

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND

BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING JANUARY 14, 2021

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

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

Call to Order/Opening Prayer: President Wendy Keifer-O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. Reverend Doug Harris gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes from 11/12/20: Approved as presented.

Continuing Business:

- Treasurer's Report – Bob reported that funds remain pretty much the same as in the last report. Covid continues impact the budget, but staff is being paid and the bills are getting paid from the margin fund and from the draw.
- P & L Report – Significant decrease in revenue areas to include United Mission giving and Camping and Conference.
- Investment Team – Tom Archer stating that PP monies were used to meet personnel expenses. Invested funds had a gain – fund now stands at \$744,000. The webinar is showing an optimistic trend.

Nancy reported that the Dam Project has received \$14,000.00 in donations to date. Hopefully, the \$100,000.00 grant will be approved.

- Reports from Ministry Teams and Committees
 - American Baptist Women's Ministries – President Meredith Eckel reported that things have been very quiet as events planned for winter and spring have been cancelled. ABWM is launching a new project titled "Share the Good News" which will feature positive stories and pictures, pictures and practical advice for our readers.

- Congregational Life TM Rep – Judy Butzier stated basically she had nothing to report. There are supposed to be 4 other people on the team, but there has been no activity. She mentioned that she and Peggy Johnson, Evangelistic Witness MT Rep, did meet' but in reality there has been no activity.
 - Social Witness MT Rep – Bob Auld stated this team has held no meetings,
 - Camping and Youth MT Rep – Bob Auld reported that Amanda is working on a program to provide at least a day camp experience for campers.
 - Personnel Committee – Stan Lemons reported that his term is ending. Vacancies that exist on the committee need to be filled. He is hopeful the Nominating Committee will be able to fill the vacant positions.
 - Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry – Dr. Linda Bausserman reported that there is one candidate ready to come before the Ordination Council. A date has not yet been set. The candidate is Elizabeth Mancini, who is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church.
 - Board of General Ministries – Jan Fletcher reported that she has attended ZOOM meetings for the General Board and as a member of the World Relief Committee in November and December. Regarding the Board of Ministries, she spoke about new employees for the United Missions Program, the use of increased technology, ABCUSA further embracing their partnership with Church Mutual and promoting One Great Hour of Sharing.
 - Regarding her involvement with the World Relief Committee she stated there is a \$250,000. Grant available to churches for COVID-19 funding.
- Reports from Staff
 - Elder Care Ministries – Kathryn provided each of us with a packet outlining the programs she was engaged in at the end of 2020 with the senior population in our region. The packet was accompanied by a cover letter outlining what had transpired and some of what is being planned in the new year, i.e. the availability of \$500 grants for churches to work with seniors to use technology; and two new programs in addition to the weekly Zoom Coffee Chats on each Wednesday.
 - Interim Executive Minister – Doug spoke about having completed six months evaluations with the staff this week and plans for 2021. He has an appreciation for what they do and the moral commitment they have to maintaining the integrity of ABCORI. There is a lot of work to be done as we look to the future. He asked each staff person two questions: 1) How has he been helpful and 2) what are they looking for in a new executive minister? He spoke about 13 pastoral vacancies, but quickly added joyfully that Warwick Central has called Reverend Samuel Shepherd, from Connecticut, as their new pastor.

He has enjoyed meeting with the pastors via ZOOM on the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays in the month. He will be meeting with the Budget Committee via ZOOM next week.

In giving an update on the Dam Project, he stated that grant proposals are in the works.

Doug stated that he is looking at the region with outside eyes and trying to be as helpful as possible. After speaking with Wendy and Beth, it was decided that with COVID still raging it is best for him to remain in Chicago and conduct business via e-mail, phone and ZOOM.

Old Business:

Annual Business Meeting

- This will be a virtual meeting on Monday, March 8, 2021. Reports are due in the ABCORI Office by February 12. Registration will be done electronically.
- Beth spoke about producing a slide show featuring the region churches depicting ways in how they worshiped and/or served in and outside of the church walls during this pandemic. Congregations will be asked to send photos or videos along with short story. Additional information will be included in CONNECTIONS over the next several weeks. The deadline for submissions is February 21.
- The matter of non-functioning ministries needs to be discussed. In the mean time, Wendy asked Judy Butzier and Peggy Johnson if they would speak with the members listed on their respective ministries to see if they will continue for another year.

New Business:

- Formation of an Executive Minister Search Committee – Wendy stated that the presidents of each ministry and the representative of the Board of General Ministries are designated to serve on this committee. The Board of Ministries can elect three (3) members in the age group between 18 and 35 years. Two (2) to four (4) At-Large-Members should be appointed. Reverend Jeffrey Woods, Acting General Secretary, will meet initially with the committee.
- Future Board of Ministry Meetings – February 11, 2021 @7:00 P.M. and April 29, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M.

Other Business

Stan informed us that the Baptist Heritage Society is planning on holding four session beginning in September 2021 running through February 2022 on four different topics. Rev. Kathryn Palen,

Rev. Jonathan Malone, Rev. Charles Hartman and Dr. Michael Browner will be the presenters for their area of expertise.

Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Wendy reminded the members of the Recruitment Committee of a meeting scheduled for January 19, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Wendy at 8:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McGloshen
Clerk