

**American Baptist Churches of New York State
Board of Mission – Minutes for meeting of September 12, 2020
Via Zoom teleconference**

Present: Marilyn Malone (President), Wendy Depew Partelow (Vice President), Jim Harriff (Treasurer) **Association Reps:** Phyllis Fox (Iroquois), John Partise (Mohawk-Oneida), Steve Dygert (Living Waters), Dan Saulsgiver (Madison), Leon Runner (North Country) Tom Tharp (WEGO). **At-Large:** Lillian Cabral, Sabrina Smith, Jeanne Bennett, Lecia Rodriguez, Jonathan Staples **Auxiliary Organizations:** Grace Kelley-Neal (ABWM), Leroy Woodruff (ABM), **ABCUSA Board of General Ministries:** Judith Christiansen **Staff:** Jim Kelsey (Executive Minister), Mary Schwarz (Administrative Assistant)

President Marilyn Malone called the meeting to order. Jonathan Staples gave devotions from the Habbakuk. This was followed by a lengthy time of sharing/discussion.

MINUTES FROM 5/29/2020 approved as published.

SECRETARY PAT LUDWIG had to leave the meeting to attend to her husband who had taken a fall earlier. Jim K. offered prayer.

REPORTS

- 1.) Executive Minister: Jim Kelsey... written report
He read a letter of resignation from staff assistant Christy Siau. Effective November 2020.
- 2.) Associate Executive Minister: Jerrod Huguenot...written report
- 3.) Treasurer: Jim Harriff
 - A. Balance sheet through August 31... Assets in strong position
 - B. No Covid relief requests yet.
 - C. Positive balance due to \$58,252 PPP. Without that we'd be running behind. That is a long term concern
 - D. Auditors have signed off on 2019 with recommendations.
 - E. Troupsburg church sale is nearing completion. Most of the legal fees are related to the sale.
- 4.) Committee on Ministry: Greg Johnson... written report

MOTION (Executive Committee/Carried) that the Board of Mission extend the Psalm Fund Covid 19 Relief offer for another six months, with the same parameters. *(For pastors who may experience financial hardship due to church budget shortfalls, ABCNYS will offer a one-time grant, up to \$500, to pastors serving ABCNYS churches. Beginning now through October 31, 2020.)*

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

- 1.) AB Women: Grace Kelley-Neal... written report
- 2.) AB Men: Leroy Woodruff... written report
- 3.) Ministers Council: Pat Ludwig... written report
- 4.) Board of General Ministries ABCUSA: Judith Christiansen
2021 Biennial Mission Summit in Puerto Rico is cancelled. Will be online. Perhaps a house

church approach. Planning to go to Puerto Rico in 2023. The BGM meetings in November and June will be online.

VICK & PATHFINDER CAMP AND CONFERENCE MINISTRIES: Tom Tharp (member of the VP Board) reported.

- A. No on site programming this summer.
- B. The new CEO resigned after a very brief tenure. Looking for temporary CEO.
- C. Working on organization, communication, and improving oversight of program.
- D. Budget is 80% down from this time last year.
- E. Camp-in-a-Box was mildly successful this summer and made some good will.

AB YOUTH CONVENTION will be online November 6-7.

LAY STUDY PROGRAM The Team is meeting regularly and making improvements to the program.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE Received with appreciation for the committee's work. This will go to the Biennial Meeting.

BIENNIAL: Wendy Depew Partelow... written report. October 14-17, 2020 – Online

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SANDY CREEK Letter received indicating the church's withdrawal from ABC. Action will be at next Board of Mission meeting.

MOTION (Executive Committee/Carried) to give him Executive Minister James Kelsey 7 days with pay to be used as he wishes in the next year. This is in consideration of his curtailed Sabbatical due to the pandemic.

MOTION (Executive Committee/Carried) to approve the revised Mentor's Guide in the ABCNYS Lay Study Program Handbook.

There was a discussion about the accountability/keeping confidences. It was clarified that a mentor doesn't share specifics, but does give a general assessment of the candidate. Mentors will receive training.

It was noted that this was the last meeting for Steve Dygert whose term on the Board is ending.

DATES to NOTE:

BOARD OF MISSION: Friday, December 4.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Friday, November 6

REFLECTIONS ON MEETING

Devotions and discussion (Dan: "Go change your ecosystem.).

Not having to drive.

Virtual meeting doesn't keep us from being open with each other.

Mary Schwarz

Recorder