

**American Baptist Churches of New York State  
Board of Mission – March 8, 2008**

Executive Minister Bill Carlsen called the meeting to order, as no officers were present. Inclement prevented many from attending the meeting. Joyce Whittaker gave devotions. She encouraged us to add something positive during Lent, not just giving up something.

**Motion was made, seconded, and carried, to accept the minutes of the December 7, 2007, meeting of the Board of Mission, with the following correction on page 2: "Could we have a missionary or someone from the American Baptist Foundation speak to these churches?" should read "Could we have a missionary or someone from *American Baptist Churches* speak to these churches?"**

**Ministers Council**

President Susan Polizzi reported that they had a very positive mid-winter retreat at the Good News Center in Utica. Jeff Woods was the leader. There were 28 participants, with many new people. The annual meeting will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> at Moulton Memorial Baptist Church in Newburgh. ABC/USA General Secretary Roy Medley will be the main presenter. Kate Harvey is leaving in August as Executive Director of the national Ministers Council. They will be looking for an Acting Executive Director (not an interim) during the transition.

**World Mission Support**

Bill Carlsen reported that total 2007 ABMS giving is less than 1% below 2006. The largest reduction is in UM. Specifics are up significantly, and there is a 25% increase in the regional offering. It was asked if the change in International Ministries' way of funding affected UM. Bill said his instincts say yes, but others are doing the numbers analysis.

**Year End Financial Report**

In 2007 94% of budgeted income was received (99% of UM). It was noted that there was a delay in the transfer of Smith Barney account investments to the American Baptist Foundation in the last quarter. The deficit is \$35,861. Hebron property sale proceeds didn't come in as anticipated. If they had, there would be no deficit.

**General Board** - A vacancy was created when Ray Schooler resigned earlier this year.

**Motion was made by Bill Carlsen, seconded and carried, to accept the recommendation from the Executive Advisory Task Force to approve Judith Christiansen as General Board representative (term 2008-2011) to be confirmed at the ABC/NYS Biennial Meeting.**

**Property Sale Update - North Hebron Property**

Closing was to be February 29<sup>th</sup> but has been delayed due to a problem with the property line. The neighbor has to sign off on the correction.

**Property Sale Update - Office Building Sale**

Closing is pending. New owners are occupying the building per agreement (rent, utilities, association fees).

**Associations in Mission**

Susan Miller reported that the **Iroquois Association** spring meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a mini missions conference.

**Allegheny-Cattaraugus Association** is hosting a Magnetic Church Workshop in Olean. It is sponsored by a Together in Ministry group in Living Waters Association.

**Adirondack Association Area Minister**

Kathleen Davie retired December 31, 2007. Rev. Scott Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hudson Falls, is serving as Interim Area Minister. The church is very supportive in this partnership with ABC/NYS.

**Motion was made by Caspar Green, seconded and carried, to confirm Rev. Scott Smith as Interim Area Minister for Adirondack Association.**

It was noted that it's not ideal to have an area minister who serves as a pastor since their presence at a church on Sunday is limited.

**American Baptist Men**

They are planning a work weekend at Pathfinder. The annual conference at Keuka College will be held August 8-10. Bill Dodge, Executive Director of the Utica Rescue Mission, will be the guest speaker. They are working on developing disaster relief efforts. They wish to set up teams to be able to respond in a timely manner, not having to rely on FEMA or the Red Cross to make contacts.

**Outdoor Ministries**

Camp programs held their own fiscally (minus the 10% program to the region). We've been contacted by two companies about natural gas wells at Camp Vick. There are a couple of options: 1) land is leased and we get a residual, 2) every cubic foot of gas we get a percentage. A new program this season is a church retreat at Pathfinder designed for families.

**Denominational Family Matters**

The New Baptist Covenant gathering in Atlanta was very positive.

**American Baptist Women's Ministries**

The state gathering in Syracuse April 25-27 will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American Baptist Women's Ministries NYS.

**Withdrawal from ABC Membership: Pitcher Federated Church**

**Motion was made by Jim Horton, seconded and carried, to accept, following the action of the Iroquois Association, the withdrawal of the Pitcher Federated Church, with regret.**

**Validated Ministry: Buffalo City Mission**

An informational piece was provided for review.

Future Meeting Dates: June 13, 2008; September 20, 2008; December 5, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Schwarz

Present: Cedric Broughton, John Buskey, William Carlsen, Kathleen Danley, Douglas Deer, Joe Folckemer, Caspar Green, Jim Horton, Sue Miller, George Norton, Jr., Susan Panek Polizzi, Wayne Schultz, Mary Schwarz, Robert Town, Joyce Whittaker