

American Baptist Churches of New York State  
Board of Mission Meeting - December 2, 2022  
Minutes

Present:

**Officers:**

Wendy Depew Partelow - President  
Lecia Rodriguez – Vice President  
Bruce Aikin – Secretary (Zoom)  
Jim Harriff – Treasurer

Kenneth McKenzie  
Leon Runner (Zoom)  
Jonathan Staples (Zoom)  
George Stefani (Zoom)  
Delma West, Committee on Ministry (Zoom)

**Association Reps:**

Claudia Little AC (Zoom)  
David Harris IR  
Michael Dickinson LW (Zoom)  
William Stoklosa MA (Zoom)  
Letta Palmer MO (Zoom)  
Walter Hargrove NA (Zoom)  
Edris Hitchcock WE (Zoom)

**Staff:**

Jerrold Hugenot, Assoc. Exec. Min. (Zoom)  
James Kelsey - Exec. Min.  
Stephanie Schneider ABY (Zoom)  
Mary Schwarz - Admin. Asst.

**Auxiliary Organizations:**

Colleen Charsky (ABWM)

**At-Large:**

Patricia Ludwig  
Howard Maxson

**ABC/USA Board of General Ministries:**

Merle McJunkin (Zoom)

- 1.0 The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM, by the President, Wendy Depew Partelow.  
There were 20 Board members and four Staff members present. Fourteen of those present were on Zoom.  
Since there were a number of new people on the Board, Wendy asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- 2.0 Devotions and Opening Prayer – Colleen Charsky gave a Devotion about Expectancy based on 1 Samuel 22, where David is running from Saul. She then opened the meeting with prayer.
- 3.0 Approval of Agenda (Document #1) –  
The Agenda was approved as submitted.
- 4.0 The Minutes of the September 10, 2022, meeting, were approved as submitted. (Document #2).

**Reports:**

- 5.0 American Baptist Youth – Stephanie Schneider (Written report, no document #)  
The AB Youth Convention was held November 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> in person. The theme was Flourish Together. The topic dealt with reconnecting with each other and God. This year's project was to raise money to build a maize mill and storage bin for Literacy of Love in Uganda. The goal was \$8,000.00, \$9,312.25 was raised. There was a memorial service for Keith Griffin. There were 135 attendees from 13 churches. This is down about 40 from previous conventions. The flu and RSV may have decreased attendance. The hotel has been sold so the Convention needs a new venue. Inflation

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may require a new model for future events. The Convention lost money. If anyone has ideas for a new location, please send them to Stephanie.

6.0 Executive Minister - Jim Kelsey (Document #3)

In regard to the Wappinger Falls church: a valid offer has been received for the parsonage of \$405,000.00. It is through a Federal Housing Authority loan. The church has hired an attorney who claims that the court order is not valid and they own the church building. The matter has been referred to our attorney. The situation may get complicated.

7.0 Associate Executive Minister – Jerrod Hugenot (Document #4)

There were no questions about Jerrod’s written report.

Jerrod has submitted a request for a sabbatical (Document #5). This request was approved by the Executive Committee, so the motion does not require a second. The motion was carried.

8.0 Treasurer – Jim Harriff discussed the financial reports.

8.1 January - October 2022 General Fund Profit and Loss Snapshot (Document #6)

The United Mission Contributions were \$128,701.00 through November.

The Total Contributions were \$231,638.000 through November. This is on track for the year.

The decrease in United Mission giving is concerning.

The PPP grant has helped.

Line 45000 – Investments – The AB Foundation investments are doing well.

The money from the sale of the Wappinger Falls church will help when it is received.

The Gross Profit is \$286,643.00 through November.

The Expenses are on track.

December is usually a strong month for donations.

The Year End Appeal letters will be sent out soon.

8.2 January - October 2022 General Fund Profit and Loss Detail (Document #7)

There were no questions or comments about this report.

8.3 January - October 2022 Total Ministry Profit and Loss (Document #8)

There were no questions or comments about this report.

8.4 October 31, 2022, Balance Sheet (Document #9)

PSALM Fund grants are available.

Tuscarora Mission – a bill has not been received from Niagara County Community College for accommodations.

Money is available for Evangelism projects.

Line 11560 – The Reserve Fund is available to cover any shortfalls.

Jim Kelsey will send out a sheet about our Assets after the end of the year.

8.5 Proposed Budget for 2023 (Document #10)

United Mission estimate is down.

America for Christ offering and Specifics are the same as last year.

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The estimate for the Total Income is about the same.

Line 42150 – AB Youth Admin Support may be waived.

The Executive Committee recommended a 2% raise for Salary and Housing for the three full time staff.

The Eastwood Baptist Church is keeping the building use fee for office space at \$400.00 per month.

The total Budget is \$365,415.00, which has a deficit of \$42,389.00.

It was noted that the IRS has given the cost of living increase as 8.7%.

It was moved by Merle McJunkin and seconded by Howard Maxson that the raise for the three staff members be amended to have an increase of 2% to 4%. This will make the deficit \$46,554.10. The estimate for Line 40250 – General Contributions will be increased by \$10,000.00 to \$50,000.00. The motion to amend the Budget was carried.

It was moved by Colleen Charsky and seconded by Letta Palmer that the amended Budget be approved. The motion was carried with Jim Kelsey abstaining.

(Note: A corrected Budget was emailed to the Board members on December 5, 2022.)

**Old Business:**

- 9.0 NYS Child Victims Act Lawsuits – Of the three suits in which the Region was named as a plaintiff, one has been dismissed, no action has occurred in one, and the third which is still active is being covered by Traveller's Insurance Co.
- 10.0 There is another possible Tuscarora mission trip. No information has been received about this.
- 11.0 Rwanda Mission – Jim Harriff  
A trip is in negotiation but no commitment has been made.
- 12.0 A mission trip to Community Missions in Niagara Falls is tentatively scheduled for October 26 to 29, 2023. Accommodations will be at Stella Niagara.
- 13.0 The Biennial Meeting Planning Committee – Lecia Rodriguez (Document #11)  
A survey needs to be added to help evaluate the meeting.  
The Biennial did lose money because local expenses were higher than expected.
- 14.0 Nominating Committee Report – Wendy Depew-Partelow  
The election of the Nominating Committee did not happen at the Biennial. It was moved by Howard Maxson and seconded by Merle McJunkin that Karen Dunne (Mohawk-Oneida) and Patricia Ludwig (Niagara) be elected to the Nominating Committee with their terms to 2024. Motion carried.  
We have not received a conformation from one other person.

**New Business**

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15.0 Proposed Changes to By-laws and Rules of Procedure (Document #13)

It was noted that some of the procedures at the recent Biennial meeting did not conform to the present By-laws and Rules of Procedure. Several changes were proposed.

- 1.) By-laws, ARTICLE V, MEETINGS, Section 5.5 The quorum for transacting business at biennial or special meetings shall be 10% of the potential number of delegates as specified in Article III and as determined by the Executive Minister. Change to: *A quorum for transacting business at biennial or special meetings shall be the delegates present at the meeting provided that at least two of the officers are present and there are at least thirty (30) delegates present and qualified to vote.*
- 2.) By-laws, ARTICLE VIII NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Section 8.1 The nominating committee shall consist of one (1) elected person from each of the Associations. They shall be elected for a two-year term. Upon completing two (2) terms, they shall be ineligible to serve again for a period of two (2) years. The chairperson shall be named by the president of ABC/NYS from the Association Representatives. Change to: *The nominating committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. It shall consist of the President of the Region and representatives of at least five Associations or Auxiliary Organizations.*

According to the By-laws, these Amendments must be presented at the next Biennial meeting. (ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS - Section 13.1 )

3.) Rules of Procedure - RULE III. MEETINGS OF ABCNYS DELEGATES  
Section 3.1c. All elections shall be by written ballot. Change to: *All elections shall be by voice vote, unless a motion is passed by the delegates requiring a written ballot. All matters shall be determined by majority vote of those present eligible to vote. ~~and any written absentee votes~~*

The Rules of Procedure may be amended at any Board of Mission meeting. It was moved by Delma West and seconded by Bruce Aikin that the Rules of Procedure be amended as stated above. Motion carried.

16.0 It was noted that members need to be appointed to the Finance Committee.

17.0 There are four more delegate spots available for the ABCUSA Biennial in Puerto Rico, besides Jim Kelsey and Jerrod Huguenot. They would have to pay their own expenses. Jim Kelsey said he would try to find people willing to go to this event.

**Additional Reports:**

18.0 Ministers Council – Wendy Depew Partelow for Patricia Ludwig  
There are two upcoming events:

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In May there will be a Spiritual retreat at Stella Niagara.

In September the Rev. Adam Russell-Taylor from Sojourners Magazine will speak about social justice.

A grant has been received for the spring event. This will give a discount on the \$100.00 fee.

19.0 AB Men – No report.

20.0 AB Women's Ministry (Document #14)  
Colleen Charsky submitted a written report.

21.0 ABCUSA Board of General Ministries – Merle McJunkin was recently appointed and has not attended his first meeting.

22.0 Vick/Pathfinder Camping – We need to recommend a representative from our Board to the VPCCM Board. Colleen Charsky will be asked about filling this position.

23.0 Lay Study Team – Jim Kelsey  
The brochures for the courses for the year will be mailed in January. There will be online surveys for evaluation. There will be three terms with two courses in each term. There are mentors for those seeking to be Certified Lay Pastors.

24.0 Committee on Ministry – Delma West  
The Committee needs to meet.

25.0 A notice about a conference, *Treasuring the Youth Among Us*, scheduled for Saturday, January 21, 2023, was included for the Board members information.

26.0 Future Meeting Dates:  
Executive Committee meetings will be held by Zoom. The November meeting will be hybrid as it is the budget meeting.  
February 18 Saturday; May 19 Friday; August 19 Saturday; November 16 Thursday

Board of Mission meetings will be hybrid.  
March 4 Saturday; June 9 Friday; September 9 Saturday; December 8 Friday.

All meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. as always.

27.0 The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 PM.

Minutes taken by  
Bruce D. Aikin  
ABCNYS Secretary