church	175 years
First Baptist Church Hope Valley	180 years
Lime Rock Baptist Church	190 years
First Baptist Church Bristol	210 years
Wakefield Baptist Church	240 years