

American Baptist Churches of New York State
Board of Mission Meeting
September 10, 2022

Present:

Officers:

Wendy Depew Partelow - President

Lecia Rodriguez – Vice President (Zoom)

Bruce Aikin – Secretary (Zoom)

Jim Harriff – Treasurer

Lillian Cabral

Leon Runner (Zoom)

Jonathan Staples (Zoom)

George Stefani (Zoom)

Association Reps:

Claudia Little AC (Zoom)

Phyllis Fox IR

Michael Dickinson LW (Zoom)

John Partise MO (Zoom)

Walter Hargrove NA (Zoom)

Edris Hitchcock WE (Zoom)

Staff:

James Kelsey - Exec. Min.

Stephanie Schneider ABY (Zoom)

Mary Schwarz - Admin. Asst.

Auxiliary Organizations:

Colleen Charsky (ABWM)

ABC/USA Board of General Ministries:

Judith Christiansen (Zoom)

At-Large:

Jeanne Bennett

1.0 The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM, by the President, Wendy Depew Partelow.

There were 17 Board members and three Staff members present. Twelve of those present were on Zoom.

2.0 Devotions and Opening Prayer –

Jim Kelsey asked for prayer concerns from the members. A number were expressed. He gave a Devotion based on 1 Cor. 9: 19 – 23. He then opened the meeting with prayer and included the joys and concerns expressed.

3.0 Approval of Agenda (Document #1) –

Under New Business on the Agenda: add Recommendation to Vick/Pathfinder about a new Board member to replace Keith Griffin. The Agenda was approved as amended.

4.0 The Minutes of the June 3, 2022, meeting, were approved as submitted. (Document #2).

Reports

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

The brochures for the AB Youth Convention will be out soon.

Wappinger Falls Church – the deed to the parsonage was never transferred, the Region is still listed as the owner. The property taxes could be \$20-30,000 per year. Church Mutual has insured the parsonage. Motion by Jeanne Bennett, seconded by Phyllis Fox:

Once the content of the dissolution motion voted on by the Community Baptist Church of Wappinger Falls Baptist church at their September 25, 2022 business meeting is known, this board empowers the Executive Committee to, if in their judgment it is wise, to proceed with the listing and sale of the residential property at 15 Helen Avenue, Wappinger Falls. Once an

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offer is in hand on the Helen Avenue property, the Board of Mission will be convened to accept the offer on the property.

Further, the Executive Committee is empowered to enter into negotiations with this church about the transfer of the church property at 226 All Angels Road to the Region. The Executive Committee is authorized to retain an attorney in this matter. Once an offer is in hand on the All Angels Road property, the Board of Mission will be convened to accept the offer on the property.

Motion carried.

A Palmer Grant (Document #4) has been applied for to have a youth worker training program in January of 2023.

It was moved by Colleen Charsky and seconded by Lecia Rodriguez that the Youth Leadership Fund be renamed the Keith Griffin Youth Leadership Fund. Motion carried.

- 6.0 Associate Executive Minister – Jerrod Hugenot (Document #5)
There were no questions about Jerrod’s written report.
- 7.0 Treasurer – Jim Harriff discussed the financial reports.
- 7.1 January - August 2022 General Fund Profit and Loss Snapshot (Document #6)
The target percentage at this time is 66.7%.
The United Mission giving is under expectation.
- 7.2 January - August 2022 General Fund Profit and Loss Detail (Document #7)
Line 62100 shows a one-time audit fee of \$10,000.00.
No Reserve Funds have been used.
- 7.3 January - August 2022 Total Ministry Profit and Loss (Document #8)
There were no questions or comments on this report.
- 7.4 April 30, 2022, Balance Sheet (Document #9)
Several requests have been received for PSALM Fund grants.
The Total Assets are good.
Jim Kelsey noted that Regions need endowments.

Old Business

- 8.0 The Tuscarora Mission trip was discussed under Jim Kelsey’s report. There were 11 participants. Everything went well. Wendy Depew-Partelow noted it was a learning experience.
- 9.0 Rwanda Mission – Jim Harriff
He would like to arrange a trip for January or February.
Noah, the student from Rwanda is currently attending Norwich College in Vermont. He is now a Resident Assistant and has an internship in the Business Management Office.
- 10.0 The Niagara Falls Community Mission trip may be held in 2023. Wendy is checking on venues and dates.

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- 11.0 Other Mission opportunities?
Another Tuscarora mission trip?
- 12.0 Safe Region Policy Sub-committee – George Stefani (Document #10)
The Policy has been reviewed by an attorney.
The final version was distributed to the Board members.
It will be adopted as of January 1, 2023.
Some changes were made from the attorney’s review. There will be four attendees in each room not two. Background checks on adults may be done every year instead of every two years. They are inexpensive.
It was moved by Jonathan Staples and seconded by Judith Christiansen that the Safe Region Policy be adopted as of January 1, 2023. It was noted that the Region will cover extra expenses. Motion carried.
- 13.0 AB Youth – Stephanie Schneider (Document #14)
The brochures for the AB Youth Convention will be mailed Thursday.
The Samaritan Pastoral Counselling Center in Utica is going to put on a program on how to communicate with youth.
- 14.0 The Biennial Meeting Planning Committee – Lecia Rodriguez (Document #11)
The Biennial is now up to fifty (50) registrations.

New Business

- 15.0 Bethany Center Baptist Church withdrawal (Document #12)
A letter was received from this church stating that they have voted to withdraw from the American Baptist Churches.
The new pastor wanted to leave ABC. No response has been received from attempts to contact them. They are a very small church near Batavia.
It was moved by Edris Hitchcock and seconded by John Partise that the Bethany Center Baptist Church is hereby dismissed from the American Baptist Churches of New York State. Motion carried.
- 16.0 Nominating Committee Report – Wendy Depew-Partelow
The slate of officers for the Biennial is making progress.
Leon Runner has agreed to be the Vice-President.
- 17.0 Vick & Pathfinder Camp & Conference Ministries. – The recommendation for the representative to the VPCCM Board was postponed to the December Board of Mission meeting.

Additional Reports

- 18.0 Ministers Council – Wendy Depew-Partelow for Patricia Ludwig
They are having an event 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*.
15 people have registered for this event.

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This event is being paid for by a Palmer grant.

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

- 19.0 AB Men – No report.
- 20.0 AB Women’s Ministries (Document #13)
Colleen Charsky submitted a written report. She is willing to speak at churches.
- 21.0 ABCUSA Board of General Ministries – Judith Christiansen (Document #15)
A written report was presented.
United Mission giving is down by 9%.
The Everyday Conversations program is continuing.
People are encouraged to attend the Biennial (2023).
There was a great conference at Green Lake.
The Burma Bill has passed in the House and is awaiting a vote in the Senate.
Both New York Senators support the bill.
- 22.0 Vick/Pathfinder Camping – Volunteers are being solicited for next year. There is a great need for medical staff; they will be paid if necessary.
- 23.0 Lay Study Team – Jim Kelsey
Courses are being planned.
- 24.0 Committee on Ministry
The Committee needs a Chairperson.
There are some recognitions in progress.
- 25.0 It was noted that several members are going off the Board: Phyllis Fox, Jeanne Bennett, Lillian Cabral and Dan Saulsgiver. They were thanked for their service to the Region.
- 26.0 Future Meeting Dates:
Executive Committee: Friday at 10:00 AM, November 18. This will be the Budget meeting and members are asked to be present in person if possible.
Board of Mission: Friday, December 2. The meetings will begin at 10 AM, with a 9:30 AM log-on on Zoom. It was noted that December 2nd is the Budget meeting and members were asked to be present in person if possible.
- 27.0 Reflections:
Walter Hargrove said that he enjoyed the meeting.
Raises should be considered for the Staff.
Edris Hitchcock noted that her church has a back-pack of school supplies program and gave out 284 back-packs.
- 28.0 The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 AM.

Minutes taken by
Bruce D. Aikin

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ABCNYS Secretary