

American Baptist Churches of Maine
BOARD MEETING
Minutes of ZOOM Meeting – March 12, 2022

Present: Jay Noll, Chair; Josh Burden, Rob Clapp, Angel Davila, Marlene Everett, Al Fletcher, Bonnie Higgins, Chip Hilton, Russ LaFlamme, Ron Libby, Gayle Long, Adrian Munro, Dave Rodrigue, Phyllis Taylor, Russ Thayer, Sharon Workman, Gary York, Sylvia Brown, Melissa Dennett

CALL TO ORDER Jay called the meeting to order and welcomed new members.
Al offered devotions and prayer.

BOARD TRAINING Al spoke about the Board's responsibilities relating to both governance (Policies, fiduciary, oversight) and ministry (contact with local churches, affirm, support, and challenge local churches in their mission.) Affinity groups, associations, etc. lie between the Board and the congregations.

CODE OF ETHICS All Board members are to sign a Code of Ethics.

ABCOM OFFICE RELOCATION FUNDING ABCOM has been asked to vacate the current office building due to the possible calling of an associate pastor at Penney Memorial United Baptist Church, the owner of the ABCOM Office building. The church has been unable to find affordable housing in the Augusta area so are planning to use the building as a parsonage. We have occupied the space for 6 years and are one year in our second contract. Russ Thayer, chair of the ABCOM Property Review Committee, stated that ABCOM owns the Center Vassalboro church and fellowship hall. If the office moved to that location, ABCOM would own their office space. The Executive Committee voted to proceed with this move. As per the ABCOM/PMUBC agreement, a 6-month notice will be given to the church regarding vacating the premises. Al explained the layout of the fellowship hall and the renovations that will need to be made. There will be limited parking. It was moved, seconded, and voted to continue moving forward with estimated expenses, etc.

PREVIOUS MINUTES The minutes of the September 25, 2021, Board Meeting were accepted as written.
Moved, Seconded and Voted.

TREASURER'S WRITTEN REPORT Sharon reported a strong end to last year. There will be challenges this year, but we will fine. She encouraged members to send emails to her with any questions that they may have. We ended the year very close to 2020 without the help of a Payroll Protection Program grant which we had in 2020.
It was moved, seconded, and voted to accept the Treasurer's report.

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CHRISTIAN NURTURE COMMITTEE REPORT Russ LaFlamme presented a written report (and verbally corrected the spelling of Josh Burden's name.) The Committee is seeking ways to help pastors and laity hear God's call to church leadership. He suggested multiple locations in the state for gatherings. Pastoral supervision beyond mentoring is being discussed which would include more contact and conversation. Al was authorized to organize mission summits possibly for this Fall. It was suggested to hold a central one with Zoom at 2 other locations north and south with rotation of the in-person location. It was moved, seconded, and voted to accept the Christian Nurture Committee report.

MISSION SUPPORT COMMITTEE REPORT Al presented the report for the Committee. They have been reviewing why people are not coming back to church after being away due to Covid. These are some of their thoughts:

- 1) Out of Habit – It is not relevant to be in church when they can see it on-line.
- 2) How do you create dynamic worship – a service to encounter the Living God?
- 3) How do you love the world as Jesus loves the world?

It was moved, seconded, and voted to accept the report.

ABCUSA GENERAL BOARD REPORT Bonnie Higgins, representative from ABCOM to the ABCUSA General Board, gave a report. The met in November from the 5th to the 7th. Their meeting began with Bonnie presenting MOXI to Jeff Woods since he was not in person with us at our Annual Meeting. The Board reviewed many reports, did team building exercises, received the President's report. Jeff Woods was voted unanimously to serve for a two year term from January 2022 to the end of 2023. Small groups met to discuss the responsibilities of a new General Secretary. They meet again in June. They reviewed financial statements and the Budget. Jeff reported on non-profit Boards. Bonnie is chair of the ABC Identity task group which met over two days. It was moved to accept Bonnie's report. Second and Voted. Contact Bonnie if any questions. (ABCOM needs to add 3 names to the leadership pool to replace Bonnie on the ABCUSA Board.)

DISCERNMENT

ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS AGENDA Sylvia explained that the agenda for the October Annual Meeting is to be determined at the March meeting of the ABCOM Board. Presently, the agenda items are the Ballot from the ABCOM Nominating Committee and the Board Report. No other items were added. It was Moved, seconded, and voted to accept these two items for the agenda.

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ANNUAL MEETING 2023 Annual Meeting 2022 will be hosted the Baptist Church of Greene. We currently do not have an invitation to host the 2023 Annual Meeting. Woody Welch will be retiring this Spring and Warren Baptist Church will not be in situation to host the Annual Meeting. Sylvia reviewed past locations and suggested Cumberland as an area which has not hosted for a while. This will be on the April agenda.

GEORGE DANA BOARDMAN RECOGNITION AT COLBY Al spoke about George Dana Boardman, the first missionary to reach the Karen people. He graduated from Colby College in 1822 making this the 200th anniversary. Al sent a letter to request a gathering at Colby to celebrate in the chapel. It was moved to accept the idea and to move forward with the event. Seconded and Voted.

GREEN SHOOTS STORIES Al is requesting legacy stories for the Green Shoots newsletter. These would be stories related to an endowment gift to a church with a name connected to it which might have a story of why the gift was given. These stories might encourage others to do the same. These should be 1 page in length with "who, why, and where".

ADJOURNMENT Jay Noll closed with prayer. The meeting was adjourned by vote.

Al Fletcher/Sylvia Brown