

**American Baptist Churches of New York State
Board of Mission – Minutes for meeting of May 29, 2020 – provisional
Via Zoom teleconference**

Present: Marilyn Malone (President), Wendy Depew Partelow (Vice President), Pat Ludwig (Secretary and Ministers Council), Jim Harriff (Treasurer) **Association Reps:** Phyllis Fox (Iroquois), John Partise (Mohawk-Oneida), Joe Perdue (Fransego and VP Ministries), Judith Warner (Capital Area), Steve Dygert (Living Waters), Dan Saulsgiver (Madison), Leon Runner (North Country) Tom Tharp (WEGO). **At-Large:** Lillian Cabral, Sabrina Smith, Jeanne Bennett, Lecia Rodriguez **Auxiliary Organizations:** Grace Kelley-Neal (ABWM), Leroy Woodruff (ABM), **Staff:** Jim Kelsey (Executive Minister), Jerrod Huguenot (Associate Executive Minister), Mary Schwarz (Administrative Assistant) Stephanie Schneider (ABY Director) popped in for her report.

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.

President Marilyn Malone called the meeting to order at 9:05 am with prayer and rules of etiquette on how to use Zoom.

She asked us to lift up prayers of sympathy and support for Claudia Little whose son died this week.

AGENDA: MSC unanimously (Kelsey/Woodruff) agenda be accepted as printed.

MINUTES FROM 3/7/2020: MSC unanimously (Smith/Rodriguez) that the minutes from the last Board of Mission meeting be accepted as sent.

REPORTS

1.) Executive Minister: Jim Kelsey

Jim back less than a week from his sabbatical.

Written report plus these comments:

A. COVID 19 reopening...Where do we go from here? How do we lead our churches?

B. Jim is preparing a document for churches to help them know what to do and how to proceed and it will go out soon, with our input first, then to all the churches.

C. Sabbatical narrative: How can we appropriate what he learned at the world wide conference in Rwanda over here? Jim is working on a workbook for use in the churches and with groups to deal with forgiveness, reconciliation, peace and unity.

2.) Associate Executive Minister: Jerrod Huguenot...written report and was commended on his fine job while Jim was away.

3.) Treasurer: Jim Harriff

A. Balance sheet through April 30... pretty positive considering some income is down due to Covid-19

B. The particular savings funds (like Psalm, Palmer, etc.) are in good shape

C. The investments are off because of market

D. America for Christ is low right now because most churches have not met all spring which is when the offering is received.

E. PPP government loan/grant program: We received \$58,000 which will be a grant come July.

F. Expenses tracking as they should be this time of year.

G. Remember our Region to your churches.

We stopped our business here to have Steve Dygert share his devotions on a book called QBQ (Questions behind the Questions) on character sharing in our faith.

4.) Committee on Ministry: Written report from Greg Johnson

BUSINESS

1.) Update on Sale of East Troupsburg church: moving along and should be ready by next Board of Mission meeting in fall. Legal fees are higher than anticipated but will be offset by sale.

2.) Psalm Fund: no requests yet.

3.) Mission Trips: Rwanda and Tuscarora Indian Mission Church postponed to 2021.

Community Missions: Wendy and Pat prepared a brochure/booklet to be used by churches or Associations that would like to do their own trip to the mission in the Falls. It is in the Region office.

4.) Nominating Committee: Keith Griffin will convene a meeting of his committee to have a slate ready by September 1.

AB YOUTH: Stephanie Schneider

Cabinet meets soon to determine how to move forward if the ABY weekend cannot be held face to face. John Buskey will be keynote speaker, and the theme is Super Heroes. It is currently slated November 6-8 at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool.

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

1.) Grace Kelley -Neal-AB Women....written report

2.) Leroy Woodruff-AB Men--Annual conference in August has been cancelled.

Leroy will remain as President of AB Men for the foreseeable future and asked if he could bring the Vice President, Chris Blackwell, to a few of the Board of Mission meetings to get him on board when he assumes the position. (yes).

3.) Pat Ludwig---Ministers council...written report

4.) Board of General Ministries of ABC-USA: Judith Christiansen...written report

VICK & PATHFINDER CAMP AND CONFERENCE MINISTRIES: Joe Perdue

A. Fire on May 26th that was contained, caused by a falling branch on live wires

B. Hired a new director, Mandy Arthur.

C. The Nortons were hired as staff this summer as cook and maintenance help.

D. Camp Vick will be closed for the season but open to family camping

E. Pathfinder is still up in the air.

BIENNIAL REPORT: Wendy Depew Partelow; written report.

Wendy asked how to proceed and after some discussion, it was decided that her committee, plus Joe Perdue, who volunteered to be at that meeting, meet in 2-3 weeks to come up with a plan. Ruth Fox, our missionary for the event, said she will do whatever we want, however we end up doing it. Any way we end up doing it, it was noted this will offer encouragement and support and assistance to all our churches.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussed Acting General Secretary Jeff Woods' guidelines for reopening churches. Jim (see above) is adapting them for our use and will be sending them out soon.

DATES to NOTE:

BOARD OF MISSION MEETINGS: Saturday, September 12 AND Friday, December 4.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, August 28th (Via Zoom)

Friday, November something....

CORE VALUES of HONESTY, CONNECTEDNESS AND HOPE

After reflection, meeting was adjourned at 11: 43 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Marie Ludwig
Secretary