

American Baptist Churches of Maine

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting Minutes September 10, 2022

Present: Rob Clapp, Chair; Marlene Everett, Al Fletcher, Jay Noll, Dave Rodrigue, Phyllis Taylor, Sharon Workman, Sylvia Brown, Melissa Dennett

CALL TO ORDER Rob called the meeting to order. Al opened with devotions and prayer.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT Sylvia presented a Nominating Committee Report with each association's Board and Committee positions open for 2022 voting. Kathy Saarinen was approved by email vote of the Executive Committee to be nominated as Second Vice President.

ANNUAL MEETING /VOTING POTENTIAL – it was moved, seconded, and voted to accept the quorum of 37. Matt Burden will serve as parliamentarian.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING – Scarborough Free Baptist Church has agreed to host the 2023 Annual Meeting.

ABCUSA LEADERSHIP POOL REPRESENTATIVE – Bonnie Higgins currently serves on the ABCUSA Board until 2023. Rev. Ted Chaffee has been selected to serve on the Board of General Ministries.

PREVIOUS MINUTES The minutes of the April 30, 2022, meeting were moved to be accepted as written. Seconded and Voted

PROPERTY REVIEW REPORT Dave Rodrigue reported that the tenants in the Superintendent's house are doing well. There are no issues or expected expenses. They are keeping an eye on the septic system.

China Lake Camp and Conference Center did well this summer. A group from North Dakota came and worked on the Sanderson Building. China Lake Camp celebrated its 60th anniversary with a cookout, etc. The Camp had a good attendance this summer with over 241 campers. 37 came to know Christ. Youngsters wanted to know how to become counselors, some stayed to help with three different camps. Having paid positions this year gave consistency and desire to return next year.

CLCC Financials – Dave reported that the Camp financials showed \$44,744.04 in the account with late bills still to come in. They are still in need of revenue. Sharon asked for a timely payment of insurance bills. Sharon will keep Dave informed when insurance payments are due.

ABCOM Office move – There is chimney work and paving still to be done. The Septic tanks look good. We were well within the time frame indicated in the covenant with Penney. There will be a Spring Open House. Melissa will be sending out notices when the date has been set. There was discussion about supplying wood for the woodstove. Currently we have about 2 cord from trees cut during the land preparation for the move. In coming years, we may need to work with China Lake to harvest some away from the camp area. We also may be able next year to buy propane at a reduced price in a contract in conjunction with the China Lake Conference Center.

Selden Church – Al reported on the status of the Selden church. It has been closed for years and has come back to ABCOM. Steve Hayes and South Aroostook need to review 3 deeds before it will come to ABCOM to sell. A buyer is possible. The income could cover the move and whatever is left go into a savings account. The Property Review Committee recommends the

PROPERTY REVIEW COM. (continued)

revenue from the sale be directed by the Executive Committee.

Property Purchase Request – An abutting neighbor to the China Lake Conference Center would like to purchase a buffer 50 ft. strip of land near Fire Road 7. A motion was made to thank them for their interest, but the Executive Committee declined to sell the land. Seconded and Voted.

STAFF TRANSITION PLAN Michelle Brown is in training for the Mission Bookkeeper position/Annual Meeting Registrar. She will be handling the mission support work. Sylvia and Melissa are working together in training Melissa for the Administrative Assistant position. A thank you from all was expressed to Sylvia for her 34 years. They are greatly encouraged by Melissa's quick learning.

POST COVID Al reported on churches POST COVID. Attendance is in question in churches. Annual Meeting Speaker Brandon O'Brien should be a great speaker for this time period. Who are we? What is God calling us to be? There has been great difficulty in supplying pastors for churches. New ways are being sought to find pastors. The Small Church Committee has not been active for years, but it may be time to reactivate it. A network could be created to help small churches financially recoup and also support the network. If churches are able to grow from this time, then perhaps they can then call a pastor. This would be using technology in a positive way. Jay added that churches may have the heart and the funds, but not the know how to go about this endeavor. The Small Church Committee could gather and flesh out the "how". Technical knowledge and an American Baptist emphasis are needed while respecting the autonomy of the local church. It was moved that we reinvigorate the Small Church Committee. Seconded and voted.

Al reported that he and Jay Noll are in a leadership training course "Altitude Training".

2023 Meeting Dates for the ABCOM Executive Committee: The next meeting date is December 3, 2022. 2023 meeting dates are: March 11, May 6, Sept. 9, and Dec. 2.

TREASURER UPDATE Sharon presented the Budget and briefly discussed the highlights of the profit and loss statement and balance sheet. Considering the rate of inflation and proposed cost of social security increase for the upcoming year, Rob presented the Finance Committee recommendation that the Executive Minister position be increased by 6% and the Treasurer receive a 9% increase in remuneration. It was mentioned that the proposed increase would increase the budget figures by \$3,237. The total cost of payroll and benefits would be about \$15,000 less than last year, due to the fact that the two new hires would not be included in the increase as they have just agreed on pay when they were hired, and the cost for them is less than the cost of these positions this past year.

Sharon was dismissed, and the committee voted to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

ADJOURNMENT Rob thanked those in attendance and closed the meeting with prayer.

Al Fletcher/Sylvia Brown