

1. What part of ABCORI’s mission statement is most important to your church’s ministry? What are some of the specific benefits your church has experienced?

The most important part of ABCORI's mission statement for our churches ministry is the community aspect implied by promoting shared ministry. Providing opportunities for us to gather and continue building community and serving as a voice to potential new American Baptists in our area is important. Ensuring that we, the people of ABCORI are viewed as a group of inclusive, welcoming group sharing God's love is the reason for us to have a shared voice. The support of ABCORI during time of pastoral transition has been a great benefit of being an ABCORI church. Sending our children to camp at Canonicus is another benefit.



Resources to our congregation- training- personnel. Historically connecting congregations- regional conferences- sharing with mission stories. Clarity is needed on the role of their prophetic ministry to the congregation



Resource member churches. Equips congregational leaders. Promotes shared ministry. Prophetic voice to and on behalf of the congregations. Supporting minister search process. Scholarship for pastoral education. Camp Canonicus as a resource camping and conferencing; church gatherings and baptisms



Providing resources for shared ministry and resources for working together to support one another and our various ministries building communication between ABCORI and churches. Caring more about what other churches are doing and having more communication from the region



Very good resource and transition of pastoral leadership. (Tom Wiles) ABCORI traditionally has not been in touch with or involved with our church. Recently the interim has been a breath of fresh air, has been very available and has a heart of listening, I don't know that much about ABCORI, resources etc.



We hope to experience fellowship, connecting with other ABCORI members, the opportunity to listen to an inspirational speaker and being energized to bring Christ to the world. As we connect with each other we'll be inspired to connect with our various communities. There is a desire to serve together for our congregation and for the purpose of our future congregants. As we meet we have the chance to share our like-minded beliefs and propel each other in the work God has called us to do

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I think it is important to note that no one knew what the mission statement was. The most significant portion of the mission statement is the outreach and mission. Our church has benefited from the offerings for mission in the world and the resources available. My church does not know or interact with the mission statement. Proclaiming good news and transforming lives. ABCORI has helped resource our congregation

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Commitment to growth, proclaiming good news, equipping leaders, disconnect- not involved with each other. Not liking Christ not mentioned. Not much help, received a grant, help to define pastor's role and set boundaries, pastoral change, open exchange without secrecy

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Guiding source- ministry leader search and support. Pulpit supply. Find the pastor to fill the pulpit. Leadership change support. Promoting shared ministry. Working together for community goals and concerns

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Equipping congregational leaders. One church said they have experienced having guest pastors to cover vacation time for our pastor. We also have funds invested in ABCORI accounts

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Resources. Ideas. Support system. Filling delegate role. New experience. Support of churches

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The shared ministry component is a critical part/role to play. We are charged with spreading the good news and opportunities to work together and worship together are a big part of that. Some examples: ABCORI north churches

Wednesday night Lent services. Also the equipping congregations is so important. Supporting churches through transition (between pastors.)

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Shared ministry-churches working together-provide resources and people to help churches. Learning from each other- workshops and training sessions. Church was helped with workshops conducted by ABCORI staff. Helpful workshop for church on visiting

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Looking for a pastor-“resources”. Proclaiming the good news- transforming lives. Shared resources at central office and sharing, equip congregations follows. News are good

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Church picnic on grounds with two other churches. we do not want to expose to change. Transforming lives and proclaiming the good news. Congregations doing it on their own. Need to get ABC USA resources- grants

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Proclaiming good news and transforming lives. Mission of bringing people together for discussion of ABCORI's mission. Chairing the pulpit committee effectiveness of ABCORI leadership. Helping churches with search pulpit committees

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Equip congregational leaders. Prophetic ministry. Religious liberty, our current leadership president Trump has satanic leadership. Baptists need to step up a little bit. Shared ministry, when we partner with other churches help casting vision. Why don't members come out to learn from each other? Some churches don't like women in the pulpit that is God's decision

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Proclamation of good news. Coffee house ministry MPBC. Shared God's love through action FBC, Bristol. Phenix BC through camp ministry at Canonicus. Children in the state and outside

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Resourcing member churches-pulpit. Shared ministry. Identifying and calling pastors- transition team. Who is ABCORI? Regional office, staff, officers, BOM? The churches? \* Both

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Serving as a resource- assisting with pastoral search, preach in our churches. The gathering of the greater congregation example musical gatherings at Canonicus. I'd like to see more shared ministry. Need the fellowship part! Run workshops... we have to ask/invite. Please initiate too!

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Promote shared ministries- example: donating food and volunteering at food pantries at a Baptist Church in the region that's not your own, Collaborative dinner with other denominations. ABCORI resources- strongest at helping churches find a pastor. Networking is collapsing and it's hurting small churches. The mission statement doesn't support that we're missional churches

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The most help has been helping with transition between ministers; eldercare ministries- grandparents and children: would like to see more support for churches to serve the community: facilitating shared activities between the churches

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Rewrite mission statement

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Equip leaders. Other churches. If ABCORI ceased to exist would not be missed. Congdon St- spiritual grass growth; technology has come into the church

2. What part of ABCORI's mission statement needs a higher ministry priority? What specific things would you like to see our region provide for your church?

It is important that we maintain our ministry model, resisting the philosophical shift from a fellowship of churches to a managed corporation. If we reduce the importance of ministry it will redefine the soul of our organization for

the next generation. I would like our region to provide benefits for younger members. Camping and opportunities to gather with members from other churches over the summer is a great asset to keep our youth engaged. Support and growing our congregations would be a huge ABCORI benefit

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This table group gave no response

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Promoting shared ministries- reach out to all 63. Canonicus as a resource. Help local churches building ministries

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In our mission statement- social justice issues need to be included. To spread the good news with other denominations and the greater public

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None of the above. Need more in person visibility and engagement. I wish ABCORI would invest more time and resources in the camp and retreat ministry so as to attract and equip future generations to live Christ like in the world today!!

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Equip leaders, proclaiming good news and transforming lives, promotes shared ministry, prophetic voice. Pastoral search, Central Baptist. Equipping leadership (Sunday school teachers, pastors, etc.)- ABCORI has done this in the past less in the last 10 years. Would like to see more. Shared ministry- working collectively (ABCORI women's, elder care ministry, Canonicus) Prophetic voice speaking truth in a world of lies. Shared ministry as a priority along with equipping future and current leaders. Specific things that we would like to see: evangelistic training, biblical training, leadership training. Shared ministry space

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More emphasis on proclaiming the good news. ABCORI needs to outreach and survey every church with a specific needs list and coordinate its efforts to tailor its programs for better ministry. Outreach to youths of all denominations to be introduced to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

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More Christ centered, getting to know each other better and fellowship. More cluster gatherings, more check in to see how church is doing, more pastoral support- difficulties in church and pastoral struggle. More tying in with our retirees- pastors, church growth. That more direction come from the churches and not just the board, more opportunities for pastors to get together

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Equip congregational leaders. Help churches find ways to improve evangelism- where is to increase youth and young adult participation. Keep Canonicus open so that more young people can experience God which may help to bring more people into our churches

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Need: perhaps a pool of retired Sunday school teachers to help fill in when other teachers need a break. A transforming of lives: programs for youth to help prepare them for adulthood

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Resources. Benefits. Equip leaders

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Regional youth programming (ABCORI kids). Support for youth programs. Outreach to parents of youth (how can we support young adults?) Be a liaison for churches who are looking for help or info on specific ministry needs (connecting people from various congregations)

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Workshops/ training (with other churches) How are church officers and boards (ie. Trustees) responsibilities. Enable Canonicus ministry to move forward to encourage developing ministries with children and youth (plus adults, families, etc., of course!)

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Equips congregational leaders, promote shared ministry. As a pastor I would like to see more shared ministry ie. pulpit swap. Why can't leaders get together once a month? (competition with leaders hinders) What would happen if we took denominational name off church building?

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Visibility. Communication. Need to train and equip both lay leaders and clergy example TABCOM school of ministry

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Casting of a vision for the future of our churches motivation – planting of new churches. A mechanism for keeping churches. The need for helping churches to grow. Assist churches to engage children to keep them coming

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Go to other churches to worship with each others. Rhode Island is a key Baptist state, we should feel free to worship. Share ministry with other churches

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\$1000 each church volunteer donation or \$2000 or more for Camp Canonicus revival. ABCORI prayer gatherings first Thursday of May. Narrative from ABCORI for Canonicus

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Resource member churches-small, older congregations, vision. Shared ministry- cooperation, get to know each other, minister together. Two-way street with ABCORI leadership and congregations

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Promote shared ministry! We like: elder care ministry, missionary moment, fellowship opportunities! We need: youth ministry as a focus. Maybe a “youth committee” at the state level. We need to draw in youth to our churches

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Resourcing member churches, via technology services, outreach to sick and shut INS, helping smaller churches with financial literacy and grant writing. Sharing a list of volunteers that could help with various services. Substitute persons- example: organist, musicians, pastors, share music special. Conferences for special interests that churches could support.

Musician pools, communication pools, Christian education pools, with quarterly meetings for collaboration

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Would like the camp to be used more, the property is a place for ministry and mission; prophetic voice to our constituent communities and the world beyond ABCORI; More focus on the needs and challenges of local churches

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Shared ministry- poor communication at present

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equipping congregational leaders; youth

Feeding the word- youth, important part of the church

3. Last year ABCORI delegates voted down a proposal to sell the Camp Canonicus property to Rhode Island's Department of Environmental Management. How do you interpret that vote? Is there a mandate ( any specific "do" or "don't") for the ABCORI Board in making decisions now?

Agree not to sell

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Don't get rid of camp Canonicus

it needs to be fully utilized and repurposed

needs to be used for God's purposes

it is a resource that can be used to promote ministry

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the 2025 special meeting vote was a clear expression of the will of the membership. Delegates have ultimate authority via Article 3. This proves that the structural checks and balances are essential and cannot be compromised. ABCORI do's include the delegates in decision making, follow the rules outlined by our forefathers, respect our members. ABCORI don'ts do not try to trick us. do not try to steal from us, do not tell us that ABCORI owns Canonicus

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Do not sell without first exhausting every possibility. Interpret the vote we churches and members did not want to sell it. The board should not make the decision, the churches should make that decision having more transparency from the board.

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The mandate for ABCORI must allow their delegates to make the decision, not the board, remembering that the vote 60/40 vote favoring Canonicus speaks for itself. I regret the “proposal” did not come to the delegates before it was presented as an option. The vote was clear that the majority does not want to sell the property! The executive minister and board would provide best support of congregations by helping the transition to a stronger camp and retreat ministry. I know that my children and our churches children went to Canonicus and loved the camp, specifically bringing Christ to their hearts.

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We want to keep the property to use for ministry. We don't want to let it go for monetary means. The mandate was clear that the delegates should make the decision with God's will in mind. We need to seek God's will for the property. The mandate is to provide a space for shared ministry. Canonicus is not an integral part of ABCORI but there's a way to support shared ministry. Possibly gifting the property.

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ABCORI needs to embrace the larger picture! Our primary mission should be the worship of Christ, not worshipping our possessions. Perhaps we need to think outside the box! Open up possible usages to all entities. Income streams must be followed to pursue keeping the property if practical at all! I and so many many others were clear it was a mandate to both keep and reopen camp Canonicus. ABCORI should not make decisions of that magnitude, it's up to the churches. Most people want to see Canonicus used for Christian mission, maybe in new forms.

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Because Canonicus is always a part of ABCORI, lack of facing reality because properties value greater than cash; Some want the camp only for Christian endeavors, prefer Christian endeavors or nonprofit housing OK

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ABCORI needs to follow the will of the delegates which was to not sell the Canonicus property and that ABCORI should work with the Canonicus ministry group. There was some thought from our group that if the property was sold to DEM and Canonicus could rent the property that that could be considered.

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As one of the delegates who voted against selling Canonicus, I did not understand that DEM had made a solid offer. I did not hear that at either of the three hour meetings I attended. I voted to pause and not sell Canonicus without further discussion. As another delegate at last year's meetings about the camp, I understood that DEM had offered to buy the camp and present and preserve it as a nature preserve. I voted to pause the sale at those meetings to see what was to be done. Mandate? Not that we're aware of

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communicate and share

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we believe that vote was born out of a feeling that the decision was not made in a transparent way and the communication around the decision was not good. The mandate for the board is to be transparent and more effective with communication about any decision or things impacting a decision about the camp.  
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Delegates interested in revitalizing Canonicus ministry. Not selling property. Lots of volunteer interest in new camping ideas. This action was a clear mandate that delegates do not want camp property sold. While making decisions share information with churches and delegates. Do not silence people or ignore questions. Be open and transparent 100% of the time. It is difficult to comprehend that a board of 11 members can represent 58 churches with a \$3,000,000 decision

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make good stewards and make wise decisions about camp Canonicus property. What are best options. Open up camp to the community. Be a good steward and pray. Need clear communication about use of property. Discernment, spread it not just in ABC

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emotional, only a mandate if there is a viable solution  
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Should not sell. Full disclosure. Need more involvement of all parties

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ABCORI voted to sell camp Canonicus property to DEM. We wanted to sell the property to preserve it not develop it. If we sell the property what will be done to replace the ministry done with the property in the past. Pastor whose church was closed did not feel they had a voice in the vote. We need to build a basketball court for churches to come together for fellowship and compilation for youth group and other people. This is just an example. Process needs to be more transparent to communicate it to the churches.

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Incorrect solution to sell the board can make recommendations and the ABCORI churches do the decision making conclusion  
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need more dialogue. Do we need to step up more to support Canonicus ministry in that place. The vote was more about the process delegates were told not asked and didn't vote. Find another way

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it's hard to say. I see both sides. If we give up something what do we get in return? I interpret that the people want the camp to continue introducing children and adults to Jesus Christ in order to save lives. Insurance! Safety! ABCORI should involve the people, delegates, pastors in all decision making, authority in any sales of property. If ABCORI represents all congregations, then all the people need to have a say.

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Don't sell was the beginning and now we need the next steps of what to do now that we are not selling. Work with CMI to implement their plan. How do we fund ABCORI during this process. There must be a timeline from CMI or ABCORI. Is there a camping ministry that can be dedicated. Can we do quarterly meetings dedicated to only discussing this  
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interpreting the vote let's look at other options before we sell the entire property prioritize ministry or mission in this decision. Separate the property from ABCORI, but there is a concern about creating and maintaining 2 separate entities. Remain creative and open to different possibilities in imagining the future of Canonicus. There is no mandate need to be open  
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inform delegates of decisions to be made and voted prior  
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Christian growth, development and training

- 4. We want to be good stewards and make wise decisions about the Camp Canonicus property. What would you hope for as best options?

Can there be other uses for the land  
lease to other interests for development  
Make a positive effect on the fiscal management of ABCORI

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do annual gathering at Canonicus  
pastors retreats at Canonicus  
pastors are looking for ways to optimize Canonicus  
Canonicus as a resource to do more than camping and conferencing, special events, weddings  
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My hope is that we will make choices that grow our congregations and bring youth back to our churches. I hope that the leaders who have emerged are given the opportunity to adapt Canonicus to thrive in 2026  
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to keep the property and find good uses for it

no response to this question

Providing summer residential camping as we have done for the past 75 years bringing young and old the love of Jesus! In my opinion stewardship starts with past decisions. At the risk of sounding nostalgic, delegates and board have labored and provided finances to support the ministry. I believe our goal should be good stewards of what the Canonicus mission is! Seek his will Matthew 5: 33. Our hope is that the camp will be available to congregations. We would like to gift the property to a ministry that will keep it Christian.

It might make sense for ABCORI to leverage being good stewards and meet with delegates and churches members to truly learn and discover the fact that camp Canonicus for 70 plus years has been a cornerstone to our Baptist faith. Relaunching and renewing the camping Conference Center is essential. Allow Canonicus ministries to take over the financial and programming of Canonicus on behalf of ABCORI. Explore new approaches to camps and conferences camping ministry continued and conferences a Christian based endeavor that financially support ABCORI from it.

Reopen camp and fix up the buildings. Do numerous Beaver days to have our church volunteers to help with this. Also utilize the camp property for outside sources/activities not just camp. Seek out volunteer funds from organizations and people, partner with URI, partner with environmental groups, charter schools the green school to help with funding and use number one desire would be to reopen camp Canonicus as a Christian camping program, even if that means partnering with another region to make it financially viable #2 if the above is absolutely not possible, then the property should be preserved as a place of natural beauty and open to the public for example Audubon Society, DEM, etc., perhaps twice a year. State Park If camp ministry and the camp property can be sustained financially then we would love to keep it. However, if that is not the case we would want a sale to support a continued ministry of ABCORI. Get past the emotion and envision what God has in store for the future.

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Give Canonicus ministries a chance to try its plan. Need business savvy workers and people savvy workers to cooperate in moving forward. People need information to make decisions good and bad information share your info please  
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Last year's decision proposal to sell to RI Department of Environmental development mandate now to sell. Mandate do not sell without consulting the delegates. Do not sell without desperate prayer!  
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Bring in fresh minds outsiders, sell as open space, subdivide  
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Get Canonicus better representation from our churches. Need to advertise better too. There's churches not supportive of ABCORI. Churches not represented at annual gatherings or other programs  
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we want to be good stewards make wise decisions about camp property. Senior housing, affordable housing, place for pastors to go after retiring for retreat.  
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Human resource potential like camp director and team. Contact Massachusetts successful story of their comeback model of Christian camp other financial resources  
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give Canonicus ministries Inc a shot at running it. Canonicus ministries Inc to work within ABCORI instead of separately. Partner entities, shared ministry with other entities. ABCORI keeps property and has point person to direct re. camp director. Envision varied use of property and Canonicus ministries Inc commits their funding to the effort and leadership.  
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We would hope that camping and conferencing ministries could return to continue at camp. Connecting to God through nature and other people is essential. Money will return. Be good stewards of our money too.  
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A win win situation, solve the financial situation, volunteerism, and legalities. That we have an active camp and Conference Center. A non religious daycare, an affordable summer option. Looking at non traditional experiences.  
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Self supporting, a fully committed and fully funded and staffed program, how to resolve the diminishing ABCORI funding? Recovered the sense of volunteerism as program or resource. Consider consolidating administration with other regions.  
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Day camp with transportation provided. If selling, sell backwoods property  
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Suggest that Canonicus can't provide scholarship for young people to attend camp  
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5. As critical future decisions are made, what is the best way to receive input and feedback from ABCORI's membership (delegates and church members?) How can we work on this together?

ASK! And LISTEN! Working in silos breeds mistrust. Trying to change the bylaws to give the board liquidation powers makes everyone nervous

Meeting more than once per year. Designate a Sunday as ABCORI Sunday (when we all worship together)

Use e-mail, social media, websites. More effective use of these. To announce events, policy changes, conferences get away from paper. Web manager social media coordination needed

Delegates should be receiving information from the board communicating to the churches what is happening- what the board may be considering moving forward so that communication is happening; never speculation or a void of information

To have more meetings like today for people to meet each other and meet others. It would be good if the board of directors provide more transparency as possibilities are explored. Electronic communications should be optimized. Why does not each church have more say in everyday decisions?

We need more face to face informal meetings. We need our congregations to be well informed about ABCORI finances. Our churches need more ABCORI visibility. Our delegates should be required to take on more responsibility to share the ABCORI agenda and updates. Provide opportunities to provide congregational feedback through surveys

Open communications, humility (both delegates and the board), prayer. One way is to have at least two sets of group meetings with delegates and church members to learn of the options being presented to ABCORI

More round table discussions, through emails to get input and canvas churches and ask for feedback

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Table talks, surveys, focus groups. Virtual meetings-live and have a recording that people can watch after, keep videos on website or link to YouTube. E-mail blasts, connections newsletter. More clarifications from Canonicus group on what they are working on.

Website future decisions should be posted as a banner on the website

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Continue to have the annual gathering business meeting perhaps twice a year. Continue to share the ABCORI notes/updates with churches via e-mail. Remind pastors to share ABCORI info with their Diaconate and congregations

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Meeting in person. Agenda re. Canonicus advanced. Multiple locations

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We would suggest regular Informational meetings; Board to delegates, then delegates to church members to pass information and receive feedback

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Have a meeting with all interested people able to participate to receive information. Keep people informed while various steps are taken. Don't wait for the end before sharing decision/ discussion. This table agrees that if the decision comes to “save” ABCORI or “ save” canonicus, we would vote to save canonicus we hope it does not come to this!

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Critical future decisions are made. What is the best way to receive input and feedback from ABCORI membership (delegates and church members) How can we work on this together intentionally and accountability make sure members are notified? Prayer! Pray! Pray! Need written announcements. Keep connections flowing. Give every church members a voice (only members) Do churches meet about Canonicus and leaders report their input

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Encourage churches to encourage members to subscribe to connections. Discourage social media conversations.  
Leadership needs to visit congregations

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Ask! Send surveys: visits by executive minister and board of ministries. All churches should be made aware of the results of the table talk discussion comments

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meeting in small clusters with ABCORI leadership present. Emails, youth activities, whatever is done needs to be needs to be glory to God. If people think it is meaningful they will attend. Meeting this way is to get all the frustration out

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ABCORI staff get into the churches weekly. Have more ABCORI large gatherings. Newsletters- hard copies and bulletins. Ask: who have we not heard from? How do we increase two way communication?

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To receive input: Information sessions, town hall meeting, Lots of informational emails, Small group sessions  
All communication needs to be two way, a more constant exchange of information is important

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We'd like to hear about ABCORI in their local congregation. ABCORI can send a blurb to be added to the newsletter. ABCORI can send a representative to the congregations for updates. Regional directors and the board should visit congregations quarterly  
Communications

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More frequent delegate meetings. Get more ABCORI churches to stay connected. There is a sense of distance between ABC ORI churches. More in person meetings we need more connectedness between the churches and ABCORI and a consistent pathway for input. Why do people not respond? What's in it for them? What faith prayer

related programs could ABCORI promote within among the churches? What about a visitation program between the churches? Do more to help us do missional events

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Information from office. More gatherings; Use such available technology example zoom; Delegates from every church

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Create a form pastor to ABCORI

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Open communication through email, letters, etc. Advertise ABCORI problems as they arise in each church bulletin and for fervent prayer and action! Specific shared information to the churches for preparation ahead of time before coming to a business meeting for voting.

*Please also add any other comments/feedback you'd like to offer*

- Thank you for the enormous blessing of providing true opportunity to share our thoughts and faithful beliefs with ABCORI
- May God our Father, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior and the great Holy Spirit continue to touch all our and especially yours Joan hearts mind and soul Amen
- For fellowship, information and how to grow church and share and community, progress if any about Canonikus property and financial outlook; My vote counts, next steps with Canonikus, networking with others from other churches
- Thank you, I hope this will be helpful information God bless you all
- Transparency is key
- Need to find way to get churches invested in supporting ABCORI
- Time, talent, treasure!
- Making new relationships
- Hear what other churches are doing in this new culture

- Renew enthusiasm
- Learn how ABCORI works a bit
- How much authority does ABCORI have?
- We appreciate being asked our opinions and ideas. How will you compile and share information gathered today with our churches?
- Bring back volunteers at camp and within committees
- Clean up days, work days
- Make the churches feel like they own the camp again
- part of mission statement
- Ministry statement priority?
- Sale of Canonius?
- Best options for property?
- How to get input from churches
- Create e-mail call in every member of ABCORI should be to the fullest extent shared participate in the work of the organization
- The greatest work in the world is soul winning