

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND

BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING

JUNE 3, 2021

Tonight's meeting was the first face-to-face Board of Ministries Meeting since COVID-19 Pandemic caused a halt to gatherings across the country.

Present: Our meeting was held in Shaub Dining Hall at Canonicus. All Board members were present. Boxed meals were prepared by Chef Beth Hollis and enjoyed by all.

Call to Order/Opening Prayer: President Beth Berry called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm and opened with a word of prayer.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the April 29, 2021 Meeting were approved with one correction: *Reverend Lihua Zhou was ordained at Community Church of Providence on Palm Sunday.* The Minutes reflected the name of Chinese Brown as the candidate. Following this correction acceptance of the Minutes was put forth by Judy Butzier; Seconded by Jan Fletcher.

Treasurer's Report: David Coon reported that there were no significant changes through April 30, 2021, adding that we are currently looking at a budget deficit of approximately \$51,700.00. Last year, at this time, we were experiencing a deficit of approximately \$12,334.00. He stated that to date an additional \$20,200.00 has been received for the Dam Project, however, there are no funds budgeted for this project. Overall, the organization is doing better than budgeted. Anyone who has questions about the budget may contact David directly.

Regarding the Dam Project, President Beth stated that the Board members should view this as a fundraiser and asked for 100% participation of us. She stated there will be a separate e-mail message with a link for Board members to make our contributions.

Board Resolutions: Needed from the Board authorizing David to manage funds through the Capital Group on behalf of ABCORI. Moved by Rev. Bob Auld; Seconded by Ann McGloshen.

Round Table Update from Member Churches:

Jan Fletcher spoke on behalf of General Ministries stating that it is expected there will be 200 churches attending the 2021 Biennial virtually. She encouraged us to utilize the ABCUSA website to register and find out about the various events that will take place from June 24 thru June 26.

Rev. Bob Auld reported that camp opening is on target to start this year's camping season. Two positions need to be filled. It is anticipated that both positions will be filled by the start of camp.

Rev. Chip Northup stated that parsonage at First Baptist, Hope Valley, is almost complete. They have been working on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday.

Rev. Wendy Keifer-O'Brien stated that Greenville is recording Sunday services, using Face Book and Zoom to reach the congregation.

Rev. George Barclay reported that Norwood is using technology and getting a lot of help.

Dr. Dan Cottrell stated that he and Dr. Reppa have finished their transitional ministerial roles at Calvary Baptist Church. The church has accepted the search committee's recommendation for a settled pastor.

Bob Butzier reported that Oaklawn will re-open without restrictions on Sunday, June 6.

Rev. Cal Lord stated that Central has been holding worship services outside of the building.

David Coon reported that First America has been closed since the pandemic, but also because major construction is being done to the building. He anticipates the church may be ready to re-open in August.

Tom Archer stated a lot of new things have been happening at Warwick Central in light of the pandemic.

Meredith Eckels gave a brief update on the Executive Minister Search Committee: One-hundred forty surveys have been sent out with a requested return date by the committee's June 7 meeting.

Jim Ellison from Oaklawn spoke about the outreach possibilities via technology and live streaming.

Peggy Johnson from First Baptist, North Kingstown, stated groups are meeting in Fellowship Hall, and that telephone calls are made weekly to members who are not attending.

Eva Irby-Davis, President-Elect of ABWM-RI and a member of Pleasant Street, Westerly, spoke about the In-Person Spring Conference held at Central Baptist Church which also gave women from across the state to attend via ZOOM.

Ann McGloshen from Olney Street, stated the church has been opened for worship services since the last Sunday in July 2020, employing all of the CDC Guidelines.

Brain-storming Exercise Re: Future of Canonicus: Following dinner and a brief time of fellowship we broke into small groups to brainstorm on nine (9) ideas presented by Reverend Harris regarding what he believes the Region must do to secure Canonicus' future sustainability.

Ideas for Discussion

1. Find three to five million dollars of additional funds to invest. This amount would generate \$100,000 to \$2000,000 annually to support operational expenses. (4 points)
2. Lease part of the property at Canonicus for revenue. (Or sell part of the land to increase investment funds. (13 points)
3. Lease or sell a small portion of the property for development, such as senior housing, a daycare center, etc. (ministry). (29 points)
4. Find an outside management company to lease the Canonicus property and run it as a camp/conference center. N (18 points)
5. Establish a separate board to operate Canonicus as a camp and conference center. (10 points)
6. Increase the revenue from churches, individuals, and grants. (0 points)
7. Consolidate all of the assets from ABCORI, Home Board, RIBES, Baptist Fund, and Heritage Center. (15 points)
8. Reduce our expenses to meet our income. (0 points)
9. Partner or merge with another ABC region to share staffing and resources. (6 points)

Adjournment: Following a brief discussion on the above suggested ideas, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at approximately 7:30 pm.

Next Board of Ministries Meeting: Thursday, September 9, 2021 @ 7:00 pm. The location nor the mode of the next meeting has been determined.

Respectfully,

Ann M. McGloshen
Clerk