

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NEW YORK STATE  
Board of Mission - Minutes for the Meeting of March 14, 2009

**Present:** Randy Palada, Rosey Oaks-Lee, Lynn Sullivan, T.J. West, Marilyn Malone, Jillene Narraway, Jim Rice, David Trasoras, Jay Zaremba, Ed Pettibone, Bill Lang, Jane Lang, Dale Besaw, Greg Johnson, Bob Shoemsmith, Joyce Whittaker, Mark Caruana, Janice Bourne, Tom Bell, Joe Folckemer, Joseph Glaze, Jim Horton, & Don Rasmussen.

**Explanation of Abbreviations:** AFM=Area Field Minister; BOM=Board of Mission of ABC/NYS; EATF=Executive Advisory Task Force (the executive committee of the BOM); EM=Executive Minister; EMSC=Executive Minister Search Committee; IEM=Interim Executive Minister

**Welcome, Call to Order & Devotions:** President Randy Palada opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with greetings and a devotional time of music and quietness. IEM Don Rasmussen shared devotional thoughts on Lent and the crucifixion. Randy then welcomed Don to the BOM. Don gave a brief biographical description of himself and reviewed his duties. People then introduced themselves.

**Confirmations:** A **motion** was made by Joe Folckemer and seconded to confirm Dale Besaw as representative to the BOM from North Country Association. The motion passed unanimously. A **motion** was made by Janice Bourne and seconded to confirm Ronald Erickson as treasurer. The motion passed unanimously. A **motion** was made by the EATF to confirm Jim Horton as representative from ABC/NYS to the new Board of General Ministries, ABC/USA. Much discussion took place, expressing frustration at the lack of information about the region representative to the Board of General Ministries. The **motion was amended** by Joseph Glaze and seconded to express concerns over this process. Lack of information about term limits, frequency of meetings, and job description were the concerns. The amendment passed by voice vote with 2 abstentions. The motion as amended to confirm Jim Horton as the ABC/NYS representative to the Board of General Ministries passed unanimously.

**EM Search Committee Listening Session:** Rosey Oaks-Lee led the listening session. Lynn Sullivan took notes on that discussion for the EMSC. The meeting broke for lunch then reconvened.

**Minutes:** The minutes of December 5, 2008, were accepted as emailed from the ABC/NYS office.

**Financial Reports:**

**Year End 2008 Report:** Christy Brownell, region bookkeeper, presented the Year-To-Date Financial Report from December 2008. This is effectively the end-of-year report. She noted a few points of interest and answered questions. United Mission giving is approximately \$15,000 lower than last year at this time. This will affect the cash flow, but hasn't yet. Jim Rice wondered if there could be a cash flow position and projection for the June BOM meeting. Hopefully the new treasurer will be able to provide this. A **motion** to place the report on file for audit was made by Mark Caruana and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Property Sale Update:** The potential buyer for the North Hebron property backed out. Don Rasmussen is investigating other possibilities for disposal of the property.

**Account Signers:** The account signers have been updated. On behalf of the EATF Rosey Oaks-Lee made a **motion**, seconded, that the BOM approve Donald Rasmussen, Rosemary Oaks-Lee, John Buskey and Mary Schwarz to sign checks for ABC/NYS. The motion passed unanimously. Don noted that soon the financial statements will be posted on the website.

**EMSC Listening Session continued:** We went back to finish the listening session.

**Ministry Moment: AB Men:** Joe Folckemer gave the update on the gathering at Keuka College. Note the promotional materials passed out at the beginning of the meeting.

**World Mission Support:** Don Rasmussen gave an update on WMS. January's United Mission giving is down 35% from last year. Annual offerings in '08 were off. The End-of-Year giving wasn't so bad, down just 1%. Don had lunch with Ron Vallet and got some ideas to thank and reward churches and promote better giving. Bill Lang noted the upcoming Mission Advocates Retreat March 21, Missionary Partnership Teams and reported changes in International Ministries' deadlines and layoffs of some staff due to the downturn in the economy and subsequent effect on giving to and from the churches.

**Outdoor Ministries:** Marilyn Malone and Jill Narraway gave the report in lieu of John Buskey. See the light brown sheet for their written report. They also shared several brochures. Marilyn noted the passion of the staff of Outdoor Ministries and the camps for the kids to be in relationship with Christ. There is much prayer and many devotional opportunities during the camping season. A youth retreat is scheduled for May 15-17 at Pathfinder in partnership with the Adirondack Association. Youth from around the region are invited. The camps are open for many purposes for the churches. Jill shared a testimony about FBC Jordan supporting camping. Scholarships are available.

**American Baptist Women's Ministries:** See the green written report. Joyce Whittaker shared about the upcoming Women's Gathering at the Treadway Inn in Owego on April 24—26.

**AB Youth:** Jill gave the report on the youth convention. The prayer time was very moving. One youth reported being moved to become a full time Christian, rather than a part time one. The new youth cabinet will be meeting soon. Jill needs the names of contact persons in the churches.

**Associations in Mission:** AFM Bob Shoesmith shared about Wayne Association and AFM Jane Lang shared on the Capital Area Baptist Association and Fransego Association.

**Ministers Council:** Mark Caruana reported on the recent MC Retreat near Utica with Brad Berglund. The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting Monday May 4. See the yellow flyer.

**Denominational Family Matters:** Don Rasmussen shared a report on his IEM activities. See the written report. Coming soon to the churches will be a DVD PowerPoint presentation with sound about the changes coming on the national level.

**Future Dates:** The BOM will meet June 5, 2009 and September 14, 2009.

**New Business:** Mark Caruana made a **motion**, seconded, to send a note commending Dave Cook for his work. Motion passed unanimously. Mark also commended putting on the websites the minutes of the BOM. Don Rasmussen reported that Mary Schwarz is already working on it.

**What Went Well and What needs Improvement:** Improvements include improving the minutes (the BOM received the draft of the 12-5-08 meeting at this meeting, not the final copy) and available (they had been sent out by email from the office, but many did not have copies at hand); who reports on what the associations are doing; and putting the category "New Business" on the agenda. It is clear that the BOM wants whatever applicable information is necessary to properly conduct the business of the region. What went well included the listening session, and the camaraderie of BOM members with each other.

**Adjournment:** Jim Rice closed the meeting with prayer at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
James R. Horton, Jr., Secretary