

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska  
Leadership Team Meeting  
April 22, 2017  
First Baptist Church Kearney NE

Present: President Orin Clinger, Secretary Janis Berry, Craig Erickson, Brian High, Bob Howe, Brian Jenkins, Kathy Krogh, Lavonna Cline, MMCCC Director Bev Pacas, Executive Minister Robin Stoops, and Associate Executive Minister Greg Mamula.

Opening: Orin Clinger Devotion and Prayer

Minutes: Minutes from February 18, 2017 were submitted and accepted as written.

- Motion by Bob Howe
- Seconded by Lavonna Cline
- Unanimously accepted

Finance Report: Executive Minister Robin Stoops presented financial report of Region, Camp, and investments on behalf of the finance team.

- Total balance of all region investments \$1,388,442.29
  - o The first semi-annual withdrawal of investment interest was made in April of 2.5% in the amount of \$30,000 and distributed among region and camp accounts
- Budget v. Actual through March 2017 for ABC NE Region presented a balance of \$(11,838.50). This is not great but with the interest withdrawal the region is back in the black.
- Budget v. Actual through March 2017 for MMCCC presented the balance of \$(21,468.13). Camp's largest income for the year is summer/fall so it is believed this amount will balance by years end.
- Auditors came into Region office in April to help train staff on Quickbooks software and help correct reporting and line item marking errors.
- First quarter United Mission giving is up a little.
- New revenue source created with "Koe'les" ABC NE Region Staff are assisting congregations in the Midwest in need of pastoral placement, conflict mediation, and other such aids. More information about Koe'les can be found at [www.churchhelp.net](http://www.churchhelp.net) The Region Staff charge \$3000 per church it assists. All income received go into ABC NE general budget.
  - o Motion made by Craig Erickson to accept Financial Report
  - o Second made by Lavonna Cline
  - o Unanimously accepted

Mission Report: Executive Minister Robin Stoops presented mission report on behalf of Mission Team.

- FBC Kearney went to Hungary in the fall
- Angie Gilminig is organizing a trip to Thailand this fall. All Region churches invited to participate
- Mission Study Tour with 5-6 pastors will take place this October to Bolivia
- MMCCC received a three day visit from Bethel Neighborhood Center to do mild repairs and clean up

Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center Report: Camp Director Bev Pacas

- Facilities Manager Eric and Kim Byrd and family are moving out of the house they occupied for the past several years to make space for the new MMCCC Program Director Caleb Cornelius and his family.
- Caleb begins his new role official on May 1, 2017
- Summer Camp pre-registrations are ahead of last years pace
  - o All summer staff has been hired.
  - o Caleb will oversee the four hired summer staff
  - o Still in need of coordinator for Primary and Jam 2 camps
  - o A camp pastor is needed for MAD camp
- Registrations for Men and Women camps are now available online
- The camp calendar is fully booked through the fall of 2017!
- Cabin Remodel Conversation
  - o A new remodel idea was submitted on how to improve capacity and use of existing cabins
    - Idea of turning cabins 1-8 into 16 bed units
    - Idea of turning cabins 9-10 into an extension of lodge for conferencing
    - Blue prints have been made by King Little Construction on what it would require to make these improvements. Mr. King donated the blue prints and engineering requirements as a donation to camp.
    - Board reviewed and discussed the blue prints at length later in the meeting under "new business"
  - o Conference space update has been completed. New paint, basic repairs, and extensive cleaning. The space looks great and is ready for summer camping and summer/fall retreats.
- There is a need to plant new infant trees because our trees are aging and there is a dangerous bug arriving in Nebraska that may eliminate many trees. Getting ahead of this warning by planting new trees now is important.
  - o Also need to maintain pasture
- It was suggested that Camp staff take time off after camping season
  - o All support it
  - o It requires the staff to schedule the time off

Department of Professional Ministry Report: Associate Executive Minister Greg Mamula gave report on behalf of department.

- Nolan Hayes, new pastor of FBC Beatrice, has met with the department and been encouraged to proceed with ordination. His ordination council is scheduled for May 21, at FBC Beatrice.

American Baptist Men: Craig Erickson

- Craig is writing the curriculum for the Men's Retreat this summer at MMCCC. Theme of "Prayer, Courage, and Confidence"
- ABMen nationally gathered at Green Lake in the spring to do basic maintenance and upkeep.
- There is a work trailer in Scottsbluff should anyone need it.

American Baptist Women: Lavonna Cline

- Women's flyer for summer conference has been sent to all churches
- Keynote Speaker: Lois Olmstead

ABC USA General Board: Robin Stoops reported on behalf of Mark Harvey

- A conversation is taking place on how giving is to be distributed among United Mission
- There will be a vote on the new General Secretary on May 8
- Mission Summit is set of June 30-July 2

Nebraska Ministers Council: Brian High

- Pastors will gather at the Prairie Pastors Conference April 22-24
- A pastor to pastor mentoring program is being established. More info to come
- Nationally Ministers Council will vote at Mission Summit to become a foundation that will require a restructure and a part time administrator. Region MCs can petition the foundation for financial resources to do local MC ministry

Executive Ministers Report: Robin Stoops

- Presentation of Nominating Committee
  - o One new name: Zau Sam Latah from First Kachin Baptist Church in America on Mission Team
    - Motion made by Craig Erickson
    - Seconded by Lavonna Cline
    - Unanimous approval
- The bus charter for region convention has been paid. 29 passengers are scheduled to ride.
- Region convention will feature keynote speakers: Jeff Woods, Clayton Ford, and Mercy Barnes
  - o Region convention will vote in new constitution and by laws that were tentatively approved the year prior
  - o A new volunteer of the year award has been established. It will be named after Ron and Beryl Hornberger long time dedicated volunteers to MMCCC.
- Current pastoral placement openings include: Gibbon Baptist, FBC Omaha, FBC Albion, FBC Alliance, Benson Baptist.
  - o FBC Arthur will come open this summer from retirement
- Miracle Hills project continues to move forward
  - o Close on current building in May
  - o Create a contract for new building
  - o Remodels to be done include new HVAC, new roof, new flooring, painting, new sanctuary furniture, new offices for region, bathroom door and hallway door. All will be paid out of proceeds from sell of current building on Maple St.
- Caleb Cornelius is the new Program Director at MMCCC
  - o He will report directly to Bev Pacas
  - o Oversee summer and other programs
  - o He will help with some fundraising

New Business:

- Cabin remodel: Board reviewed and discussed the pros and cons of cabin remodels. Reviewed King Little's blue prints

Next meeting scheduled for August 26, 2017 at Second Baptist Church

Brian Jenkins closed in prayer.

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska  
Leadership Team Meeting  
August 26, 2017  
Second Baptist Church, Lincoln NE

Present: President Orin Clinger, Steve Wisthoff, Bob Fairchild, Scott Jones, Craig Erickson, Brian High, Zau Sam Lahtaw, Brian Jenkins, Kathy Krogh, Lavonna Cline, MMCCC Director Bev Pacas, Camping Director Caleb Cornelius, and Associate Executive Minister Greg Mamula.

Opening: Orin Clinger Devotion from Romans 3:3-5 and Prayer

Minutes: Minutes from April 22, 2017 were submitted and accepted as written.

- Motion by Bob Howe
- Seconded by Lavonna Cline
- Unanimously accepted

Finance Report: Finance Chairperson Bob Fairchild presented financial report of Region, Camp, and investments on behalf of the finance team.

- Total balance of all region investments \$1,386,413.44
- BvA for Region is at (5,226.10) below budget
- BvA for Camp is (45,149.64) however summer camping was a very good success and the income from summer camping has not been fully collected and is not reflected in this report. Also we had the extra staff of Caleb Cornelius. Budget will balance out as year moves forward.
- Bob Fairchild is trying to find accurate financial information regarding all the investments and designated funds. The Region will work with Bob to help him acquire all the documentation possible.
  - o Motion made by Craig Erickson to accept Financial Report
  - o Second made by Bob Howe
  - o Unanimously accepted

Mission Report: Associate Executive Minister Greg Mamula presented mission report on behalf of Mission Team.

- FBC Kearney will be attending a mission trip to Thailand, February 7-22, 2018. Executive Minister Robin Stoops along with church members from across ABC NE will be joining the trip.
- Many congregations and youth groups take summer mission trips, look to Facebook and other social media sites for updates on those trips.
- LaVonna Cline briefly shared about the mission trip to Sturgis.

Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center Report: Camp Director Bev Pacas

- Caleb Cornelius shared his reflections on his first summer at camp. He is eager for next year when he is more prepared and ready.
- Bev shared the proposed schedule for 2018. She gave a report on the remodeled cabin floor plan. The estimated costs are \$15,000 per cabin.
  - o She shared a proposal for more "Family Camps" instead of primary camps

- Wants to introduce a new “Mission Camp” and partner with Rebuild Fremont and its director Brad Wiese
- She suggested a rate increase for a week of camp to \$250/week instead of \$235/week
- There was a total of 320 campers in 2017
  - Have to find a good way to notify churches that pre-registration ends in May 2018.
- Camp is a “Christian Community”. As of August MMCCC has already had 1,400 visitors
  - there have been several training events hosted at camp by Linwood, fire department training, defibulator training, North Bend School district etc.
- ABMen and ABWomen make regular use and provide generous donations to camp.
- Holiday with the Merrills is scheduled for November 11.
- Facilities Manager Eric Byrd resigned officially in July.
  - In his place brothers Jay and Jim are doing a great job.
  - Caleb is involved in all activities
  - Denise continues to be the primary house keeper and is doing excellent work
- The ABMen donation of new commercial grade clothes washer and dryer arrived and have already been put to excellent use.

Department of Professional Ministry Report: Associate Executive Minister Greg Mamula gave report on behalf of department.

- Marco Morales of FBC Kearney is seeking to have his ordination recognized
- Jon Wymer of York will meet with the Dept in September
- Nolan Hayes of Beatrice had his ordination ceremony earlier in August and was well attended.

American Baptist Men: Craig Erickson

- Craig wrote the curriculum for the Men’s Retreat this summer at MMCCC. Theme of “Prayer, Courage, and Confidence”
  - The conference was a popular success.
- ABMen gave their annual scholarship to Zau Sam Lahtaw.
- ABMen recognized two men this year. Jeff Jenkins of New Life and King Little of Second Lincoln.
- There is a work trailer in Scottsbluff should anyone need it.

American Baptist Women: Lavonna Cline

- Women’s retreat went well. Keynote Speaker: Lois Olmstead
- Long time ABW leader Virginia Holmstrom will retire as executive director at end of 2017

ABC USA General Board: Greg Mamula reported on behalf of Mark Harvey

- Mission Summit was June 30-July 3 in Portland. A new General Secretary was announced and installed. Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer formerly of ABC New Jersey and FBC Lincoln, NE.
- Two new Associate General Secretary positions are available.

ABC Nebraska Youth Report: Rev. Scott Jones of Benson Baptist

- Wants to rework how spring and fall retreats are done
- Reported on the success of Senior high summer camp

Nebraska Ministers Council: Brian High

- Nationally Ministers Council voted at Mission Summit against becoming a foundation that will require a restructure and a part time administrator. Instead they are working toward a new way to continue functioning at a national and local level.

Associate Executive Ministers Report: Greg Mamula

- Robin Stoops is on sabbatical and he seems to be enjoying himself and learning a lot in the midst of some well deserved rest.
- Search updates: Gibbon top 3, Alliance interviewing, Arthur receive names Wed, Kearney post job Sept 1.
- MH Building: HVAC installed, floors, paint (Craig, JJ, Janine), furniture as needed, Roof bids 65K Emerald Roofing...100k so far
- Tribes Congregation wants to meet at MH. If not still interested in being ABCNE
- Pastors Conference, Scot McKnight Oct 16-18
- Bolivia Trip Nov 5-16: Robin, Jurdan Counts, Nolan Hayes, Richard Crooks,
- State Convention at Second Lincoln Scheduled for April 28-29. General Secretary Lee Spitzer to be a speaker.
- DMin Thesis writing continues

New Business:

- None

Next meeting scheduled for November 17-18 at Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center for our annual fall retreat.

Steve Wisthoff closed in prayer.

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska  
 Leadership Team Meeting  
 November 17 – 18, 2017  
 Camp Moses Merrill

Present: President Orin Clinger, Craig Erickson, MMCC Director Bev Pacas, MMCC Program, Caleb Cornelius, LaVonna Cline, Kathy Krogh, Treasurer Bob Fairchild, Bob Howe, Steve Wisthoff, Todd Ray, Zau Sam, Larry Harvey, Secretary Janis Berry, Executive Minister Robin Stoops and Associate Executive Minister Greg Mamula.

Opening: Orin Clinger gave Devotion from Romans 3:3-5 and prayer

Minutes: Minutes from August 26-27, 2017 were submitted and accepted with the following correction – ABW June meeting was a Conference not a Retreat.

- Motion by LaVonna Cline
- Seconded by Bob Fairchild
- Motion accepted with correction

Finance Report: Finance Chairperson, Bob Fairchild, presented financial report of Region, Camp, Investments and 2018 Region/Camp budget on behalf of the finance team.

- Region Income/Expense through October reflects \$10,000 in red. Rental revenue down. Giving up. Mission does not reflect actual revenues due to timing. In 2018, won't have property tax. Will have savings on insurance and will have rental income in new building. Mission giving up 7.5%.
- Camp had \$15-\$16,000 more to come in. \$23,000 not accurate. One less FT staff. Year-end projections will be close. Maybe in the black.
- 2017 United Missions list of church giving January – September distributed and discussed by Robin. Giving up. Will e-mail complete picture. Discussion. It was decided a letter should be drafted by Robin from the Leadership Team to be sent to all churches giving them an opportunity to participate in Mission giving. Included in the letter a reminder of the Church Covenant they signed, thank you to those who have given and include a Region pamphlet.
- Bob Fairchild continues to work on developing a time line for all investments funds.
- All foundation funds are in Vanguard-using the 60/40 rule – equity and fixed income. Mostly in index funds. Through September 30, 2016-\$1,358,747. Through September 30, 2017-41,388,077. Increase of \$30,000. Took out 5% of balance (\$60,000) per year. Discussion.
- Proposed 2018 budget presented by Robin. Discussion.

	2017	2018
Region	\$302,800	\$302,813
Camp	\$307,950	\$296,250

- Decrease in insurance will impact both budgets.
- Investment income is 20% of Region budget and 6% of Camp budget.
  - Motion made by Craig Erickson to accept Financial Report
  - Seconded by LaVonna Cline
  - Motion accepted
- Motion made by Craig Erickson to accept 2018 Region/Camp budget
- Seconded by Bob Howe

- Motion accepted

Mission Report: Executive Minister Robin Stoops presented mission report on behalf of Mission Team.

- A Mission Study Trip to Bolivia was taken and a water project trip to Thailand is planned for 2018.
- FBC Kearney group went to Hungary
- More trips planned. Everyone will be informed.
- World Mission Offering over.
- America for Christ Offering will be after first of the year.
- Robin wrote Devotional for America For Christ Offering.

Moses Merrill Camp Conference:

- Motion made by Larry Harvey to approve proposed changes for structuring of summer program operations
  - Second made by Bob Howe
  - Motion accepted
- Robin stated Electronic Security Gate bid was \$8,200. Will be two gate entrance. One as you enter grounds, the other near the Visitor Center. Operating times will be posted.
    - Motion made by Bob Howe to take financing out of Moses Merrill camp reserves for financing of the gate
    - Second made by Larry Harvey
    - Motion accepted
  - ABMen proposed their funding will be shifted to Zip Line upgrade.
  - Robin stated in February he will take a look at getting rid of cars that are not being used. Will be looking to purchase a good camp car and a better car for the region. Maybe a Camry or small SUV

Department of Professional Ministry Report: Associate Executive Minister Greg Mamula gave report on behalf of department.

- Committee met once.
- Recognized Ordination/Chaplin status of Jon Wymer. Changing to ABC. Currently a Chaplain at US Army Reserve.
- Group met December 11<sup>th</sup>, with Benson Pastor, John Seivering, to read paper. Ordained currently Disciples of Christ. He will become ordained in ABC. He needs Baptist history/Identity training.
- Marco Morales' Ordination recognized at First Baptist in Kearney.

American Baptist Men: Todd Ray, Executive Vice President

- Will take over as President in 2018
- Huge commitment to camp. Raised funds (\$7,000+) for washer/dryer.
- Will raise \$5,000 for Zipline repair in 2018. Need report on how money will be used.
- Annual Men's Conference in planning stages for summer 2018. Clayton Ford, speaker, National Director of Holy Family Ministries.



- Recreation added to activities including pistol range.
- Shot gun trap shooting event planned.
- Two awards will be given this year. They are Clergyman of the Year (1) state wide and Layman of the Year (1)
- Two Golf Tournaments will be held in Spring/Fall to raise funds for Seminary student's scholarships.
- Nebraska group has 2 Disaster Relief trailers. One at MMCC and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one in Scottsbluff.
- Opportunities for Mission Trips in the future. Will go to Muskogee, Oklahoma in 2018. ABMUSA men may go to Puerto Rico.
- Bob Slechta brings good information and coordinates these activities well.
- National Men's Conference will be held September 7-9, 2018 in Green Lake.

American Baptist Women: LaVonna Cline

- Annual Fall Retreat was held last week-end in October 18 women attended.
- Susan Howell of First Baptist Church Lincoln, facilitated an extensive Bible Study, Loving Thy Neighbor, Do I Have To?
- Plans are underway for conference first week of June 2018. Kathy Brown will be the speaker. Will offer women an opportunity to come in earlier on Friday to have a full camp experience.

ABC/USA General Board: Executive Minister Robin Stoops gave the report on behalf of Mark Harvey.

- Mark Harvey is attending the National Board meeting.
- Major change – Dr. Lee Spitzer is the new General Secretary. Rev. Dr. Kevin Walden is the new Associate General Secretary of Pastoral Care and Development. Things are going well.

Nebraska Minister's Council: Executive Minister Robin Stoops gave the report.

- Brian High has moved
- Every Pastor is a member of the Council.
- No dues.
- Will still provide 2 trainings per year.

Executive Minister's Report: Robin Stoops

- 8 churches open
- First Baptist Omaha called Bill Prather
- Received letter from Jesus Cristo Del Ray Church in Yankton, South Dakota seeking to unite with ABC NE. Small congregation. Helping with 501C3 and other legalities.
  - Motion made by Craig Erickson to accept letter from Hasus Cristo del Ray church
  - Second by Steve Wisthoff
  - Motion accepted
- This church brings us up to 64 churches in ABC NE

- Nebraska Baptist State Convention DBA American Baptist Churches of Nebraska. May need to look at changing name because of churches we are affiliated with outside of Nebraska.
- Have been asked to serve on the Board of Trustees for Bacone College. Two meetings a year. Very impressed after first meeting.
- State Convention will be held April 27-28. Dr. Lee Spitzer, new General Secretary, will be the speaker. Rhonda Reed, Missionary-Nurse from Bolivia will also speak. Looking at changing things to workshop format. Dr. Spitzer will be banquet speaker Friday night and workshop leader Saturday.
- 2018 Housing Allowance letters for IRS presented for Robin (\$25,000) and Greg (\$20,000).
  - Motion made by Bob Fairchild to accept Housing Allowance letters for 2018.
  - Second by Craig Erickson
  - Motion accepted
- Volunteer of the Year Award/names needed for 2018. Will vote on in February.
- Several positions need to be filled on Leadership Team. Must vote on in February. Please send names of prospects.
- Need Pastor to serve 18/19 term for President and Vice President (female).
- Verdad y Vida and Kearney have asked for an extension for one year. Previously a \$5,000 grant was awarded each church for development. They are requesting an additional \$5,000 each for one year. Kearney's focus will be ESL, Bible Study in Spanish on Sundays and Beginning small Worship Service. Verdad y Vida has had ups and downs. Immigration status of Pastor an issue.
  - Motion made by Todd Ray to provide an additional \$5,000 grant for each church from the Region reserves in 2018.
  - Second by Craig Erickson
  - Motion accepted

#### Other

- New list of officers needed
- State Convention April 27 -28, Second Baptist Church in Lincoln.
- Leadership Team Meeting February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Second Baptist Church, 10 a.m. – noon.
- Retreat May 4-5<sup>th</sup>, Camp Moses Merrill
- Scott Jones announced the Youth Spring Retreat, March 16-18<sup>th</sup>. Speaker Caleb Lynn from Norfolk, Nebraska. Working with Caleb from camp in inviting youth to camp.

Larry Harvey closed in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.