

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF RHODE ISLAND  
BOARD OF MINISTRIES**

**MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2020**

The meeting of the Board of Ministries was held virtually via Zoom due to our inability to meet physically as a result of the coronavirus and the restrictions that have been placed on public meetings. The quorum was met.

**Present:** Rev. Wendy Kiefer-O'Brien, President, Bob Butzier, Treasurer, Judy Butzier, Rev. Chip Northup, Beth Berry, Peggy Johnson, Meredith Eckel, Jan Fletcher, Rev. Dr. Lina Bausserman, Stan Lemons, Nancy Faria, Rev. George Barclay, Rev. Cal Lord, Rev. Bob Auld, Tom Archer and Rev. Dr. Doug Harris, Interim Executive Minister

**Welcome and Opening Prayer:** President Wendy Keifer-O'Brien welcomed all in attendance, called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M. and gave the opening prayer.

**Approval of Minutes from 11/12/20:** The minutes were approved with one correction. The correction was in reference to the Pooled Fund. Correction made by Beth Berry; Seconded by Meredith Eckels.

**Continuing Business:**

**Treasurer's Report: Bob Butzier**

**P & L Report:** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic no comparison could be made. Anticipated income from Camping and Conference is down significantly and cannot be made up.

Monies from the draw account has been tapped to the fullest extent. Federal grant monies have been received/and used to pay bills and staff. Projected: \$50,000 deficit by year's end.

The Budget Committee will be starting budget process soon, but it is anticipated that there will be little or no change.

Stan inquired about the status of the 2020 Appeal. Nancy reported than less than \$2500.00 has been received. It was anticipated that income from this source would have been between \$30,000-\$40,000.

**Investment Team:** Regarding Wells Fargo. A personal signature is required to guarantee the account. Tom was the designated guarantor previously. Issue must be resolved now that Tom is no longer here.

**Reports from Ministry Teams and Committees:**

**Social Witness/Camping and Youth:** Bob Auld reported no activity.

**Evangelistic Witness:** Peggy Johnson reported no activity.

**ABC-USA Board of General Ministries:** Jan Fletcher reported the meetings are being held via Zoom.

**ABWM:** President Meredith Eckel reported on the very successful Personal Development Spiritual Retreat Via Zoom on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Thirty women attended this first-time virtual experience. Retired Major General Lorraine Potter, a native Rhode Islander, was the keynote speaker.

**Standing Committee on Ministry:** Linda Bausserman reported that Linda Moore's Ordination Council via ZOOM on November 8<sup>th</sup> went exceptionally well, and Linda was approved by the council. There are two more candidates preparing to come before the committee.

**Personnel Committee:** Stan Lemons reported that the three members of the committee has met. Stan is hopeful that the Nominating Committee will be able to fill the vacancies that exist on this committee.

**Nominating Committee:** President Wendy stated that Reverend Balark, Chair of this committee, has not yet called a meeting. She will call him to arrange a time for a committee meeting.

The Personnel Committee and SCOM need 2 additional members; Vice-President and Treasurer's positions need to be filled; Properties Committee – 2 going off; At-Large-Members – 1 needed.

**Congregational Life:** Judy Butzier reported no activity.

**Elder Care Ministries:** In Kathryn's absence, President Wendy high-lighted the prepared report submitted By Kathryn.

**Interim Executive Minister:** Doug reported he completed staff evaluations along with staff doing self-evaluations with the results being submitted to the Personnel Committee.

Doug commended Linda Bausserman on doing a fine job of conducting her first Zoom Ordination Council. He spoke about thirteen (13) local churches looking for pastors, most of which will be part-time positions. The week of November 19th he will be attending National ABC meetings via Zoom. He will return home to Chicago on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The current plan is for him to be in Rhode Island for the month of January; return home to Chicago for the month of February; return to Rhode Island for the month of March, etc., etc.

Doug also spoke about the Dam Project and the cost involved. He is recommending that a vigorous fund-raising campaign be initiated by reaching out to our local churches and community partners in addition to tapping into local foundations such as the Champlin Foundation, the RI Foundation, conservation groups, etc.

**Old Business:**

**Next Annual Meeting:** Beth Berry recommended that we try to keep the meeting as close to the usual date/time for consistency. The recommendation was moved by Linda Bausserman; Seconded by Ann McGloshen. This will most likely be a virtual meeting.

**New Business:**

**Formation of Executive Minister Search Committee:** This committee should be made up of representatives from the Ministers Council, Personnel Committee, ABWM, Young Adults between the ages of 18-35 years; 2-4 Members-At-Large. Jeff Woods, Acting General Secretary, will work with group. Hopefully, Committee will be in place by mid-January, 2021.

**Motion from March 2020 Annual Meeting:** Restructuring of Ministry Teams. Peggy Johnson spoke for the Evangelistic Team and Judy Butzier for Congregational Life.

**Future Board of Ministry Meetings:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 @7:00 P.M.

**Adjourn/Closing Prayer:** Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M. with a closing prayer by Doug.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McGloshen  
Clerk