

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND
BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING
April 24, 2023

Minutes

The regular meeting of the ABCORI Board of Ministries was held at Warwick Central Baptist Church on April 24, 2023.

Present: Rev. Dr. Cal Lord, President; Eva Irby-Davis, Vice President; David Dolce, Treasurer; Lynne Linden, Clerk; Rev. Dr. Courtney Davis Olds, Executive Minister; Rev. Kathryn Palen, Associate Executive Minister; Robert Butzier, Rev. Darin Collins, Joanne Brown, Jan Fletcher, Rev. Dr. Daniel Cottrell, Judy Butzier, and Rev. Leigh Johnson.

Call to Order: President Cal Lord called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Opening Devotions: Cal opened the meeting with a meditation based on the book of Revelation and with prayer.

Introduction of Board Members: The Board members introduced themselves to Treasurer David Dolce.

Reports:

- **Treasurer's Report** – David gave a recap of the three-month interim budget that is currently at a deficit of \$85,434, which is around what was expected. He will be meeting with previous Treasurer David Coon for an orientation and then working with Michael Cunningham, Director of Operations, and Executive Minister Courtney Davis Olds to get a clearer picture of ABCORI's finances.
- **Executive Minister's Report** – see related written report. Courtney also shared some of her hopes for ABCORI's future.
 - ABCORI will earn a reputation with member churches as a go-to organization for resources, expertise, assistance, and support.
 - This will require the development of new programs and resources through a process of discernment, experimentation, and evaluation.
 - It also will require maintaining a qualified staff.
 - ABCORI will equip congregations and their leaders so that they can engage in vibrant, relevant ministries where they are.
 - This will require ABCORI to continue building relationships with congregations and other ministry organizations.
 - It will also require ABCORI to provide opportunities for shared ministry among congregations.
 - The ultimate goal will be proclaiming good news and transforming lives.
 - ABCORI will need to be financially stable with good governance to achieve any of this vision
- **Breakout Groups**

The Board broke into small groups to discuss the following questions and then came back together to share their ideas.

- What resources are already available within ABCORI that might help us reach the vision presented?
- What resources, information or types of training might be helpful for the Board in fulfilling their obligations?
- The Board discussed how to evaluate the success of the steps proposed during the board retreat in January.

See related notes.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Finance**

- Discussed margin loan refinancing & investment funds
- Resurrection of Baptist Fund - need to communicate to congregations
- Properties – Matt Black and Michael Cunningham will be doing site walks to help plan for repairs and capital improvements

- **Personnel**

- Working on updating personnel manual
- Will present to BOM for review & approval

- **Purpose Task Force**

- Continuing to meet – will report in June

- **Properties Task Force**

- Continuing to meet – will report in September

- **American Baptist Women**

- Conference June 17, 2023: *From Trauma to Triumph* with Dr. Sandra L. Barnes

- **SCOM**

- Met to discuss where all the candidates are in their process

- **ABC-USA Board of General Ministry**

- Have given \$5,000 in grants
- Are seeking a new General Secretary

- **Reports from Staff**

- Elder Care Ministries

- See related notes from Rev. Kathryn Palen.

- **Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2023:** The minutes of the meeting were approved with corrections. Moved by Dan Cottrell and unanimously approved by voice vote.

- **New Business**

- Next meeting: June 12, 2023, at Norwood Baptist Church

Adjourn

The motion to adjourn was made by Bob Butzier at 8:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Linden

Clerk