

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING**  
**March 27, 2023**

**Minutes**

The regular meeting of the ABCORI Board of Ministries Meeting was held at Central Baptist Church of Westerly on March 27, 2023.

**Present:** Rev. Dr. Cal Lord, President; Eva Irby-Davis, Vice President; Lynne Linden, Clerk; Rev. Dr. Courtney Davis Olds, Executive Minister; Robert Butzier, Rev. Dr. Dan Cottrell, Rev. Darin Collins, Beth Berry, Judy Butzier, Rev. Leigh Johnson, Joanne Brown, James Ellison and Rev. Kathryn Palen; Associate Executive Minister.

**Call to Order:** President Lord called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

**Opening Devotions:** President Lord opened the meeting with a devotional based on the book of Isaiah and with a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes from January 30, 2023:** The minutes of the meeting were approved with corrections. Moved by Dan Cottrell and unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Approval of Minutes of special budget meeting from February 27, 2023:** The minutes of the meeting were approved with corrections. Moved by Darin Collins and unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Introduction of New Board Members:** The Board members introduced themselves and then recited the Board of Ministries' purpose statement. The Board received Welcome packets consisting of the following:

- 2013 Bylaws
- 2022 revision
- 2023 Interim Structure
- Board Retreat
  - How Boards Plan
  - Board's Job in Times of Rapid Change
- Board of Ministries members with contact information
- Board of Ministries Covenant
- FY 2023 & FY 2024 Budgets approved at 2023 annual meeting

**Presentation of the Board of Ministries Covenant:**

The Board of Ministries Covenant was presented. Dan Cottrell made the following motion:

**Moved:** That the Board of Ministries adopt the Board of Ministries' Covenant and that it supersedes any other previous such document. The Board unanimously approved the motion by voice vote. Members were asked to sign a copy of the covenant and return the signed copy to Rev. Davis Olds.

### **Brief Description of Committees:**

Each of the following committees gave a brief description of the committee's purpose/work:

- ABCUSA
- American Baptist Women's Ministries of RI
- Baptist Home of RI Board
- Eldercare Ministries
- Finance Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry
- Recruitment Committee.

### **Reports:**

- **Treasurer's Report** – There wasn't a treasurer's report as Treasurer Dolce was not in attendance. The transition from David Coon to David Dolce is ongoing.
- **Purpose Task Force** – This task force has been meeting and more will be shared in June.
- **Property Task Force** – This task force has had its initial meeting.
- **Reports from Staff**
  - Elder Care Ministries
    - See notes from Rev. Palen.
  - Executive Minister
    - See notes from Rev. Davis Olds
    - Rev. Davis Olds detailed an upcoming workshop called *Looking Back, Looking Forward*. ABCORI will be checking in with churches that called their settled pastor in the last three years. Another pilot program being developed is *Where Do We Go From Here*. This will be a strategic planning process for churches.
- **Old Business**
  - **Purpose Task Force members:** George Barclay, Judy Butzier and Courtney Davis Olds
  - **Properties Task Force members:** David Coon, Cal Lord, Chris Wright , Bobby Nelson and Courtney Davis Olds

- **New Business**

- Upcoming Meeting Dates – see schedule
  - It was recommended that a Doodle subscription be purchased to assist with meeting scheduling

Information was requested on the 2022 and 2023 Property Task forces.

- 2022 Information Task force – see 2022 Annual Meeting Yearbook for report posted on ABCORI website– this was an information gathering meeting which did not propose any course of action.
- The new 2023 Properties Task Force has been charged with coming up with three ways of how to use the asset of the property at Canonicus

### **Adjourn**

The motion to adjourn was made by Beth Berry at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Linden

Clerk