

Board of Directors

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska

Camp Moses Merrill, Linwood, Nebraska

February 21, 2015

Present: LaVonna Cline, Karen Denton, Jurdan Counts, Craig Erickson, Rebecca Woolsey, Beryl Hornberger, Connie Harvey, Larry Harvey, Brian High, Kevin Holloway, Bob Slechta, Orin Clinger, Bob Fairchild, Robin Stoops, Greg Mamula, Janis Berry

President Karen Denton opened the meeting at 9:08 a.m. and welcomed new members.

The minutes of the August 16, 2014 Board of Directors meeting were approved.

Finance Department – Bob Fairchild

- Camp – receipts and contributions down. Overall \$15,000 down. Expenses are under control. \$10,000 increase for insurance and \$5000 increase for utilities. Repairs and a number of other line items have increased.
- Region – Income \$13,000 shortfall. Expenses close to projections. \$8,000 deficit due to income shortfall.
- Bob Slechta voiced concern over the increase in meals line item. Everything lumped together. Need to keep separate. It's a very gray area.
- Robin stated outside groups will be required to use Camp facilities for a least one meal during their stay. As conference side begins to grow we will see an increase in revenue.
- Account Server – January 1st returned to Omaha from Des Moines. 1-2 years, everything will be cleared up. The change will save time in the office as well as money.
- Robin indicate camp deficit comes out of reserve funds and cash flow. Return to zero based budget January 1st. Must turn camp budget around. Reserves are shrinking. Reserve balance is \$63,000.
- Combined Profit/Loss Statement – Region up \$4,000. Camp up \$5,000.
- Robin presented the Mission Giving Breakout. 2013 12% decrease in giving. 2014 10% decrease in giving. Love Gift goes to ABW Ministries. That's a loss for the Region. United Missions will not show up, but individuals can still donate. Foundation Board has \$1,475.00 in investments. 20% of the Region budget is funded through the Foundation.
- Bev Pacas mentioned another way to support the camp is through the 2300 Club. Donors give \$23 per month to belong to this club.

Report accepted as presented.

Camps and Conferences - Jeff Schwarz

- A number of new and existing programs will be offered this year.
- Thanks to ABW for donation of equipment for Audio video in weaver hall.
- New website up and running.
- New on line registration program.
- 2015 Summer Camp registration forms are online. Tier system is being used.
- Almost every week end in 2014 an event as scheduled.
- Women's conference registrations up from 2 to 54 this year.
- May 1 & 2 more groups scheduled.
- Some painting has been done. Other upgrades are scheduled in the future.
- Volunteers are needed.
- Robin reported he had accepted Jeff's resignation, effective the end of April. Looking at making Jeff's position part-time.

Mission – Brian High

- Good Mission Festival this spring.
- Want to partner with annual convention.
- No annual mission trip this year.
- Can register now until February 27th for the Mission Summit. \$40 per person vs. \$300 per person (based on sliding scale). Overland Park, Kansas, June 26 – 28, 2015. ABW – Women's Day, June 25th. ABM – Men's Day, June 26th.
- Robin stated there is an increase in people wanting to do short term mission trips.
- ABM assisted with clean up efforts in Pilger, Nebraska.

Professional Ministry - Greg Mamula

- No meeting this Fall. No business to conduct,
- Several Pastor's have started ordination process. Other's going through ordination.
- Region will assist with 2 Pastor Conferences. One in April and one in November.
- Rev. Dr. Christian Winn and Rev. Dr. Deborah Jackson will lead Prairie Pastors Conference in April at New Life Baptist Church.

ABMen of Nebraska – Bob Slechta

- Very busy.
- Great conference last year. 53 men in attendance. Focused on young men.
- Two Seminary scholarships awarded (\$1000 each) in August
- Blade campaign ongoing.
- ABMen sent 5 people to Gifford to help rebuild homes.
- 1st Baptist Church of Norfolk worked in Wakefield.
- ABMen first time in western Nebraska. Retreat April 10 -12.
- 1st Baptist of Scottsbluff at Camp Rock. Theme: Holy Spirit Not For Sissy's.

- Conference Retreat, July 31 – August 1st. Theme: Serving Christ Where You Live – Ron Dozier, Speaker.
- Just acquired Domain Name ABMen Nebraska.com

ABW Ministries – LaVonna Cline

- Conference June 5,6,7 at Camp Moses Merrill. Chris Mazaile, Consultant, ABC USA Ministries, speaker. June 7, 8, 9 can arrange for Chris to speak at any church or church group.

ABC/USA General Board – Beryl Hornberger

- Currently serving on Nominating Committee to replace Roy Medley.
- Several trips to Board meeting in Philadelphia. On meeting highlighted Rainbow Acres' Covenant position with ABC/USA
- Signed up as an AMO on Finance Board of General Ministries.
- Distributed and discussed Mission Support Breakout.
- Discussed Covenant – How you are going to make a change. Every Region had to vote. Missionaries must raise 110% of support to stay. If the only raise 80% they can't stay where they are.

Ministers Council – Jurdan Counts

- Dues schedule has changed. \$20 Nebraska. National sliding scale.
- Structure has changed. It's simplified

Executive Minister's Report – Robin Stoops

- Continue to do grant writing. \$15,000 small loans. \$100 - \$150 over a 2 year period. Taking Home Business to next level.
- Some grant money left. One more mission trip with Pastors. This Fall.
- Region Conference, May 1 & 2 in Kearney, Nebraska. One and half days. Mini Pastor's Conference on Friday. Banquet on Friday evening. Speaker Kristy Engel. Business meeting Saturday morning. ABMen/ABWomen luncheon noon on Saturday. General Session 2 – 4 p.m. on Saturday. The goal is to involve more people at a lower cost.
- Leadership Conference in Fall – TBD.
- Family Life Conference, FBC of Kearney April 24 – 25, 2015.
- 58 churches in Nebraska. A Kachin Church In Houston, Texas has joined our Region. This is helping with tax status. Will invite this congregation to the convention. Several other Kachin Churches may join us.
- Region staff working with churches outside ABC/NE to help with conflict mediation and other helps such as Garden City and Wichita Kansas.
- Want to expand Board meeting to 4 per year. This would allow more input and opportunities.
- Moving books from Des Moines back to Omaha. Cost will be cut considerably.

- Region Office contracting for new roof, remodeled next door (Walden Jewelry) replace apartment windows (3-5 yrs.), upgrade apartments, structural issues, jacks in basement and hold flow may need adjustment.
- Current ABC building generates \$12 - \$18,000 in profit annually.
- Three new churches looking for a Pastor.
- FBC of North Platte new Pastor starts March 1st.
- New Life candidate in March 1st.
- If 1st Baptist Grand Island's offer on building sale is accepted they will be able to stay in building if sold.
- Couple of churches in Region have interns. Some are permanent.
- ABHMS lead a Latino Conference with 20 people in attendance at MMCCC.
- We are talking with a hispanic pastor in the Kearney/Gibbon area about a new church.
- Messenger Newsletter out every other month via e-mail.

Other Business: Robin presented the following Executive Committee/Board Meeting changes. Combine the Executive Committee and Board of Director's meetings and meet 4 times annually. Beryl Hornberger made the motion. Second by Bob Fairchild. Motion carried.

Janis Berry, Secretary

Next Meeting: April 18, 2015

Region Convention: May 1 & 2 – FBC Kearney, Nebraska

Board of Directors
American Baptists Churches of Nebraska
First Baptist Church – Hastings, Nebraska
April 18, 2015

PRESENT: Beryl Hornberger, LaVonna Cline, Gene Stadler, Orin Clinger, Jurdan Counts, Bob Slechta, Craig Erickson, Robert Fairchild, Bev Pacas, Karen Denton, Kevin Holloway, Brian High, Larry Harvey, Theodora Boodin, Rev. Robin Stoops, Janis Berry

President Karen Denton opened the meeting with prayer at 11:17 a.m. and read from the Beatitudes.

Introductions were given by board members.

The minutes of February 21, 2015 Board of Directors meeting were presented by Janis Berry. Bob Fairchild made the motion to accept the minutes. Second by Jurdan Counts. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Bob Fairchild

Issues with books dating back 10 years ago need to be straightened out. Connie and Sue have been very helpful. Three people were working on the books in Des Moines. In Omaha only one person will be responsible for the books. Problem: accurate reports are not getting out. Bob stated he will help Sue as much as possible. He also said he would have access to the books in Lincoln since Quick Books are on line.

Profit /Loss

This report is a reasonably accurate Region budget for March. Problem: may be off \$500. Transfer line item should not be included. Have cleanup work to do.

Budget vs. Actual

Reasonably accurate for 1st quarter. Items that were not budgeted (actual) are not showing up in some areas. This does not include everything. As of March 31st, \$7,500 shortfall expense over income. This is fairly accurate. Big items included. Robin stated \$15,000 shortfall this same time last year. Budget cuts were made for 2015. Relationships are being built. Economy is helping. Church giving is up.

Mission giving is up 3%. Overall giving is down 3%. We are in good shape. Some churches are way behind in giving. Some churches have missed the deadline. It's very encouraging to see United Missions increased. We must continue to educate because some churches do not understand mission giving. New mission form coming out soon. Churches in Nebraska up 3% over 2014. 3% increase to National Office.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MINISTER – Rev. Robin Stoops

Two Pastors retiring – one in Ansly and one Beatrice. Working with Ansly Search Committee and looking for interns. There may also be a possibility of working with a Christian Church congregation. Working with Search Committee in Beatrice as well. Gordon Brown, First Baptist Church Norfolk resigned. He is stepping away from ministry. He will be at First Baptist until mid May. First Baptist Grand Island sold their building. Congregation can continue to worship there for one year. If closes, will ask Board for a church to be planted in Grand Island. Must have a presence there. Could pay a pastor. Building netted \$145,000. Question was asked “Should we have someone there now?” Answer “That would not work. Need someone there with a new vision. The congregation is not ready to do this. Must start something new.” Two others in transition. Will be working with about 6 churches all total that are in transition. As a Region, 10% lower than most, in terms of Pastor’s staying power. Doing great in this area. 7 – 15 years healthy Pastorates. Some Pastors have been in same church for 25 years+. National average is 3-4 years. After 7 years congregations must encourage sabbaticals. This is time for Pastors to rest, challenge themselves and be accountable as to what happened. Region policy, after 6 years, Executive Minister can take a sabbatical. Green Lake and Camp Merrill offer sabbatical time to Pastors free of charge. Theodora stated that some people don’t get this information even if they ask for it. She has had to fight for information and get Roy Medley involved. Men get to be led, women don’t. Has had to fight for everything. Not easy being a woman in ministry. Robin stated the Prairie Pastor’s Conference was held at New Life Church in Bellevue. Third year held in the Omaha area. Rev. Deborah Jackson was the speaker. 30 registered. 27 attended. This was a Continuing Education opportunity. Grants are ending. Mission Study Tour will be in the Fall. A \$15,000 grant made available through American Baptist Home for Step-Up Micro Lending Program. Small grants of \$100 - \$150 will be offered to start up in-home businesses. This opportunity is targeted towards immigrant congregations. Although out of this Region, will be working with First Baptist Church , a congregation of about 35 – 40, in Garden City, Kansas. Working on Conflict Transformation project with Karl Slaikeu. This program is derived from Matthew 5 and 18. It is a 6 step process in resolving conflict. Great for churches. Goal is to get this program, Conflict Transformation Training, in churches. This could be shared during New Members Orientation. Carpenter funds could be used to train facilitators in churches. 12 facilitators from across the state to assist with this training. One or two in each congregation to learn about this program. Will be looking for people to be trained that have a spiritual gift of bringing calm to a situation. Six month experiment in Texas went well. Slaikeu along with his wife wrote book “When Push Comes to Shove.” It’s about Conflict Transformation. He will also assist in securing funds to support this program. Some Retreat dreams discussed: 1) joint ministries between churches; 2) tech sharing; 3) increasing diverse membership; 4) caring about people; 5) getting the next generation excited about ministry and 6) nurture the desire to serve.

- First Baptist Church North Platte has a new Pastor, Rev. Peter Brick. He has extensive experience in outreach. Excellent speaker. He and his wife, Irene, adopted a Chinese daughter.
- Bob Slechta developing a Mission need. Strong need for military men and their families. Support, encourage and mentor them when possible. A workshop for caregivers was held in 2010. Need to do workshop again. A lot of help out there for these families. Some don't know where to go to get this help.
- Theodora Boodin reported fast moving synthetic marijuana can cause paralysis on one side. Also, heroin is on the rise again.
- Larry Harvey is experiencing bazaar situations with criminal justice system (courts). Adults – once a felon, life sentence. No rights.
- Read book – New Jim Crow Law. Talks about laws for rich, not for poor.
- President Kathy Denton, asked for prayers for Theodora Boodin and her husband. He had major heart surgery and she is ill. Pray for healing of her body and also her husband.

Rev. Stoops closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Janis Berry, Secretary

Next Meeting: August 29, 2015, Hastings, Nebraska

Board of Directors

American Baptist churches of Nebraska

First Baptist Church – Hastings, Nebraska

August 29, 2015

PRESENT: Janis Berry, Orin Clinger, LaVonna Cline, Karen Denton, Craig Erickson, Bob Fairchild, Kevin Holloway, Larry Harvey, Brian High, Beryl Hornberger, Bob Howe, Rev. Greg Mamula, Bev Pacas, Bob Slechta, Gene Stadler, Rev. Robin Stoops, Rebecca Woolsey

President Karen Denton opened the meeting with Prayer at 11:00 a.m and read Malachi 3:7.

Introductions were given by board members.

The minutes of April 18, 2015 Board of Directors meeting were presented by Janis Berry. Beryl Hornberger made the motion to accept the minutes. Second by LaVonna Cline. Motion carried with corrections.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Bo Fairchild

Working on getting budget column in budget. Region Profit and Loss statement showed a net operating surplus of \$2,902 at the end of July. \$9,900, second half of payment for Wealth Management will be put in correct place. Revenue sources are keeping up where we are. We are tracking what we should be doing. Robin stated we are 4% under where we should be in mission giving. He shared Mission breakdown and total giving by churches. 65% of money collected for United Mission stays in Nebraska. Will try to send out Mission update each month. Insurance increased a little due to adding things to policy. Real estate tax primarily for apartments in Region Office building.

Camps/Conferences

\$24,000 shortfall due to expenses being paid prior to receiving payment from churches. Bev said some payments have been coming in after invoice sent. There is still about 50% of payments outstanding. Insurance budget figures incorrect. Significantly higher than expected. May be miscoded. Wacoman Fund has not been billed for 2015 campers. Robin stated potential for deficit to decrease because full time program position vacant. Part time person was hired. Bev said Mattress Fund dollars are not included in budget. 7410 – Food line item incorrect. She would like to define line item numbers more to pin point income and expense. Robin said Camp and Region have gone from 3 – 2 full time staff and from 3 to 1 working on the books. Discussion.

Balance Sheet (0000)

Shows where assets and liabilities are. Region checking account down to \$14,000 (one month's payroll). Robin stated there is a cash flow issue. Ended 2014 with \$40,000+ deficit which was paid out of cash flow. Needed to get 21/2% annual draw early this year rather than in April/September. Campership funds should be coming in soon. Will bill campers earlier in 2016. Does not expect any large expense items through end of year.

Investment Funds/Foundation

Shows performance of investments since switch from Wells Fargo to Vanguard. January 2012, transferred \$400,000 from Vanguard to RBC Wealth Management. Split investment pool. Invested in Index Funds in Vanguard. Foundation Board suggested 60% stock and 40% fixed income. Overall – performance June 2007 – 2015, taken into account withdrawal taken out for Region use, \$719,000 out of investment pool, but \$517,000 growth. Adjusted for withdrawal. 40% increase in 8 years. 4.23% annual return during this time period on all investments. Downturn in 2008 lost 2.9%. Another 16% in 2009. Gained 15% next two years. Took \$200,000 out of portfolio above growth because of significant expenses. RBC moved based on recommendation from Foundation board member.

CAMP REPORT - Bob Howe/Bev Pacus

See attached report. Bev reported 290 campers registered in 2015. Down 13 from 2014, but up from prior years. Four paid cabin leaders hired. Zane Black was at Camp for Sr. High Camp which is the largest Camp. Very worthwhile. Bev also proposed an alternative Summer Camp program. Wants to change Camp from 7 to 5 weeks. It would be cost effective. By doing this, it would open up the schedule for other churches/groups to use Camp. Also, looking at adding a couple of three day Camps. The Camps would be Junior and Primary. All ages in one week. Will send change information out to churches asap. Accounting change – Early Bird registrations in by June 1st. Camp Conference Committee voted to increase rates from \$195 - \$210 per week. Some camp fees are subsidized. Group Leader In Training (GIT) program for cabin leaders will begin in 2016. First training to be held in December 2015. Bob said discussions have focused on the possibility of pulling the plug on the horses. According to Eric, Horse Rescue would provide 75% of labor/feed cost to take care of the horses. Sounds good, but must find some one to pick up the remaining 25%. Robin said this would be so labor intensive, plus it is contingent on obtaining a grant. Honestly, Eric wants to be rid of the horse this year. According to Bev, Camp is still open for people to come out with their own horse and ride all day for \$8.00. She reported the Mattress Campaign has reached 50% of goal. Rentals are up for remainder of the year. November 14th – Holiday with the Merrills.

Show and Tell – Sewer Line Repair/Cabin 7

MISSION REPORT – Brian High

Fulfilled conference commitment by providing speakers to share what's going on in the Region. Some of our people attended the Mission Summit in Kansas City. A meeting was held last week via Skype. It was so well received, another Skype meeting will be held in September. Thailand Trip scheduled for February 2016. Planning to do a better job of promoting everyone's Mission trips throughout Region maybe through ABC Update.

PROFESIONAL MINISTRIES – Larry Harvey

Met with Beth Gregory to review and provide feedback on her Ordination paper. It was very delightful to read. She will go before the Ordination Council at 3:00 p.m., August 30, at Chatman Baptist Church in Chatman, Nebraska. All are invited. Sean Daughtery was ordained in June – Kearney. Roger McDermmot, Matt Wolf and Sywain Baccus – Ordination in process. Discussion focused on alternative less costly ways of getting ordained by the Region. Local church conducts the Ordination. The Ordination Council has no authority. Also, discussed how to be more responsible in the search process and how to be responsible candidates in the process. Region can assist and make a difference during the search process. Looking at licencing and ordination changes.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MINISTER – Rev. Robin Stoops

Robin presented a letter from the Chin Revival Baptist Church requesting their interest to join with ABC Nebraska. (See attached letter) Discussion. Jurdan Counts made the motion to accept the Chin Revival Baptist Church request to join with ABC Nebraska. Second by LaVonna Cline. Motion carried unanimously. This church will be number 60 in the Region. They will be dually aligned.

Presented also was a request from Rev. Charlene Thomas, founder, God's Deliverance Saints, a ministry through sports and music, to be affiliated with ABC Nebraska and to use our mailing list. Program consists of working with churches and providing Basketball Camps/Vacation Bible Schools to the community at no cost. Discussion. Larry Harvey made the motion to accept God's Deliverance Saints request to join with ABC Nebraska and use our mailing list. Second by Beryl Hornberger. Motion carried unanimously.

Working with the Foundation and Finance Committee to explore a 3 year \$500,000 Remodel and Maintenance Campaign for Camp. (\$200,000 – endowment/\$300,000 – specifics to be done). Kickoff would be late 2016. Actual start 2017. Will report on progress in November 2015 and April 2016. Discussion. Craig Erickson made the motion to explore a Capital Campaign for Camp. Second by Bob Howe. Motion carried unanimously.

Last 3 years, along with Greg Mamula, working in conflict in church congregations. Two different people have come in to teach Pastors about this program. Not all came. Karl Slaikeu was one of the trainers. He would come in again to train a team of about 15-20 lay or clergy to become mediators within congregations state wide. Included in this program is a website available to everyone in Nebraska. Can say, "I'm in conflict" and can go find someone in Region to assist with situation. Congregations can share covenant about conflict when someone joins and then refer them to Matthew 18 & 5. Cost - \$8,000 for 1st year. Carpenter Funds could cover \$4,000 of cost. The remaining \$4,000 could be split (\$2,000 each) from two other funds. After first year, \$4,000 per year. Will cost less as training continues. Discussion. We are BETA for Karl. We are the first Region (outside of the Presbytery) to be a part of this program. Karl has been invited to attend a National ABC USA meeting in Franklin, Indiana to present this program in 2017. Discussion. Beryl Hornberger made motion to proceed with Karl's Preferred Path Program. Second by Jurdan Counts. Motion carried unanimously.

Funds Restrictive to be used for new church planting. Over the last 6 months, I have ran across 3 opportunities for planting churches. A woman called me from David City and told me a UCC church was closing and asking what was the possibility of planting a Baptist church there. Need to pray about where to plant churches. Must begin to build diverse congregations. If not, we will see a decline in churches in the Region. First, begin to pray and work on this. Pray to become more aggressive as we seek God's voice in this. Must get serious about this in the next 2 – 5 years. Secondly, 6 months ago while attending the Latino Ministry conference I had another opportunity to talk to a pastor about wanting to start a Latino church in Kearney. From Fund earmark \$5,000, if and when this happened in Kearney, we could offer support.

Matt Turpin, First Baptist Church, Omaha, have opened their doors to a Latino Church on Sunday evenings. During this time a Columbian couple walked into the church and said he was called to Omaha to plant churches. They are amazing people. They ask for nothing. After meeting with the couple, Greg and I both felt the Holy Spirit was telling us to offer them available space at th Region Office, free of charge for a few month, to start a church. Need to pray about this. From Fund earmark \$5,000, as they progress, to help get this off the ground. Gene Stadler made the motion to offer 2 -\$5,000 grants from

Restrictive Fund to allow church plants as need arise. Second by LaVonna Cline. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin suggested we put together a target group to meet with him and Greg to brainstorm ideas for church plants over the next 3 – 5 years. Possible Theme: “We’re Going To Plant Churches.”

Need to restructure and rework our Vision. Need to go to our churches to find out what we can do. May hear, let’s use the process of Preferred Path Ministries to move forward.

May do something about relationship with ABC USA in the future. Some churches belong locally, not nationally. Some belong to both. Several Regions have done this. There are non-ABC churches supporting missionaries and M & M. Some churches have contacted us to maybe join our Region. Must begin to look at how the change would be. Question/Orin Clinger – How can we be more of a voice: Robin stated he is not going to National meeting and not voice his opinions.

UPDATES

ABMEN – Bob Slechta

Great Fall Retreat. Speaker was Dr. Clay Ford, Holy Spirit Revival Ministries, in San Diego, California. Two (2) \$1,000 Seminary Scholarships awarded to Tony Jackson and Matt Wolf. Committed to provide steaks for clergy conference.

ABW – LaVonna Cline

Had Fall Conference in June ay Camp Merrill. Our speaker, Kris Marizial, spent several extra days in Nebraska sight seeing in Valentine and Smith Falls. October 23-24, Women’s Fall Retreat, at Camp Merrill. Susan Gillies, facilitator.

ABC/USA General Board – Beryl Hornberger

See attached report. Proud to see so many Nebraska people in attendance for Mission Summit Conference in Kansas City. First Baptist, Scottsbluff, won cash award for Diaper Depot. Valley received cash award for work done. Increase in giving in three major Missions: America For Christ – 5.9%, One Great Hour of Sharing – 74% and World Mission – significant increase

Search Committee Update – Interim Executive chosen. Will start 2016.

Nominating Committee seeking names to be submitted to Mission Table. Larry Harvey’s name was submitted from our Region.

Finance Committee – % change not completed for United Missions.

MINISTER’S COUNCIL – Jurdan Counts

Minister’s Council met prior to Mission Summit. Summit years Council will meet with Mission Summit National Group. Still looking for niche in Nebraska to get people to discuss church planting. Need to get people talking about evangelism as well. National Minister’s Council Conference maybe held in Green lake in 2016 with Mission Summit. Beth Gregory elected Secretary/Treasurer for Nebraska Minister’s Council for 2016.

OTHER BUSINESS

First Baptist North Platte - starting a 31 week series on My Story beginning September 20th.

First Baptist Kearney - people going to CEF Mission Trip.

First Baptist Norfolk – Pastor called in October from Kansas.

Ansly voting on candidate this week end.

2 of 5 churches open have Pastors. In Search process are Beatrice, Sunset Hills and Grand Island.

October 4th, Installation of Pastor for North Platte

Jurda Counts closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.,

Janis Berry, Secretary

Next Meeting, November 7, 2015, Hastings, Nebraska

Board of Directors

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska

First Baptist Church – Hastings, Nebraska

November 7, 2015

PRESENT: Janis Berry, LaVonna Cline, Orin Clinger, Jurdan Counts, Karen Denton, Bob Fairchild, Connie Harvey, Larry Harvey, Brian High, Beryl Hornberger, Bob Howe, Rev. Greg. Mamula, Rev. Robin Stoops

President Karen Denton opened the meeting with prayer at 11:05 a.m.

The minutes of August 29, 2015 Board of Directors meeting were presented by Janis Berry. Minutes were accepted with the following corrections: Bo – Bob and Welkanman – Wiechelman.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Bob Fairchild

Working with Sue to get things lined up and big pieces in place. Transition from Des Moines has been challenging. 2015 Budget vs. Actual gives an idea of how we are doing through the end of October. End of October -\$3,800 below what was budgeted. The difference between income and expense. Last year (2014) \$16,355 in the red. Region in pretty good shape financially. Extra gifts may come in at year end. Cash flow good. Robin stated Camp budget at end of October had a \$17,155 shortfall. Last year, same time, a \$54,000 shortfall. Green sheet, 4690 Other, a lot of things miscoded (\$19,060.63). Working on new categories and procedures for 2016. Everyone will be on the same page for coding. Beryl stated 100% of outstanding dollars for Camp will come in. Karen campers went to scholarship. Need to bill the Foundation for scholarships. Robin reported that Bob and Connie are assisting with financials. We are getting close to having a real budget.

Third quarter financials accepted as presented

2016 BUDGET – Robin stated the budget is as bare as it can be without cutting staff. 5 years ago, had 3 FT staff and 2 – ½ PT staff in Region Office. Now, 1 - ¾ , 1 PT and 2 FT staff. Nothing has been cut regarding our witness and helping churches.

Comparisons – 2015 vs. 2016. Dropped \$7,500 by reducing professional services and pulling accounting into office

Professional Salaries – no longer paying for health insurance. Separate line item. Given in salary for health insurance. Robin stated his health insurance is through his spouse. Region will reimburse. Greg's insurance will be through the Marketplace and must be given in salary. Discussion. Budgets are projections. It is our policy to provide health insurance to all full time staff.

2016 Camp Budget / '13, '14, '15 Budgets

Proposing a \$1,000 deficit for 2016 budget. Previously proposed -\$30,000, -\$17,000 and +\$6,000. Two different issues – 4690 (green sheet) needs to be updated. All miscoding's will be changed. 4400 – Rental/Day Use need additional line for RV storage.

Changes have been made to find out our real cost such as pricing. Robin reported 6300 has been changed. Expanded lines to give better break down.

7130 should say Web Site – Camp. 7135 should say Web Site – Region. Classification tells if it is Camp or Region budget.

Bob Fairchild made the motion to approve the 2016 Region and Camp budget. Second by Beryl Hornberger. Motion carried.

Robin presented the United Missions break down through September. We are 10% behind last year (2014) -\$3,700. Overall, 7% down nationally.

Board members were asked by Karen Denton to introduce themselves.

CAMP REPORT – Bob Howe

- Met goal for mattresses. They are ordered.
- Holidays with the Merrills, November 14th. Still not too late to volunteer.
- Callender House has been painted by Jan & Craig Erickson.
- Conference Center Complex has been painted (Brian Thompson and a crew from Westside Baptist donated labor and an independent foundation donated the paint). Brian also stained the Visitor's Center.
- Cedar trees have been cut. Will plant grass in the spring.
- Pool floor has been painted.
- Bathroom floor in cabin 5 has been tiled.
- Horses are out. Camps can still go in another direction for Horse camp if the need is there.

Robin stated next season camp will be 5 weeks vs. 8 weeks. This will allow for 3 more weeks to be rented out. 3 days vs. 6 days. Some parents and campers may like the shorten days better. Good with coordinators. Still working on a few.

Camp report accepted as presented.

MISSION REPORT – Brian High

Shared what's happening in the Region as it relates to Missions. Membership liked meeting via SKYPE. Very supportive of change of style regarding Region leadership

Reviewed function/current by-laws. Question – are they fulfilling the mission and how do they go about doing it?

We are communicating, sharing and promoting what everyone is doing in the Region. It would be good if Robin would share this information.

Report accepted as presented.

PROFESSIONAL MINISTRIES – Larry Harvey

Interviewed and listened to Julie Robinson. She is seeking ordination through American Baptist Churches in Nebraska. Robin said she is a great preacher, an extrovert in late 20's.

Robin reported Pedro Rana's Church, Truth & Life, is meeting in the Region Office. Robin met Pedro through First Baptist Church in Omaha. He has a heart to plant a new church. The Board approved for them to meet at the Region Office and be given \$5,000 to start up. They kicked off November 1st with 65 people in attendance. Pedro's former group fired him because he questioned their moral failures. The group cancelled his VISA. He must leave for 3 months. He has secured someone to take over church until they get back. Working to have his ordination changed to ABC.

Larry reported Beth Gregory's ordination at Chapman went well. Her family was in attendance. She told a very powerful story. Official certificate will have her husband and father's signature. Larry is also working on new strategy for how to obtain psychological testing on people who want to get ordained. Robin reported 2 in the Region will be seeking ordination – John Ball/Ansley and Michael Thompson/New Life – Bellevue.

Report accepted as presented.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MINISTER – Rev. Robin Stoops

Information out on Monday (11/9/15) to churches regarding Preferred Path Ministries Introductory class to be held December 5th, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Second Baptist Church in Lincoln. Class is open to all Pastors and anyone in the Region. Free to all ABC churches. Cost to non ABC churches is \$25.00 per person. Can be counted as CEU's. More in depth training will be scheduled at a later date. Entered into agreement to work Preferred Path Ministries into the DNA of our churches. Hoping to have 30 – 50 attending.

Truth and Life Church is now a non-profit working on their 501C3.

Jordan Counts made the motion to receive the Truth and Life Christian Church as part of ABC Nebraska. Second LaVonna Cline. Motion carried. Truth and Life Church is our 61st church.

Working a couple of times in the BETA Project, Transformed by the Spirit. This has been completed. Joining God in the Neighborhood is the new thing. Three churches in Nebraska participated. Working with Rocky Mountain and South Dakota to get this going. Greg Mamula has been asked to coordinate Joining God in the Neighborhood Project. He will work 12 hours a month for ABCUSA on this Project. Personnel has approved this. He will begin working with three Regions and then work nationwide to add three additional Regions. Then three more. He will become the face/spokesperson of this Project. Every church can benefit from this. For more information contact Greg or Robin.

Presented and explained the ABCNE Leadership Team/Sections structure. By-Laws and Constitution have been re-written to reflect the new structure. Mission Board, Camp Board and Department of Professional Ministries will be left out. Six Leadership Teams will be developed consisting of 18 people plus staff. Everyone has a job within a section, then relate together. Meetings will change some. Will continue to meet 4 times a year. Personnel Board separate. Take time to review the proposed structure and in February, let's work it through to be presented at the Annual Meeting in April.

Need to take a look at the Constitution because some of our churches are outside of Nebraska. Some churches can be part of the Region without being part of ABCUSA. There are some positives and negatives with this.

If you review the By-Laws and Constitution the Board becomes the Nominating and Convention committee. More people must get more involved. Discussion.

Robin Stoops and Greg Mamula presented housing allowances for 2016. Robin's will remain \$24,000 and Greg's will be \$16,800.

ABC/USA General Board – Beryl Hornberger

Beryl Hornberger presented information on 2016 ABMS Estimated Income (\$29,705,523) and ABCUSA's various ministries. This information can be posted on bulletin boards. We have 33 Regions representing 5,200 churches. Beryl will leave Wednesday for the National Board meeting in Philadelphia. At that time board members will say their good-byes to Ray Medley. On the web site is a request for letters to be sent to Ray to be used to compile a book upon his retirement.

The Penny Project's goal is to collect 15 million dollars by the end of 2015. Please send stories about how this project has helped children in poverty in your community.

In our upcoming meeting, we will be talking about the Interim Executive position. A nomination has already been made by the Board. Will continue to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Question was asked if anyone had applied for Matthew 25 Grants? Funds are available. Applications are ongoing twice a year.

MINISTER'S COUNCIL – Jurdan Counts

Representatives of the Minister's Council share once a month via phone conference what's going on in their area across the country. Robin attended the Professional Ministers Teams (PMT) meeting. New Pastor's Conference will be held the end of August with a focus on Clergy Care. Orientation will be held at the Mission Summit.

OTHER – Beryl Hornberger

Beryl reported that Bev Pacas would like to have a list of all summer camp volunteers. If you know of anyone who volunteered please forward names to Bev at Camp.

UPDATES

ABW – LaVonna Cline

Fall Retreat was held October 23 – 26, 2015. Small intimate group. Received a lot of positive feedback.

ABMEN –

- 2015 Men's Retreat held July 31 – August 1 at Camp Merrill. 34 men in attendance.
- Completed campaign fund to purchase a grapple hook for the new skid loader at Camp Merrill.

- Awarded two \$1,000 Seminary Scholarships – Matte-Wolfe (First Baptist – Gibbon) who is attending Biola Theological Seminary and Anthony “Tony” Jackson (Benson, Omaha attending Southern Evangelical Seminary.
- Recognized Todd Ray (Sunset Hills – Omaha) as Layman of the Year.
- Craig Erickson and ABMEN will be meeting at Camp Merrill November 9, 2015 to set up tables in advance of Holidays With the Merrill’s

NOMINATING – Rev. Robin Stoops

No report. Will report in February, reflecting old/new.

Annual Convention, April 29 – 30, 2016, First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Nebraska. Robin is working to secure Lauren Bethel and other speakers.

2016 TENTATIVE DATES

- Will discuss April meeting further in February.
- May 16, 2016
- August 27, 2016
- November 19, 2016

Brian High closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Janis Berry, Secretary

Next Meeting: February 26 – 27, 2016, Camp Merrill