

**194<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND  
MARCH 2, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**Opening and Welcome:** The 2020 Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island was held at Lakewood Baptist Church in Warwick, Rhode Island at 7:00 p.m. Executive Minister, Reverend Dr. Tom Wiles, greeted all in attendance. Persons who had not registered were asked to do so. Reverend Ron Provencal, Pastor of Lakewood Baptist Church also welcomed everyone to Lakewood and led us in singing.

**Opening Prayer:** Rendered by President Wendy Keifer-O'Brien.

**The Annual Meetings of Affiliated Corporations** were held:

\*The Baptist Heritage Center – Reverend Dr. Jonathan Malone, presiding (pp. 32-35) – The 2019 Annual Report, slate of officers and board members for 2018-2021 and Nominations for 2020-2023 was moved/seconded and approved. Reverend Malone also reported the Baptist Heritage Weekend will be held at Greenville Baptist Church the weekend of November 7-8, 2020. Dr. Curtis Freeman will be the keynote speaker.

\*The Baptist Home Board – Reverend Dr. Reppa Cottrell, Vice-President, presiding (pp. 26-29) – The 2019 Annual Report and the 2019 financial report were moved/seconded and approved. Reverend Cottrell also reported that John Clark Nursing Home and Elder Care Ministries are major grant recipients. Berean Baptist Church received a grant for the installation of a new ramp. She encouraged churches to apply for grants through the grant process.

\*The Rhode Island Baptist Education Society – Reverend Jake McGuire, presiding, (pp.30-31). The 2019 Annual Report, the Board of Directors for 2020-2023 and the financial report for the period January 1 thru December 31, 2019 were moved/seconded and approved.

**Call to Order:** President Wendy Keifer-O'Brien called the meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island to order and named Reverend Peggy Johnson its Parliamentarian. Ann McGloshen, Clerk, called the roll of churches in attendance and declared a quorum (27 churches were present/we needed), 64 voting delegates (42 delegates, 22 pastors and 8 guests). Please note: each church received a copy of the 2019 Annual Report Yearbook.

**Approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes:** Minutes of the 193<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting (pp. 36-37) were moved/seconded and approved as written.

**\*Financial Reports and Recommendation:** Treasurer Bob Butzier presented his 2019 Annual Report (pp15-20). It was moved/seconded and approved as presented and placed on file and is subject to audit. The Recommended 2020 Operating Budget was presented and moved/seconded and approved.

**\*Recruitment Committee Report and Slate of Officers:** (p.22) It was moved/seconded and approved along with the joint recommendation of the Recruitment Committee and Board of Ministries.

**Leadership Reports**

**\*Report of the President:** Reverend Wendy Keifer-O'Brien (p. 9) 2019 Annual Report.

**\*Elder Care Ministries:** Reverend Kathryn Palen (p. 5-6) 2019 Annual Report.

**\*Camping Ministries:** (p. 7) -2019 Annual Report Amanda Ogilive, newly appointed Camping Ministries Director commented on her excitement in her new position and her aspirations for the camping ministry; Open House is planned for May 9, 2020.

**Conferencing:** Kathy Black (p. 8) 2019 Annual Report. 112 Bookings in 2019; loss of 3 large bookings.

Other reports included in the 2019 Annual Report Yearbook include: Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry Linda Bausserman (p.9); Baptist Fund of Rhode Island – Vonnie Dutton (p. 10); Investment Committee (p.11); Properties Committee (p.12); Personnel Committee- J. Stanley Lemons; American Baptist Women’s Ministries- RI Meredith Eckel (pp. 23-24); and Ministers Council – Rev. Dr. Reppa Cottrell.

**\*Executive Minister, Reverend Dr. Tom Wiles** (pp. 2-3) 2019 Annual Report – Highlighted the past 7 years he has served as our executive minister and the joy he has received in serving us. He spoke of his impending departure and encouraged us as a region to: 1) continue to pay attention to one another; 2) continue to give generously to our shared mission and 3) continue to improvise as we faithfully minister.

**Future Gatherings:**

**\*All-Church Worship Service** – Sunday, June 21, 2020 - 3:00 p.m. – Greenville Baptist Church  
Rev. Dr. C. Jeff Woods, Acting General Secretary, ABCUSA, Guest Speaker

**\*Annual Meeting of American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island** – Monday, March 1, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. –  
First Baptist Church, Wickford

**Closing:** It was moved, seconded and approved to adjourn the Annual Meeting. The meeting closed with the singing of one song and benediction by Reverend Ron Provencal. A time of fellowship with refreshments prepared by the host church followed the meeting.

Respetfully submitted,

Ann M. McGloshen, Clerk