

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NEW YORK STATE
BOARD OF MISSION**

Minutes of the Meeting of December 5, 2008

First Baptist Church of Manlius, NY

Call to Order:

President Randy Palada called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Randy & Bill Carlsen led in devotions.

Randy shared some welcoming comments and had each person introduce him or herself.

A **MOTION** was made by Mark Caruana and seconded to accept the minutes of the meeting September 13, 2008. The motion passed unanimously.

Orientation:

Bill led the Board through an orientation to the duties of the Board using a Power Point presentation. The Board of Mission serves

- As region Trustees
- To establish and review policies, including
 - Program priorities, answering questions such as
 - What are we doing?
 - Should we do it differently?
 - What should be the order of priority?
 - Staffing
- To call the Executive Minister
- To provide financial oversight and accountability of the budget, investments and property

The Board of Mission does NOT handle details related to

- Staff
- Mission Teams
- Task Forces
- Committees
- ABC/USA
- Other institutions
- ABC Partners such as AB Women's Ministries, ABMen, Ministers Council

A **MOTION** was made by Bob Town and seconded to receive the resignations from the Board of Mission of Janice Lester Bell (Mohawk-Oneida representative) and Judith Christiansen (ABC/USA General Board). The motion passed unanimously.

A **MOTION** was made by Bill Carlsen to confirm to the Committee on Ministry the following: Bud Adams (Iroquois), Joy Amick (Mid-Hudson/Union), Mark Caruana (Mohawk-Oneida), Jim Peterson (Adirondack) and Judy Pratt (Capital Area) to the Board of Mission. The motion passed unanimously.

Ministry Moment: American Baptist Women's Ministries:

Joyce Whittaker reported on the recent and upcoming activities of the ABWM. The National Gathering will be at Lake Williamson in IL in July, and the regional meeting will be April 24-26 at Owego.

Executive Advisory Task Force (EATF):

In 1996 the BOM suspended the rules of procedure related to the constitutional division between an Outreach Component of the BOM and an Administrative Component and created an Executive Advisory Task Force. It was discovered that the motion related to the EATF needed to be extended. A MOTION was presented from the EATF “To extend the recommendation from September 1996 regarding the Rules of Procedure and creation of the Executive Advisory Task Force as our current mode of operation, to be reviewed on a biennial basis.” Janice Bourne made a MOTION to amend the main motion to change the line “to be reviewed on a biennial basis” to read, “to be reviewed by the Board of Mission at the meeting after the ABC/NYS Biennial.” The amendment passed unanimously and the main motion passed unanimously after lunch.

World Mission Support:

Bill reported that region monies continue to decline at a slow but steady pace. The Region Offering is somewhat languishing.

Financial Reports:

Bill presented the 3rd Quarter Report. Bill noted specific details of the sale of the office building and the North Hebron property situation.

2009 Budget:

Bill presented the proposed Budget for 2009. It includes a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), a new line for the expenses of the Executive Minister Search Committee, and some small reductions in various items. A MOTION to amend the proposed budget was made, seconded and carried to add 1% more to it for the COLA for staff salaries and benefits. The increase in cost will be covered under the income line Mission Income. A MOTION was made by Susan Miller and seconded to approve the amended budget. It passed unanimously.

Staff Housing Allowance:

MOTION was made by Bob Town and seconded to designate the following staff housing allowances for 2009: Don Benoit - \$9,500; John Buskey - \$20,000; and Jane Lang - \$2,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Signatures on Legal Documents:

Bill Carlsen made a MOTION, seconded, to include the new Interim Executive Minister as a signatory of legal and financial documents for the region. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:00 p.m. It reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

Executive Session:

Just after lunch, the BOM approved two MOTIONS from the EATF. The first read, “To expend up to \$1,200 from the General Fund toward a retirement gift for William Carlsen.” The second read, “To designate a \$400 achievement award to William Carlsen upon his retirement.” Both motions passed unanimously.

Outdoor Ministries:

John Buskey presented the Outdoor Ministries report. In addition to the printed report, John reported that the AB Youth Convention drew 184 attendees, and for missions raised \$677 and collected 340 items. January through March 2009 John will be on sabbatical.

Much discussion occurred on a set of proposed percentages suggested by Outdoor Ministries for the distribution of income from the potential gas drilling at Camp Vick. The actual percentages will be determined by the BOM, since the camp is owned by the region.

Sabbatical Policy:

A **MOTION** was made by Walter Hargrove and seconded to approve a proposed Sabbatical Policy. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ministry Moment: Ministers Council:

Mark Caruana gave a report on the Ministers Council. Bud Adams is Treasurer for the MC, and is the one to whom dues are to be sent. The Retreat is planned for March 8-10 in Utica at the Good News Center. The theme is Reinventing Worship and will be led by Brad Berglund. See the brochure for more details on housing and expenses.

Association Reports:

Walter Hargrove reported that the Niagara Area Baptist Association has a new Area Field Minister and is attempting to develop clusters to build stronger relationships. In the Fransego Association, Kurt Funke was ordained by the South New Berlin church, and at South New Berlin & Burlington the installation of Pastor Barry Davis was celebrated.

Denominational Family Matters & General Board Reports:

Bill gave the update on what's happening nationally. Presumably at the 2009 Biennial Meeting in Pasadena CA, the delegates will approve a new structure for our national entities. This will, if approved, take effect January 1, 2010. In the meantime, ABC/NYS will be under-represented, as Jim Horton has served his full two terms and cannot return, and Judy Christiansen has resigned. This leaves Patti Lawrence to represent the whole region. The restructuring will ultimately result in each region having a single person to represent them. However, between now and 2010, what should our region do? We can send no one new, for the process of getting someone up to speed with the current system takes too long. Or we can send someone new for just one meeting.

Bob Town made a motion to table the issue, but there was no second, so the motion was dropped. It was agreed by consensus not to elect someone to the vacancy.

Executive Minister Search Committee (EMSC):

Rosey Oaks-Lee gave a report on first the composition of the EMSC and on the status of the search for an Interim Executive Minister. The members are Lisa Drysdale, Joe Folckemer, Jim Horton (secretary), Greg Johnson, Jane Lang (NYS staff), Don Lawrence, Patti Lawrence, Rosey Oaks-Lee (chair), Randy Palada, Pat Robinson (corresponding secretary), Ruth Spencer, Lynn Sullivan, Joyce Whittaker, Leta Williams, and Jeff Woods (ABC/USA staff). The committee would be developing a process to listen to the region. A **MOTION** was made by Tom Bell to confirm the composition of the EMSC, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

State of the Region:

Bill gave his final views on the state of the region. Financially we're better off than when he arrived 15 years ago, but resources continue to decline. Bill expressed his thanks for the privilege of serving the region as World Mission Support person and Executive Minister. The Board expressed its appreciation of his service to the region.

Next Meeting Dates:

BOM: March 14, 2009

EATF: January 30, 2009

Adjournment:

The meeting closed with a time of prayer and laying on of hands for Bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Horton, Secretary

Present: Thomas Bell, Janice Bourne, Cedric Broughton, John Buskey, William Carlsen, Mark Caruana, Joseph Glaze, Walter Hargrove, Tom Hast, James Horton, Susan Miller, George Norton, Rosemary Oaks-Lee, Randolph Palada, Ed Pettibone, James Rice, Mary Schwarz, Lynn Sullivan, Robert Town, T.J. West, Joyce Whittaker, Jay Zaremba