

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

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Call to Order/Opening Prayer:

President Rev. Wendy Keifer-O'Brien called the Board of Ministries Meeting to order at approximately 7:05 P.M. with prayer, as the quorum for conducting the meeting was met. Once again, due to COVID-19, our meeting was held virtually via Zoom. Wendy announced in her opening statement that Peggy Johnson was unable to be present tonight due to medical emergency with her husband, Ted.

Present: Rev. Wendy Keifer-O'Brien, President; Beth Berry, Vice-President, Bob Butzier, Treasurer, Rev. Doug Harris, Interim Executive Minister, Rev. Kathryn Palen, Nancy Faria, Rev. Bob Auld, Rev. Cal Lord, Rev. Chip Northrup, Meredith Eckel, Jan Fletcher, Stan Lemons, Rev. Dr. Linda Bausserman, Judy Butzier and Tom Archer.

Approved: The minutes of the May 5, 2020 Board of Ministries Meeting were approved as presented.

Continuing Business:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Bob reviewed the Profit and Loss Statement which was a comparison between revenue and expenses between 2019 and 2020 for the period January through August. Due to COVID-19 income is down significantly basically in all categories. Normal expenses continue at pretty much the same pace. We are holding our own and have received some grant monies. There has been a savings of 27-28% in personnel costs. There is no time frame as to when Conferencing will pick up so the struggle will more than likely continue through 2021. Bob stated the bottom line is that we are in a better position now than this time last year. Bob responded to Beth's question regarding PPP Funds by stating that \$92,000.00 was received; and used for payroll, benefits and utilities. Funds have been used appropriately and expenditures will be documented.
- **Dam repair:** Tom reviewed, with the group, the letter received from Pare Corporation regarding their proposal on the scope of work and estimated cost of the project. Matt Black is the contact person for this project and is on top of the situation as the study is being done. There is no question the dam is in disrepair, however, at this point it is still safe.
- **Reports from Ministry Teams and Committees**

Personnel: Stan reported there have been no meetings. With the loss of Rev. Joyce Duerr there are only three persons on the committee.

Investment Committee: Tom stated there is \$835,000.00 in the Pooled Fund. A \$55,000.00 loan was made to ABCORI. It is estimated that the Dam project will cost approximately \$100,00.00. Matt and Doug are working together on this along with the Operations Team.

American Baptist Women's Ministries: Meredith reported that two events had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 (1) Mission and Service Day and the Annual Spring Conference. Plans are currently underway for the Spiritual Growth Retreat via Zoon on Saturday, October 17th.

Social Witness and Camping: Bob Auld stated that nothing has taken place for very obvious reasons.

General Board: Jan Fletcher stated there have been no spring meetings. ABHMS is planning to host the Biennial Meeting in June via Zoom. Puerto Rico is the Host Region.

Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry: Linda reported that SCOM will hold an Ordination Council for Reverend Linda Moore on November 8, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. via Zoom.

▪ **Reports from Staff**

Elder Care Ministries: Kathryn reviewed her report with us. She brought us up to date with what has happened with this Ministry since our last meeting and covered programs that are on the horizon, namely, a \$200.00 grant available to all churches who apply to help older members of our respective congregations to grasp the current technology – *Using Technology to Connect with Older Members*. Kathryn also hi-lighted two other initiatives coming this fall – 1) Red Cross First Aid, CPR and AED Training and 2) Zoom Coffee Chats.

Interim Executive Minister: Doug shared with us that he has had the opportunity to meet with staff to review their job descriptions which also gave him the opportunity to pose the question as to what he or the region could do to make them more successful at their job. He found these sessions very helpful stating that he has found staff to be generally of high quality and most are working more toles than their job description states.

Doug and Kathryn have been working together with the 13 churches currently with Interim or Transitional pastors.

He is meeting with region leaders, pastors and laity, to determine the focus on how the region can be more successful in our overall ministry. Some thought should be given to improving our facilities to be more attractive to groups that may want to use them.

Doug let us know how his schedule will work over the next several months given the position is a structured three-fourth time position.

In closing, he stated he is very please to be working with and among us in these difficult days.

New Business:

From March, 2020 ABCORI Annual Meeting:

- The Recruitment Committee recommends that the portion of the by-laws 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.

At some point in 2021 there must be dialogue regarding how these ministries function; is there a need for them? Can they be combined with another ministry, etc?

- **Next Annual Meeting:** A date certain must be set for this meeting. Quite possibly this may be a virtual meeting. Beth asked that we try to keep the meeting time and date as close to the traditional date of the first Monday in March at 7:00 P.M. since this is what most folks are use to. If this is to be a virtual meeting, Kathryn is willing to help with technology.
- **All-Church Worship:** Planning for this event to take place in 2021. It will be an opportunity to honor Tom since we were not able to do so before his departure.
- **Future Board of Ministries Meetings:**
Thursday, November 12, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McGloshen
Clerk