

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND

BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING

APRIL 29, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Ministries continues to meet virtually due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

Present: Beth Berry, President, Rev. Cal Lord, Vice-President, Rev. Wendy Keifer-O'Brien, Past President, David Coon, Treasurer, Rev. Doug Harris, Interim Executive Minister, Rev. Kathryn Palen, Assoc. Exec. Minister, Elder Care Ministries, Tom Archer, Rev. Dr. Dan Cottrell, Eva Irby-Davis, Jim Ellison, Rev. Chip Northup, Rev. Dr. Linda Bausserman, Nancy Faria, Meredith Eckel, Rev. George Barclay, Judy Butzier, Jan Fletcher and Erica Traub.

Call to Order/Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Past President, Reverend Wendy Keifer-O'Brien at 7:04 p.m., who then turned the meeting over to President Beth Berry.

Community Building Question

Time was set aside for President Beth Berry to lead us through the process of becoming acquainted with each other through a set of questions (see 4/29/21 Agenda). All present at the opening of the meeting had an opportunity to speak on one of the questions.

Approval of Minutes from 2/11/2021

The minutes were approved with one correction related to the Treasurer's Report regarding the PPE Loan. Correction: The PPE amounts have been forgiven so they do not constitute a loan that has to be paid back. The Margin Account, however, does constitute borrowing from the Pooled Investment Funds and will need to be paid back.

Continuing Business:

- Treasurer's Report – David Coon reported that he has not provided the detailed financial report to committee members because, at this time of year, the expenditures do not show reliable trends. He has reviewed the numbers, and there was nothing out of the ordinary to report. Nancy Faria, ABCORI Financial Administrator, reported that as of April 28th \$32,285.00 has been received in donations for the Dam Project. Nancy indicated that we are 1/3 of the way to meeting our \$100,000.00 goal.
- Investment Team – Tom Archer reviewed the handout on the ABCORI Pooled Fund Overview. A percentage of these monies is being used to offset staff/personnel funds. At some point these funds will have to be paid back.
- Reports from Ministry Teams and Committees

Camping Youth and Ministry Team – A written report was submitted highlighting their meeting held on April 26th. Camping has received 80 registrations for summer camp to include 6 youth who have signed up for Leadership training. There will be a day camp and a resident camp each week with a limited scope of activities. Food quality has improved with a focus on "healthy meals." COVID Testing will be required for campers 48 hours before arrival. It was suggested that RI DOH be contacted to see about

the possibility of having on-site testing. A new daily schedule will feature an all-camp Morning Watch at 9 am and Vespers at 6:30 pm for resident campers.

- Standing Committee on Ministry – Dr. Linda Bausserman reported that a very successful Zoom Ordination Council for Chinese Brown of Community Church of Providence was held on Palm Sunday. Elise Mancini 's Ordination Council is scheduled for Sunday, May 23rd, at 3:00 pm, via ZOOM. Elise is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church. Karen Robinson's Ordination Council is scheduled for Sunday, June 6th, at 3:00 pm, via Zoom. Karen is also a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church. Twelve churches need to register for the ordination to go forward. Each church is allowed two delegates and the pastor. Linda Moore's Installation Service will be held in July.
- American Baptist Women's Ministries – Eva Irby Davis, President-Elect, spoke about the April 17th Mission and Service Zoom Meeting with Rick and Anita Gutierrez, Missionaries in Africa who are Teaching the locals about gardening, nutrition, tree pruning and farming. Eva spoke about the upcoming Spring Conference event being held in June and asked everyone to keep their eyes open for upcoming detailed announcements.
- Operations Team – Bob Butzier presented a recommendation for approval from the Properties Committee and the Operations Team. **MOTION:** Upon recommendation of the Properties Committee and review by the Operations Team of the proposal and documents related to an Energy Efficiency Proposal from World Energy Efficiency Services and National Grid, the Board of Ministries authorizes the Treasurer or President to execute 3 contracts memorializing the Energy Efficiency Agreement among ABCORI, World Energy and National Grid.

DISCUSSION: WEES in conjunction with NG identified 466 inefficient or outdated lights on the ABCORI property (not including residential buildings) which would be replaced with LED lighting resulting in a potential energy and maintenance savings of \$8,995 annually.

Total project cost: \$31,930 of which \$27,172 would be covered by an approved National Grid incentive. The remaining portion would be covered by a World Energy discount resulting in no cost to ABCORI. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

- Executive Minister Search Committee – Meredith Eckel has been appointed Chair of this Committee. She reported that it is a good strong committee made up a diverse community of folks to include urban and rural areas of the state, ethnicity and age. She that a survey has been assembled and sent out to the churches for feedback. It was brought out that there is no line item in the budget for this committee. Bob Butzier, former treasurer stated that at the time the 2021 Budget was prepared the Budget Committee was not aware of Tom's early departure, ergo, there was no need for such a budget line item. The question as to where the money would come from was asked. Someone responded that perhaps from the churches. A vote was put forth to create a budget line of \$3,400.00. Moved by Rev. Wendy Keifer-O'Brien. Seconded by Jan Fletcher. Motion carried,

ABCUSA Board of General Ministries – Jan Fletcher reported on the upcoming Virtual Biennial Zoom Meeting June 24-26th. There has been very little interaction. ABHS is working on a 5-year plan. One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is coming up.

- Reports from Staff

Elder Care Ministries – Reverend Kathryn Palen submitted a written report highlighting the programs that have taken place since our last meeting as well as new programs on the horizon. Kathryn's report included technical support she has provided, her preaching schedule and the opportunity she had to officiate at a wedding. Eva Irby Davis, Rev. Linda Bausserman and Judy Butzier spoke on their respective positive experiences about being participants in the different weekly Coffee Chats.

Interim Executive Minister – Reverend Harris highlighted his written report "Paths to Sustainability" Where he articulates the three areas the Interim Executive Search Committee asked him to focus on during this transitional period. The report includes an analysis of ABCORI's current assets and resources, and then he gives some possible ways to find a path, or paths, to sustainability. It is up to the Region to decide what path it will take to reach sustainability and stay the course.

Doug stated that he would return to Rhode Island early May and be here until June 7. He expressed delight that his wife will join him here for 10 days in May (5/7-5/17).

New Business:

- Future Board of Ministry Meetings – Thursday, June 3 @5:30 pm – Canonibus - Shaub Dining Hall
Thursday, September 9 @7:00 pm (Location to be determined.)

Adjourn/Closing Prayer:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm, with prayer by Doug.

Respectfully,

Ann McGloshen
Clerk