

**American Baptist Churches of New York State
Board of Mission – Minutes for meeting of December 6, 2019
United Church of Auburn, Auburn NY**

NOTE TO ALL: MSC stands for Moved, Seconded, Carried, and names in parentheses are those who made the motion and seconded, and all motions will be noted in BOLD.

PRESENT: Officers: Marilyn Malone (President), Wendy Depew Partelow (Vice President), Patricia Ludwig (Secretary), Jim Harriff (Treasurer). **Association Reps:** Joe Perdue (Fransego), John Partise (Mohawk-Oneida), Steve Dygert (Living Waters), Phyllis Fox (Iroquois). **At Large:** Gregory Johnson (chair of Committee on Ministry), Lecia Rodriguez, Sabrina Smith, Lillian Cabral. **Auxiliary Organizations:** Leroy Woodruff (AB Men), Grace Kelley-Neal (AB Women). **Representative to Board of General Ministries ABCUSA:** Judith Christiansen. **Staff:** Jim Kelsey (Executive Minister), Jerrod Hugenot (Associate Executive Minister), Stephanie Schneider (AB Youth), Mary Schwarz (Administrative Assistant)
Guest: Ginny Merritt from the church

President Marilyn Malone called the meeting to order at 10:15 with devotions by Lecia Rodriguez, on the theme of slowing down in Advent.

Agenda: **MSC unanimously** (Woodruff/Dygert) agenda be adopted.

Minutes: **MSC Unanimously** (Woodruff/Christiansen) that minutes from last Board of Mission meeting, September 7, 2019, stand approved as written.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER -- Jim Kelsey

- 1.) Written report and Jim highlighted areas of concern and mentioned fliers in our folders (Girlinghouse book discussion group, etc.)
- 2.) Jim shared more details on his sabbatical (March 1 to May 23), concerning issues of Christian Civility.
Going to a 16-day conference in Rwanda sponsored by Rabagirana Ministries; writing 20 articles for use over the next several years; preparing a study guide, or some kind of document that churches can use on his selected topic.

He also assured us that the region will be in good hands with Jerrod, Mary and Marilyn's support and the nuts and bolts in the office will be taken care of through the proper channels.

ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE MINISTER--Jerrod Hugenot

- 1.) Written report and highlighted the following
 - a.) Growth in some of our Associations that had none previously (i.e., NABA, North Country)
 - b.) All-time low of churches in transition (only 25)
 - c.) Loved being on the Community Missions retreat in the fall
 - d.) He is nominating the Rev. Mark Breese, ABC Chaplain at Community Missions, as chaplain of the year, through the NY State Council of Churches and letters of support are helpful (This is a secret as of now).
 - e.) Good interims help the progress in the search of settled pastors.

TREASURER--Jim Harriff

- 1.) Profit and loss pages...United Mission is down; only used \$10,000 of our reserves rather than the budgeted \$20,000.
- 2.) **ENCOURAGE** your churches to budget a line item for ABCNYS in their yearly budget
- 3.) Shared the yearly comparison from 2014 to 2019 on net equity

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY--Greg Johnson...no report since they have not met since last meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE--Marilyn would like a few more names before they meet, and all meetings are done via teleconference. Goal is a full slate of officers for the Biennial in October.

COMINGS AND GOINGS--

- 1.) West Hoosick Baptist Church: **MSC Unanimously** (Depew Partelow/Cabral)) that we dismiss this church, at their request, from the ABCNYS Region.
- 2.) Almond Union Church, after a meeting with Jim, requested removal: **MSC unanimously** (Woodruff/Smith) that we dismiss this church, at their request, from the ABCNYS Region.
- 3.) Seek God First Karen Baptist Church of Buffalo requests membership in ABCNYS and ABCUSA. After recommendation of the Niagara Area Baptist Association (NABA), it was **MSC unanimously** (Christiansen/Woodruff) that we approve and welcome this church into our Region and pass this on to the ABCUSAA Board of General Ministries for their action in June 2020.
- 4.) Ebenezer Karen Baptist Church of Syracuse, meeting at Eastwood Baptist Church, requests membership in the Region as well as ABCUSA. **MSC unanimously** (Christiansen/Perdue) that we approve and welcome this church into our Region and pass this on to the ABCUSA Board of General Ministries Board for their action in June 2020.

BUDGET FOR 2020--Finance Committee and Jim H.

- 1.) Jim went over the budget line by line and answered questions, explained items, etc.
- 2.) **MSC unanimously** (Johnson/Dygert) we accept the proposed budget for 2020.
- 3.) Finance Committee is Jim Harriff, Jim Kelsey, Ron Erickson, Jeanne Bennett, Lillian Cabral, Jim Rice

AB YOUTH --Stephanie Schneider

- 1.) ACTION: **MSC unanimously** (Kelsey/Kelley-Neal) that we provide \$1,000.00 retroactively to fund the adult youth leader for training at the ABY Convention, using the ABCNYS youth part of the Mission & Ministry Fund.
- 2.) Stephanie highlighted her written report.

MISSION UPDATES

1.) RWANDA trip--- need to change dates from June to late July - early August; no news yet about the action we took in September to form a fundraising committee to raise money for the Rabagirana Ministries building fund.

2.) Community Missions third year in the cycle...need to look at dates for this event, keeping in mind the Native American work trip in July and the Biennial in October.

Wendy and Pat are working on a packet for churches to use in setting up their own trips to this ABCNYS validated ministry.

3.) NATIVE AMERICAN WORK CAMP on the Tuscarora Indian Reservation in Sanborn/Lewiston, NY area: July 6 -12th.

a.) Cannot use Stella Niagara's Center for Renewal for housing that week, so plans are underway for alternative housing.

b.) Will help with their VBS and with construction on 5 homes

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

1.) Ministers Council---Pat handed out membership forms with the note that the dues are only \$50.00 for 2020 so take advantage and shared written report, encouraging attendance at the annual retreat in March.

2.) AB Women's Ministries---Grace Kelley-Neal: highlighted written report and encouraged all women to come to the annual convention last weekend in April at the RIT convention center.

3.) AB Men---Leroy Woodruff--shared that they still need a treasurer and will soon need two men to fill the Disaster Relief coordinators positions; Men's conference in August at Keuka College has the theme of GRACE.

OTHER REPORTS

1.) VP Camp & Conference Ministries: Joe Perdue

The search committee for the full time executive director is formed and position is advertised on MinistrElife.

Reminded that they are now independent, a validated ministry of the Region, but now separate of them.

2.) ABCUSA Board of General Ministries--Judith Christiansen shared her written report, and also shared that they partnered with the GOLDEN RULE 2020 on civil discourse. Jeff Woods is now the acting General Secretary.

3.) Jeanne Bennett, via letter, shared about the need for census takers in New York, to make sure everyone in our state, including homeless people, are counted. Go to the state web site. Hours are very flexible.

4.) Marilyn read a resignation letter from the Board of Mission and the Executive committee from the Rev. Raquel Alston.

BIENNIAL REPORT--Wendy Depew Partelow

1.) Written report, and Wendy shared more details. Change of venue to Tabernacle Baptist Church in Utica and St. Margaret's Retreat House for some accommodations and all meals. Alternative housing recommendations will be offered.

Richard Mouw will be the keynote speaker on Saturday morning. A pre-biennial event on Friday morning/afternoon on the topic of WORSHIP will be offered.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Board of Mission dates: Saturday, March 7th (Place TBA) and Friday, May 29th at Pathfinder Lodge in Cooperstown (to be confirmed).

Executive Committee meetings: Friday, February 7 as a Teleconference; Friday, May 8th at Eastwood Baptist Church in Syracuse.

MARY S. reminded us to look in our folders for some announcements about the upcoming lay study course on Church History. and regularly look at the Region's web site. Stephanie also said to look at the AB YOUTH Facebook page.

CORE VALUES: HONESTY, CONNECTEDNESS AND HOPE

Discussion and sharing on how we felt they were lived out at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned with prayer by Marilyn at 2: 30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Patricia Marie Ludwig
Secretary of the ABCNYS Board of Mission