

**American Baptist Churches of New York State  
Board of Mission – Minutes for meeting of December 7, 2018 - provisional  
Eastwood Baptist Church, Syracuse NY**

**Present:** Dennis Christiansen (President), Marilyn Malone (President Elect), Wendy Depew Partelow (Vice President Elect), Jim Harriff (Treasurer) **Association Reps:** Raquel Alston (Niagara Area), Steve Dygert (Living Waters), Phyllis Fox (Iroquois), John Partise (Mohawk-Oneida), Joe Perdue (Fransego), Leon Runner (North Country), Tom Tharp (WEG), Judith Warner (Capital Area) **At-Large:** Jeanne Bennett **Auxiliary Organizations:** Leroy Woodruff (ABMen) **Representative to Board of General Ministries ABCUSA:** Judith Christiansen **Staff:** Jerrod Huguenot (Associate Executive Minister), Jim Kelsey (Executive Minister), Mary Schwarz (Administrative Assistant)

President Dennis Christiansen called the meeting to order. New members were welcomed and introductions were made around the table. Marilyn gave an Advent devotional (“Receive the gift I need that I may be the gift I need to be.”)

**Motion** (M. Malone/L. Runner/Carried) to adopt the agenda as amended.

**Motion** (S. Dygert/J. Warner/Carried) to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2018, meeting, as published.

**LAY STUDY PROGRAM** Rev. Leon Oaks-Lee, Dean of the LSP, gave a report.

- Several are on the path to become certified lay pastors.
- Beginning work on a Certificate in New Testament.
- Held an “Officiating Seminar” in October.
- Continuing work on creating a brief overview of each course to go with the syllabus.
- Winter 2019 course: Baptist Heritage begins in February (online only).
- Need continued tech training for instructors.
- Looking at online options other than GoToMeeting. Zoom was suggested as a good one.

## **REPORTS**

**EXECUTIVE MINISTER** (Written report) – Jim Kelsey

**ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE MINISTER** (Written report) – Jerrod Huguenot  
An interim training event is being planned for May 2019. So far, 8 have registered.

**TREASURER** (Written report) – Jim Harriff

- Reviewed quarterly reports.
- General Fund Balance Sheet: 11520 Mission Savings – monies available for assistance/scholarships
- November snapshot shows a deficit, but since then we’ve received an AB Foundation check and a check from a closed church.
- There was a request that we have a report on how the endowment has grown.

## **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

Jim Kelsey reported that the national Professional Ministry Team (he is a member) is working on a revision of the ordination standards.

## **AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH MINISTRY**

Keith Griffin (Adult Advisory Team) reported that 140 youth and adults attended the ABY Convention November 2-4, 2018. They went over their goal for the mission project ("Lifting Up Puerto Rico with Love"). They had a new band, "Signs on Earth", and it was great. After 13 years in the position, Jill Narraway will finish her service as Program Director at the end of the year. Things are progressing to find a new director. There is a job description and hopes to hire someone by the end of February. Youth Retreat at Pathfinder Lodge will be May 17-19, 2019.

## **MISSION TRIPS UPDATE**

- Community Missions in Niagara Falls: July 25-28 and October 17-20, 2019. Nancy Flood (FBC - Trumansburg) will coordinate.
- Tuscarora Indian Mission: Jim Kelsey will be meeting with Pastor Robinson.
- Rwanda: The window is June 2-17, 2019. Specific dates will be confirmed.
- Cindy Falk (FBC Cooperstown) is leading a trip in July to Honduras.
- FBC Trumansburg is going to Haiti in February.

**BOARD OF MISSION NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION** will be scheduled after the first of the year. Notebooks were distributed to new members present. Others will be mailed.

## **ABCNYS BIENNIAL**

Marilyn did a recap of the event. It was noted that there was a low attendance. Financially, it ran a deficit, but that is unusual. Members were encouraged to think about what could be done differently for the 2020 Biennial.

## **LUNCH**

### **RECONVENED WITH PRAYER**

**WORDS OF APPRECIATION** to outgoing President Dennis Christiansen for his many years of service to the Region.

At Dennis' invitation, each person briefly shared one exciting thing happening in their church.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2019 BUDGET**

The proposed operating fund budget was reviewed by Jim Harriff. It includes staff compensation increase of 2.5%. A transfer of \$20,000 from the Reserve Fund is built in.

**Motion** (J. Bennett/J. Perdue/Carried) to adopt the 2019 Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee and Executive Committee.

**Motion** (M. Malone/S. Dygert/Carried) to move \$60,000 of the Reserve Fund to the Unrestricted Endowment Fund.

**Motion** (P. Fox/M. Malone/Carried) to accept the resignations of Tom Beers and Leon Runner as employees of the Nehemiah Leadership Network as of 1/1/2019 (due to the program's lack of funding).

**Motion** (J. Perdue/W. Depew Partelow/Carried) that disbursement of monies from the Psalm Fund may be made at the discretion of the Executive Minister.

**Motion** (L. Woodruff/J. Warner/Carried) to receive Albany Chin Christian Church into membership of American Baptist Churches of New York State at the request of the church and upon its acceptance into membership of Capital Area Baptist Association.

**ONLINE TRAINING** for moderators and other church offices is being planned.

**MINISTRY & MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND**

Leroy Woodruff will be new member of committee. Need one more member. Send names to Jim Kelsey

**Motion** (J. Partise/T. Tharp/Carried) to implement the new to ministry program proposal as presented and to approve a \$2,000 grant from the Lynnette Martin Fund to support it.

**AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

**ABCUSA BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES** (written report) – Judith Christiansen

**AB WOMEN’S MINISTRIES** (Written report) - Lillian Cabral

**AB MEN** - Leroy Woodruff gave a recap of the disaster relief trip in October.

**Motion** (J. Warner/M. Malone/Carried) to set the following meeting dates in 2019 for the Board of Mission: March 2, May 31, September 7, December 6

**FINAL THOUGHTS** from Dennis: We need to stay together to “overcome” and be reminded of the care of the Region.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Schwarz  
Recorder (in absence of Secretary)