

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND
Board Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2025

The ABCORI Board of Ministries held a regularly scheduled meeting on January 13, 2025, at First Baptist Church in East Greenwich.

Present: George Barclay, Beth Berry, Joanne Brown, Bob Butzier, Courtney Davis Olds, Dave Dolce, Jan Fletcher, Sue Guilmain, Eva Irby-Davis, Debra Lee, Cal Lord, Kathryn Palen. Lynne Linden, chair of the by-laws revision task force, was present at board's invitation for the first part of the meeting.

Call to Order: Cal Lord called the meeting to order at 6:56 p.m. and opened with prayer. He acknowledged the challenging situations and difficult decisions the board has faced in the past year. He commended members for their work.

Proposed By-laws Revision: Copies of the proposed revised by-laws were provided to board members electronically prior to the meeting for their review. Lynne Linden presented the proposed revision on behalf of the by-laws task force and noted that the task force had focused its work on the portions of the by-laws related to structure.

The document was discussed page-by-page, with board members asking questions, noting typographical errors, and offering recommendations to improve content or clarity. Lynne took notes on the board's feedback to take back to the task force. She said the task force would meet later this week to discuss the feedback and make changes to the revision as appropriate.

Board members agreed to hold a special meeting via Zoom on January 29, 2025, at 11 a.m. to receive and vote upon the final version of the proposed by-laws revision. Lynne then left the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the two most recent board meetings were provided electronically prior to this evening's meeting. George Barclay moved that the minutes of the October 28, 2024, meeting be approved as presented; Jan Fletcher seconded; all approved. Sue Guilmain moved that minutes of the January 10, 2025, board meeting be approved as presented; Dave Dolce seconded; all approved.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Dolce provided a written treasurer's report electronically prior to the meeting. Dave noted that ABCORI's budget continues to be in deficit. Beth Berry moved to receive the report and file it for audit; Jan Fletcher seconded; all approved.

Written Reports: Reports were provided electronically prior to the meeting by the president, executive minister, and associate executive minister. A question for clarification was asked and answered regarding an item in the executive minister's report. Dave Dolce moved to accept the reports; Beth Berry seconded; all approved.

Executive Session: The board then moved into executive session to discuss the legal situation.

Adjourn: Bob Butzier moved to adjourn; Sue Guilmain seconded; all approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Addendum: Cal Lord notified board members via email on December 12, 2024, that he had regretfully accepted Sarah Reed Jay's resignation from the Board of Ministries and as chair of the Personnel Committee. He had hoped she would reconsider, but she feels conflicted in her work between the Board and her pastoral duties.