

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

Minutes

SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

This evening's meeting was held via Zoom.

Present: President Beth Berry; Rev. Doug Harris, Interim Executive Minister; Rev. Kathryn Palen, Rev. Wendy Keifer O'Brien, David Coon, Rev. Dr. Dan Cottrell, Judy Butzier, Robert Butzier, Rev. Dr. Linda Bausserman, Eva Irby-Davis, Jim Ellison, Jan Fletcher and Tom Archer

Call to Order/Opening Prayer: President Beth Berry called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with words from Tom Kruger entitled: "Winds Make All Winds Blow."

Approval of Minutes from 06/03/21: The Minutes were approved with one correction. (Doug's statement should read ABCORI not Canonicus). Moved by Rev. Dr. Linda Bausserman; Seconded by David Coon.

Continuing Business:

• **Treasurer's Report**

David presented the Profit & Loss Budget Performance Report from January through July with comparative figures between 2019 and 2021. After some discussion the Treasurer's Report was received and placed on file for audit. Moved by Judy Butzier and Seconded by Rev. Wendy Keifer-O'Brien. (Please see attached Treasure's Report.)

Vote on Corporate Resolution

It was Moved that ~~that~~ Thomas Archer, Chair of the Investment Committee, and David G. Coon, Treasurer, or either one of them acting individually, be and hereby authorized to sell, transfer and/or deliver any and all stock, bonds, or other securities now and hereafter registered in the name of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island.

• **Reports from Ministry Teams and Committees**

Operations

Bob Butzier reported that a meeting was held on August 25 with Sue Colantonio, David Coon and Tom Archer. The Champlin Foundation has been contacted and application received, which must be completed by the September deadline. If application is approved the grant will be awarded in December.

Bidding package has been compiled to ensure everyone is bidding on the same project.

Some incentives for the project include:

- a) Contractor must be ready to commence job not later than May 31, 2022;
- b) Penalty clause of \$1,000.00 if contractor does not commence project on time;
- c) A premium of \$10,000.00 if contractor can start job by May 1, 2022

A Performance Bond must be negotiated with each contractor.

Comments were made by Jan Fletcher, David Coon and Rev. Dr. Dan Cottrell.

Bob stated that bids had gone out as of August 26.

Doug stated that three of the four contractors showed up for site visits two weeks ago.

Deadline for bids is the beginning of December 2021.

The Property Committee

The committee is prioritizing maintenance projects which are very costly.

The sprinkler systems in all five (5) buildings have been upgraded.

Painting in numerous areas needs to be done.

The walk-in freezer needs to be replaced.

The Lake rose from 44 to 48 inches during Tropical Storm Emily between the hours of 8:00 pm and 8:00 am, however, nothing was compromised.

We missed out on the grant from National Resource, however, there is \$107,000. In the que for Spring.

Tom Archer reported for the Investment Team. As of Sept. 8th the investments portfolio was valued at \$7,640,175. This represents an 8.6% increase over 9 months.

He stated that the Dam Project is the largest expenditure he has dealt with for ABCORI.

To date \$50,000/00 has been received in donations – we have a long way to go. The team is seeking grants from ten (10) private foundations.

SCOM

Dr. Linda Bausserman gave the following update:

Attended the Installation Service for Reverend Linda Moore as Pastor of Summit Baptist Church on July 18th;

Attended the Installation Service for Reverend Elise Mancini at Ebenezer Baptist Church on July 31st;

Conducted the Ordination Council of Karen East Robinson of Ebenezer Baptist Church on August 8th.

Preparations are underway to conduct the Ordination Council of Minister Natasha Gordon of Ebenezer Baptist Church on October 10th.

Executive Search Committee

Beth reported that the committee is a very diverse group of diligent, committed, dedicated individuals. The search process is moving along at a very good pace.

Applications have been received. Two (2) days of Zoom interviews will be conducted.

- Reports from Staff

Eldercare Ministries

Kathryn's report was received via e-mail which outlined the activities/program Elder Care Ministries has engaged in and a series of upcoming weekly Coffee Chats.

- She highlighted the need for volunteers to help with a cleanup project in the main building and around the property prior to receiving the new executive minister.
- Steps to be taken over a 12-18 month period where seniors want to be living as they age.
- Working on a program with Missionaries Anita and Rick Guterrez in the areas of health screenings/creating healthy lifestyles; grafting trees and raising farm animals (chickens). The Guterrez's will be in our area in September 2022.

David inquired about the clean-up project at Canonicus. Kathryn responded the project involves work to be done on the inside and the outside.

Judy Butzier commented on how much she enjoys the Elder Care Coffee Chats each Wednesday.

Interim Executive Minister

- Doug complemented Kathryn for holding up the region in his absence while letting us know how blessed we are to her in our midst.
- He reflected on the 4Ps (Property use, Programs, Personnel and Portfolio) that should be used to accomplish our goals in a sustainable way.
- Regarding pastoral vacancies Doug stated he is pleased that the following pastoral vacancies have been filled:
- Community Baptist Church, Newport has called Reverend Glenn Leverette;
- Summit Baptist Church has called Emill Bridges;
- Reverend Linda Moore is pastoring at Cross Mills and Quonnie;
- Reverend Evan Howard has retired from Providence Community Church;
- Reverend Geneva Urquhart will be installed as the Pastor at Calvary Baptist on Sept. 19, during their Morning Worship Service;
- Reverend Sam Chester will be installed as the Pastor at Warwick Central on Sept. 26.
- The Ice Cream Social to Welcome new pastors and their spouses will take place on .
- Kudos and Prayers to and for Matt Black.
- Restoration of the dam – an on-going project.

- Camp Closure – Early closure due to the Delta variant and the fact that staff did not want to work under such strict protocols. Kathryn and Amanda agreed that there was no other choice but to close for the safety and protection of all and the camp's integrity. There

were 86 children enrolled, 10 of which were from ABCORI churches. The camping program will be evaluated.

- Doug will be here from October 14 through November 9 when he will travel home for a couple of weeks and return after Thanksgiving.

American Baptist Women's Ministries

President Eva Irby-Davis reported that the Spring Conference held on June 5 at Central Baptist in Westerly was well attended.

Mission and Service Day program will be held at Meadowwood on Saturday, October 30. Carla O'Neil is coordinated this event which will honor our women veterans.

Old Business:

- All Church Worship – Sunday, October 3, 2021 @ 3:00 pm – Greenville Baptist Church
A time of celebration for Tom Wiles ministry with ABCORI. Everyone planning to attend in person should be fully vaccinated. Sanctuary capacity is 78-90 persons. No food, but there will be a time for fellowshiping after the service. Persons planning to attend in person must register with Kathryn. Reverend Jeff Woods will be the keynote speaker. Doug and Wendy will work on the program.
- Moving forward with sustainability exploration –
- Fritz Eckel is doing the research on combining funds.
- Kathryn is gathering information on re-imagining camp and conferencing.
- Focus on ministry driven land use – Housing availability to retired clergy; affordable housing.
- Do we sell conservation rights; development rights - Volunteers are needed to do this work; partnering with experts.

New Business

- Board disclosure forms – Pass a Motion as policy designates
- Review each year
- Establish a policy for Board disclosure. Moved by Jan Fletcher; seconded by Ann McGloshen.
- Future Board of Ministry Meetings – No decision.

Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned with closing prayer by Doug at approximately 8:30 pm.

Respectfully,

Ann McGloshen
Clerk