

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND

BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Ministries continues to meet virtually due to restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus.

Present: Rev. Wendy Keifer-O'Brien, President; Beth Berry, Vice-President, Bob Butzier, Treasurer; Rev. Doug Harris, Interim Executive Minister; Rev. Kathryn Palen, Director, Elder Care Ministries, Judy Butzier, Rev. Dr. Linda Bausserman, Meredith Eckel, Jan Fletcher, Stan Lemons, Rev. Bob Auld, Rev. Clayton Lord, Nancy Faria, Rev. Chip Northup, and Tom Archer

Call to Order/Opening Prayer: President Wendy Keifer-O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes from 1/14/2021: Approved as presented.

Continuing Business:

- Treasurer's Report – Bob reported that the financial picture is pretty much the same as the previous months report. Things seem to be moving forward. Interest from the margin account is helping to keep staff on board. We need to find some creative ways to get through 2021. The PPE Loan has allowed for staff to be paid, but it is a loan and will have to be paid back.

Nancy, Doug and Tom are working on the budget.

- P & L Report – There was no printed report generated for this meeting. Amanda is working on having a day camp during the summer months. Additional details will be provided at the next BOM meeting. Kathy anticipates that Conferencing will pick up in the fall.
- Investment Team – Tom reported there has been a drop in holdings by 1/3. Donations to the Dam Project from churches and friends totals \$20,000. Matt continues to pursue the \$100,000.00 grant for this project.
- Nancy introduced three Board Resolutions regarding Specimen Signature of Authorized Signatory, however, the only resolution approved at this meeting pertained to Computershare Investor Services giving Robert C. Butzier, Treasurer, authority to sign

and submit all papers related to the sale of IBM Shares. Moved by Beth Berry; Seconded by Tom Archer.

- Reports from Ministry Teams and Committees

American Baptist Women's Ministries – Meredith stated that plans are being formulated for a Mission and Service Day in April via Zoom. Meredith stated that ABWM will be supporting the Dam Project.

- Reports from Staff

- Elder Care Ministries – Kathryn updated us on current and upcoming events being sponsored by this ministry that is offered primarily for persons in the third/third of life, but can be enjoyed by everyone who participates. Current programs include: **“Wednesday Coffee Chats”**, **“A Journey Through Lent”** along with resources that can be used in a variety of ways with families and friends; **“Art and Aging”** featuring photography from Lincoln Smith; and a new program beginning on Monday, February 22nd **“I’ve Been Wondering”** moderated by Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone. Other programs are being formulated to keep our senior members engaged.

- Interim Executive Minister – Initially, Doug stated that it is a pleasure to work with the ABCORI staff. He praised Kathryn for the fine job she is doing in keeping everything in order. He asked us to keep the 14 churches that either have pastoral vacancies or transitional pastors while adding Union Baptist Church, Pawtucket, to the list. He recognized Warwick Central Baptist Church for completing their search process in calling a settled pastor.

Doug stated that the Budget Committee is doing great work. A financial analysis of the region needs to be done to ensure its sustainability for the future.

The Dam Project has received upwards to \$20,000.00 in donations; waiting on the final grant decision which would cover 80% of the cost.

Doug spoke about his schedule stating that he will not be working from February 15-28, which is in accordance with the schedule worked out for his part-time employment for the Region. He will return to his Interim Executive duties from home in Chicago on Monday, March 1. He will fly back to RI on Saturday, March 6 and will remain in RI until April 12, and work remotely until April 15. He will take a break for the remainder of April and come back to Providence on Saturday, May 1, and stay for the entire month.

Health-wise, Doug stated he will receive his 2nd Covid-19 vaccination prior to returning to RI in March. He spoke about the CDC updates regarding capacity increases but suggested that he would prefer that our churches not move to quickly.

Old Business:

- **Annual Meeting** – Registration is open. The link is as follows:
<https://ministrelife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlod-iurDkvHtzee--2pnSPEQoKfZrB8JB Yi>
- **Formation of an Executive Minister Search Committee** – This committee is still being formulated. Beth stated that Chris Wright, a member of her church who falls in the 18-35 age group has consented to serve on the committee. She stated that he is 30 years old and a college student who is willing to commit to the time constraints involved.

New Business:

- **Recruitment** – A number of vacancies exist, but the primary positions to be filled are the vice president and treasurer. A Recruitment Committee Meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 15, at 1:00 pm via Zoom.
- **Future Board of Ministry Meetings:** The next two Board Meeting were scheduled as follows: Thursday, April 29, 2021 @7:00 pm via Zoom; Thursday, June 3, 2021 @5:00 pm.

Adjournment/Closing Prayer:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm with the Closing Prayer being given by Doug.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McGloshen
Clerk