

American Baptist Churches of New York State  
Board of Mission Meeting  
June 3, 2022  
Provisional Minutes

Present:

**Officers:**

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

**Association Reps:**

Keith Griffin AD and V/P Camp.  
Phyllis Fox IR  
Michael Dickinson LW (Zoom)  
Dan Saulsgiver MA (Zoom)  
David Trasoras MU  
Walter Hargrove NA (Zoom)  
Edris Hitchcock WE (Zoom)  
(Aleka Schmidt WE (Zoom))

**At-Large:**

Jeanne Bennett  
Gregory Johnson  
Patricia Ludwig (also Min. Council)  
Leon Runner  
Jonathan Staples (Zoom)  
George Stefani (Zoom)

**Staff:**

James Kelsey - Exec. Min.  
Jerrod Huguenot – Assoc. Exec. Min.  
Mary Schwarz - Admin. Asst.

1.0 The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM, by the President, Wendy Depew Partelow.

There were seventeen Board members and three Staff members present. Six of those present were on Zoom.

She welcomed the members. She then asked for a motion to appoint Edris Hitchcock as the new representative from WEGO so she could participate in the meeting. It was so moved, seconded and carried.

2.0 Devotions and Opening Prayer –

Lecia Rodriguez asked for prayer concerns from the members. A number were expressed. She spoke about how Pentecost is the Spirit speaking to us and read Romans 10. She then opened the meeting with prayer and included the joys and concerns expressed.

3.0 Approval of Agenda (Document #1) –

The Agenda was approved as submitted.

4.0 The Minutes of the March 5, 2022, meeting, were approved as submitted. (Document #2).

**Reports:**

5.0 Executive Minister - Jim Kelsey (Document #3)

So far ten people have expressed interest in the Tuscarora Mission trip. He received a request from someone in New Jersey about participating. We need to see how many people from NYS are going.

He has contacted an attorney about the Wappinger Falls Church.

A youth worker training program is being planned.

ABCNYS Board of Mission

June 3, 2022

2.

Credit card points are being used to defray travel costs.

He has not received any responses about meeting with pastors in Buffalo. He is going there next week. He will continue to work on this issue.

6.0 Associate Executive Minister – Jerrod Huguenot (Document #4) –

He is working on connecting with the Region churches and can help with liability issues.

It was noted that the ABCUSA General Secretary will make a statement about the Southern Baptist Convention's list of sexual abuses.

7.0 Treasurer – Jim Harriff discussed the financial reports.

7.1 January - April 2022 General Fund Profit and Loss Snapshot (Document #5)

The United Mission giving is slightly under expectation.

The investments are doing well.

The expenses have been greater than expected.

7.2 January 2022 General Fund Profit and Loss Detail (Document #6)

This document shows the details for Document #5. There were no questions about this report.

7.3 January - April 2022 Total Ministry Profit and Loss (Document #7)

The American Baptist Foundation investment, line 41150, is doing well.

7.4 April 30, 2022, Balance Sheet (Document #8)

As per the vote of the Board of Mission money was moved to the Evangelism Savings, line 15500. The endowment is good.

7.5 General Fund Profit and Loss Snapshot January – May 2022 (Document #14)

The Expenses are at -\$22,852.31. We have not used any of the Reserve Fund.

7.6 Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2022 (Document #8)

The Reserve Fund is currently \$66,078.63, line 11560. The Evangelism Savings account is down because it is being used, line 11531.

**Old Business:**

8.0 The Tuscarora Mission trip was discussed under Jim Kelsey's report. The Pastor is compiling a list of items which need doing. The participants will help with Vacation Bible School and repairs and maintenance. It was noted that a plumber is needed. Pat Ludwig said she knows a plumber who will help.

9.0 Rwanda Mission – Jim Harriff

He would like to arrange a trip when we can travel.

The Reconciliation workshops have been helpful but need some modification.

A student from Rwanda is currently attending Norwich College in Vermont. He is now an intern at a camp in Kansas.

ABCNYS Board of Mission

June 3, 2022

3.

People can support him and future students through the Region. Donations should be designated “Rwanda Scholarship.”

10.0 The Niagara Falls Community Mission trip may be held in 2023. We still have a balance at Stella Niagara. Jim Kelsey will contact Mark Breese.

11.0 Other Mission opportunities?  
Nicaragua and Haiti were mentioned as possibilities.

12.0 Safe Region Policy Sub-committee – George Stefani (Document #9)  
Jim Kelsey and George Stefani have reviewed outside counsel and are waiting for a proposal. The Policy should be ready for approval at the September Board of Mission meeting.

The Region may have to assume incremental costs for a few years.

They have been waiting to hear from the lawyer and if there is too much of a delay, they may need to find a new one.

The Region will publicize the Policy.

13.0 The Biennial Meeting Planning Committee – Lecia Rodriguez (Document #10)  
The fee for the meeting will be \$40.00, \$50.00 with dinner.  
There will be three offerings. There will also be a bookstore.  
The brochures will be out in July.  
There will be no Pre-Biennial meeting. There will be an Ice Cream Social on Friday.  
The Biennial is planned for October 7 – 8, 2022, which are Friday and Saturday.

**New Business**

14.0 Greg Johnson is joining the Navy as a Chaplain. The Board had a laying on of hands and prayers for him

15.0 Aleka Schmidt came on Zoom for a few minutes to say good-bye. She is moving to Michigan in July.

**Additional Reports:**

16.0 Ministers Council - Patricia Ludwig (Document #11)  
They are having an event September 25 – 27, at the Notre Dame Retreat Center in Canandaigua. The topic will be *The Living Church In Transition: The Relevance of the Church in Post-Modern Culture*.

This event is being paid for by a Palmer grant.

If there are any questions, please contact Wendy Depew Partelow or Patricia Ludwig.

17.0 AB Men – No report.

18.0 AB Women’s Ministry (Document #12)

ABCNYS Board of Mission

June 3, 2022

4.

The new ABWM President, Colleen Charsky submitted a written report.

- 19.0 AB Youth – Keith Griffin for Stephanie Schneider  
The theme for the AB Youth Convention will be “Flourish Together.”  
The goal for the Convention is to raise \$8,000.00 for Literacy of Love in Olean.  
The Convention will be held November 4, 5 and 6.
- 20.0 ABCUSA Board of General Ministries – Judith Christiansen (Document #13)  
A written report was presented.  
Jim Kelsey noted that the Search Committee for the General Secretary is working by consensus.
- 21.0 Vick/Pathfinder CCM – Keith Griffin (Document #15)  
This year is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for camping at Pathfinder Lodge.  
A nurse or EMT is needed on site for several weeks in order to have camping.
- 22.0 Lay Study Team – George Stefani  
The class schedule will be out soon, in July or August.
- 23.0 Committee on Ministry – Greg Johnson  
This is his final report as Chair of the Committee. There are at present no candidates for ordination or recognition.
- 24.0 Future Meeting Dates:  
*Executive Committee:* All Fridays at 10:00 AM, on Zoom – August 19;  
November 18.  
*Board of Mission:* Saturday, September 10; Friday, December 2. The meetings will begin at 10 AM, with a 9:30 AM log-on on Zoom. It was noted that December 2<sup>nd</sup> is the Budget meeting and members were asked to be present in person if possible.
- 25.0 Reflections:  
Prayers for Greg Johnson.  
Several members said they were glad so many were here in person.
- 26.0 The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.

Minutes taken by  
Bruce D. Aikin  
ABCNYS Secretary