

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

Minutes

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

This evening's meeting was an in-person gathering held in Meadowwood at Canonicus.

Present: President Beth Berry, Rev. Clayton Lord, Vice-President, Rev. Doug Harris, Interim Executive Minister, Rev. Kathryn Palen, Associate Director Elder Care Ministries, Rev. Wendy Keifer-O'Brien, Past President, David Coon, Esq., Treasurer, Robert Butzier, Rev. Dr. Linda Bausserman, Peggy Johnson, Eva Irby-Davis, Rev. George Barclay, and Jan Fletcher.

Opening time of Worship: President Berry lead us in sing all six stanzas of the hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past".

Call to Order: President Berry called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Approval of Minutes from 09/09/21 Meeting: The minutes were approved with the necessary corrections. Moved by David Coon. Seconded by Robert Butzier.

Continuing Business:

- **Treasurer's Report**
David presented the report for the period ending October 31, 2021, for review and comment. Moved by Clayton Lord; Seconded by Bob Butzier and placed on file for audit.
- Reports from Ministry Teams and Committees

Operations

Bob reported that the meeting with the contractor for the dam project resulted in changes based on changes in the design and scope of work. The Operations Committee recommends postponing the signing of the contract until our next Board meeting (January 31, 2022) in order to develop a more concrete plan regarding financing. No decision will be made until that time. (Please note correction to the September 9, 2021 report. The first sentence should read: Bob Butzier reported that a meeting was held **regarding the restoration of the dam** on August 25 with Sue Colantonio, David Coon and Tom Archer.)

SCOM

Dr. Linda Bausserman reported that the Ordination Council of Minister Natasha Gordon will be held on December 4, 2021 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, at 11:00 am.

Executive Minister's Search Committee

Beth reported that the committee will be holding two in-person interviews at Canonicus in December (12/5 and 12/6). The committee is moving along at a very good pace and hope to present a candidate to the Board of Ministries early in the new year.

ABC-USA Board of General Ministries

Jan Fletcher reported that she is presently serving on the World Relief Committee as one of the BGM representatives. Their task is to review development grant requests for monies received from the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. In November the committee was able to approve grants for 18 different applications. Jan also spoke about the Board of General Ministries meeting where they reviewed the process and next steps in the search for a new General Secretary.

- Reports from Staff

Elder Care Ministries

Kathryn provided a written report in which she summarized recent Elder Care Ministries programs, including two new *Arts & Aging* episodes; two new coffee char series; and coordination by the *Repairing Homes, Restoring Hope* program of a clean-up campaign in and around the regional office building. She also shared about future initiatives, including Advent-related resources and a multi-phase program that will focus on helping people make decisions about housing as they age.

Interim Executive Minister

Doug began by praising Kathryn for all of the extra work she has done to ensure that the Region keeps pace with what is happening around us.

Amanda Ogilve was relieved of her responsibilities as Camp Director due to various reasons of not doing the job and not following directions. The board will appoint a Task Force to evaluate and analyze the Camping Program.

Nancy Faria resigned from the position of Financial Administrator & Office Manager to move to Vermont to be closer to her family. We will look at possibly having two separate positions. The board voted to authorize Doug to enter into a contract with a temporary agency to provide office staff for 90 days beginning in 2022. Hopefully, temp employee

can become permanent. Presently, the situation is very difficult; Kathryn can't continue doing all of the additional tasks she has been doing.

Reverend Jonathan Malone has resigned as Pastor at First Baptist Church, East Greenwich effective the end of February to pursue his outdoor hiking ministry. Reverend Ernest Robillard has been called as Interim Minister for Chestnut Hill Baptist Church of Exeter.

Old business:

Disclosure Forms - David and Beth circulated the Conflict of Interest Disclosure form for board members to complete. New board members will be asked to complete this form to avoid any conflicts of interest.

New business:

Task Force on Canonics – Beth reported that four people have agreed to serve. This task force is not a decision-making body, but is charged with collecting information and making recommendations to the Board of Ministries.

Town Hall Meetings – The purpose of these meetings is to generate ideas and listen to feedback from the church's in the region regarding ministries at Canonics. The platform will either be in person or via ZOOM.

Set Dates for BOM Meetings – It was agreed that the board will meet every other month on the last Monday with the exception of back-to-back meetings in March and April. This provides the board with the opportunity to have the months of July and August off. Meeting dates for 2022 are as follows: January 31, March 28, April 25, June 27, September 26 and November 28.

Beth stated that a Special Meeting of the board will be called when the Executive Minister's Search Committee has made a decision on the candidate they wish to bring forth.

Recruitment expectations – Wendy stated there are several vacant positions to be filled. The Recruitment Committee will meet early in the new year. Wendy spoke about the Recommendation that was brought forth at the 2020 Annual Meeting which states **“The Recruitment Committee and Board of Ministries recommend** that the portion of the bylaws that specify elected members to the 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.”

Wendy also announced that she will be retiring effective April 30, 2022.

Adjourn / Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm with a closing prayer given by Doug.

Respectfully,

Ann McGloshen
Clerk