

**American Baptist Churches of New York State
Board of Mission – Minutes for meeting of May 31, 2019
First Baptist Church, Ilion NY**

Present: Marilyn Malone (President), Wendy Depew Partelow (Vice President), Patricia Ludwig (Secretary), Jim Harriff (Treasurer) **Association Reps:** Raquel Alston (Niagara Area), (Iroquois), Steve Dygert (Living Waters), Claudia Little (Allegany-Cattaraugus), John Partise (Mohawk-Oneida), Joe Perdue (Fransego), Leon Runner (North Country), Dan Saulsgiver (Madison), Tom Tharp (WEGO), Judith Warner (Capital Area) **At-Large:** Jeanne Bennett, Sabrina Smith, Tanya Spencer, Jonathan Staples **Auxiliary Organizations:** Grace Kelley-Neal (ABWM), Leroy Woodruff (ABMen) **Staff:** Jim Kelsey (Executive Minister), Stephanie Schneider (ABY), Mary Schwarz (Administrative Assistant)

President Marilyn Malone called the meeting to order at 10:04am, and we introduced ourselves and John Partise lead us in devotions on the subject of prayer and finding time to be with God in spite of our busy lives.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA WITH ONE CHANGE: Nominating Committee report moved to after the approval of the minutes so the new people can vote during this meeting. **MSC unanimously** (J. Perdue/L. Woodruff)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM BOARD OF MISSION MEETING 3/2/19: **MSC unanimously** (C. Little/S. Dygert)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

1.) **Motion** from Nominating Committee to elect David Spiegel (Fransego) and David Trasoras (Mid-Hudson/Union) as members of the ABCNYS Nominating Committee.

A friendly amendment was added to include Pat Ludwig as a member from Niagara Area. **Motion** to amend by Jim. H and Jim K. and passed unanimously.

The motion to accept all three was passed unanimously.

2.) **Motion** from Nominating Committee to elect the following at-large members to the ABCNYS Board of Mission: Jonathan Staples (2020), Sabrina Smith (2022) Tanya Spencer (2022); **PASSED unanimously**

3.) **Motion** from President Marilyn Malone to elect the following to the ABCNYS Executive Committee: Raquel Alston and Leroy Woodruff. **MSC unanimously.**

4.) Also new to the Board of Mission: new president of AB Women, Grace Kelley-Neal.

REPORTS

1.) Executive Minister Jim Kelsey

Besides what is in Jim's written report, he shared the following:

a.) Jim still has to have his signature notarized for the release of the property of the New Woodstock church to them.

b.) Tuscarora Indian Partnership: Joe and Julia Perdue will work with Jim in leadership with this.

2.) Associate Executive Minister: Jerrod Huguenot

Read his written report. Jerrod was responsible for the interim training workshop, which was successful.

Jerrod is writing articles for the ABC magazine The Christian Citizen.

3.) Treasurer's Report: Jim Harriff

- a.) Profit and loss--- behind only because AB Foundation credited to 2018, rather than 2019, as it should be
- b.) Snapshot: increased assets to 2 million; Noted that United Mission dropped off some this spring but not concerned this early in the year
- c.) Balance sheets: study it to understand it; good explanation on the missions savings accounts and how those various accounts may be used.
- d.) Finance Committee putting together a balance sheet to show how our assets are building up
- e.) We are becoming more and more financially stable so are able to invest in mission work around the Region

4.) Stephanie Schneider: ABY Convention Director

- a.) met 2 times so far about the Youth Convention in November
- b.) will now meet monthly with Youth Cabinet via Go to Meeting
- c.) Keep checking ABY Facebook page to get updates on convention, as much has been planned already

5.) Committee on Ministry--No report

MOTION TO DISMISS A CHURCH FROM ABC-NYS

MSC unanimously (J. Kelsey/J. Perdue) to disfellowship Main Street Baptist Church of Binghamton from the Region, at their request.

(Singing standing break; Meeting resumed)

MISSION TRIP UPDATES

1.) Rwanda: June 4-18: 6 people going. (4 repeats and 2 new). Request because of transportation costs for some funds to pay for extra vehicles and drivers: **MSC Unanimously** (W. Depew Partelow, J. Staples) that we authorize up to \$2000.00 from the PSALM Fund for these extra costs.

2.) Community Missions/Niagara Falls: Two registrations received for the July dates and one registration received for the October dates.

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

1.) ABCUSA Board of General Ministries---no report but Jim K. added the following:

*Lee Spitzer, our general secretary and minister is retiring end of the year; * Jim K. is on the search committee for a new general secretary

2.) Ministers Council: Pat and Wendy reported in absence of President Walter Hargrove: March Retreat with Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lawrence on Bible and Archeology good and enlightening:

Next event on September 30, 9-3 on Celtic Spirituality with our own Rev. Howie Maxson.

Retreat next year is March 15-17 at Notre Dame Retreat Center in Canandaigua, and topic and resource person TBA.

You do not have to be a member of Ministers Council to attend the events.. All events are open to lay and ordained clergy, Christian Education people, commissioned folk, etc. If you do ministry of any kind, you are welcome.

3.) AB Women: Grace Kelley-Neal shared her written report

4.) AB Men: Leroy Woodruff

Highlighted Men's Conference at Keuka College August 9-11 (Jim K is one of the speakers)

The AB Men's treasurer had to step down because of dire health issues so pray for him and his family. Also, that AB Men find a new treasurer soon.

5.) VP Ministries-Joe Perdue

Board meeting after camping season.

There will be a commissioning service end of June at FBC Cooperstown for all camping staff.

Grants are available for loosely affiliated youth to go to camp at either of our camp sites.

LUNCH, DISCUSSION AND PRAYER TIME and back to BUSINESS

BOARD OF MISSION MEETINGS

Discussed moving around a little more to the east and a little more to the west, because of some invitations. Good discussion about staying in a more central location MOST of the meetings, but perhaps once a year, going to one end of the state and the next year, going to other end!

Perhaps we can do an overnight for those who need to travel a distance and invite local clergy for part of the meeting or a discussion night. Think about it and share with President Marilyn.

NEW BUSINESS

1.) Jonathan asked about those churches that request leaving the Region and Jim K. shared our approach and how he and Jerrod usually ask for a meeting before the final action a church might take.

2.) Discussion: What about millennials? Give them "a place at the table and a place to fit in and they will stand in it."

PLANNING FOR 2020 REGIONAL BIENNIAL

Discussed A LOT of ideas of places, ideas like finding a place in a "get away spot" where time away with spouses might be good. Make it as affordable to encourage more people to come.

Pre biennial event or perhaps a mission experience. Should it be one event or several like a few years ago? Marilyn will appoint a biennial committee and these folks volunteered at the meeting: Wendy, Claudia, Tanya and Raquel

MSC Unanimously (G. Kelley-Neal/R. Alston) a committee be formed to bring a proposal, which would include logistics and program, for the 2020 event, with Wendy Depew Partelow serving as chairperson.

REFLECTION: HOW DID WE EXPERIENCE OUR CORE VALUES OF HONESTY, CONNECTEDNESS AND HOPE?

Lots of good sharing: younger members on our board---their voices being heard: Keep sharing the stories of our Region to keep the excitement going; God's hand is guiding us into a new and different place. Love the ABC because of its diversity and we must LIVE it out!

To share/CONNECT with our local congregations, members are encouraged to do a summary and send out to each church, as well as report at your Association meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2: 40 with prayer by Marilyn.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Marie Ludwig, Secretary

Future Board of Mission Meetings: September 7, December 6