

American Baptist Churches of New York State
Board of Mission
December 3, 2021 - Minutes

Present:

Officers:

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

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

Association Reps:

Phyllis Fox IR (Zoom)
Michael Dickinson LW (Zoom)
Dan Saulsgiver MA (Zoom)
David Trasoras MHU (Zoom)
John Partise MO (Zoom)
Walter Hargrove NI (Zoom)
Aleka Schmidt WE (Zoom)
Francis Gasparri WA (Zoom)

Staff:

James Kelsey - Exec. Min.
Jerrod Huguenot – Assoc. Exec. Min. (Zoom)
Mary Schwarz - Admin. Asst.
Stephanie Schneider – ABY (Zoom)

Auxiliary Organizations:

Grace Kelley-Neal ABWM (Zoom)

ABCUSA 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 21 Board members and 3 Staff members present. Nineteen 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 –

Judith Christiansen gave the Devotion for the meeting based on Psalm 51. She then spoke about how Advent brings us the light of Jesus. She then opened the meeting with prayer and included the joys and concerns expressed.

3.0 Approval of Agenda (Document #1) –

Stephanie Schneider will give the report for AB Youth first.

The Agenda was approved as amended.

4.0 Some corrections were made to the Minutes of the September 11, 2021, meeting (Document #2).

In Item 5.0, the Executive Minister's Report, the following sentence should be added to the eighth paragraph: It was noted that Jim Kelsey has not had a salary increase for several years.

In Item 12.0, add Marlene Ciranowicz to the list of members of the committee.

In Item 16.0, the list of the Biennial Committee members should include Wendy Depew-Partelow.

The Minutes were approved as corrected.

Reports:

- 5.0 AB Youth – Stephanie Schneider (Document #15)
The AB Youth Cabinet has been great this year.
The AB Youth raised over \$10,000.00 for VP Ministries. A presentation was made to the church that raised the most money, Village Baptist in Ft. Edward.
Due to the cancellation of the in-person convention the deposit at the hotel was lost. The \$2,000.00 in the Budget will cover this.
She thanked Jim Kelsey and Jerrod Huguenot for covering for her while she recovers from knee surgery.
- 6.0 Executive Minister - Jim Kelsey (Documents #3A and 3B)
Revision to sign at Pathfinder Lodge - Mandy Simons was very agreeable to removing the sign at Pathfinder Lodge and replacing it. The sign at Camp Vick needs to be replaced.
In #3B, at the bottom of the first page the Time Frame should read “the autumn and late winter of 2022.”
In response to a question the Region does keep a list of those who participate in the required NYS Sexual Harassment Prevention training.
- 7.0 Associate Executive Minister – Jerrod Huguenot (Document #4) –
Jerrod reported that he spends three out of four Sundays in Region churches.
Jim Kelsey noted that Jerrod keeps our Facebook page up to date.
- 8.0 Treasurer – Jim Harriff discussed the financial reports.
- 8.1 2021 October General Fund Profit and Loss Snapshot (Document #5)
The United Mission giving is under what it should be. It should increase before the end of the year. All of the other income sources are ahead of the budget.
The investments are good.
The Multi-Region Distribution (Line 41100) is almost double what it was last year.
The PPP loan is now a grant.
We are in a good position financially.
We budgeted a shortfall of \$35,238.24, but it is only \$13,038.97. Jim Kelsey shared that as of the end of November, we had a \$9,386.89 Operating surplus.
- 8.2 2021 October General Fund Profit and Loss Detail (Document #6)
This document shows the details for document #5.
A question was asked about Disability Insurance for the staff. Jim and Jerrod get their Disability Insurance through the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board. The Region covers it for the other staff.
- 8.3 2021 October Total Ministry Profit and Loss (Document #7)
This report shows more than the operating budget.

ABCNYS Board of Mission

December 3, 2021

3.

8.4 2021 October Balance Sheet (Document #8)

Line 11560 – The Reserve Fund includes the PPP for now.

Our Net Income and Equity are very good.

It was moved by Phyllis Fox and seconded by Aleka Schmidt that we will not transfer \$2,000.00 from the AB Youth Fund to the General Fund. Motion carried.

9.0 Budget Proposal for 2022 (Document #9)

The United Mission income is budgeted the same as last year which may be optimistic.

The Grant Income has been removed.

Honorariums are expected to go up as Jim and Jerrod visit more churches.

The Multi-Region Distribution is expected to be the same.

AB Foundation income is expected to increase to \$40,000.00.

Line 44150 for Health Insurance is down.

Our anticipated income is \$349,949.42, an increase of almost \$22,000.00 over 2021.

Under Expenses – The amount for the Auditors is the same. Legal fees are being left at \$2,000.00 as the insurance companies are paying for the lawsuits.

The staff has not had a pay raise in three years. ABCUSA is recommending a 3% increase for compensation—salary and housing allowance. Line 64130, the FICA offset is much higher because the wrong formula to calculate it was used in the past. This figure reflects the correct formula.

The Budget includes a 3% increase for Support Staff.

Line 65310 shows the increased salary for the bookkeeper.

The Eastwood Church is keeping the rent the same amount.

The Budget will be balanced by using the PPP in the Reserve Fund.

Line 64220 – Dental Insurance is down because it only covers Jim Kelsey and not his whole family.

Line 64230 – MMBB is up for Jim and Jerrod.

Line 65230 = The retirement for the Administrative Assistant is up.

It was moved by Sabrina Smith and seconded by David Trasoras that the Board approve the Budget for 2022. Motion carried.

Old Business:

10.0 The Tuscarora Church mission trip has been scheduled for July 24 to 30, 2022. There has been a problem finding lodging for the participants. There has been no response from Niagara County Community College or Niagara University. Walter Hargrove knows of a hotel which would be willing to give a reduced rate. If nothing can be found there is a possibility that participants could stay with people on the Reservation. This would limit the number of participants.

11.0 The Installation Service for Jason Keep as Pastor of the Humboldt Baptist Church was held on October 17th.

ABCNYS Board of Mission

December 3, 2021

4.

- 12.0 Suzi and Jim Harriff are planning another trip to Rwanda, depending on COVID restrictions.
- 13.0 The trip to Niagara Community Missions was cancelled due to concerns about COVID.
- 14.0 Other opportunities for mission – There was going to be a trip to Nicaragua in January 2022, but due to the recent election Americans might not be able to travel there.
- 15.0 The sub-committee to consider Mission Support will begin meeting in January.
- 16.0 Safe Region Policy Sub-committee – George Stefani reported that the policy would only be for youth events and would apply to a limited number of meetings. Two adults would need to be at these events. There would be a prescreening process.
There will be three rounds of comments on the draft policy. By June of 2022, the policy should be submitted for approval to the Board of Mission.
- 17.0 The Biennial Meeting Planning Committee – Lecia Rodriguez (Document #10)
The committee has met twice. The Biennial is planned for October 7 – 8, 2022. The host will be the United Church of Canandaigua. The theme will be The Church: Gifts from the Exile, based on Isaiah 43: 18 – 19b.

Additional Reports:

- 18.0 Ministers Council - Patricia Ludwig (Document #11)
They are having two events in 2022.
The first is May 17 – 19, at Stella Niagara in Lewiston. The theme is 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 how religion intersects with our political realities. Jim Kelsey noted that Palmer grant money may be able to help with the cost of this seminar.
- 19.0 AB Women's Ministries - Grace Kelly-Neal (Document #12)
ABWM is now recognized as a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization by the IRS. They are also tax exempt for New York State.
Their Convention will be held April 22 – 24 at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel.
- 20.0 ABCUSA Board of General Ministries – Judith Christiansen
The Board met on November 5 – 7. It was the first in-person meeting in two years.
Jeff Woods was appointed to continue as interim General Secretary.
The Anti-Racism Task Force has been made a permanent commission.
She reminded the Board of Mission that 65% of United Mission giving goes to the Regions.
The 2023 Biennial will be in Puerto Rico.

ABCNYS Board of Mission

December 3, 2021

5.

She encouraged people to sign up at the ABCUSA website, abc-usa.org, for news and newsletters.

- 21.0 Lay Study Team – Rev. Leon Oaks-Lee (Document #14)
It is possible to become a Certified Lay Pastor in two to two-and-one-half years.
- 22.0 Vick/Pathfinder CCM – Keith Griffin (Document #16)
There were no questions about the written report.
- 23.0 Future Meeting Dates:
Executive Committee: All Fridays at 10:00 AM, on Zoom – February 18; May 20; August 19; November 18.
Board of Mission: Saturday, March 5; Friday, June 3; Saturday, September 10; Friday, December 2. The meetings will begin at 10 AM, with a 9:30 AM log-on in Zoom.
- 24.0 Reflections:
Wendy Depew Partelow said she was glad so many people attended the meeting. She appreciates all that our staff does.
- 25.0 The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Minutes taken by
Bruce D. Aikin
ABCNYS Secretary