

**American Baptist Churches of New York State
Board of Mission – Minutes for meeting of December 4, 2020
Via Zoom teleconference**

Present: Marilyn Malone (President), Wendy Depew Partelow (Vice President), Patricia Ludwig (Secretary), Jim Harriff (Treasurer) **Association Reps:** Dan Saulsgiver (Madison), Phyllis Fox (Iroquois), Claudia Little (Alleghany-Cattaraugus), John Partise (Mohawk-Oneida), Joe Perdue (Fransego), Tom Tharp (WEGO), Leon Runner (North Country), Michael Dickinson (Living Waters), Walter Hargrove (Niagara Area), Francis Gasparri (Wayne), Keith Griffin (Adirondack), Marlene Ciranowicz (Broome-Tioga) **At-Large:** Jeanne Bennett, Lecia Rodriguez, Sabrina Smith, Lillian Cabral, Jonathan Staples, George Stefani **Auxiliary Organizations:** Grace Kelley-Neal (ABWomen), Leroy Woodruff (ABMen) **Representative to Board of General Ministries ABCUSA:** Judith Christiansen **Staff:** Jim Kelsey (Executive Minister), Jerrod Hugenot (Associate Executive Minister), Mary Schwarz (Administrative Assistant), Stephanie Schneider (AB Youth)

Guests: Besides Baby Lucas, newly elected Secretary Bruce Aikin, whose term begins in January, and Chris Blackwell, incoming AB Men NYS President, were in attendance.

President Marilyn Malone called the Board of Mission meeting together at 9:32am, and everyone introduced themselves.

Devotions were shared by incoming president Wendy Depew Partelow on Luke 12:35-48.

AGENDA was **MSC unanimously** (K. Griffin/L. Woodruff).

MINUTES from Sept. 12, 2020, meeting were **MSC unanimously** to approve (L. Rodriguez/J. Kelsey)

REPORTS

1.) Executive Minister - Jim Kelsey

In addition to his written report, Jim shared a few things.

A.) Staff Assistant Christy Siau has resigned. Her work is being divided among Jim, Jerrod, Mary and Stephanie.

B.) Lay Study Team is doing an excellent job, under the leadership of Leon Oaks-Lee.

C.) He then recognized Mary Schwarz for her 40 years of leadership as our Administrative Assistant, with gifts and accolades.

2.) Associate Executive Minister - Jerrod Hugenot

Written report and Jerrod asked us to keep churches in our prayers, especially those in transition. Jerrod was commended for the excellent job he's doing with the Region Facebook page.

3.) Treasurer – Jim Harriff

A.) Profit and loss sheet through November: Went over our income and expenses and, in essence, tracking as it should be in most areas. The government grant of \$58,252 was a tremendous help.

B.) Balance Sheet as of November

Our assets: investments (\$63,074) and reserve fund (\$81,455.38) are good, and our total assets are \$2,025,722.01

4.) Committee On Ministry: Greg Johnson...No report

AB YOUTH - Stephanie Schneider

Written report about successful On Line Youth Convention: 104 people from 11 churches. Raised over \$7,000 for their annual mission project. This year is to support local food pantries. There are four returning Cabinet members. Nominations are due in January.

OLD BUSINESS

Letter from First Baptist Church of Sandy Creek which now goes by Sandy Creek Bible Church. Coming from Executive Committee, it was **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the letter from the First Baptist Church of Sandy Creek requesting departure from Iroquois Association, ABCNYS and ABCUSA.

BIENNIAL FINAL REPORT – Wendy Depew Partelow, Chairperson

Written Report. Went very well with a total of 67 people for all four gatherings.

NEW BUSINESS

1.) Executive Committee recommended Judith Christensen to a second term on the Board of General Ministries, ABCUSA. She accepted.

2.) Representative from ABCNYS Board of Mission to the Board of Vick & Pathfinder Camp & Conference Ministries: We make this recommendation for their approval - Keith Griffin.

BUDGET - Jim Harriff and Finance Committee

1.) Jim went over line for line and asked for questions.

Income: \$322,007.04. Expenses: \$357,218.48. Deficit of \$35,211. The Reserve Fund will be used to cover deficit, as needed.

2.)The Executive Committee recommends this budget with two corrections:

Line 40300 Grant Income: \$7,250

Line 42050 Palmer Grant Future Stipend: \$2,100

The budget was adopted as corrected.

3.) The Executive Committee offers a Motion to move funds from the Reserve Fund in excess of \$50,000 to Unrestricted Endowment fund. Motion defeated (0 Ayes, 22 Nays).

Executive Committee offers a Motion to put the proceeds from the East Troupsburg church sale into the Unrestricted Endowment Fund. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

1.) Ministers Council - Pat Ludwig

March retreat is being postponed (watch for more details). Membership drive begins in January, and we are asking all pastors to renew or join through OUR local mailing or Paragraphs for Partners rather than through the MC National web site, as we get more money back into our Region that way!

2.) AB Men - Leroy Woodruff

He introduced Chris Blackwell as the new President and Chris said the Men's annual conference may be at Keuka College in August...watch for details.

3.) AB Women – Grace Kelley-Neal

Written report as well as shared the hope that the 2022 Women's convention will be in Chautauqua. 2021 convention will be online.

4.) Board of General Ministries ABCUSA – Judith Christiansen

Written report, as well as highlights: (a.) ABCUSA web site has constant updates on numerous resources for COVID 19 (b.) A new Associate General Secretary begins on January 1: Marie Onwubariri (c.) Biennial in June, 2021, will be virtual and encouraging "watch parties." THEME: Imagine

5.) VPCCM - Joe Perdue

A new CEO began recently and is working remotely. Camp in a box went well. A personnel concern was shared. Things are tensing up over it. Board and lawyers are trying to work things out in a peaceful manner. Pray for a just and peaceful outcome.

It was decided to invite the Rev. David Speigel (VPCCM Board chairperson) to the next Executive Committee meeting in February to share more details about the whole camping program and how we can stay informed. Wendy or Keith will invite him.

OTHER BUSINESS

Wendy, as new president, recommends that the auxiliary representative to the Executive Committee for the next two years be the President of AB Women (currently Rev. Grace Kelly-Neal).

MSC (W. Depew Partelow/J, Kelsey) passed unanimously

RECOGNITION

Jim Kelsey was recognized for his 30 years of ordination and given a gift from the Board, presented by Mary.

REFLECTION ON OUR CORE VALUES OF HONESTY, CONNECTEDNESS AND HOPE:

Much sharing and thanks to all who serve, and many thanks to Marilyn who led us for 2 years. Bruce Aikin, new secretary, suggested that the items that are sent ahead of our meetings be numbered and be sent all at once, when possible. Meeting was closed with prayer by Marilyn.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Executive Committee All Fridays - most by Zoom: February 19, May 14, August 20, November 19

Board of Mission - At least two by Zoom: Saturday, March 6; Friday, June 4; Saturday, September 11; Friday, December 3.

Meeting adjourned at 12: 34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Marie Ludwig