

American Baptist Churches of New York State  
Board of Mission Meeting  
March 5, 2022 - Provisional Minutes

**#2**

Present:

**Officers:**

Wendy Depew Partelow - President  
Lecia Rodriguez – Vice President (Zoom)  
Bruce Aikin – Secretary (Zoom)  
Jim Harriff - Treasurer

**At-Large:**

Lillian Cabral  
Patricia Ludwig (also Min. Council)  
Leon Runner (Zoom)  
George Stefani (Zoom)

**Association Reps:**

Keith Griffin AD and V/P Camp. (Zoom)  
Phyllis Fox IR (Zoom)  
Claudia Little AC (Zoom)  
Michael Dickinson LW (Zoom)  
John Partise MO (Zoom)  
Francis Gasparri WA (Zoom)  
Aleka Schmidt WE (Zoom)

**Staff:**

James Kelsey - Exec. Min.  
Mary Schwarz - Admin. Asst.

1.0 The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM, by the President, Wendy Depew Partelow.

There were 15 Board members and 2 Staff members present. Eleven of those present were on Zoom.

She welcomed the members and asked them to share joys and prayer concerns. These will be incorporated in the opening prayer. Many concerns and joys were shared.

2.0 Devotions and Opening Prayer –

Wendy Depew Partelow read a devotion entitled *Solitariness*. She then opened the meeting with prayer and included the joys and concerns expressed.

3.0 Approval of Agenda (Document #1) –

The Agenda was approved as submitted.

4.0 The Minutes of the December 3, 2021, meeting, were approved as submitted. (Document #2).

**Reports:**

5.0 Executive Minister - Jim Kelsey (Documents #3 and #4)

The Financial Management Seminar on March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> should have been on Zoom. It will be recorded.

An event for training youth leaders may be held in November.

An event for rural ministries may be held in January or February of 2023 on Zoom.

The AB Youth Convention COVID Protocols were presented. It was noted that if an in-person convention is not held this year it will probably be the end of the event. It was moved by Lillian Cabral and seconded by Pat Ludwig that the AB Youth Convention Protocols be adopted. Motion carried.

The Wappinger Falls church has voted to dissolve. The transfer of real property from ABCNYS to the church is Document #4. It was moved by Aleka Schmidt and

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seconded by Francis Gasparri that the Executive Minister is instructed by the Board of Mission to consult an attorney to find out what options are available to us in this situation. Motion carried.

The new car is working well.

- 6.0 Associate Executive Minister – Jerrod Huguenot (Document #5) –  
There were no questions or comments about Jerrod’s written report.
- 7.0 Treasurer – Jim Harriff discussed the financial reports.
- 7.1 January 2022 General Fund Profit and Loss Snapshot (Document #6)  
The United Mission giving is on target for the year.  
The America For Christ Offering is coming soon.  
We are in good shape with contributions.  
The AB Foundation payment is coming.  
The Multi-Region distribution was lower than expected.
- 7.2 January 2022 General Fund Profit and Loss Detail (Document #7)  
This document shows the details for Document #6.
- 7.3 January 2022 Total Ministry Profit and Loss (Document #8)  
There were no comments about this report.
- 7.4 January 31, 2022, Balance Sheet (Document #9)  
The Total Assets are growing.  
We received a reimbursement of a payroll tax overpayment.  
The Net Income on page 4 shows a negative balance, but this will even out.  
It will be recommended that line 11531 be increased up to \$25,000.00 and line 11500 be increased up to \$100,000.00 for the Ministry and Mission Fund. The funds for these will be drawn from the Reserve Fund line 11560 and the AB Foundation Reserve Fund, line 15100. The formal motion to do this will be presented later in the meeting.
- Old Business:**
- 8.0 The Tuscarora Church mission trip has been scheduled for July 24 to 30, 2022.  
The cost needs to be determined.  
The brochure will be ready by the end of March.  
Jim Kelsey needs to contact Pastor Robinson about the Vacation Bible School and their Silver Hammer Program.  
We need to hear from Niagara County Community College about housing and meals.  
How many people do they need?
- 9.0 Jim Harriff announced that there will be a Reconciliation Workshop for Rwanda in May in Maryland.
- 10.0 The Niagara Falls Community Mission trip will be held sometime in the future.

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11.0 Other Mission opportunities?  
There is an international trip available next year.  
There is a trip to Israel coming up. This will be an educational trip not a tourist trip.

12.0 The best way to help the people of the Ukraine is by designating a gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing. The missionaries to Hungary, the Stantons, are helping through International Ministries.

13.0 Safe Region Policy Sub-committee – George Stefani reported that the Committee will meet on March 21 to finalize the last draft of the Safe Gathering Policy. The draft policy will then be submitted for final comments. By June of 2022, the policy should be submitted for approval to the Board of Mission.

14.0 The Mission Support sub-committee submitted its guidelines and application forms for approval (Document #10). The motion to approve these documents comes from the Executive Committee and therefore does not need a motion or second. It was noted that due to requests from some churches the Evangelism and Ministry Funds are being reconfigured to financially support church mission projects. Motion carried.

14.1 Motion for Expansion of Evangelism & Renewal Fund—ABCNYS Mission & Ministry Fund

The revised policy proposed by the subcommittee to review the use of Region funds to subsidize the mission activities of our churches provides for a broader use of the funds in the “Evangelism and Renewal” fund within the ABC/NYS Ministry and Mission Fund. The name of this fund will be changed to “Evangelism, Renewal and Mission” fund in our promotional literature. The financial components are as follows:

1. The monies used to fund these requests for mission trip activities will come from Evangelism Savings - #11531-Chase Bank. Currently the balance of this fund is approximately \$17,000.
2. The subcommittee suggests that there be a transfer made from the Reserve Fund - #15100-AB Foundation Investments to bring the total in Evangelism Savings - #11531-Chase Bank to \$25,000. This would be considered seed money to fund requests as they begin to come in. The account would then be replenished through the interest gained in the Evangelism Investment Account - #1514- AB Foundation Investments-#15500.
3. The subcommittee further recommends that an additional transfer be made into the Evangelism Investment Fund - #1514- AB Foundation Investments #15500 from the Reserve Fund- #1303 -AB Foundation to bring the balance of that account up to \$100,000. This would allow for a greater return on the dividends of these invested funds thus allowing us more money to be devoted to our support of individual churches within our ABC/NYS community.

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The proper protocol through which the request for funds from Evangelism Savings - #11531-Chase Bank shall be is as follows:

1. The request should come from the pastor or an elected official of the church. The pastor should be copied on all correspondence.
2. The request for support should be for ministries/mission endeavors or projects that have local church support.
3. The church needs to provide evidence of sustainability of the project and accountability to the Region. A Progress Report is required three months after the distribution of funds.
4. Region support for mission projects should in no way be construed as for political means.

We further determine that the Executive Minister would be the initial contact person responsible for administering requests from churches. The Executive Minister would have authority to designate grants up to \$2,500 for a particular ministry/mission project request out of the Evangelism Savings - #11531-Chase Bank fund. Any amount above that would be subject to review by the Committee authorized to grant funds obtained through the Ministry and Mission Fund, with a limit of \$5,000 for a single grant recipient within an 18-month period.

The procedures for the Youth Scholarship Savings will remain the same.

The current guidelines for distributions from the Lynette Martin Fund would remain unchanged and the committee that oversees this particular fund would continue to operate as it has in the past.

The Executive Minister would have the authority to grant up to \$2500 to a single recipient per year from the PSALM Fund. Any amount above that would be subject to review by the committee authorized to grant funds obtained through the Ministry and Mission Fund.

It was moved by Jim Harriff and seconded that the revised policy be adopted. Motion carried.

- 15.0 The Biennial Meeting Planning Committee – Lecia Rodriguez  
The Biennial is planned for October 7 – 8, 2022. The host will be The United Church in Canandaigua. The theme will be *The Church: Gifts from the Exile*, based on Isaiah 43: 18 – 19b. The meeting will be in-person at the church. Please watch for further announcements.
- 16.0 There was no New Business.

**Additional Reports:**

- 17.0 Ministers Council - Patricia Ludwig (Documents #11 and #12)  
They are having two events in 2022.

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The first is May 17 – 19, at Stella Niagara in Lewiston. The theme is *A Time Away: Refresh, Revive and Restore - Spirituality Practices for Your Journey*. The cost will be about \$100.00.

The second event is September 25 – 27, at the Notre Dame Retreat Center in Canandaigua. The topic will be *The Living Church In Transition: The Relevance of the Church in Post-Modern Culture*.

If there are any questions, please contact Wendy Depew Partelow or Patricia Ludwig.

18.0 AB Men will have a one-day conference in Elmira on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

19.0 AB Women's Ministry

Grace Kelly-Neal was thanked for her service on the Executive Committee and the Board of Mission.

The new President of ABWM will be Colleen Charsky.

Their Convention will be held April 22 – 24 at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel.

20.0 ABCUSA Board of General Ministries – No report.

21.0 Vick/Pathfinder CCM – Keith Griffin (Document #13)

There will be three weeks of camping at Vick and Pathfinder this summer.

22.0 Lay Study Team – George Stefani

The Lay Study Program courses have been planned one year in advance.

23.0 Committee on Ministry – No report.

24.0 Sabrina Smith has resigned from the Board. She is moving to New Jersey. She was thanked for her service.

25.0 Future Meeting Dates:

*Executive Committee:* All Fridays at 10:00 AM, on Zoom – May 20, August 19, November 18.

*Board of Mission:* Friday, June 3; Saturday, September 10; Friday, December 2. The meetings will begin at 10 AM, with a 9:30 AM log-on on Zoom.

It was suggested that the June 3 Board meeting be in-person with a picnic after the meeting. The First Baptist Church of Syracuse is a possible location. There could be an online portion on Zoom.

26.0 Reflections: None were offered.

27.0 The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 AM.

Minutes taken by  
Bruce D. Aikin  
ABCNYS Secretary