

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NEW YORK STATE  
Board of Mission - Minutes for the Meeting of June 5, 2009

**Present:** Don Rasmussen, Mary Schwarz, John Buskey, Tom Hast, Ron Erickson, Jim Horton, Patti Lawrence, Mark Caruana, Judith Pratt, Rosey Oaks-Lee, Randy Palada, Lynn Sullivan, Greg Johnson, Ed Pettibone, Donna Hickman, Walter Hargrove, Susan Miller, Joyce Whittaker, Cedric Broughton, Jim Rice, Donald Benoit, Jane Lang, George Norton, Tom Bell

**Welcome, Call to Order & Devotions:** President Randy Palada called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. He introduced Ron Erickson as the new Treasurer, recognized the passing of Robert Town, passed around a card celebrating the ministry of David Cook as our former Treasurer, and acknowledged the service of Joseph Glaze. **Motion** was made by Lynn Sullivan, seconded and carried, to confirm Donna Hickman as the new representative from WEGO Association. Randy then led a devotional reflecting on the resurrection, peace, and call to ministry.

**The Minutes of the March 14, 2009 meeting** were received by consensus as presented.

**Board Development:** Rosey Oaks-Lee led a discussion of the purpose of ABC/NYS & the BOM using small groups, PowerPoint presentation, and a slide show produced by the Regional Executive Ministers Council.

**Reports:**

**Financial:** Ron Erickson presented the financial report. He made **a motion**, seconded, that up to \$30,000 be borrowed from the Loan Fund to meet cash flow needs. There are a couple potential sources to replenish the Loan Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

We broke for lunch at 12:07 p.m. and reconvened at 1:14 p.m.

**Reports (continued):**

**Interim Executive Minister:** Don Rasmussen reported on a summertime reduction of time in the region; he'd still be available via email. Tom Hast presented a report on the Burmese refugee ministries. A Burmese pastor, Philemon Ceu, has done excellent work with the Burmese. Tom asked (a letter will be coming) that churches contribute from their Deacon Fund \$50 each for Philemon's continued church planting and other ministry. This would be for statewide ministry.

Don reported on his housing and that he's visiting various parts of the region. He has been out west and will be going up into the North Country this coming week. Don has felt the need to develop various policies for executive staff and has presented to the EATF a possible set of policies. He reported on the challenges of various churches and will, in a few weeks, fly out to the Biennial. Discussion ensued clarifying Philemon's role, financing, job description. The sense is that we want to have Philemon's ministry, but the details must be clear.

Susan Miller made **a motion** (seconded) to allow the region to employ Philemon Ceu on a temporary part-time basis through September 30, 2009. His continued employment will be reviewed. Motion carried unanimously.

Don circulated a color report on where the World Mission Support stood. He noted the high number of numbers in red, indicating decline.

**Outdoor Ministries:** John Buskey gave the report. John strongly encouraged the Board members to visit the camps sometime during the camping season in order to see what's actually happening.

**North Hebron:** Don Rasmussen reported on the property. He showed a picture of the church. He requested the Board give him permission to continue to drop the price until we sell both church & house. Jim Rice made **a motion** (seconded) that the BOM authorize Don Rasmussen to start at \$120,000 for both properties, and begin in July reducing the price \$5,000 per month until it is sold, and to revisit it at the September meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Spring Valley:** The region guaranteed a loan of \$80,000 for this Haitian church. The church is not making any payments on their loans. ABEC is attempting to collect, but at this time there is no necessary action the BOM must take. Don reported this for our information.

**ABC/USA Changes:** Jane Lang shared a report using a PowerPoint presentation on changes to the Representative Process of ABC-USA. It is hoped that the changes will improve our ability to do the mission of the ABC/USA, and in the process reduce expenses significantly.

**Regional Sexual Harassment Policy:** Don Rasmussen requested we put into place a policy. Mark Caruana & Walter Hargrove volunteered to work on it.

**Signatories for Dreyfus Accounts:** The EATF made **a motion** that the following names be authorized as signatories on the Dreyfus investment accounts: Ronald Erickson, Donald Rasmussen and Mary Schwarz, and Christy Brownell for information. Motion passed unanimously.

**ABMen, Women's Ministries, and Ministers Council:** The Ministers Council has a new slate of officers in place.

**Executive Minister Search Committee:** Rosey updated the status of the process, reporting on the listening sessions and surveys.

**New Baptist Covenant:** Don Rasmussen reported plans to gather regionally are being made. It is a pan-Baptist gathering.

**Withdrawal of FBC Medina:** The church has officially withdrawn, but we have not yet accepted it. Don wants more time to talk it out.

**What went well or might be changed:** Rosey & Jane's presentations, material coming in advance, good to add orientation for new board members, hopefully connect better with the churches. Don Rasmussen noted this is the 400<sup>th</sup> year of the formation of the first Baptist church in Amsterdam.

**Adjournment:** Greg Johnson made the motion to adjourn at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Horton  
Secretary.