AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NEW YORK STATE
2026 BIENNIAL MEETING

Saturday, October 10, 2026 - 1:15 p.m.

Rev. Delma West, Vice President, Presiding

Business Meeting

- Call to Order
- Approval of 2024 Biennial Business Meeting Minutes
- Nominating Committee Report
- Election of Officers, Board of Mission Members and other representatives
- Installation of Officers and Board Members
- Message from the President — Rev. Dr. Leon Runner
- State of the Region — Rev. Jerrod H. Hugenot
- Recognition of New Pastors — Rev. Cheryl M. Frank
- Recognition of Lay Study Graduates and Certifications — Rev. Leon Oaks-Lee
- Prayer and Adjournment — Rev. Delma West

2026 Biennial Planning Committee

Delma West, ABCNYS Vice President, Chairperson, Spencer Federated (Broome-Tioga)
Lydia Widbin, Bottskill Baptist and Lakeville Baptist (Adirondack)
Hector Mesa, Jr., FBC Hoosick Falls (Capital Area Baptist)
David L. Harris, ABCNYS Treasurer, Sennett Federated Church (Iroquois)
Paul Bailey, retired pastor (Iroquois)
Phil Pratt, Falconer Baptist Church (Chautauqua)
Mark Slomiski, The United Church of Canandaigua (Finger Lakes)
Marsha Bolton Rivers, Gaines Carlton and FBC Albion (WEGO)
Brian Wheeler, Host Pastor, Kenmore Baptist Church (NABA)
Jonathan David Lawrence, Niagara Area Baptist Association Moderator
Geri Daniels, Shiloh Baptist (Buffalo) and ABWM Niagara Erie
Janice Glenn, Faith Missionary Baptist Church (Buffalo) and ABWM Niagara Erie
Jerrod Hugenot, Executive Minister, staff
Cheryl Frank, Associate Executive Minister, staff
Stephanie Schneider, ABY Program Director, staff, and Pastor, Village Baptist, Ft Edward & FBC Glens Falls (Adirondacks)

Nominating Committee Report *Prepared by: Laura Palada, Rev. Pat Ludwig, Pastor Bonnie Seitz, Rev. Dr. Leon Runner*

OFFICERS (2-year term, beginning January 1, 2027, and concluding December 31, 2028)

President:	***Delma West****
Vice President:	***Claudia Little****
Secretary:	***Cedric Broughton****
Treasurer:	***David L. Harris, Jr.****

BOARD OF MISSION ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES (4-year term)

Note: Board of Mission members serve four-year terms, with half of the Board at their mid-term of four years, so some are listed below for reference but need no voting action today. Proposed Board members being elected to serve now through the 2030 Biennial Meeting are in bold/italics with asterisk (*), i.e., ***NAME****

Adirondack	***2030***	***Barbara Jackson****
Alleghany-Cattaraugus	***2030***	***(vacant)****
Broome-Tioga	***2030***	***(vacant)****
Capital Area	2028	Greg Staples
Chautauqua	2028	Phillip Pratt
Finger Lakes	***2030***	***Mark Slomski****
Fransego	2028	Claudette Newman
Iroquois	***2030***	***David L. Harris, Jr.****
Living Waters	2028	Steve Dygert
Madison	***2030***	***Shawn Hast****
Mid-Hudson/Union	***2030***	***Jonathan Irons****
Mohawk-Oneida	***2030***	***Letta Palmer****
Niagara Area	2028	Kathleen Ordiway
North Country	2028	Sarah Flack
Wayne	2028	Aleka Schuth
WEGO	2028	Edris Hitchcock

AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES (4 year term)

2028	Robert Casler
2028	Bonnie Seitz
2028	Cindy Falk
2028	_____
2030	***Bruce Aiken****
2030	***Lei Htoo Lei Say****
2030	***Anne Gardner (chair of Committee on Ministry)****
2030	***Roben Awi****
2030	_____

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (4-Year Term)

Adirondack	2028	vacant
Alleghany-Cattaraugus	2028	vacant
Broome-Tioga	***2028***	***Rich Saxton* (completing unexpired term)***
Capital Area	***2030***	***George Stefani****
Chautauqua	***2030***	***Phillip Pratt****
Finger Lakes	2028	Anne Gardner
Fransego	**2030**	***Nancy Hughes****
Iroquois	2028	John Buskey
Living Waters	2030	***Corey Cooke****
Madison	2028	William Stoklosa
Mid-Hudson/Union	2028	Merle McJunkin
Mohawk-Oneida	***2030***	***Jessica Merrill****
Niagara Area	***2030***	***Jonathan Staples****
North Country	2030	***Leon Runner****
Wayne	**2030**	_____
WEGO	2030	***Dale Gooch****

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE 2024 BIENNIAL MEETING
OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
OF NEW YORK STATE
October 12, 2024

Place of Meeting: Tabernacle Baptist Church, Utica, New York

1.0 The Business Meeting of the 18th Biennial Meeting was called to order at 1:15 P.M. by Vice-President Leon Runner. There were 65 delegates present.

2.0 Proposed changes to the By-laws -

The proposed changes to the By-laws were presented. The first change is about a quorum at ABCNYS business meetings. The second is about the ABCNYS Nominating Committee. This proposal comes from the Board of Mission and does not require a second. It was noted that these proposals must pass by a two-thirds majority. The motion was passed unanimously.

3.0 The Nominating Committee Report was presented by Lecia Rodriguez. She thanked the members of the committee who worked to secure the nominees.

It was noted that the following people were being elected at this meeting:

OFFICERS - 2 Year Term

President	Leon Runner
Vice-President	Delma West
Secretary	Cedric Broughton
Treasurer	James Harriff

BOARD OF MISSION ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES - 4 Year Term

Adirondack	Steve Davie
Broome-Tioga	Steve Reynolds
Chautauqua	Phillip Pratt
Finger Lakes	Phyllis Granger
Fransego	Claudette Newman
Living Waters	Steve Dygert
Mid-Hudson/Union	Jonathan Irons
Niagara Area	Kathleen Ordiway
North Country	Sarah Flack

AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES - 4 Year Term

Bonnie Seitz
Cindy Falk

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY - 4 Year Term

Finger Lakes	Anne Gardner
Madison	William Stoklosa

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - 2 Year Term

Fransego	Laura Palada
Iroquois	Bonnie Seitz
Mohawk-Oneida	Karen Dunne
Niagara Area	Patricia Ludwig
North Country	Howard Maxson

After the slate of officers and Board members was presented, Lecia asked if there were any nominations from the floor for any position. Aleka Schmidt was nominated for the Board of Mission Association Representative from the Wayne Association. Marcia Rivers was nominated as the representative from WEGO for the Committee on Ministry. As there were no other nominations they were closed.

It was moved by Stephanie Schneider and seconded by Letta Palmer that the entire slate be elected. Motion carried.

The officers and Board members were installed by Lecia following the Installation Service printed in the program.

A copy of the Business Meeting program will be attached to the Minutes.

4.0 Lecia Rodriguez delivered the Message from the President.

5.0 The Executive Minister, Jim Kelsey, commented on the State of the Region. He noted that there is a shortage of pastors for our churches.

6.0 John Buskey led the Litany for Commissioning the Executive Minister Search Committee.

7.0 Lecia Rodriguez gave the closing prayer for the meeting.

8.0 As there was no other business to be brought before this meeting it was adjourned at 2:05 P.M.

Minutes taken by
Bruce D. Aikin
ABCNYS Secretary