

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND  
BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING  
October 28, 2024**

The Board of Ministries meeting was held via Zoom at 7 p.m. on October 28, 2024.

**Present:** George Barclay, Beth Berry, Joanne Brown, Bob Butzier, Courtney Davis Olds, David Dolce, Jim Ellison, Sue Guilmain, Jan Fletcher, Eva Irby-Davis, Debra Lee, Cal Lord, Kathryn Palen, Sarah Reed Jay

**Call to Order:** Cal Lord called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. He then offered an opening devotion and prayer.

**Announcement:** Cal Lord announced that Darin Collins had submitted his resignation from the Board and the Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry, citing personal matters requiring his time and energy.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the special board meeting were shared electronically prior to the meeting. Motion made by Eva Irby-Davis to accept the minutes as presented, Jan Fletcher seconded; all in approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report was shared electronically prior to the meeting. Following a time for questions, Beth Berry made the motion to receive the treasurer's report, George Barclay seconded; all approved.

**Written Reports:** Written reports were provided electronically prior to the meeting from the executive minister, associate executive minister, and American Baptist Women's Ministries of Rhode Island president.

**Breezumere Update:** Acting on the Board's direction at the previous meeting to explore possibility of selling Breezumere to its current occupant, the Executive Committee received a Comparative Market Analysis prepared by Dave Dolce and initiated the process of having the home appraised. The Executive Committee also received rough estimates for the cost of drilling a well for the home. The Committee will continue to gather information as it explores this possibility.

**Sabbatical Policy:** The Personnel Committee presented a draft sabbatical policy for ABCORI executive staff. The draft policy was provided electronically prior to the meeting. Following questions and discussion, Sue Gulmian moved to approve the policy as presented, Bob Butzier seconded; all approved. The policy will take effect January 2025.

**Reflections on Meeting with DEM:** Members discussed their reflections on the October 15, 2024, meeting with representatives with DEM. The overall impression was positive. Beth Berry moved that the Executive Committee be authorized to continue conversations with DEM, Eva Irby-Davis seconded. One abstention, but all others voted in favor.

**Special Business Meeting:** ABCORI has received letters from ten member churches requesting a special business meeting to discuss the sale of the Canonicus Camp and Conference Center property. Cal Lord will be calling this meeting in accordance with the by-laws. Possible dates for the meeting were discussed. Members agreed on January 11, 2025, at 10 a.m. with a snow date of January 25, 2025. Cal Lord and Courtney Davis Olds will send notice of the special business meeting as soon as a location has been identified.

Adjourn: The meeting with adjourned with prayer at 8:33 p.m.

The next Board of Ministries meeting will be held on January 13, 2025, at First Baptist Church of East Greenwich.

Submitted by Debra Lee, Clerk