

ITEMS FOR 2026
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
and
YEARBOOK OF 2025 ANNUAL REPORTS



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**American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
& Affiliated Organizations
2026 Annual Business Meetings
March 7, 2026**

Annual Business Meeting of American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island

Call to Order	President Eva Irby
Opening Prayer	
Roll Call	Clerk Debra Lee
Greetings from ABCUSA	Chanta Barrett
Communication Guidelines	Rev. Joan Friesen
Approval of Draft Minutes of April 28, 2025	
From 2025 Annual Business Meeting (pp. 3-9)	President Irby
Approval of Draft Minutes of July 14, 2025	
From Special Business Meeting (pp. 10-11)	President Irby
Receipt of Annual Reports (pp. 29-65)	President Irby
State of ABCORI	Interim Executive Minister
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 (pp. 12-21)	Finance Chair Robert Butzier
Proposed Extension of the Interim Structure (pp. 24-25)	President Irby
Proposed Adoption of Revised By-laws (pp. 25-28)	President Irby
Nominations for 2026-2027 (pp. 22-23)	Past President Cal Lord
Prayer of Thanks	
Recognitions	Rev. Joan Friesen
Motion to Adjourn	President Irby

Annual Business Meetings of Affiliated Organizations

Baptist Home of Rhode Island (pp.56-60)	David Coon
Rhode Island Baptist Education Society (pp.61-63)	Reppa Cottrell

Closing Communion

199th Annual Meeting American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island

April 28, 2025, Draft Minutes

The annual business meetings of American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island (ABCORI) and its affiliated organizations was held on April 28, 2025, at 7 p.m. at Warwick Central Baptist Church.

Welcome: Rev. Sam Chesser, pastor of Warwick Central Baptist Church, welcomed those in attendance and offered a prayer.

Annual Business Meetings of Affiliated Organizations

Mr. James Ellison presided over the annual meeting of the Baptist Home of Rhode Island. (See pp. 60-63 of the 2024 Annual Report Yearbook.)

Rev. Dr. Reppa Cottrell presided over the annual meeting of the Rhode Island Baptist Education Society (RIBES). (See pp. 64-65 of the 2024 Annual Report Yearbook.)

Attention was called to the reports of other affiliated organizations on pp. 66-67 in the Annual Report Yearbook.

199th Annual Meeting of American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island

Call to Order: President Rev. Dr. Cal Lord called the ABCORI Annual Business Meeting to order and offered a prayer. He then announced that in light of the outcome of the special business meeting on March 19, 2025, he and Vice-President Ms. Eva Irby-Davis had reached out to the steering committee of Canonicus Ministries Inc. to invite them to meet with the Board of Ministries at a date to be determined regarding their proposal for the use of the Canonicus property. The board will consider proposals for the use of the property from any interested group. Proposal requirements are listed on page 15 of the meeting materials booklet.

Roll Call: Clerk Rev. Debra Lee presented the roll call of member churches in attendance. Thirty-six of ABCORI's 63 member churches were represented by at least one voting participant (pastor or delegate). A quorum, constituted by voting participants representing at least one-third of member churches, was present.

Naming of Parliamentarian: Rev. Theodore "T. J." DeMarco, pastor of Providence Presbyterian Church and Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Northern New England, was named as parliamentarian by President Lord.

Approval of Draft Minutes from 2024 Annual Business Meeting: Ms. Beth Berry, Wakefield Baptist Church, moved that the minutes of the 198th Annual Business Meeting be approved as presented. (See pp. 5-8 of the meeting materials booklet.) Kathy Caval, Central Baptist Church-Westerly, seconded. Motion approved by voice vote: unanimously.

Approval of Draft Minutes from March 2025 Special Business Meeting: Ms. Wendy Fobert, Norwood Baptist Church, moved that the minutes of the March 19, 2025, special business meeting be approved as presented. (See pp. 9-12 of the meeting materials booklet.) Rev. Lee Williams, Union Baptist Church, seconded. Motion approved by voice vote: unanimously.

Approval of Agenda: Rev. Sam Chesser, Warwick Central Baptist Church, moved that the agenda for tonight's meeting be approved as presented. (See page 3 of the meeting materials booklet.) Rev. Dr. Cynthia Smothers, Community Baptist Church-Newport, seconded. Motion approved by voice vote: unanimously.

Receipt of 2024 Annual Reports: Mr. David Coon, First Baptist Church in America, moved that the annual reports be received as presented and put on file. (See pp. 31-55 of the 2024 Annual Report Yearbook.) Ms. Janice Fletcher, First Baptist Church of East Greenwich, seconded. Motion approved by voice vote: unanimously.

Recognition of 2024 Anniversaries & Milestones, Pastoral Transitions, and Donors: Executive Minister Rev. Dr. Courtney Davis Olds recognized clergy ordination anniversaries, church anniversaries, pastoral transitions, and donors. (See pp. 56-59 in the 2024 Annual Report Yearbook.)

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026: Mr. Robert Butzier, chair of the Finance Committee, presented the proposed budget for FY 2026 (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026) as prepared by the Finance Committee and approved by the Board of Ministries. (See pp. 13-24 of the meeting materials booklet.)

Mr. Butzier highlighted the following points:

- The budget reflects a \$334,590 deficit.
- Available cash resources will be depleted by early autumn.
- There are no readily realized resources to cover payroll and other basic expenses beyond that point.
- The inability to obtain insurance for Canonicus Camp and Conference Center forces ABCORI to self-insure.
- The fully unrestricted funds in the ABCORI endowment are less than 15% of where they should be.

- If ABCORI is to fund this budget without exhausting the fully unrestricted funds in the endowment, additional income funds must be found. One option considered by the Finance Committee is to subdivide and sell the Ruah property (former director's lodge) at Canonicus. This stop-gap measure would not resolve the bigger picture of ABCORI's dire financial situation but it would provide the necessary cash flow for ABCORI to remain in operation through the fiscal year without exhausting its limited endowment.

Being presented by the Board of Ministries, the motion to approve the proposed budget for FY 2026 does not require a second.

Ms. Erica Traub, Calvary Baptist Church, presented an amendment to the motion stating that "nothing contained in or relating to the approved budget shall authorize or be deemed to authorize the sale or other disposition of all or any portion of the real property owned by ABCORI or any improvements on that property, or to authorize the formation of any contract for such sale or other disposition." Rev. Dr. Charles Hartman, Community Church of Providence, seconded. Following discussion, the amendment was defeated by a show of hands of more than 40 votes.

Rev. Jake McGuire, First Baptist Church of Bristol, presented an amendment to the motion to approve the proposed budget that called for an ABCORI special business meeting to be held if there is no resolution to fund the budget by July, thereby allowing voting participants from ABCORI churches to decide whether to sell a portion of the Canonicus property or deplete the remaining endowment funds. Rev. Sarah Reed Jay, Community Church of Providence, seconded. Following discussion, the amendment to the motion was approved by a show of hands, 74 to 46.

The amended motion to approve the FY26 budget as presented was approved by a majority show of hands.

By-laws Revision Update and Motion to Modify Interim Structure for 2025-2026: President Lord presented background on the interim structure that has been used for ABCORI's board and committees since 2023 and a report on the work done by the by-laws revision task force during the last year. (See pp. 25-30 of the meeting materials booklet.) Due to the current atmosphere of conflict and mistrust, the ABCORI board decided this was not the time to present a full by-laws revision proposal. Instead, the board moves to modify the interim structure so that the makeup of the board and its committees is as follows, beginning on May 1, 2025, for a period of one year:

Board of Ministries

(13 total members: 11 elected members with votes, 2 executive staff members without votes)

Officers: President
 Vice President
 Clerk
 Treasurer
 Secretary (Executive Minister *ex officio* without vote)

At Large: Six (6)
 Past President

Staff: Executive Minister (without vote) [listed above under Officers]
 Associate Executive Minister (without vote)

Committees

- Finance: 5 elected members; treasurer; president or vice president; executive minister (*ex officio* without vote)
- Personnel: 4 elected members; president or vice president; executive minister (*ex officio* without vote)
- Recruitment: 4 elected members; president or vice president; executive minister (*ex officio* without vote)
- Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry (SCOM): 2 elected clergy members; 2 elected lay members; executive minister (*ex officio* with vote)
- Executive: officers as noted above

Coming from the board, the motion does not require a second.

Rev. Sarah Reed Jay, Community Church of Providence, presented an amendment to the motion to reduce the at-large members to five (5), add the chair of the Finance Committee (*ex officio* with vote) and add a representative from American Baptist Women's Ministries of Rhode Island (*ex officio* without vote) and the member of the ABCUSA Board of General Ministries from ABCORI (*ex officio* without vote). Rev. Dr. Charles Hartman, Community Church of Providence, seconded. The amendment to the motion was approved by a show of hands.

The amended motion was approved by a show of hands.

Nominations for 2025-2026: Ms. Beth Berry, chair of the Recruitment Committee, presented the recruitment committee report and slate of nominees for 2025-2026, copies of which were distributed.

The Recruitment Committee nominates the following individuals to serve a one-year term in the positions listed:

Board of Ministries

President: Eva Irby-Davis (member, Ebenezer Baptist Church)
Vice President: Rev. Alan Newton (member, Phillips Memorial Baptist Church)
Treasurer: David Dolce (member, Central Baptist Church, Jamestown)
Clerk: Rev. Debra Lee (pastor, The Baptist Church in Warren)

Past President: Rev. Dr. Cal Lord (pastor, Central Baptist Church, Westerly)

At-large Members: Rev. Michael Campbell (pastor, Congdon Street Baptist Church)
Sue Guilmain (member, Greenville Baptist Church)
Jan Fletcher (member, First Baptist Church, East Greenwich)
Wendy Fobert (member, Norwood Baptist Church)
John McCann (member, Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church)

Committees

Finance: Matt Bellisle (member, First Baptist Church, Wickford)
Robert Butzier (member, Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church)
Rachel McGuire (member, First Baptist Church, Bristol)
Sue Colantonio (member, Greenville Baptist Church)
David Coon (member, First Baptist Church in America)

Personnel: Rev. Del Demosthenes (pastor, Memorial Baptist Church)
Rev. Natasha Gordon (pastor, Georgiaville Baptist Church)
Veronica Mays (member, Community Baptist Church, Newport)
Dan Walker (member, Warwick Central Baptist Church)

Recruitment: Mal Davis (member, Ebenezer Baptist Church)
Ann McGloshen (member, Olney Street Baptist Church)
Rev. Dr. Cal Lord (pastor, Central Baptist Church, Westerly)

SCOM: Rev. Tim Chesser (member, Warwick Central Baptist Church)
Rev. Elise Mancini (associate pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church)
Meredith Eckel (member, Central Baptist Church, Westerly)
William Tutt, Sr. (member, Olney Street Baptist Church)

[Note: Neither officer positions on committees nor staff positions on the board and its committees require nomination or vote. Therefore, those positions and names are not included in the above slate of nominees.]

Rev. Dr. Evan Howard, First Baptist Church of North Kingstown, presented the following nominees from the floor:

Finance Committee: Rev. Dr. Tony Pappas, First Baptist Church of Block Island

Board At-large: Ms. Jill Roberts, Community Church of Providence
Rev. Jeffrey Thomas, St. James Baptist Church
Mr. Peter Marshall, Phenix Baptist Church
Mr. David Pickering, Warwick Central Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Charles Hartman, Community Church of Providence
Ms. Lee Trainer, First Baptist Church of North Kingstown

Rev. Sam Chesser, Warwick Central Baptist Church, moved that the nominees for Officers, Personnel Committee, Recruitment Committee, and Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry (SCOM) be approved as presented as they are unopposed. Ms. Maxine Hutchins, Lakewood Baptist Church, seconded. Motion approved by voice vote: unanimously.

Having more nominees than available positions for the Finance Committee and Board At-large, a written vote was required for these. While votes were counted by the parliamentarian with assistance from two non-voting members of the host church, President Lord recognized Rev. Kathryn Palen, associate executive minister for elder care ministries, and Rev. Dr. Courtney Davis Olds, executive minister, for their service to ABCORI. Rev. Sam Chesser then led congregational singing.

Parliamentarian DeMarco reported the vote count for the Finance Committee:

Bellisle – 73	Coon – 68
Butzier – 70	McGuire – 73
Colantonio – 62	Pappas – 51

The original slate as presented by the Recruitment Committee is elected.

Parliamentarian DeMarco reported the vote count for Board At-large:

Campbell – 57
Fletcher – 47
Fobert – 49
Guilmain – 47
McCann – 47
Roberts – 32

Thomas – 32
Marshall – 44
Pickering – 29
Hartman – 34

The original slate as presented by the Recruitment Committee is elected.

Prayer for 2025-2026 Board and Committee Members: Rev. Sam Chesser, pastor of the host church, offered a prayer for those who would be serving in ABCORI leadership during the next year.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made and seconded by multiple people and approved by a unanimous voice vote. President Lord adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Vice President/President-Elect Ms. Eva Irby-Davis closed the evening in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Lee, Clerk

**ABCORI Special Business Meeting
Lakewood Baptist Church, Warwick, RI
July 14, 2025**

The registration confirmed a total of 29 churches were represented, constituting a quorum.

President Eva Irby opened the meeting with a prayer after the Pastor's welcome at Lakewood. She read the meeting agenda and referenced Robert's Rules of Order as they apply to the evening's agenda.

Treasurer Dave Dolce was introduced to discuss the parcel of land under consideration for sale. He inquired whether the property designation was clear and if there were any questions. A question about the right-of-way was raised, and Reppa Cotrell from FBC Wickford provided clarification. Alan Newton requested the property's appraisal value. ABCORI currently does not have an official appraisal. The value is estimated to be \$499,000. The appraiser indicated that there is nothing available for less than \$500,000 within a three-mile radius of the property.

Sam Chesser from Warwick Central inquired about the selection of this particular property. Dolce explained that it was chosen because it is close to the road and easier to subdivide. The property has not been used as the Director's lodge for over 10 years, as the Director decided to live closer to the camp activities. It was previously rented out, but the last tenants completed their lease and chose not to renew it. Due to uncertainty about the property's future, the decision was made not to rent it again. The property is located in North Kingstown and has access to public water.

Dolce explained that the whole property was appraised at some point. A church delegate noted that the sale would reduce the overall property value.

Beth Berry from Wakefield Baptist Church inquired about why ABCORI was considering selling a small piece of property, given that the house's value exceeds the current deficit. It's uncertain what the deficit will be with the new staffing, and she suggested drawing from the endowment. Accessing the endowment could help demonstrate more quickly how effectively the region can return to its ministry.

Dan Miller from Phillips Baptist Church asked how long the proceeds from the sale would sustain us without tapping the endowment. Could it last until next year? Additionally, Dan inquired about the current balance in the endowment and the restrictions. David Main from Warwick Central Baptist Church stated that the budget shows 334K deficit for the year, adding that ABCORI needs a sustainable budget.

There was then, after much additional discussion, a motion to put the sale of the property to a vote. 42 opposed to selling the property, 26 in favor of selling. Those opposed to the sale were the majority.

There was then a motion to access the unrestricted endowment funds as needed for the 2025/26 budget. After discussion, the vote took place, with 59 in favor of the motion and 12 opposed. Those in favor formed the majority.

Questions were posed to the Parliamentarian about a special meeting and the criteria was given to those inquiring from the by-laws—written request of 10 churches, sent by mail 2 weeks before the date of the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was moved, seconded and approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Lee, Clerk

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 (April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027)

A budget is a guide with anticipated sources of income and projected expenses. Each year ABCORI's Finance Team recommends to the Board of Ministries a budget for delegate approval at the Annual Meeting.

Since key decisions about the use of the camp property are yet to be made, the Board is recommending a budget that continues in the previous direction—providing for ABCORI ministry and staff while keeping the camp property ready for transition. It is not anticipated that ABCORI's portion of the income and spending plan will change greatly through 2026.

There is good news here!

- Thanks to the document research of David Coon, it was discovered that nine additional endowment accounts were eligible for income use for ABCORI general fund purposes. As a result 5085 ABCORI – Pooled member Qtrly went up from \$36,000 to \$90,000. Projected income overall is increased by \$40,000.
- ABCORI expenses are down by \$70,000, primarily due to a part-time Interim Executive Minister with no paid benefits.
- Camp property expenses are projected to be \$20,500 less than the previous year.
- Office and camp staff are recommended a well-deserved 3% cost of living increase, included in these figures.
- Anticipated deficits are going down from \$334,590 to \$207,046 (primarily due to camp property expenses without any current camp revenue)

Do we still have a long ways to go? Yes.

- Decisions about how to best steward the camp property and utilize any new income are still being discerned and will come to delegates at a Special Business meeting.
- New income will be needed in order to call a full-time Executive Minister to meet the needs of our 63 churches.
- Conversations will be held with the more than half of ABCORI churches that are not currently financial supporters.
- Strategic decisions in terms of sustainability for both congregations and ABCORI as an organization must be worked through.

And yet more good news...

God still has plenty for us to do together if we have the courage to follow the call. Thanks for your prayers as we seek the mind of Christ.

2027 Proposed Budget

	FY 2026	PROPOSE
5010 America for Christ Offering	\$3,100.00	\$3,000.00
5020 Regional Support	\$5,675.00	\$4,000.00
5030 United Mission Giving	\$68,000.00	\$65,000.00
5040 Honoraria	\$200.00	\$0.00
5050 Baptist Fund of RI - Donations	\$7,000.00	\$4,000.00
5051 Baptist Fund of RI - PIF Invest	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
5060 Gifts & Donations-Unrestricted	\$30,000.00	\$32,000.00
5085 ABCORI - Pooled Member Qtrly	\$36,000.00	\$90,000.00
5091 Transfer - PIF MGMT Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
5540 Baptist Home of RI - Admin Serv	\$7,538.00	\$0.00
5560 Misc Income	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Total 5000 REVENUE - REGIONAL OPERATIONS	\$174,513.00	\$214,500.00
5200 CAMP & CONFERENCE		
5310 Revenue - Day Conferences	\$0.00	\$0.00
5320 Overnight Retreats	\$0.00	\$0.00
5330 Revenue - Equipment & Misc. Item	\$0.00	\$0.00
5340 Other Facilities - Fields/Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00
5350 Surcharges	\$0.00	\$0.00
5380 Revenue Food Service	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total 5200 REVENUE - CAMP & CONFERENCE	\$0.00	\$0.00
5500 OTHER CANONICUS INCOME		
5082 Other Donations	\$2,500.00	\$500.00
5090 Transfer - PIF Capital Expenses		
5512 Rental - ABCORI Units	\$0.00	\$0.00
5525 Income Scrap Salvage	\$500.00	\$0.00
Total 5500 REVENUE - OTHER	\$3,000.00	\$500.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$177,313.00	\$215,000.00
6000 REGIONAL - ADMIN EXPENSES		
6010 Bank/Credit Card Fees Interest	\$400.00	\$300.00
6030 Fees & Dues	\$200.00	\$200.00
6040 Workers Compensation Insurance	\$9,758.00	\$2,450.00

6045 Insurance - Umbrella/Liability/D&O	\$17,809.00	\$18,220.00
6050 Utilities - Lawrence Bldg.	\$6,485.00	\$7,005.00
6055 Maintenance - Lawrence Bldg.	\$4,455.00	\$4,045.00
6090 Office Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
6105 Lease Expense - Copier	\$2,206.00	\$2,100.00
6110 Postage	\$650.00	\$500.00
6120 Telephone	\$1,500.00	\$1,200.00
6130 Computer Services/Internet Expense	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
6160 Audit/Compilation Services	\$7,000.00	\$6,490.00
6170 Accounting Fees- Controllership	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
6175 Bookkeeping Fees	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
6180 Legal/Professional Fees	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
6240 Payroll Service Expense	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Total 6000 REGIONAL - ADMIN EXPENSES	\$93,163.00	\$84,510.00
6200 REGIONAL - OPERATIONS EXPENSE		
6035 Dues - MRC	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
6172 Accounting Fees - Investment	\$5,200.00	\$8,000.00
6210 Payroll - Administrative Staff	\$46,800.00	\$48,204.00
6230 Payroll Tax Expense - Admin	\$3,600.00	\$3,708.00
6250 Local Travel & Hosp. - Exec	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
6252 National Travel & Educ. - Exec	\$2,000.00	\$18,000.00
6260 Travel - Admin	\$200.00	\$0.00
6300 Payroll - Executive Salaries	\$87,682.00	\$48,000.00
6310 Payroll - Executive Housing Allow		
6312 Payroll - Exec Medical Reimb	\$6,080.00	\$0.00
6314 Payroll - Exec S.S. Offset		
6315 Pension - Executive Staff	\$14,029.00	\$0.00
6510 Resource & Literature	\$0.00	\$0.00
6515 Seminars & Workshops - ABCORI	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
6520 Board Expenses - ABCORI	\$4,500.00	\$1,500.00
6810 Baptist Fund of RI-Grants	\$23,000.00	\$20,000.00
Total 6200 REGIONAL - OPERATIONS EXPENSE	\$208,091.00	\$147,412.00
TOTAL REGIONAL EXPENSE	\$301,254.00	\$231,922.00
7000 CANONICUS FACILITES		

7040 Electricity	\$21,485.00	\$9,579.00
7050 Natural Gas	\$10,817.00	\$10,992.00
7060 Insurance - Buildings	\$50,000.00	\$20,000.00
7075 Maintenance - Building	\$4,050.00	\$5,600.00
7080 Maintenance Supplies	\$2,400.00	\$3,000.00
7085 Ground Maintenance	\$3,600.00	\$6,400.00
7090 Heating Oil	\$4,800.00	\$2,975.00
7110 Propane	\$1,680.00	\$1,975.00
7120 Equipment Repairs	\$3,000.00	\$9,230.00
7130 Vehicles Maintenance	\$900.00	\$10,000.00
7140 Gasoline	\$1,910.00	\$1,450.00
7150 Vehicle Insurance	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
7155 Vehicle Registration	\$200.00	\$0.00
7160 Water	\$2,885.00	\$2,400.00
7170 Waste Removal	\$2,700.00	\$2,400.00
7180 Contractual Services	\$2,550.00	\$4,084.00
7290 Capital Expense	\$12,993.64	\$0.00
7310 Payroll - Full Time Staff	\$44,021.00	\$45,342.00
7315 Payroll - Part Time Staff	\$23,616.00	\$24,324.00
7320 Payroll - Seasonal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
7325 Payroll - Tax Expense	\$5,175.00	\$5,330.00
7335 Medical Insurance - Staff	\$13,672.00	\$15,564.00
7340 Retirement - Staff	\$1,761.00	\$1,814.00
7350 Housing Expense - Staff	\$1,610.00	\$1,200.00
7355 Housing Utilities - Staff	\$6,617.00	\$6,465.00
Total 7000 CANONICUS FACILITES	\$210,649.00	\$190,124.00

8200 CAMP & CONFERENCE EXPENSE

8230 Computer Services/Tech Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00
8265 Travel Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00
8270 Program Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
8275 Medical Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
8280 Permits/Inspections	\$0.00	\$0.00
8285 Fees & Dues	\$0.00	\$0.00
8310 Food - Conferencing	\$0.00	\$0.00
8320 Kitchen Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
8345 Custodial	\$0.00	\$0.00

8350 Laundry Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00
8355 Domestic Furnishings	\$0.00	\$0.00
8380 Payroll - Full Time Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
8382 Payroll - Part Time Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
8385 Payroll - Seasonal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
8390 Payroll Taxes - Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
8395 Medical Insurance - Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
8397 Retirement - Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total 8200 CAMP & CONFERENCE EXPENSE	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$511,903.00	\$422,046.00
NET INCOME	-\$334,590.00	-\$207,046.00

Explanation of Budget Line Items

REGIONAL INCOME		
Number	Name	Notes
5010	America for Christ	Budget figure based on a 36-month average. BCORI receives ~29% of the donations made to is offering by its member churches.
5020	Regional Support	Budget figures are approximately 1/3 less than st year.
5030	United Mission	Budget figures are approximately 1/3 less than st year.
5040	Honoraria	Account used for any honoraria provided to BCORI staff for pulpit supply and other work-related speaking engagements.
5050	Baptist Fund Donations	Budget figure based on a 36-months average. Entire amount will be available as grants given by BCORI (see expense line 6810).
5051	Baptist Fund PIF Invest	Estimated income from trusts benefiting the Baptist Fund. Entire amount will be available as grants given by ABCORI (see expense line 6810).
5060	Gifts & Donations- Unrestricted	Budget figure based on a 36-month average, including bequests.
5085	ABCORI Pooled Member Qtrly	Estimated income from trusts and endowment accounts designated for ABCORI's general use, including additional revenue from trusts identified, where income may be used for general purposes
5540	Baptist Home of RI- Admin Serv	Portion of the Baptist Home of Rhode Island grant designated to ABCORI for overhead (office space, etc.) related to the Elder Care Ministries program.
5560	Misc. Income	Income not otherwise specified.

CCC INCOME

5200	Revenue-Camp & Conference	No revenue from camp/conference operations anticipated in FY27.
5082	Other donations	Donations specific to Canonicus.
5090	Transfer-PIF Capital Expenses	Funds are drawn on an as-needed basis from accounts in ABCORI's endowment that is designated for Canonicus capital expenses.
5512	Rental-ABCORI units	No rental income is currently anticipated in FY27.
5525	Income-Scrap/Salvage Items	Income from scrap metal/salvage sale.

REGIONAL EXPENSES

Number	Name	Notes
6010	Bank/Credit Card Fees	Fee for remote deposit capability and any incidental banking fees.
6030	Fees and Dues	Executive minister's yearly dues for the Regional Executive Ministers' Council.
6040	Workers Comp Insurance	Budget figure based on current premium; subject to change at renewal in June.
6045	Insurance-Umbrella/Liability/D&O	Budget figure based on current premiums for general liability and director and officers policies; subject to change at renewal in June. Note: In prior budget years, liability and D&O insurance were part of a package with property insurance and not broken out in the budget in the same way.
6050	Utilities-Lawrence Bldg	Utility expenses for the ABCORI office building. Budget figure based on average usage and current rates.
6055	Maintenance-Lawrence Bldg	Maintenance costs for the ABCORI office building. Budget figure based on 3-year average.
6090	Office expense	Office supplies.
6105	Lease expense-copier	Office copier.

REGIONAL EXPENSES		
6110	Postage	Because postage costs continue to rise, ABCORI is selective about what it sends via USPS.
6120	Telephone	Office phone.
6130	Computer Services/Internet Expenses	Internet service, QuickBooks, Adobe, Zoom, firewall, tech support and email services.
6160	Audit/Compilation Services	An annual financial compilation report.
6170	Accounting Fees-Controllership	Controller services. Budget figure based on estimated hours this service will entail in FY27.
6175	Bookkeeping Fees	Budget figure based on estimated hours required for bookkeeping services in FY27.
6180	Legal/Professional Fees	Legal counsel and professional services required by the organization. Budget figure an estimated cost.
6240	Payroll Services Expense	Payroll service. Budget figure based on estimated cost in FY26.
Above administrative expenses are split 50/50 between Regional Expense and CCCC Expense.		
6035	Dues-MRC	No dues required since the transfer of the Endowment to AB Foundation
6172	Accounting Fees-Investment	Cost for PIF-related accounting services performed by ABCORI's accountant.
6210	Payroll-Administrative Staff	Salary, part-time administrative staff position (30 hours/week).
6230	Payroll Tax Expense-Admin	Employer-paid FICA
6250	Local Travel & Hosp.-Exec	Executive minister's mileage reimbursement and expenses.
6252	National Travel & Educ.-Exec	Interim Executive Minister's travel.
6260	Travel-Admin	Mileage reimbursement to administrative staff for work-related travel

REGIONAL EXPENSES		
6300	Payroll-Executive Salaries	Interim Executive Minister's salary.
6310	Payroll-Executive Housing Allowance	NA
6312	Payroll-Exec Medical Reimb	NA
6314	Payroll-Exec SS Offset	NA
6315	Pension-Executive Staff	NA
6510	Resources & Literature	NA
6515	Seminars & Workshops-ABCORI	NA
6520	Board Expenses	Expenses associated with board meetings and the ABCORI annual gathering
6810	Baptist Fund Expenses	Amount available to be given as grants by ABCORI from the Baptist Fund (balances income from 5050 and 5051 above).

CCCC EXPENSES		
7000	Canonicus Facilities	Estimated budget figures for utilities and necessary maintenance while most buildings are in "hibernation" mode. Based on a combination of historical data, current rates, and projected utility usage.
7060	Insurance-Buildings	Estimate for buildings
7180	Contractual Services	Professional services required on a routine basis (fire inspection, boiler inspections, etc.) even when buildings are not occupied or in use.

CCCC EXPENSES

7290	Capital Expenses	Capital repairs/improvements using funds drawn on an as-needed basis from Canonicus-specific accounts in ABCORI's endowment.
7310	Payroll-Full Time Staff	Salary, full-time maintenance/facilities staff.
7315	Payroll-Part-Time Staff	Hourly wages, part-time maintenance/facilities staff.
7320	Payroll-Seasonal Staff	No seasonal staff anticipated in FY27.
7325	Payroll-Tax Expense	Employer-paid portion of FICA for maintenance/facilities staff.
7335	Medical Insurance-Staff	Employer-paid insurance premium for full-time maintenance/facilities staff.
7340	Retirement-Staff	Employer-paid retirement contribution for full-time maintenance/facilities staff.
7350	Housing Expenses-Staff	Upkeep costs for on-site staff housing (facilities manager).
7355	Housing Utilities	Utility costs for on-site staff housing (facilities manager).
8200	Camp & Conference Expenses	No camp/conference program proposed in FY27.

Nominations for 2026-2027

In going about its work, the Recruitment Committee strove to reflect the demographics of ABCORI's member churches as it sought qualified individuals for the various positions. On the Board of Ministries, in particular, the Recruitment Committee was mindful of maintaining a gender balance and a balance of lay and clergy members. The Recruitment Committee also ensured that two people from the same church did not serve on the same committee or in elected positions on the board.

The Recruitment Committee nominates the following individuals to serve a one-year term in the positions listed:

Board of Ministries

President	Eva Irby-Davis (Pleasant Street Baptist Church)
Vice President	Rev. Alan Newton (Phillips Memorial Baptist Church)
Treasurer	Fritz Eckel (Central Baptist Church, Westerly)
Clerk	Rev. Debra Lee (The Baptist Church in Warren)

At-Large Members

Rev. Michael Campbell (Congdon Street Baptist Church)
Jan Fletcher (First Baptist Church, Greenwich)
Sue Guilmain (Greenville Baptist Church)
Wendy Fobert (Norwood Baptist)
Pamela Williams (Union Baptist Pawtucket)
Rev. Cal Lord (CBC Westerly)

Committees

Finance	Rachel McGuire (First Baptist Church, Bristol) <i>chair</i> Matt Bellisle (First Baptist Church, Wickford) Janet Lawrence (Mount Pleasant Baptist Church) James Reynolds (Memorial Baptist Church, Seekonk) David Coon (First Baptist Church in America) Fritz Eckel (Central Baptist Church, Westerly)
Personnel	Rev. Del Demosthenes (Memorial Baptist Seekonk) <i>chair</i> Rev. Natasha Gordon (Georgiaville Baptist Church) Dan Walker (Warwick Central Baptist Church) Richard Johnson (Liberty Baptist Church)

Recruitment Rev. Cal Lord (Central Baptist Church Westerly) *chair*
Rev. Mal Davis (Ebenezer Baptist Church)
Ann McGloshen (Olney Street Baptist Church)

SCOM: Rev. Elise Mancini (Ebenezer Baptist Church) *chair*
Meredith Eckel (Central Baptist Church, Westerly)
William Tutt Sr. (Olney Street Baptist Church)
Rev. Jake McGuire (First Baptist Church, Bristol)

[Note: *Ex Officio* seats on the board and its committees are not subject to the recruitment process and do not require a nomination or vote. Therefore, those positions and names are not included in the above slate of nominees.]

By-laws Revision Update & Proposed Motions

Motion #1:

The Board of Ministries moves that delegates approve an extension of the Board interim structure for an additional year as adopted at the 2025 Annual Meeting (as below).

Board of Ministries

(14 *total* members: 11 elected members with votes)

Officers: President
 Vice President
 Clerk
 Treasurer
 Secretary (Executive Minister *ex officio* without vote)

At Large: Five (5)
 Past President
 Finance Committee Chair (*ex officio* with vote)
 American Baptist Women's Ministries Rep (*ex officio* without vote)
 ABCUSA Board of General Ministries Rep (*ex officio* without vote)

Committees

- Finance: 5 elected members; treasurer; president or vice president; executive minister (*ex officio* without vote)
- Personnel: 4 elected members; president or vice president; executive minister (*ex officio* without vote)
- Recruitment: 4 elected members; president or vice president; executive minister (*ex officio* without vote)
- Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry (SCOM): 2 elected clergy members; 2 elected lay members; executive minister (*ex officio* with vote)
- Executive: officers as noted above

Background for Motion #1:

For at least six years, ABCORI has been operating with an organizational structure that differs from the one outlined in its by-laws. At the annual business meeting in March 2020, delegates approved a motion “that the portion of the by-laws that specify elected members to the Ministry Teams be suspended until such time as the Board of Ministries or those authorized by the Board

of Ministries considers a realignment of volunteer leadership more representative of the nature of region ministry going forward.”

Whatever plans the board had in 2020 to pursue realignment were put on hold through the COVID-19 pandemic and an executive minister transition. In 2022, the board resumed consideration of a governing structure that would clarify responsibilities; streamline decision-making; and better reflect the number of member churches and active individuals within ABCORI. The result was the interim structure that was proposed by the board at the March 2023 annual meeting and approved by the delegates.

Under that interim structure, the board was able to carry out its responsibilities to ABCORI while also giving attention to ABCORI’s mission; the role of the Board of Ministries; and trends impacting ABCORI and its member churches. As a result, the board grew in its understanding of the nature of its work and how to be more effective in its service to ABCORI.

Having worked within and evaluated the interim structure for one year, the board appointed a task force to begin a review and revision of ABCORI’s by-laws at the annual business meeting in March 2024. At the same meeting, delegates approved continuing the interim structure for one additional year while the by-laws task force undertook its work.

In light of the acrimony that has arose within ABCORI in 2025 and a pervasive posture of mistrust that developed toward ABCORI leadership, the by-laws task force expressed to the board its concern that the proposed by-laws revision would not receive fair consideration in that environment and the presentation of by-laws revision could further divisions within ABCORI. The board concurred.

During its meeting in early April 2025, the Board of Ministries unanimously voted to postpone presentation of the proposed by-laws revision and instead present a modification to the interim structure as a next step toward a full by-laws revision. It was approved as amended above and the ABCORI Board of Ministries now requests it be extended by another year as we look at moving the new and revised by-laws into place.

Motion #2

*Move that delegates approve the revised by-laws effective **April 1, 2027** as approved by the Board of Ministries in January 2025 (see below and attached.)*

A by-law revision task force of Lynne Linden, chair (Warwick Central Baptist Church); Rev. George Barclay (Norwood Baptist Church); Rev. Del Demosthenes (Memorial Baptist Church); Meredith Eckel (Central Baptist Church, Westerly); and *ex officio* members Rev. Dr. Cal Lord

(ABCORI president) and Rev. Dr. Courtney Davis Olds (ABCORI executive minister) met throughout 2024. Working from the most recent version of the by-laws, which was approved in 2013, the task force focused its efforts on Articles VI-XII. Those portions dealt with the structure of the board and committees, which had been identified as a primary area of concern in 2020.

In their process of review and revision, the by-laws task force sought input from ABCUSA; reviewed by-laws from other American Baptist regions; consulted resources specific to ministry organizations and non-profit governance; and considered feedback from ABCORI's Board of Ministries.

In January 2025, the task force presented a proposed revision of the by-laws to the Board of Ministries for their consideration. The board voted unanimously to present that proposed revision to the delegates at the March 2025 annual business meeting.

Highlights from Proposed By-laws Revision:

Because the task force had focused on the portions of the by-laws dealing with the structure of the boards and committees, Articles I-IV contained few changes. Those that were proposed included: updates to the names of the State of Rhode Island and American Baptist Churches USA; corrections to spelling, grammar, and redundancies; and edits to maintain consistency of wording throughout the by-laws. Proposed revisions to Article V included aligning the timing of the annual business meeting with ABCORI's fiscal year and adding a provision for electronic communication to reflect updated forms of communication.

Under the proposed revisions to Articles VI-X, the board and committee composition would be:

Board of Managers

(10 members: nine elected members with votes, executive staff)

Officers: President
 Vice President
 Clerk
 Treasurer
 Executive Minister (without vote)

At Large: Four (4)
 Past President

Committees

- Finance: 5 elected members; treasurer; president or vice president; executive minister (*ex officio* without vote)
- Personnel: 4 elected members; president or vice president; executive minister (*ex officio* without vote)
- Recruitment: 4 elected members; president or vice president; executive minister (*ex officio* without vote)
- Professional Ministry: 2 elected clergy members; 2 elected lay members; executive minister (*ex officio* with vote)
- Executive: officers as listed above

The proposed name of the board, Board of Managers, is a return to the name in use in the 1945 and 1970 versions of the by-laws and better reflects the board's governance responsibilities.

The size of the board is reflective of the small size of ABCORI as a region, as well as in alignment with expert recommendations for the ideal size of a non-profit board. Unlike in the interim structure or the structure outlined by the most recent version of ABCORI's by-laws, all voting members of the board are elected. This ensures that those making decisions for ABCORI are appointed to do so by its member churches via their delegates to the annual business meeting.

The number of at-large members of the board goes from three to four in the proposed revision. In the proposed revision, the board's responsibilities are largely unchanged from those outlined in the 2013 version of the by-laws. Wording revisions emphasize the board's fiduciary responsibility to ABCORI.

The committees proposed in the by-laws revision are the same as those in the interim structure, with the exception of the Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry being renamed the Professional Ministry Committee to reflect that not all pastoral or ministerial leaders within ABCORI are ordained clergy. The committee's responsibilities align with the corresponding committee in the 2013 version of the by-laws, with the finance committee assuming all responsibilities of the operations team except personnel.

Whereas committee chairs served on the board in the interim and previous structures, that is no longer the case in the structure outlined in the proposed revision. Committees continue to report to the board and a representative of a committee can be called upon to meet with the board if the committee's input or expertise is needed. Committee chairs, however, no longer have the added responsibility and time commitment of serving on the board.

In keeping with the suspension of ministry teams approved by the delegates in 2020, the

proposed by-laws revision eliminates Article XI-Areas of Ministry Teams. These teams had not been fully filled prior to their suspension, nor had there been a clear understanding of how they were to function. The proposed by-laws revision includes a provision for executive staff to create working groups as needed to carry out the planning and/or execution of specific programming to fulfill the priorities established by the board. By design, working groups would have short tenures, dissolving whenever the specific programming on which it was focused was completed.

Proposed revisions to the remaining articles in the by-laws (Articles XII-XVI in the 2013 version) reflect corrections to spelling, grammar, and redundancies; edits to maintain consistency of wording throughout the by-laws; and revisions to clarify the autonomous nature of the American Baptist organizations with which ABCORI partners and cooperates.

Status and Next Steps:

The Board of Ministries expressed its support of the proposed revision when it voted unanimously in January 2025 to present the proposal to the delegates at the 2025 annual business meeting. The Board now asks for approval with an April 1, 2027 effective date for the following reasons--

- The Recruitment Committee will be able to recruit for 2027-28 leadership both with the appropriate two year terms and staggering election terms where needed and with the needed at-large positions.
- It allows for the Board to receive written amendments through January 31, 2027, with timing for Board evaluation and being able to provide ALL amendments to delegates prior to the 2027 Annual Meeting AND prior to the effective date of the by-law approval. (Roberts Rules of Order stipulate that amendments to By-laws be previously received in writing and distributed so while ABCORI by-laws do not specify this, it would be keeping with that operating provision.)

All amendments received by January 31, 2027 from ABCORI delegates would be brought to delegates for consideration at the 2027 Annual Meeting.

Interim Executive Minister's Report

"Thanks for your patience as the new bridge is built."

Rhode Island Department of Transportation

This has not been an easy year for American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. With the major disagreements regarding the use of the camp property followed by the resignation of ABCORI's Executive staff, to the continued financial challenges ABCORI faces, there's a lot of work to be done. It's one step at a time.

In November 2025, two days after I began work as your Interim Executive Minister, the ABCORI Board of Ministries and all elected leadership were invited to gather so we could get to know one another. Out of some small group discussions, I gained answers to my question—if at the end of my time with you we could accomplish one thing, what would it be?

The top responses, in priority order, were these—

Bring unity to our relationships

Move us through the decisions with Camp Canonicus

Renew our identity as Rhode Island Baptists

Since then during the two weeks each month that I've spent here in Rhode Island, there have been times of getting to know leaders, pastors, and churches as I have been in worship, at small group gatherings, held two virtual nights of prayer for ABCORI, and taken other opportunities as I can to get to know Rhode Islanders. I am trying to communicate our processes and decisions as they roll out while staying flexible to the continually changing circumstances.

There have been many, many meetings as we discern where God is leading us with the camp property. Board Vice President Alan Newton was designated as a liaison with interested parties and works with me in helping the Board make decisions that will benefit both ABCORI and the property long-term. Since last year's 2025 delegate vote halting a sale, two groups have come forward to express interest in using all or part of the land.

Canonicus Ministries Inc. was founded by those in ABCORI most interested in retaining the property as a faith-based camp and conference center. Over this past year they have formed a non-profit organization and have submitted proposals to the Board of Ministries that would have them take over the property ownership and programs of Camp Canonicus.

Lumina LLC, a family-owned start-up, would develop a seasonal illuminated night walk that would combine the beauty of the forest land with light, art, and reflective music. They are interested in a long-term lease of @30 acres and some additional shared access points in order to draw from Rhode Island’s tourist market.

I was hopeful that the Board of Ministries would be ready to bring a recommendation to delegates for our March 7, 2026 Annual Meeting, but we came to realize that it is more important to make a considered, Christ-honoring, long-term decision than to rush that process. If you’re disappointed by that, know that I was too, but I am convinced that God is working through the efforts that are being made. Our hope is to convene a Special Business Meeting sometime between Easter and early summer in order to have delegates make the next key decisions.

Much of being an Executive Minister is like being a pastor who can be told how nice it is that they only have to work one day a week. So much happens behind the scenes in regional life. And while there are immediate concerns taking precedence right now, I have also been working to resource search committees and to listen to concerns of our churches.

It’s not an easy time to be the church and if I could wave a magic wand and make things all better, I would, but instead I invite you to join me in a time of learning, discerning, and experimenting, as we discover what God has in store for us next.

I was driving towards East Providence during commute hours one evening, when I saw the DOT sign board next to the portion of I-95 where I was stopped—THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE...AS WE BUILD THE NEW BRIDGE. I repeated that sentence to myself over and over so I wouldn’t forget it while I drove.

You see this is ABCORI right now. We are building a new bridge—a new bridge of relationships, of ways to learn together, of ministries that reach out to our neighbors and meet the needs of those in our communities. Thanks for your patience, your prayers, and your financial support that make new bridges possible.

Rev. Joan C. Friesen
Interim Executive Minister

“Thanks for your patience as the new bridge is built.”
ABCORI 2026

President's Report

In 2025-2026, the year started knowing that ABCORI was losing both its Executive and Associate Executive Ministers. Even though it was known, we were in shock. All vital information necessary to continue the work of ABCORI was passed along – signing paperwork for new officers at the bank, treasurer's duties from day to day, president's duties, contacts for insurance, attorneys, DEM, etc. What response do we give to folks making inquiries about the property, and to continue negotiations with the Canonicus group? Will this situation bind us together or continue tearing at the seams of what makes American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island (ABCORI) the glue for Rhode Island Baptist churches?

After several weeks of vacation for me and time to gather my thoughts, the Executive Committee met with Jeff Woods, Associate General Secretary, and others from American Baptist Churches, USA, to help facilitate the process of placing an interim executive minister in place before we started looking for an Executive Minister. From Zoom meetings, phone calls, and in-person meetings, the Executive Committee determined that, among the candidates offered, one best met our goals and vision for ABCORI. (*We look to make healthy decisions, deeper spiritual and relational vitality in the churches, and help bring us back to being a more unified organization.*) That person was Rev. Joan Friesen, retired Executive Minister from the American Baptist Churches of Greater Indianapolis (2009-2023), who hails from Olympia, WA.

What is it that ABCORI wants/needs from Rev. Friesen? She sees the bigger vision and is open to helping, but we ourselves must determine what the Rhode Island churches must do to sustain and grow a brighter, more fruitful organization. It was noted that only about half of the churches in ABCORI supported their mission. Do we understand that responsibility is a relationship? We need to get back in touch with one another.

Rev. Friesen has been feet on the ground every step of the way. Every week, there are church visits throughout the state; potlucks and pastors' prayer zoom calls. I participated in pastor installations for Rev. Wesley McClure of Calvary Baptist, Rev. Linda Hartley of Oak Lawn Baptist, 125th Anniversary Celebration for Phillips Memorial Baptist, took part in the program "For Such a Time as This" when Rev. Dr. Gina Jacob-Strain, General Secretary of ABC-USA was visiting RI, and attended the Ministers Alliance MLK Scholarship Breakfast; it has been a busy few months.

Proposals for the property are still under negotiation. This has been and remains in the forefront of all that is taking place with ABCORI. We are prayerful that there will come an amicable resolution. I am thankful to my VP, Alan Newton, and to Rev. Friesen for their hard work on this endeavor. Until that time, Canonicus Camping Ministry will continue to be in a deficit on

the financial budget. Every avenue is being taken to curb spending when possible and to find new sources of funding.

And it goes without saying how grateful, thankful, and proud I am of the people who comprise the Board of Ministries for ABCORI. Their hearts are in every action taken.

We are all believers in God's word, and I trust good decisions will be made. We must come to some agreement or understanding sooner rather than later, not for ourselves, but for the generations to come. I have always told my son and grandchildren that the truth prevails and love is the glue. It is in living out his purpose for our lives that we find how close we come to seeing life in the kingdom. May God continue blessing all of you. Be well.

Eva Irby-Davis, President

Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry

March 2026

The Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry met 4 times this past year.

Committee members were Rev. Tim Chesser, Rev. Elise Mancini, William Tutt, and Meredith Eckel.

The committee reviewed four potential candidates to enter the ordination process.

- Linda Hartley, Oaklawn Community Baptist
- Westley McClure, Calvary Baptist
- Michael Coburn, Chepachet Union Baptist
- Sando Moore, Second Freewill Baptist

Linda Hartley was already UCC ordained. Linda's application was reviewed under Article IV., The Recognition of Standing of Non-American Baptist Ordination. Since Linda met all requirements, the committee gladly passed her application on to the Board of Ministry.

Michael Coburn, Pastor of Chepachet Union Baptist Church has finished seminary but is just starting his ordination application.

No further action was taken this past year.

Submitted by Meredith Eckel

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee continues to meet monthly to receive current reports on cash flow and budget stress points, and to act on financial and property issues requiring attention. Each of our areas of responsibility - oversight of all ABCORI assets (financial and property), budget funding and development, and the Baptist Fund- has a substantial impact on our primary focus of budget preparation and continued monitoring of budget stress points and cash flow.

*Oversight of Assets – Monitoring and acting on various property-related issues such as downed power lines, annual treatment of the lake for invasive species, repair and replacement of furnaces and water heaters, and others, as well as the continued efforts of staff relating to security and liability concerns. Also, the formation of a Dam Safety Committee to ensure preparedness for potential dam emergencies.

*Budget Funding and Development – Funding to cover cash flow inherent with the deficit budgets over the past few years has been a challenge met only through a bequeath from an estate and the ABCORI portion of a sale of a church property. This funding has now been exhausted. The budget presented for FY 27 shows a significant improvement over last year, but still a projected deficit that will have cash flow stress points during the year.

*Baptist Fund of Rhode Island – Regarding the Reviewed, Refocused, and Revived Baptist Fund as a resource for Pastors and churches through a Grant application and review process, interest and funding were able to provide 2 grant application periods during the year. This effort has shown great response and is expected to continue growing in the coming years.

In closing, I want to thank the Committee and ABCORI staff for their invaluable support and insight regarding all areas of responsibility of our Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Butzier, Chair Finance Committee

Treasurer's Report

The following is a summary of the financial status of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island for the fiscal year 2025-2026. Information reference in this report is as of 12/31/2025.

Balance in Bank of America Checking \$ 52,995.42

Baptist Fund with BOA (restricted) \$ 113,710.77

The transfer of Pooled Investment funds from Bernstein Alliance to American Baptist Foundation was completed in June of 2025, totaling \$134,533. The return for 2025 of the Blended Fund Portfolio, of which the majority of the funds are invested in, had a return of 13.99% for the year.

The total funds invested with ABF as of 12/31/2025 was \$7,927,576.03 comprised of 109 individual accounts. The majority of the funds are held in trust for fellow churches and restricted to specific purposes, leaving very limited resources available to fund payroll and day-to-day operations. Approximately 9% of the total invested with ABF, or \$713,500, is unrestricted, but only allows for income (4.5%) to be drawn from or \$32,000 annually.

David Coon has been instrumental in researching, documenting, and clarifying the intent of each of these funds.

David E. Dolce, Treasurer

American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
Balance Sheet
As of March 31, 2025

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1010 Checking General Fund 3366	82,506.88
1030 Checking - Baptist Fund 1081	98,181.86
1045 Certificate Deposit - B.O.A	102,134.22
1050 Savings - B.O.A.	7,796.82
1080 Petty Cash - Admin	200.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$290,819.78
Other Current Assets	
1220 Prepaid Insurance	7,684.00
1300 Receivable - Other	7,213.18
Total Other Current Assets	\$14,897.18
Total Current Assets	\$305,716.96
Fixed Assets	
1810 Buildings & Improvements	4,691,757.50
1820 Land	35,900.62
1830 Office Furniture & Fixtures	47,167.08
1870 Vehicles	25,051.71
1880 Church Bldgs & Land not in serv	12.00
1890 Accumulated Depreciation	-3,761,792.41
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 1,038,096.50
Other Assets	
1461 Kyndyl 6 Shares	188.40
1470 US Trust Maude Roberts	288,290.10
1900 Sanford Bernstien - PIF Invest	62,926.63
1901 Sanford Bernsein PIF Invest Mul	71,209.97
1904 A. B. Foundation Investment	2,450,302.08
Total Other Assets	\$2,872,917.18
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,216,730.64
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	

3000 Accounts Payable - ABCORI	9,760.83
Total Accounts Payable	\$9,760.83
Other Current Liabilities	
3100 Missions Held For ElderCare	7,791.55
3110 TAS - 401K W/H	-73.12
3120 Accrued Expenses & Liabilities	6,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 13,718.43
Total Current Liabilities	\$23,479.26
Total Liabilities	\$23,479.26
Equity	
4000 Unrestricted Net Assets	0.00
4010 Fund Balance	2,197,152.80
4030 Perm Restricted Net Assets	4,225,998.57
4900 Net Asset Released Restriction	-38,457.00
4930 PRNA Released Current year	-2,178,190.12
Net Revenue	-13,252.87
Total Equity	\$4,193,251.38
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$4,216,730.64

American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island

Balance Sheet

As of February 28, 2026

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1010 Checking General Fund 3366	31,563.38
1030 Checking - Baptist Fund 1081	111,732.87
1080 Petty Cash - Admin	100.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$143,396.25
Other Current Assets	
1220 Prepaid Insurance	6,197.28
Total Other Current Assets	\$6,197.28
Total Current Assets	\$149,593.53
Fixed Assets	
1810 Buildings & Improvements	4,691,757.50
1820 Land	35,900.62
1830 Office Furniture & Fixtures	47,167.08
1870 Vehicles	25,051.71
1880 Church Bldgs & Land not in serv	12.00
1890 Accumulated Depreciation	-3,761,792.41
Total Fixed Assets	\$1,038,096.50
Other Assets	
1461 Kyndyl 6 Shares	159.36
1470 US Trust Maude Roberts	320,124.37
1900 Sanford Bernstien - PIF Invest	0.29
1904 A. B. Foundation Investment	2,854,352.86
Total Other Assets	\$3,174,636.88
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,362,326.91
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
3000 Accounts Payable - ABCORI	1,034.05
Total Accounts Payable	\$1,034.05
Other Current Liabilities	
3110 TAS - 401K W/H	-46.16
3120 Accrued Expenses & Liabilities	6,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$5,953.84
Total Current Liabilities	\$6,987.89

Total Liabilities	\$6,987.89
Equity	
4000 Unrestricted Net Assets	-13,252.87
4010 Fund Balance	2,197,152.80
4030 Perm Restricted Net Assets	4,225,998.57
4900 Net Asset Released Restriction	-141,686.17
4930 PRNA Released Current year	-2,178,190.12
Net Revenue	265,316.81
Total Equity	\$4,355,339.02
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$4,362,326.91

American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
Budget vs. Actuals: FY__2024-2025 - FY25 P&L
 April 2024-March 2025

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Income				
5000 REVENUE - REGIONAL OPERATIONS				
5010 America for Christ Offering	2,804.58	3,200.00	-395.42	87.64 %
5020 Regional Support	3,502.91	13,500.00	-9,997.09	25.95 %
5030 United Mission Giving	45,606.91	70,000.00	-24,393.09	65.15 %
5040 Honoraria	2,350.00		2,350.00	
5050 Baptist Fund of RI - Donations	2,895.00	14,650.00	-11,755.00	19.76 %
5051 Baptist Fund of RI - PIF Invest	11,572.82	14,856.00	-3,283.18	77.90 %
5060 Gifts & Donations-Unrestricted	28,092.19	50,000.00	-21,907.81	56.18 %
5062 Gifts & Donations - 2020 Team	180.00		180.00	
5085 ABCORI - Pooled Member Qtrly	13,920.28	16,800.00	-2,879.72	82.86 %
5091 Transfer - PIF MGMT Expenses	5,961.77	16,200.00	-10,238.23	36.80 %
5092 Transfer - PIF Draw	6,917.28		6,917.28	
5540 Baptist Home of RI - Admin Serv	6,013.13	7,180.00	-1,166.87	83.75 %
5560 Misc Income	2,212.32	4,644.00	-2,431.68	47.64 %
Total 5000 REVENUE - REGIONAL OPERATIONS	132,029.19	211,030.00	-79,000.81	62.56 %
5200 REVENUE - CAMP & CONFERENCE				
5310 Revenue - Day Conferences	18,618.00	14,000.00	4,618.00	132.99 %
5320 Revenue - Overnight Retreats	93,846.00	60,000.00	33,846.00	156.41 %
5330 Revenue - Equipment & Misc Item	815.00	2,000.00	-1,185.00	40.75 %
5340 Other Facilities- Fields/Chapel	7,280.00	16,000.00	-8,720.00	45.50 %
5350 Surcharges	9,219.50	3,000.00	6,219.50	307.32 %
5360 Revenue - Fundraisers	60.00		60.00	
5380 Revenue Food Service	75,168.00	62,000.00	13,168.00	121.24 %
Total 5200 REVENUE - CAMP & CONFERENCE	205,006.50	157,000.00	48,006.50	130.58 %
5500 OTHER CANONICUS INCOME				
5082 Other Donations - Canonicus	53,602.82	9,448.00	44,154.82	567.35 %
5090 Transfer - PIF Capital Expenses	8,170.33		8,170.33	
5512 Rental - ABCORI Units	22,850.00	36,000.00	-13,150.00	63.47 %
5525 Income - Scrap/Salvage Items	460.00		460.00	
Total 5500 OTHER CANONICUS INCOME	85,083.15	45,448.00	39,635.15	187.21 %
Total Income	\$422,118.84	\$413,478.00	\$8,640.84	102.09 %
Expenses				
6000 REGIONAL - ADMIN EXPENSES				
6010 Bank/Credit Card Fees&Interest	837.47	400.00	437.47	209.37 %
6030 Fees & Dues	150.00	300.00	-150.00	50.00 %
6040 Workers Compensation Insurance	9,313.73	7,300.00	2,013.73	127.59 %

6045 Insurance - Umbrella	208.34	3,500.00	-3,291.66	5.95 %
6050 Utilities - Lawrence Bldg.	3,668.78	7,100.00	-3,431.22	51.67 %
6055 Maintenance - Lawrence Bldg.	3,293.79	3,600.00	-306.21	91.49 %
6090 Office Expenses	1,274.70	2,000.00	-725.30	63.74 %
6105 Lease Expense - Copier	1,750.00	2,250.00	-500.00	77.78 %
6110 Postage	429.00	850.00	-421.00	50.47 %
6120 Telephone	1,048.85	1,800.00	-751.15	58.27 %
6130 Computer Services/Internet Exp	3,343.43	5,500.00	-2,156.57	60.79 %
6160 Audit/Compilation Services	6,682.50	6,000.00	682.50	111.38 %
6170 Accounting Fees- Controllership	825.00	1,800.00	-975.00	45.83 %
6175 Bookkeeping Fees	13,873.00	18,000.00	-4,127.00	77.07 %
6180 Legal/Professional Fees	14,950.00	1,500.00	13,450.00	996.67 %
6240 Payroll Service Expense	1,678.21	1,400.00	278.21	119.87 %
Total 6000 REGIONAL - ADMIN EXPENSES	63,326.80	63,300.00	26.80	100.04 %
6200 REGIONAL - OPERATIONS EXPENSE				
6035 Dues - MRC	2,229.25	2,000.00	229.25	111.46 %
6172 Accounting Fees - Investment	7,553.75	5,200.00	2,353.75	145.26 %
6210 Payroll - Administrative Staff	37,258.25	48,082.94	-10,824.69	77.49 %
6230 Payroll Tax Expense - Admin	2,850.31	3,678.35	-828.04	77.49 %
6250 Local Travel & Hosp. - Exec	2,354.46	4,000.00	-1,645.54	58.86 %
6252 National Travel & Educ. - Exec	582.85	4,000.00	-3,417.15	14.57 %
6260 Travel - Admin	117.25	200.00	-82.75	58.63 %
6300 Payroll - Executive Salaries	24,849.69	31,517.00	-6,667.31	78.85 %
6310 Payroll-Executive Housing Allow	37,804.67	47,947.00	-10,142.33	78.85 %
6312 Payroll - Exec Medical Reimb	4,301.13	5,423.00	-1,121.87	79.31 %
6314 Payroll - Exec S.S. Offset	4,793.10	6,079.01	-1,285.91	78.85 %
6315 Pension - Executive Staff	11,405.70	13,686.91	-2,281.21	83.33 %
6510 Resource & Literature	90.00	500.00	-410.00	18.00 %
6515 Seminars & Workshops - ABCORI	6,052.56	10,000.00	-3,947.44	60.53 %
6520 Board Expenses - ABCORI	660.08	4,500.00	-3,839.92	14.67 %
6810 Baptist Fund of RI - Grants	13,036.08	23,000.00	-9,963.92	56.68 %
Total 6200 REGIONAL - OPERATIONS EXPENSE	155,939.13	209,814.21	-53,875.08	74.32 %
7000 CANONICUS FACILITES				
7040 Electricity	14,019.36	22,080.00	-8,060.64	63.49 %
7050 Natural Gas	7,176.40	8,900.00	-1,723.60	80.63 %
7060 Insurance - Buildings	15,368.82	41,500.00	-26,131.18	37.03 %
7075 Maintenance - Building	2,178.82	5,000.00	-2,821.18	43.58 %
7080 Maintenance Supplies	1,245.04	3,500.00	-2,254.96	35.57 %
7085 Ground Maintenance	3,084.67	6,300.00	-3,215.33	48.96 %
7090 Heating Oil	3,464.95	6,432.00	-2,967.05	53.87 %
7110 Propane	697.09	1,290.00	-592.91	54.04 %
7120 Equipment Repairs	4,692.30	9,500.00	-4,807.70	49.39 %
7130 Vehicles Maintenance	1,097.86	6,800.00	-5,702.14	16.15 %
7140 Gasoline	1,970.33	3,500.00	-1,529.67	56.30 %
7150 Vehicle Insurance	721.75	900.00	-178.25	80.19 %
7155 Vehicle Registration		200.00	-200.00	

7160 Water	3,284.38	3,800.00	-515.62	86.43 %
7170 Waste Removal	2,730.47	2,820.00	-89.53	96.83 %
7180 Contractual Services	6,881.18	8,300.00	-1,418.82	82.91 %
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
7290 Capital Expenses	7,708.39		7,708.39	
7310 Payroll - Full Time Staff	33,862.72	42,947.71	-9,084.99	78.85 %
7315 Payroll - Part Time Staff	17,155.64	13,472.16	3,683.48	127.34 %
7320 Payroll - Seasonal Staff		8,192.00	-8,192.00	
7325 Payroll - Tax Expense	3,902.72	4,942.81	-1,040.09	78.96 %
7335 Medical Insurance - Staff	10,417.23	13,636.11	-3,218.88	76.39 %
7340 Retirement - Staff	1,431.60	1,717.91	-286.31	83.33 %
7350 Housing Expense - Staff	1,018.50	850.00	168.50	119.82 %
7355 Housing Utilities - Staff	4,427.76	6,300.00	-1,872.24	70.28 %
Total 7000 CANONICUS FACILITES	148,537.98	222,880.70	-74,342.72	66.64 %
8200 CAMP & CONFERENCE EXPENSE				
8230 Computer Services/Tech Expense	3,895.39	4,500.00	-604.61	86.56 %
8265 Travel Expense	495.80	250.00	245.80	198.32 %
8270 Program Supplies	26.45	150.00	-123.55	17.63 %
8275 Medical Supplies	256.49	600.00	-343.51	42.75 %
8280 Permits/Inspections		250.00	-250.00	
8285 Fees & Dues		300.00	-300.00	
8310 Food - Conferencing	22,598.46	27,000.00	-4,401.54	83.70 %
8320 Kitchen Supplies	933.87	2,200.00	-1,266.13	42.45 %
8345 Custodial	9,985.52	15,000.00	-5,014.48	66.57 %
8350 Laundry Expense	3,036.15	5,000.00	-1,963.85	60.72 %
8355 Domestic Furnishings	521.52	1,000.00	-478.48	52.15 %
8380 Payroll - Full Time Staff	19,737.19	16,099.30	3,637.89	122.60 %
8382 Payroll - Part Time Staff	26,745.51	23,480.00	3,265.51	113.91 %
8385 Payroll - Seasonal Staff	3,904.00	23,220.00	-19,316.00	16.81 %
8390 Payroll Taxes - Staff	3,854.42	6,461.45	-2,607.03	59.65 %
8395 Medical Insurance - Staff	13,605.93	17,870.43	-4,264.50	76.14 %
8397 Retirement - Staff	715.52	643.97	71.55	111.11 %
Total 8200 CAMP & CONFERENCE EXPENSE	110,312.22	144,025.15	-33,712.93	76.59 %
Total Expenses	\$478,116.13	\$640,020.06	-\$ 161,903.93	74.70 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	-\$ 55,997.29	-\$ 226,542.06	\$170,544.77	24.72 %
NET INCOME	-\$ 55,997.29	-\$ 226,542.06	\$170,544.77	24.72 %

American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY26_P&L - FY26 P&L
 April 2025 - January 2026

	Total			
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
Revenue				
5000 REVENUE - REGIONAL OPERATIONS			0.00	
5010 America for Christ Offering	2,621.57	2,583.30	38.27	101.48%
5020 Regional Support	3,566.44	4,729.20	-1,162.76	75.41%
5030 United Mission Giving	57,508.54	56,666.70	841.84	101.49%
5040 Honoraria	200.00		200.00	
5050 Baptist Fund of RI - Donations	2,965.09	5,833.30	-2,868.21	50.83%
5051 Baptist Fund of RI - PIF Invest	16,819.26	13,333.30	3,485.96	126.14%
5060 Gifts & Donations-Unrestricted	29,733.28	25,000.00	4,733.28	118.93%
5085 ABCORI - Pooled Member Qtrly	50,881.09	30,000.00	20,881.09	169.60%
5092 Transfer - PIF Draw	23,803.09		23,803.09	
5540 Baptist Home of RI - Admin Serv	1,256.32	6,281.70	-5,025.38	20.00%
5560 Misc Income	2,718.71	833.30	1,885.41	326.26%
Total 5000 REVENUE - REGIONAL OPERATIONS	\$ 192,073.39	\$ 145,260.80	\$ 46,812.59	132.23%
5100 REVENUE - GRANTS			0.00	
5120 Grants - Other	25,729.24		25,729.24	
Total 5100 REVENUE - GRANTS	\$ 25,729.24	\$ 0.00	\$ 25,729.24	
5500 OTHER CANONICUS INCOME			0.00	
5082 Other Donations - Canonicus		2,083.30	-2,083.30	0.00%
5090 Transfer - PIF Capital Expenses	5,032.69		5,032.69	
5512 Rental - ABCORI Units	500.00		500.00	
5525 Income - Scrap/Salvage Items	318.57	416.70	-98.13	76.45%
Total 5500 OTHER CANONICUS INCOME	\$ 5,851.26	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,351.26	234.05%
Total Revenue	\$ 223,653.89	\$ 147,760.80	\$ 75,893.09	151.36%
Gross Profit	\$ 223,653.89	\$ 147,760.80	\$ 75,893.09	151.36%
Expenditures				
6000 REGIONAL - ADMIN EXPENSES			0.00	
6010 Bank/Credit Card Fees				
& Interest	156.26	333.30	-177.04	46.88%
6030 Fees & Dues	184.00	166.70	17.30	110.38%
6040 Workers Compensation Insurance	1,776.70	8,131.70	-6,355.00	21.85%
6045 Insurance - D&O / General Liability	12,285.70	14,840.80	-2,555.10	82.78%

6050 Utilities - Lawrence Bldg.	4,957.77	5,404.20	-446.43	91.74%
6055 Maintenance - Lawrence Bldg.	3,592.05	3,712.50	-120.45	96.76%
6090 Office Expenses	1,373.81	1,666.70	-292.89	82.43%
6105 Lease Expense - Copier	1,750.00	1,838.30	-88.30	95.20%
6110 Postage	291.31	541.70	-250.39	53.78%
6120 Telephone	1,284.81	1,250.00	34.81	102.78%
6130 Computer Services/Internet Exp	4,394.48	4,166.70	227.78	105.47%
6160 Audit/Compilation Services	6,490.00	5,833.30	656.70	111.26%
6170 Accounting Fees- Controllership		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%
6175 Bookkeeping Fees	16,650.00	15,000.00	1,650.00	111.00%
6180 Legal/Professional Fees	12,640.00	12,500.00	140.00	101.12%
6240 Payroll Service Expense	1,309.83	1,250.00	59.83	104.79%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total 6000 REGIONAL - ADMIN EXPENSES	69,136.72	77,635.90	8,499.18	89.05%
6200 REGIONAL - OPERATIONS EXPENSE			0.00	
6035 Dues - MRC		1,666.70	-1,666.70	0.00%
6172 Accounting Fees - Investment	8,130.00	4,333.30	3,796.70	187.62%
6210 Payroll - Administrative Staff	39,585.00	39,000.00	585.00	101.50%
6230 Payroll Tax Expense - Admin	3,028.25	3,000.00	28.25	100.94%
6245 Outside Services - Interim Executive	12,000.00		12,000.00	
6250 Local Travel & Hosp. - Exec	3,996.87	2,500.00	1,496.87	159.87%
6252 National Travel & Educ. - Exec	186.69	1,666.70	-1,480.01	11.20%
6260 Travel - Admin	609.18	166.70	442.48	365.43%
6300 Payroll - Executive Salaries	1,212.18	73,068.30	-71,856.12	1.66%
6310 Payroll-Executive Housing Allow	24,775.82		24,775.82	
6312 Payroll - Exec Medical Reimb	1,519.83	5,066.70	-3,546.87	30.00%
6314 Payroll - Exec S.S. Offset	233.81		233.81	
6315 Pension - Executive Staff	3,507.27	11,690.80	-8,183.53	30.00%
6515 Seminars & Workshops - ABCORI		8,333.30	-8,333.30	0.00%
6520 Board Expenses - ABCORI	1,055.43	3,750.00	-2,694.57	28.14%
6810 Baptist Fund of RI - Grants		19,166.70	-19,166.70	0.00%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total 6200 REGIONAL - OPERATIONS EXPENSE	99,840.33	173,409.20	73,568.87	57.57%
7000 CANONICUS FACILITES			0.00	
7040 Electricity	4,648.00	17,904.20	-13,256.20	25.96%
7050 Natural Gas	5,055.45	9,014.20	-3,958.75	56.08%
7060 Insurance - Buildings/Liability		41,666.70	-41,666.70	0.00%
7075 Maintenance - Building	3,479.42	3,375.00	104.42	103.09%
7080 Maintenance Supplies	667.17	2,000.00	-1,332.83	33.36%
7085 Ground Maintenance	28,452.54	3,000.00	25,452.54	948.42%
7090 Heating Oil	3,665.12	4,000.00	-334.88	91.63%
7110 Propane	1,631.98	1,400.00	231.98	116.57%
7120 Equipment Repairs	1,445.77	2,500.00	-1,054.23	57.83%
7130 Vehicles Maintenance	361.00	750.00	-389.00	48.13%

7140 Gasoline	1,466.11	1,591.70	-125.59	92.11%
7150 Vehicle Insurance		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%
7155 Vehicle Registration		166.70	-166.70	0.00%
7160 Water	1,940.60	2,404.20	-463.60	80.72%
7170 Waste Removal	3,038.19	2,250.00	788.19	135.03%
7180 Contractual Services	1,853.12	2,125.00	-271.88	87.21%
7290 Capital Expenses	12,933.64		12,933.64	
7310 Payroll - Full Time Staff	37,208.20	36,684.20	524.00	101.43%
7315 Payroll - Part Time Staff	20,460.51	19,680.00	780.51	103.97%
7325 Payroll - Tax Expense	4,411.67	4,312.50	99.17	102.30%
7335 Medical Insurance - Staff	12,160.54	11,393.30	767.24	106.73%
7340 Retirement - Staff	1,463.91	1,467.50	-3.59	99.76%
7350 Housing Expense - Staff	4,529.32	1,341.70	3,187.62	337.58%
7355 Housing Utilities - Staff	3,718.41	5,514.20	-1,795.79	67.43%
Total 7000 CANONICUS FACILITES	154,590.67	175,541.10	20,950.43	88.07%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total Expenditures	323,567.72	426,586.20	103,018.48	75.85%
	-\$	-\$	\$	
Net Operating Revenue	99,913.83	278,825.40	178,911.57	35.83%
	-\$	-\$	\$	
Net Revenue	99,913.83	278,825.40	178,911.57	35.83%

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee met just once this past year in order to review staff compensation and make recommendations for the 2026-27 budget. Office and facilities staff were all given a 3% cost-of-living adjustment, thanks to their hard work, especially during the region's executive leadership transition.

The committee will meet again in July 2026 to determine the means of providing staff evaluations and to review job descriptions for the Office Administrator and Facilities Director.

Veronica Mays resigned from the Personnel Committee when she moved out of state during her term. Del Demosthenes, Natasha Gordon, and Dan Walker continued to serve.

Joan Friesen Interim Executive Minister

Representative to ABCUSA Board of General Ministries

During 2025 I attended two meetings of the Board of General Ministries [BGM]. The first was held in Omaha, Nebraska, on July 1st - 3rd, immediately followed by the Biennial Mission Summit. The second was held in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on November 13th - 15th. It is a privilege to serve as the ABCORI representative to the BGM, where I can serve our denomination in collaboration with American Baptists from across the United States and Puerto Rico.

The July meetings were my first as the ABCORI representative to the BGM. As they were held in conjunction with the Biennial, I also attended the Biennial and co-chaired the pre-biennial Theologians Conference. During one session, I joined other directors in volunteer prep work for the biennial. At these meetings, I was also elected to serve on the Committee for Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations.

Our meetings began with an energetic discussion on the "Confidentiality Statement" that directors are asked to read at each meeting. Discussion was tabled and returned to at the November meetings.

President Nikita McCalister reported on her church, regional, and denominational visits. General Secretary Rev. Gina Jacobs-Strain shared ABC-USA's new promotional videos and the work done to include young people in the Biennial. Budget Review Officer, Paul Higgins, shared that the 2024 financial audit was completed and deemed a "clean audit." Higgins reported that United Missions giving was down 8% through April.

During the November meetings we received a report from outgoing President, Rev. Nikita McCalister stating that "it has been one of my life's greatest joys to be able to risk love with you, living God's affection with outrageous joy." General Secretary Rev. Gina Jacobs-Strain reported on her extensive travels throughout the country noting that "Everywhere I have traveled, I have witnessed the unmistakable movement of God."

The new Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board CEO/Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Perry Hopper, joined us and shared that he sees his new role as a "sacred trust." Associate General Secretary Rev. Dr. C. Jeff Woods joined us virtually, updating the board on various Regional Executive Minister searches.

Wendy Clemmer, Director of Mission Resource Development, shared information on Giving Tuesday, The Generosity Project, and ABC-USA Sunday (February 2026). She shared information on how to encourage our churches to financially support the work of ABC-USA.

President McCalister presented the board with a “Covenant Agreement,” outlining the roles and responsibilities of the board of directors. This followed discussions tabled in July about expectations for board directors around the newly introduced “Confidentiality Statement.” Following discussion about potential conflict between the proposed Covenant Agreement and the Standing Rules, this was sent to the Committee on Standing Rules for further review.

Budget Review Officer, Paul Higgins, presented the year-to-date financials through September 2025 and reviewed the proposed 2026 and 2027 budgets. These budgets include a 4% projected decrease in United Missions income. The 2026 budget will include a nearly 1 million dollar deficit, up from just over half a million in 2025. Higgins reported that there are covenanting parties out of compliance with the Budget Covenant. A discussion was held requesting that the President address this lack of compliance. The board approved this request. The proposed 2026 budget was accepted.

Amongst other appointments approved, I was elected to the Standing Rules Committee.

Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri, Director of Intercultural Ministries for the ABHMS, led us through a session of intercultural education. Rev. Doug Scalise led devotions and worship throughout our meetings.

Please keep the ABC-USA Board in your prayers as we seek to do worshipful work.

Rev. Dr. Amy L. Chilton,

ABCORI Representative to the
Board of General Ministries

2025-2026 Leadership List Board of Ministries

Officers & Executive Committee:

- President: Eva Irby-Davis
- Vice President: Rev. Alan Newton
- Treasurer: David Dolce
- Clerk: Rev. Deb Lee
- Secretary: Rev. Joan Friesen ex officio

At-Large Members:

- Rev. Michael Campbell
- Jan Fletcher
- Wendy Fobert
- Sue Guilmain
- John McCann

Ex Officio Members:

- ABCUSA Board of General Ministries Representative: Rev. Amy Chilton
- American Baptist Women's Ministries of RI Representative: Joanne Brown
- Past ABCORI President Cal Lord
- ABCORI Finance Committee Chair: Bob Butzier

Committee Members

Finance: Matt Bellisle, Robert Butzier, Sue Colantonio, David Coon, Rachel McGuire

Personnel: Rev. Del Demosthenes, Rev. Natasha Gordon, Dan Walker

SCOM: Rev. Tim Chesser, Rev. Elise Mancini, Meredith Eckel, William Tutt, Sr.

Recruitment: Rev. Mal Davis, Ann McGloshen, Rev. Cal Lord

Clergy Ordination Anniversaries

We recognize and celebrate with clergy who had milestone ordination anniversaries in 2025:

Rev. Olivier Bala	30 years
Rev. Carl Balark	45 years
Rev. Linda Bausserman	15 years
Rev. George Barclay	40 years
Rev. Daniel Cottrell	50 years
Rev. Linda Hartley	5 years
Rev. Evan Howard	45 years
Rev. Paul Lawrence	20 years
Rev. Debra Lee	15 years
Rev. Glen Leverette	30 years
Rev. Cal Lord	40 years
Rev. Peter Preiser	35 years

Church Milestones

We recognize and celebrate with churches that had milestone anniversaries in 2025:

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church	125 years
Liberty Baptist Church	275 years

We acknowledge the ending of a relationship with ABCORI in 2025:

Chestnut Hill Baptist Church

Pastoral Transitions

Beginning of settled pastorates in 2025:

Rev Wesley McClure, Calvary Baptist Church, Providence - May 4, 2025

Rev. Linda Hartley, Oak Lawn Baptist Church, Cranston - September 28, 2025

Rev. Reppa Cottrell, First Baptist Church of Wickford, June 29, 2025

Death in 2025:

Rev. Patrick Crough, First Baptist Church, Tiverton (Old Stone Church)

Pastor Peggy Johnston, Liberty Baptist Church,

Rev. Joshua McClure, Pleasant Street Baptist Church

Donor Recognition

Thank you to the churches that supported ABCORI through gifts to United Mission, Regional Giving, and the America for Christ Offering in 2025:

Bethany Free Baptist Church	Memorial Baptist Church
Calvary Baptist Church	North Foster Baptist Church
Central Baptist Church, Westerly	North Scituate Baptist Church
Community Church of Providence	Norwood Baptist Church
Cross Mills Baptist Church	Oak Lawn Baptist Church
Ebenezer Baptist Church	Olney Street Baptist Church
First Baptist Church in America	Phenix Baptist Church
First Baptist Church, Charlestown	Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
First Baptist Church, East Greenwich	Queens River Baptist Church
First Baptist Church, West Warwick	Sheldon Street Baptist Church
First Baptist Church, N. Kingstown	Wakefield Baptist Church
Georgiaville Baptist Church	Warwick Central Baptist Church
Lakewood Baptist Church	

[ABCORI receives 65% of the monies donated to United Mission from its member churches and approximately 29% of the funds given to the America for Christ Offering by its member churches. ABCORI receives 100% of gifts made to ABCUSA through Regional Giving or directly to ABCORI.]

Thank you to those who made a direct donation to ABCORI in 2025:

Calvary Baptist Church
Nathan & Courtney Davis Olds
Fritz & Meredith Eckel
First Haitian Baptist Church
Jan Fletcher
Joan Friesen & Jay Nordgaard
Gilda Hernandez

Patrick & Sandra Kelley
Lakewood Baptist Church
Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church
Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
Rasmussen Family Fund
Maude Roberts
Donna Sherman

Thank you to the churches that donated to the Baptist Fund in 2025:

First Baptist Church in America
First Baptist Church of N. Kingstown
First Baptist Church of Wickford
Georgiaville Baptist Church

North Foster Baptist Church
Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
Warwick Central Baptist Church

ABCORI received grants from the following organizations in 2025:

Baptist Home of Rhode Island
Rhode Island Foundation
Natural Resources Conservation Services

ABCORI is the beneficiary of these permanent trusts and endowed funds:

Warren Adams Fund
Arlington Ministries Support & Review Fund
John L. Barber Funds
Sarah Barton Fund
Francis H. Cary Campership Fund
Francis H. Cary Memorial Fund Church Building & Extension Funds
Comi Endowment Fund
Cranston Street Roger Williams Baptist Church Memorial Fund
Nancy Cyr-Larson Fund
First Baptist Church of Hopkinton Fund
Samuel I. France Fund
Graniteville Baptist Church Fund
Estate of Norma E. Heath
Mary F. Henry Fund
Sarah G. Holden Fund
Amy K. Howland Fund
Henry Jackson Funds
Hazel M. Jamieson Fund
J. L. Grant Fund
Mary B. Littlefield Funds
John F. & Annie Lunney Fund
John H. B. & Florence H. Machon Memorial Fund
Marion Hardman Fund
John & Alice Miner-Essex Fund
Thelma L. Murray Fund
Niantic Trust Funds
Mildred Page Annuity Fund
Clinton & Edna Philips Memorial Fund
Estate of Maud R. Roberts

Roger Williams Baptist Church Endowment Fund

Howard Shaw Fund

Oliver W. Sherman Fund #1

Susan B. Sherman Fund #2

Elizabeth H. Snow Fund

Mary A. Tefft Fund

Stephen W. Thornton Fund

Trinity Church Funds

Lilly Walsh Estate for Canonics

[For information about planned giving, please email info@abcori.org.]

Baptist Home Board 2026-2027

Officers

President	David Coon	(1st term ends March 2027)
Vice President	Frederick (Fritz) Eckel*	(1st term ends March 2028)
Secretary	Mark DiLuglio	(1st term ends March 2027)
Treasurer		(1st term ends March 2028)

Board of Directors

<u>Term Ends March 2027</u>	<u>Term Ends March 2028</u>	<u>Term Ends March 2029</u>
Deb Nordstrom – 1	Michael Moore – 1	Cindy Bellisle* -2
Idela Wilson – 1	Ron Provencal – 1	Mal Davis* -1

Board members: 1 = first three-year term
2 = second three-year term

Those who are marked with an asterisk (*) are nominees for election

Treasurer's Report
 Baptist Home Board
 Annual Report for 2025
 1/1/25 to 12/31/25

SANTANDER CHECKING ACCOUNT:

Beginning Balance 1/1/25 \$50,533.34

Deposits:

1st quarter

Litigation Funds	\$ 108.07
Bank of America Maude Roberts	\$2,586.75
John Clarke Promissory Note Dec/Jan/Feb	<u>\$3,028.83</u>
	\$5,723.65

2nd quarter

Bank of America Maude Roberts	\$2,586.75
John Clarke Promissory Note Mar, Apr, May	\$3,028.83
Litigation Refund	\$ 414.90
RI Foundation (Fletcher)	\$7,369.67
Cash Advance (Bernstein)	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
	\$63,400.15

3rd quarter

Bernstein Cash	\$30,000.00
Bank of America Maude Roberts	\$5,077.41
John Clarke Promissory Note June, July & Aug	<u>\$3,028.83</u>
	\$38,106.24

4th quarter

Bank of America Maude Roberts	\$2,586.75
John Clarke Promissory Note Sept, Oct, Nov	\$3,028.83
American Foundation	\$ 438.76
Misc.	\$ 100.00
Bernstein cash	<u>\$30,000.00</u>
	\$36,154.34

<u>Total Deposits:</u>	\$143,384.38
<u>Total Withdrawals:</u>	\$154,770.30
Ending Balances 12/31/25	\$ 39,147.42

Payments/Grants:

1st Quarter

Cameron/Mittleman-Legal fees (JCSL)	\$15,150.00
Thompson Insurance Group	\$ 1,375.00
Central Baptist Church-grant	\$ 6,628.00
James Ellison-Annual report	\$ 22.00
First Baptist in America-grant	\$ 5,616.80
John Clark Senior Living	<u>\$11,175.00</u>
	\$39,966.80

2nd Quarter

Cameron/Mittleman-Legal Fees (JCSL)	\$46,000.00
American Baptist History	\$ 123.50
Santander Fee	\$ 15.00
John Clark Senior Living-April, May, June	<u>\$11,175.00</u>
	\$57,313.50

3rd Quarter

Cameron/Mittleman-Legal fees (JCSL)	\$14,015.00
Agape Hospice	\$ 100.00
Santander Fee	\$ 15.00
John Clarke Senior Living-July, Aug, Sept.	<u>\$ 11,175.00</u>
	\$ 25,305.00

4th Quarter

Cameron/Mittleman-Legal fees (JCSL)	\$20,995.00
Santander Fee	\$ 15.00
John Clarke Senior Living-Oct, Nov, Dec	<u>\$11,175.00</u>

	\$32,185.00
Total Payments/Grants:	\$154,770.30

ABEC:

Ending 12/31/24	\$ 99,433.83
Ending 12/31/25	\$102,018.69
<u>I CSL</u> : Loan Balance 12/31/24	\$ 79,953.03
Loan Balance 12/31/25	\$ 69,339.87

BERNSTEIN:

		<u>As of 12/31/25</u>
As of 12/31/24 Acct # 88834227	\$5,243,454.61	\$5,951,000.21
Acct # 033-57099	\$ 793,916.95	\$ 873,436.30
Acct # 034-08966	<u>\$ 42,787.86</u>	<u>\$ 44,658.57</u>
Total:	\$5,618,377.93	\$6,869,095.08

Disbursements:

1st quarter

Investment Management Fee		
#033-57099	1/2/25-3/31/25	\$ 909.62
#88834227	1/2/25-3/31/25	\$ 7,973.30
#034-08966	1/2/25-3/31/25	\$ 31.99

Grant Transfer

ABCORI	1/1/25, 4/1/25	\$47,167.00
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2nd quarter

Investment Management Fee		
#033-57099	4/1/25-6/30/25	\$ 879.57
#88834227	4/1/25-6/30/25	\$ 8,312.50

#03408966	\$	32.48
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3rd quarter

Investment Management Fee

#033-57099	7/1/25-9/30/25	\$	940.77
#88834227	7/1/25-9/30/25	\$	8,556.54
#034-08966		\$	32.85

4th quarter

Investment Management Fee

#033-57099	10/1/25-12/31/25	\$	984.75
#88834227	10/1/25-12/31/25	\$	9,218.82
#034-08966		\$	33.18

Total Grants-Annual 1/1/25-12/31/25

JCSL	\$44,700.00
ABCORI	\$48,167.00
First Baptist	\$ 5,616.80
Central Baptist	\$ 6,628.00

Rhode Island Baptist Educational Society
Report of the President
March 2025-March 2026

Our Society (RIBES) continues its mission and work supporting seminarians and ordination candidates by providing educational advances (loans), grants, and resources to students of our ABCORI family. For those seeking Christian educational resources, applications can be obtained by reaching our Corresponding secretary.

For 2026 we are supporting the following two students with educational advances:

Dianne Du from Greenville Baptist Church and
Minister Crystal Cassell from Ebenezer Baptist Church

In 2025 we supported:

Enrique Newman received the Dino Germani scholarship (a one-time scholarship)
Erica Traub was given assistance for the Spring of 2025
Rev. Cheryl Barr received a one-time matriculation fee for her doctoral program.

Our funds are held in accounts through Merrill Lynch and Citizens Bank. (See the Treasurer's report for details.) We are fully audited through 2024, by Cayer Caccia LLP.

President: Rev. Dr. Reppa Cottrell
Treasurer: Deacon Henry Coleman
Corresponding Secretary: Rev. Natasha Gordon
Recording Secretary: Sandra E. Kelly

Continuing as Directors for 2026-2027: Rev. Dr. Reppa Cottrell, Deacon Henry Coleman, Rev. Natasha Gordon, Rev. Jacob McGuier, Rev. Isaac Seelam, Rev. Lee Williams, Sandra E. Kelly.

Over this past year RIBES' directors met six times, four in Zoom sessions and two in-person sessions at Ebenezer Baptist Church. We had one meeting with Gina from Merril Lynch, our representative for investments. Our business discussions included:

Investments & Policy Statement

We reallocated our Growth Accounts to Value Accounts and approved, from the cash 'not reserved,' and added two more treasury notes for April and June in 2026. Other streamlining may be needed.

Corresponding Secretary (CS):

Educational Advance policies of 2015 revised
Financial Assistance forms updated and streamlined

A Gmail account was created (to stay with the CS and not with an individual person).
The email address is: csribes@gmail.com.

Further Discussions included:

The Need for On-line presence in connection with the ABCORI website
Exploring the reason RIBES lost representation on SCOM

The Suspension of the Bylaws:

The Board voted to suspension our Bylaws from October 2025 until March of 2027 to work on and review the 2007 Bylaws:

With the revelation of RIBES 1823 Charter (enacted by the RI General Assembly), many questions were raised concerning older Charter amendments, our current bylaws, and the need to reestablish RIBES' filing status with Secretary of State's office and the IRS.

To that end, a motion was made to suspend the 2007 bylaws:

Motion: *To suspend the bylaws*, was made by Rev. McGuire. The second was from Rev. Gordon. The board passed the motion unanimously.

All members of the current board have agreed to continue to serve until March of 2027, to finish finalizing the Bylaws and the Charter's business; and to serve this period without terms. Terms to be reinstated beginning 2027-2028. Revised bylaws to be presented at the Annual Business Meeting in 2027.

Submitted by

Rev. Dr. Reppa M. Cottrell (RIBES President)

RIBES Treasurer's Report
January 1, 2025-December 31,
2025

Beginning Balance January 1, 2025		\$4809.36
Interest Payments from ABCORI Funds	\$672.40	
Distributions from Merrill Lynch	\$12,500	
Payments to Caccia Cayer, CPA	\$(3,200)	
Tuition Payments	\$(12,300))	
Misc. Bank Charges	\$(50.48))	
Ending Balance December 31, 2024		\$2,431.28
Merrill Lunch Invested Funds 12/30/25		\$901,627.88
Merrill Lynch Invested Funds 12/30/24		\$816,312.00
Motter Fund (FIMM Govt. Portfolio Instl) Included in ML funds 12/30/25	\$36,868.00	
Motter Fund (Blackrock Liquidity) Included in ML funds 12/30/24	\$35,766.00	
Germani Scholarship Fund (included in ML funds) 12/30/25	\$38,349.50	
Germani Scholarship Fund (included in ML funds) 12/30/24	\$36,269.00	

*On 12/20/23 Emmanuel Baptist Church transferred \$34,560.00 to RIBES to establish the Dino Germani Scholarship Fund. Motter Fund merged with Merrill Lynch on 10/18/2019 w/\$18,093.03

Rhode Island Baptist Heritage Center

The Baptist Heritage Center remains ready to aid churches in preserving their records. We are still actively collecting and preserving church records, and we will continue that service in 2026. We try to help churches decide what to save and what to discard.

In late April, we met with Rev. Ronald Provencal and his team at Lakewood Baptist Church to consult with them on the preservation and organization of their historical documents and artifacts. Then, in late May, we met with Ken Wagg at Pawtuxet Baptist Church to advise him on his effort to preserve that church's records. That church has an extensive collection of old records, and Mr. Wagg is the archivist of them. Then, in July, the team at North Kingston Baptist Church invited us to consult on their wonderful plans to digitize their early records. These are all examples of good stewardship by those churches. As noted in last year's report, most Baptist churches do not care for their historical records, and far too many have disappeared with little trace.

The Baptist Heritage Center is dedicated to saving records and the memory of those churches. Such records receive permanent preservation at the John Hay Library at Brown University. They get full professional treatment and preservation. The librarians organize the deposits and put materials in acid-free folders and boxes that prevent the records from deteriorating.

Any records deposited there are permanently available for inspection and use. Be aware that the records are stored off-site, so you will need to contact the library ahead of time to have the records on-site when you arrive.

We offer these services to churches that wish to preserve records. We urge churches that have old records they no longer use to consider donating them to the Baptist Heritage Center collection. We will facilitate that transfer for you.

Stanley Lemons, Baptist Heritage Center Archivist

American Baptist Women's Ministries

Program Year July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

Our American Baptist Women's Ministries board is tasked with helping the women in our churches grow closer to Christ and gain leadership skills to support their ministry in their churches and beyond. With this in mind, we held three events during the year.

On October 19, at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, we held our Mission Day with the theme, *Yes, You are a Missionary* and Matthew 25:40. The worship speaker was Lay Minister Clarice Gothberg. Workshops included highlights from Warwick Central's mission trip to Murrow Indian Children's Home, MK Nora Kalkman helping us to understand the care of the children of our global servants, and Clarice Gothberg on the ministries of Open Table.

Our March 15th Spiritual Retreat at the North Scituate Baptist Church was a full day celebrating *Creativity in Christ* and Colossians 1:16. Our keynote speaker and author was Lori Stanley Roeleveld from the Hope Valley Baptist Church. Workshops, including vocal lessons, spiritual dance, creating rustic crosses, using card-making as a ministry, and ways to expand your writing skills through publishing, helped round out the day. Our program featured special displays of poetry, photography, painting, wirework, and more, showcased by various retreat participants.

The Annual Conference was held on May 31, 2025, at the Memorial Baptist Church of Seekonk using the theme *Surrounding Yourself with Women of Faith* and Proverbs 24:6. Our keynote speaker was the Rev. Yana Cruz-Pagan from a Connecticut sister church. Theme workshops included *Planting Your Companion*, *Women's Healing Bible Studies*, *A Song We Sing*, *MomCo*, *developing a Women's Group*, and *How Crisis Can Draw Us Closer to God*.

Our events averaged 55 attendees, including worship, testimonies, lunch, and more. We are so grateful for the ways God is using our women to lead and encourage each other.

The communications coordinator for our board keeps us informed through our emailed newsletter, KIT (Keeping in Touch), and also through our Facebook page. If you would like to know more about our events, receive the newsletter or discuss ways your church women can be involved contact us through the email below.

Blessings,

Joanne Brown, president jmarybx@gmail.com