

**American Baptist Churches of Maine**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**  
**March 11, 2023 – 10:00 a.m. Zoom Meeting**

Present: Rob Clapp, Chair; Robin Stoops, ABC-USA; Jay Noll, Josh Burden, Carolyn Davila, Marlene Everett, Al Fletcher, Chip Hilton, Debbie LaFlamme, Kathy Saarinen, Phyllis Taylor, Sharon Ingalls, Adrian Munro, Russ Thayer, Gary York, Bonnie Higgins, Melissa Dennett

**CALL TO ORDER** Rob called the meeting to order. Al offered devotions and prayer.

**BOARD TRAINING** Al spoke about the Board's responsibilities as stated in the American Baptist Churches of Maine By-Laws. All members must sign a Code of Ethics which are kept on file at the ABCOM office.

**ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY - MISSION RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT – ROBIN STOOPS**

Robin spoke on a special project ABC-USA has been working on regarding United Mission building. What is working, not working and what can be done to help. There is a UM Toolkit on the ABC-USA website.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES** It was moved to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2022 meeting as written, it was seconded and voted.

**TREASURER'S WRITTEN REPORT** Rob presented the report from the Treasurer. It was moved to receive the report, seconded and voted.

**CHRISTIAN NURTURE COMMITTEE REPORT** Russ LaFlamme reports the CNC have been working with Jeff Johnson on providing 4 workshops at the Annual Convention. Topics include:

1. ABC of Maine (getting to know the region)
2. Evangelism, The Message, Learning the Gospel – to believe (getting to know Jesus as Savior)
3. Discipleship, The Ministry, Living the Gospel – to become (getting to know Jesus as Lord)
4. Leadership, The Mentor, Leading the Gospel – to be (getting to know yourself and others)

In addition to the workshops, the committee would like to pay for the registration fee for any new pastor to Maine which may encourage attendance to the Annual Meeting.

**ABCOM OPEN HOUSE** A general date of May or June was suggested for the open house. It will depend on the ability to clear out the church of boxes from the move. It was also suggested to request volunteers to help with moving of the boxes once organized. Encouraging Associations to invite new pastors to meetings within the association.

**MISSION SUPPORT COMMITTEE** Received the written report.

**ABCUSA REPORT** Bonnie Higgins reports she has been the ABCOM Representative for Maine since 2015. Her term will expire at the end of 2024. She has been on 1 of 4 Task Forces with ABC-USA. Her task force is Communicating ABC Identity. She reports there will be a new United Mission promotion released this year. She will be attending the Biennial in Puerto Rico in June.

**FIRSTS BAPTIST CHURCH WATERVILLE:** A motion to forward to church's a letter explaining ABCOM's stance on the issues stated in the letter from First Baptist Waterville. It was seconded and voted. It was also requested to send to the Board AI's primer. There was a motion to accept Waterville's separation/withdrawal from the ABCOM. It was seconded and voted.

**WEBSITE UPDATE:** Melissa reported the progress of the ABCOM website. She has been working on the appearance as well as updating content. All committee's now have their own pages which they may populate with information and resources applicable to the committee. Any updates or resources that may be added are to be sent to Melissa and she will make the updates and/or uploads.

**MISSION SUPPORT COMMITTEE** AI reports the committee has moved toward worship and fellowship rather than mission. It was moved to change the name from Mission Support Committee to Christian Formation Committee, it was seconded and voted. The Mission Support committee will be populated at a later date.

**ANNUAL MEETING 2024** Waiting for an invitation for a local church to host the 2024 Annual Meeting.

**GEORGE DANA BOARDMAN RECOGNITION** Celebration to be held in June 2025 at First Baptist Church of Yarmouth recognizing George Dana Boardman's ordination.

**GREEN SHOOTS STORIES** AI is looking for more stories for the monthly newsletter.