

American Baptist Churches of New York State
Board of Mission Meeting
June 9, 2023
Minutes

Present:

Officers:

Lecia Rodriguez - President
Bruce Aikin – Secretary
Jim Harrieff – Treasurer

Association Reps:

Gregory Staples CABA
David Harris IR
Michael Dickinson LW
William Stoklosa MA
Letta Palmer MO
Walter Hargrove NI
Edris Hitchcock WE

At-Large:

Claudia Little
Patricia Ludwig (& Ministers Council)
Howard Maxson
Kenneth McKenzie
Delma West (& Committee on Ministry)

Staff:

James Kelsey - Exec. Min.
Mary Schwarz - Admin. Asst.

ABC/USA Board of General Ministries:

Merle McJunkin

- 1.0 The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM, by the President, Lecia Rodriguez.
There were 17 Board members and two Staff members present.
- 2.0 Devotions and Opening Prayer – Patricia Ludwig gave a Devotion based on John 8:32 about knowing the truth and Micah 6:8 about doing justice. She reflected on recently taking a plantation tour and civil rights tour. She then opened the meeting with prayer.
- 3.0 Approval of Agenda (Document #1) –
The Agenda was approved as submitted.
- 4.0 A correction was made to the Minutes of the March 4, 2023, meeting, The third line under Item 7.4 should read: The Reserve Fund at the AB Foundation, line 15100, has a balance of \$118,647.07. The Minutes were approved as corrected. (Document #2).
- 5.0 The Nominating Committee recommends that Gregory Staples be elected to the Board of Mission as the Association Representative from the Capital Area Baptist Association. The motion does not require a second. Motion carried.

Reports:

- 6.0 Executive Minister - Jim Kelsey (Documents #3 and #4)
The appraisal for the Wappinger Falls church building has been received. The property was appraised for \$300,000.00. This is much less than the expected value of about \$800,000.00.
ABCUSA is beginning a program on giving called *The Generosity Project*. The initial training will take one year. It will then be used in the Region and churches.
Jim is looking for a volunteer to keep our Facebook page updated while Jerrod Huguenot is on sabbatical.
The sale of the Wappinger Falls parsonage has been submitted to the NYS

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Attorney General's office. The submittal contained 113 pages. The septic tank will have to be updated. We should clear about \$350,000.00. The former church members have been unwilling to submit the documents to help with the sale of the church building.

Document #4 is a report on the legal expenses incurred from the Wappinger Falls Church and parsonage.

- 7.0 Associate Executive Minister – Jim Kelsey for Jerrod Hugenot (Document #5)
There were no questions about Jerrod's written report.
Jerrod will begin his sabbatical soon.
- 8.0 Treasurer – Jim Harriff discussed the financial reports.
- 8.1. January through May 2023 General Fund Profit and Loss Snapshot (Document #6)
The United Mission giving continues to decline.
The America for Christ giving decrease is concerning.
The Investments only show the first quarter. When the second quarter payment is received this will be back up.
The current expenses are on track.
The Deficit is above the budget projection. The sale of the Wappingers Falls parsonage will help with this.
- 8.2 January through May 2023 General Fund Profit and Loss Detail (Document #7)
There were no questions or comments about this report.
- 8.3 January through May 2023 Total Ministry Profit and Loss (Document #8)
There were no questions or comments about this report.
- 8.4 Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2023 (Document #9)
We have money to pay our bills through June.
The Wappingers Falls property sales will help our financial situation.

Old Business:

- 9.0 The mission trip to Community Missions in Niagara Falls is scheduled for October 26 to 29, 2023. Accommodations will be at Stella Niagara. Wendy Depew Partelow and Pat Ludwig are coordinating the trip.
Niagara County Community College never charged us for accommodations for the last mission trip. Jim Kelsey has written to them twice but has not received a reply. He will wait twelve months. He will then ask the participants if they want a refund or wish to donate the money to the Region.
- 10.0 Some chairs from the Community Baptist Church of Wappingers Falls have been donated to the Seek God First Karen Baptist Church, Buffalo.
- 11.0 Rwanda Mission – Jim Harriff
There is a mission trip to Rwanda scheduled for October. It will start on the 8th and last for two weeks.
Suzi Harriff will be speaking at the ABW Central Area Conference tomorrow, June 10th.

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- 12.0 Vick/Pathfinder Camping and Conference Ministries –
It was moved and seconded that Claudia Little be recommended to the VPCCM Board as the representative from the ABCNYS Board of Mission. Motion carried.

New Business

- 13.0 Mary Schwarz will be going on Medicare in October. This will reduce the Region the cost of her medical insurance. This is a temporary situation. When Mary retires her replacement will need full health insurance.
- 14.0 The Executive Committee recommends that we allocate \$5,000.00 from the 11529 Keith Griffin Youth Leadership Fund to subsidize the 2023 AB Youth Convention. The motion does not require a second. The Convention will cost less with a new venue. Previous scholarships will be repaid. This is a one-time payment. Hopefully, the Convention will break even. We may have to consider moving the convention back to a church venue if it continues not to cover its costs. Motion carried.

Additional Reports:

- 15.0 AB Men – No report.
- 16.0 AB Women’s Ministries – No report.
- 17.0 Ministers Council –Patricia Ludwig (Documents #10 and #11)
Document #10 is a report on the Spring Retreat, which was successful.
September 24 to 26, the Rev. Adam Russell-Taylor from Sojourners will speak about social justice.
- 18.0 AB Youth Report – Note: Stephanie Schneider was unable to prepare a report because she just had a baby.
The 2023 convention is being planned. The new venue will be less expensive. Hopefully, the Seek God First Karen Baptist Church will be sending delegates for the first time. The dates are November 3 to 5.
- 19.0 ABCUSA Board of General Ministries – Merle McJunkin
The Board will be meeting in Puerto Rico before the Biennial.
The ABCUSA President will speak on the search for a new General Secretary.
Several Regions are looking for Executive Ministers.
A survey will be conducted about United Mission. How is the money being spent and who is making the decisions?
- 20.0 Lay Study Program – Leon Oaks-Lee (Document #12)
All of the fall and winter courses are set for this year.
There were no questions about the report.
- 21.0 Committee on Ministry – Delma West

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The Ordination Handbook is being reviewed.

There are a few candidates for recognition of ordination and lay pastor certification.

22.0 Vick/Pathfinder Camping and Conference Ministries (Document #13)

There has been no response to the Adirondack Wilderness Adventure for young adults and it may have to be cancelled.

23.0 Pat Ludwig thanked the Region for buying books for the participants in the Spring Retreat.

24.0 It was noted that young people should be encouraged to attend AB colleges. Houghton now has a black president.

25.0 It was recommended that the Region form a task force to look at ways to strengthen our Associations. Merle McJunkin, Bill Stoklosa, Jim Kelsey and Walter Hargrove volunteered to be on this committee.

26.0 Leon Runner will be conducting the Executive Committee meeting on August 19th and the Board of Mission meeting on September 9th because Lecia will be away.

27.0 Walter Hargrove offered to do the Devotion for the next Board meeting on September 9th.

28.0 Reflections

The meeting went well.

We appreciate all that Jim Kelsey and Jerrod Huguenot do for us. They should take some time for themselves to rest.

29.0 Future Meeting Dates (All meetings will begin at 10:00 A.M.):

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Executive Committee meetings will be held by Zoom. The November meeting will be hybrid as it is the budget meeting.

August 19 Saturday; November 16 Thursday

Board of Mission meetings will be hybrid.

September 9 Saturday; December 8 Friday.

30.0 The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 AM.

Minutes taken by
Bruce D. Aikin, ABCNYS Secretary