

American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
Board of Ministries (BOM)
Minutes
January 14, 2020

This regular meeting of the Board of Ministries held at the Lawrence Building, Canonicus Camp and Conference Center. A quorum being present the president called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led a devotional. The mission statement was read in unison.

Present were: Rev. Wendy Keifer-O'Brien, President, Bob Butzier, Rev. Bob Auld, Peggy Johnson, Meredith Eckel, Jan Fletcher, Stan Lemons, Rev. Dr. Linda Bausserman, Sandra Kelly, Rev. Dr. Clayton Lord, Jr., Nancy Faria, Rev. Kathryn Palen, Rev. Dr. Tom Wiles, Executive Minister.

Due to the absence of the Clerk, a volunteer was requested to take the minutes of the meeting.

Approved: the minutes of the 9/24/2019 Board minutes.

Treasurer's Report Bob Butzier

Profit & Loss 2019: Budget vs. 2019 Actuals vs. 2020 Budget.

2019 is not yet closed; the 2020 proposed budget is "a balancing act".

- The 5093 **draw** was significantly over planned
- The 6000 **Expenses** (Admin.) perfect storm of insurance and unexpected expenses & increases. Some will now be reoccurring:
 - Workers Comp.
 - Occupancy insurance up 10,000 (#7060)
 - Conference revenues are down - expect a 3-4-year climb to get back on track.
 - Now have Wifi
 - Guest want two (2) to a room, our setup is four – need to revamp
- **Audit:** Cost is \$26,000.00 a year because of the Pooled Fund setup. The Region is the Regent, the trustee off the funds, fiducially responsible. The Pooled Fund now charges a .5% or .7% fee.
- **Investment Fund:** three year moving value – a deficit budget \$41,445 at 4.5%
 - **Avenues for resources**
 - Solar array in process
 - Await quote from National Grid then
 - Await city approval then
 - In 18 months to 3 years receive income
 - **Network For Good** fundraising software for nonprofits will be connected to our website

→ Bob Auld asks if we can "work with a professional fund raiser".

Answer: American Baptist Foundation, for a fee, would come to work with us.

Recommendation from Recruitment Committee concerning enlistment for Ministry Teams

Our bylaws, for the five Ministry Teams, are not functioning. Camping & Youth Ministry is fairly successful, Social Witness keeps us posted, Pastoral Leadership, Congregational Life and Evangelistic Witness teams never sure of their reason to be.

Approved

The BOM unanimously approved the following statement received from Rev. Carl Balark, Recruitment:

"The Recruitment Committee recommends that the portion of the bylaws that specify elected members to the five Ministry Teams be suspended until such time as the Board of Ministries or those authorized by the Board of Ministries considers a realignment of volunteer leadership in a manner more representative of the nature of region ministry going forward."

The Teams and representatives to Teams may continue as is, until future determinations of needed changes.

Conversation about Transition Plans - ABC-USA/Rev. Dr. Jeff Woods (Acting General Secretary) has been notified of our Executive Minister's retirement. Rev. Woods is available in early March 2020 to dialog with BOM Executive Committee regarding healthy ways for an Executive Minister to depart and how to assemble a healthy transition or search team.

- Rev. Dr. Wiles thoughts/recommendations:

1. A Traditional Pattern – one week to two months the Region names search team. Creates job profile/position. Post job description – 9 months to one year hire an Interim Ex. Minister (Rev. Woods has 3-5 names) OR have a lead staff person OR a region staff person OR do real transitional work/discernment within the Region. (Rev. Wiles: working on a Regional staff is very different work from pastoring a church.)
2. There are some former regional folk Rev. Woods could direct to help us.
3. Could find a good process consultant to help our Region to do discernment work.
4. Once in process & going to call someone, when come to end of budget year, only write a 6-month budget.
 - a. Will cause a new Exec. Min. to get engaged with Region's financials right away
 - b. Helps the new Exec. Min. to have input into a new budget

Approved

The BOM unanimously approved the following statement:

"That the Executive Committee of the Board of Ministries initiate a conversation with Rev. Dr. Jeff Woods."

Reports

Elder Care Ministry, Rev. Kathryn Palen passed out five upcoming opportunities for churches, pastors and congregations. Special highlight is the March 24, "*Spiritual Gifts of Aging*" retreat to be held at Lakewood Baptist Church.

Executive Minister, Rev. Dr. Tom Wiles reported that 11 churches continue the search for settled pastors. In 2019 he participated in events or preached at 61 of our regional churches. He announced that 10 tickets to the MLK Jr. Scholarship Breakfast were available through the Baptist Home Board. He is especially looking forward to the January 22nd-30th event for Regional Execs. "How We Do Ministry".

Staffing at Canonicus

- New Food Service Director, Beth Hollis. She will live on the property
- Three résumés for Camp Director have been received
- Nancy Faria is putting together the 2019 Annual Reports Book and Directory. Please send your reports to Tom.

RI Representative to the Board of General Ministries

Jan Fletcher passed out a report for all of 2019. Highlights include, the move to the new Roblee Building, completed in March. It has enough room "so that the leadership of ABC-USA can gather and coordinate their work. The AB Historical Society also has an office in the new building". Jan is proud to be one of two representatives to the World Relief Committee, which designates relief funds.

Other

The paper: *Facing Each Other: Emerging Challenges Due to the Changing Nature of Denominational Structures*, by Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone, was given to all present by outgoing Member-at-Large, Sandra Kelly. She asked that folks take the time to read it in light of the approaching transitional work/discernment ahead for our region.

Sandra Kelly asked about the process for the Executive Minister's exit interview. Answer: An exit interview will be conducted in late June, by either the Executive Committee or Personnel Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Rev. Wiles closed with prayer

The next meeting of the board will be determined after the election of the new board at the Annual Meeting, March 2, 2020 at ~~Norwood~~ ^{Lakewood} Baptist Church.

Sandra E. Kelly
Respectfully submitted

Approved: 05/05/2020