

2026/ Canonicus Ministries



SHAPING THE FUTURE MINISTRY AT CANONICUS



PRESENTATION BY CANONICUS MINISTRIES (CMI) LEADERSHIP TEAM

Canonicus Ministries 2026
MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY & FINANCIAL PRESENTATION

Canonicus Ministries Inc. (CMI)



Changing lives
& communities
with the good
news of Christ

The
Bubbles

2026 / Canonicus Ministries

AGENDA

- 01 CMI Vision for Ministry at Canonicus
- 02 Canonicus has important Ministry Legacy and an exciting Ministry Future.
- 03 CMI Provides Financial Benefits to ABCORI
- 04 Persuade YOU that CMI is the best ministry option for the Canonicus property
- 05 Create time for Q&A and dialogue



the bridge to Prayer Island at Canonicus

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



2026/ Canonicus Ministries

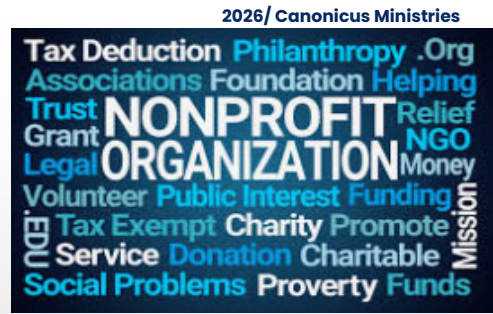
INTRODUCTION

1. Identify how the use of the property aligns with ABCORI'S purpose and mission.
2. Identify how the comprehensive Ministry Vision of CMI encompasses the entire property
3. Share life changing impact from camp and conference ministries
4. Point you to detailed management plans that bring the vision to reality and insure fiscal solvency.
5. Describe the immediate and ongoing financial benefit to ABCORI.

NOTE: This slide deck is the OVERVIEW. The FACT SHEETS contain more details

What & Who is Canoncus Ministries Inc?

CMI Organization Description



1. The Canoncus Ministries Inc. or CMI is a non-profit religious organization incorporated in Rhode Island in 2025. IRS status as a 501C3 tax exempt organization has been conferred.

2. The mission is "to advance the spiritual well-being of members of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island and other churches of the Christian faith along with the well-being of the general public through youth, adult, and family camp and conference programs." >>>>



We are a group of American Baptist pastors, leaders, and supporters who believe God is not finished with changing lives and communities at the Canoncus Camp and Conference Center. A bold and visionary opportunity lies ahead of us and we are prepared to step into that future with the Holy Spirit.

We represent the wishes of hundreds of Canoncus alumni and friends who want to see this vision achieved.

The Canonicus Ministries Board

- Multi-Talented Board: Bringing Together Diverse Gifts, Professional Abilities, and Extensive Experience Ready to Serve at Canonicus:
 - 220 years of camping experience and leadership
 - 423 years of organizational management in business & ministry
 - Camp directors, small business owners, realtors, educators, pastors.

This ain't our first rodeo!



Our passion is to see God's work of redemption and spiritual growth through Canonicus experiences.

Shared Beliefs

CMI is American Baptist in terms of its leadership and its network of alumni, friends, and supporters. (700 plus).

Shared Ministry

Canonicus is a 'shared' ministry by the 'association' principle of local churches pursuing mission objectives.



2026/ Canonicus Ministries

Alignment with ABCORI's Purpose & Mission

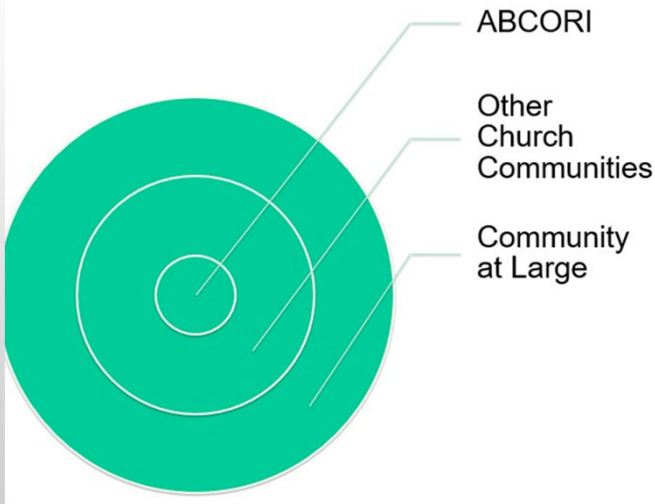
Fact Sheet Detail

Read the essay from Rev. Dr. Hartman in a Fact Sheets to supplement this presentation & find:

- A historical description of the 'association' between Baptists for shared work
- Describes the impact of outdoor ministry for churches and individuals.
- Description of how the Canonicus mission aligns with ABCORI's recently stated mission and purpose and values:
 - Promotes Shared Ministry; Equipping & Resourcing Leaders & Congregations; Prophetic Voice; Proclaiming Good News; Transforming Lives

Who do we serve?

CMI is Missional



I have walked the property so many times as part of the retreats and have been drawn closer to God as a result.



Retreatant



A Story of a Changed Life





Ministry Programs

“the services”



Traditions and Legacy

Innovation for New Programs

Youth Culture is in Crisis:

Camp changes lives: meeting Jesus, grow in faith, leadership development, self-reliance. Old goals, new activities.

New people & New programs:

Veterans/ Home school/ 12-step/ Baptist history tourism/ Health & Lifestyle/ Interfaith Dialogues/ etc.

Congregations create healthy community and spiritual growth through retreat experiences.

To this day, I am a nature lover. No matter the weather, I crave being outside as that is the place I feel I can truly connect with and understand God better.



Market Analysis

The Big Picture – Ministry Opportunity – Camping is not DEAD

- American Camp Association: 20,000 camps
- 26 Million campers per summer
- Total youth camper count is increasing nationally (1)



American Baptist Camps are successfully enrolling campers & conferees

- Camp Sentinel** – ABC NH & VT
- Steady growth: 326 campers to 686 in 2024
- Budget growth: \$148K (2005) to \$627K (2024)

- Camp Grotonwood** – ABC of Massachusetts
- 2023 more campers & highest budget ever

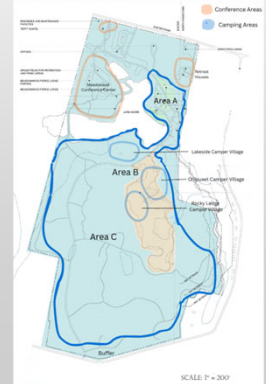
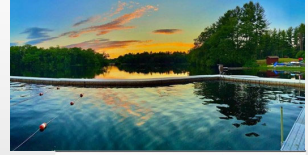


•1- ACA CampCounts 2022 survey

308?

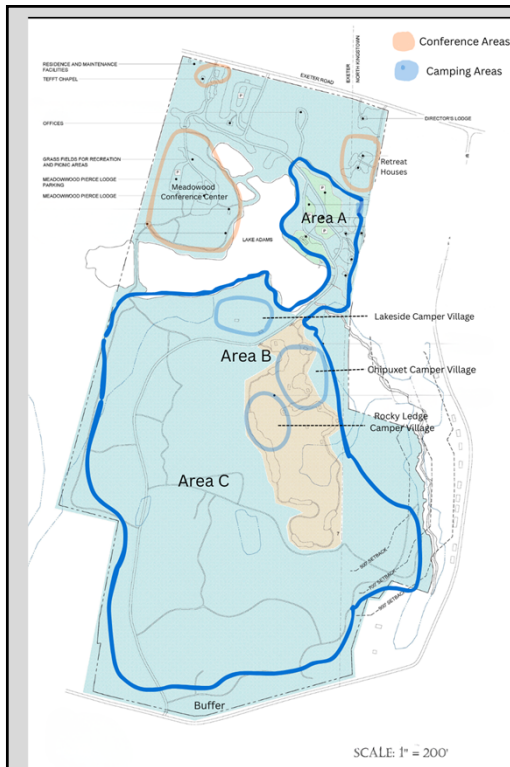
Canonicus Comprehensive Land-Use Plan fulfills the Ministry Vision

- Every acre (308) - from the dense woodlands to the historic cabins to the lake - is essential.
- These different spaces across the property are not incidental; they are the diverse resources for different types of programs.
- Fragmenting the property or limiting access to key facilities would fundamentally diminish the effectiveness and comprehensive scope of the Canonicus experience.



Complementary Program Areas

- The developers created an ideal model for the property where multiple ministries (camps, retreats, etc.) can run simultaneously & collectively supports the total cost of Canonicus.



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Keys to this Area Use Map

Conference Areas & Camping Areas / Color Coded

Conference Areas: Meadowood/Retreat Houses/ Teft Chapel

Camping Areas Uses & Structures

| Area A | Area B | Area C |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Dining Hall | Lakeside Village | Hiking |
| Health Lodge | Chipuxet Village | Nature Study |
| Camp Store | Rocky Ledge Village | Cookouts |
| Admin Lodge | Craft Shack | Campouts |
| Sports Fields (2) | Archery | Low Ropes |
| Swimming & Boating | Outdoor Chapel | Outposts |
| Water Sports | Water Slide | |
| Fishing | Rockwall | |
| | All Camp Campfire Circle | |

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Comprehensive Land Use Plan for Camp & Conference Ministry



“To sense our belonging with all God has made”

Now we have a property that is undivided in purpose, a property that can minister in its entirety, to a busy and bruising world, by providing a place to come away...

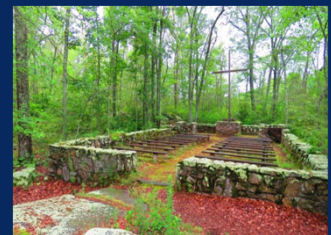
The Proposals – Historical Context

- Canonicus created in **1948**.
 - The Sweet Family Transfers their farm for \$100.00 to establish a Christian camp.
- In **1980** the Baptist Camps of RI (a separate non-profit from ABCORI Inc.) transfers the property to ABCORI for \$1.00 for *"All the assets real and personal that are conveyed as the result of this merger are to be used for Camping and Conferencing until such time as it is determined by the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island in session that Camping and Conferencing is no longer feasible."*
- In **July 2024** ABCORI's Board of Mission voted to sell the Canonicus property "in its entirety."
- In **March 19, 2025** the churches delegates voted to STOP the sale with 60% of the delegates voting to stop the sale.



The Proposals – Timeline Continues

- In **June 2025** CMI requests of ABCORI Board to transfer the property to CMI for **\$1.00** to continue Camp & Conference Ministry.
 - A return to the 1980 organizational structure. This offer was rejected.
 - The \$1 reverse transfer of Canonicus property is a solid theological proposal.
- In **February 2026** CMI made a counter offer of \$500K to transfer the property for a return to ministry
 - to assist ABCORI to resolve their financial issues
 - restarts ministry at Canonicus. CMI considers this a win/win offer.
 - CMI provides ministry support to ABCORI: property transfer asap. \$100,000 each year for 5 years.



Our time at the outdoor chapel was amazing. Our hearts were so full. The Lord was with us.

The \$500,000 Offer Reasons to adopt this Proposal!



- Starts Ministry NOW!
- CMI provides transitional ministry support to ABCORI
- ABCORI is freed from expenses from the operation of Canonicus (211K)
- Transfer of property removes any future liability claims to ABCORI and removes them from landlord demands to focus on church support.
- If CMI fails to thrive; land reversion is on the table.
- This offer has been ignored to date, as of now ABCORI's Board wants to retain ownership.

The \$500,000 Proposal More Reasons to adopt this Offer



- Fully Mission Consistent
 - Camping and conferencing promote the cause of Christ
 - Consistent with past donors intent and the churches
- Immediately Insurable.
- No UBI issues (Unrelated Business Income).
- No local town permitting issues.
- Neighborly support for "the camp"
- No vehicle traffic issues

I headed over from the UK for a summer as a camp counselor, and it honestly became the best three months of my life.

I walked away with a heart full of memories and friendships that I still cherish today.

Staff Note

2026/ Canonicus Ministries

Show me the Money!



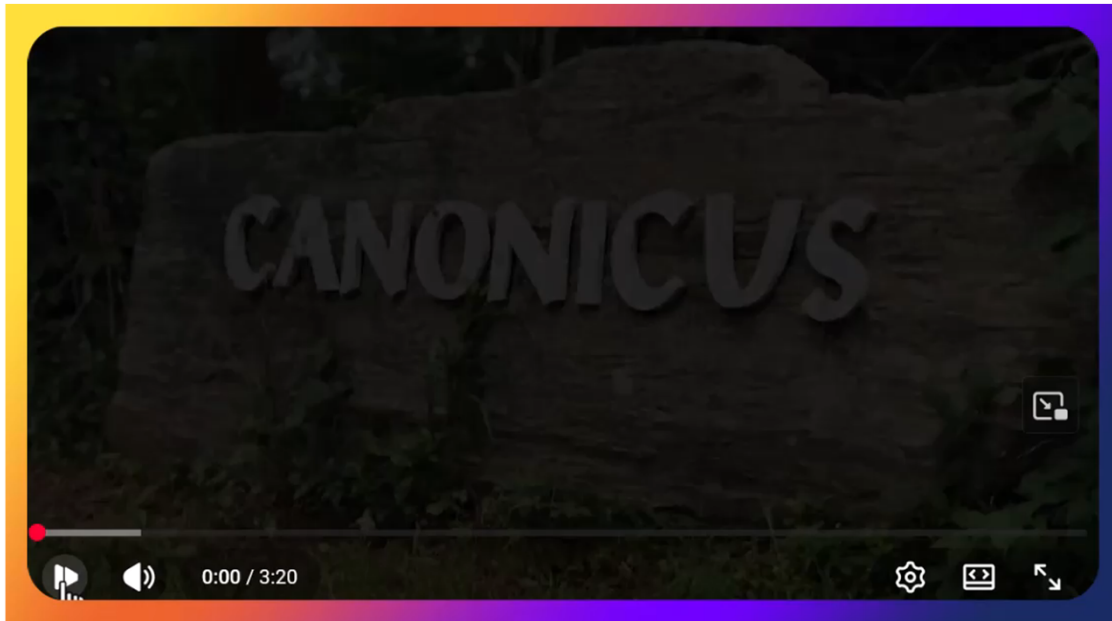
How will CMI pay ABCORI for the next five years?

1. **Donors Gifts:** CMI has demonstrated Donor success.

- CMI raised \$460,000 for operations during the reboot period to fiscal stability. (Upon transfer of the property control).
- A new \$100K pledge to support the transition/transfer!
- A campaign to raise additional funds to be launched.

2. **Fees** from Camps & Conferences **and alternative revenue streams** can also pay our ABCORI commitment.

3. Several donors have indicated willingness to provide 'bridge loans' should #1 or #2 come up short in a given year.



American Baptist congregations are our heritage and our mission

How does this new approach help ABCORI?



- **A path to resolve ABCORI budget deficit problem**
 - **Removes all Canonicus expenses (\$210,649 in 2025-26 budget)**
 - Provides ABCORI transitional cash to balance budgets in the future
- **Connects ABCORI congregations to ABCORI congregations**
- Continues youth camp ministry & retreats to serve ABCORI churches
- **Continues ABC ecumenical spirit** by extending ministry opportunity to all churches & communities in the New England area and beyond.

Canonicus Ministries Proposals (CMI)

- Option 1: Do Ministry NOW! Transfer the Land to CMI for the \$1 Legacy
- Option 2: Do Ministry NOW! Transfer the Land to CMI for \$500,000





What's Next

The sense of community, the Christian values, the lifelong friendships that were made are still in place today.

Former Camper

- ABCORI congregations through their delegates will evaluate several proposals about the future of the property.
- The CMI Board wants delegates to view the CMI proposals as the best for ministry impact at the Canonicus property today and in the future.
- Discussion of proposals April 11, 2026.
 - Please ask questions.
 - Consider all the options.
 - Talk to your Congregation
 - Pray for the decisions
- Votes and decisions at upcoming future meeting.



What's Next Next – We Are Ready

- Once CMI is granted control to move forward
- We will hit the ground running
 - Starting programs
 - Refresh facilities
 - Raising funds
 - Recruiting volunteers
- Our strategic plan has a step by step outline of action. The full plan is posted at the CMI website
www.canonicusministries.org
 - Check it out. Ask questions.





LET'S GROW TOGETHER

For more information:

- www.canonicusministries.org
- Review additional slides below about the CMI Board & our ministry plans, Notes from the strategic plan & fact sheets, Impact stories from former campers and conferees!

See You at Canonicus!

Thank You

Questions and Discussion...

