

**American Baptist Churches of Nebraska
Leadership Team Meeting
Saturday, February 6, 2021
Online Zoom Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

The American Baptist Churches of Nebraska Leadership team gathered digitally via a ZOOM Video Conference.

Meeting called to order at 10:00

Attendees: Robin Stoops, Greg Mamula, LaVonna Cline, Bev Pacas, Lorlea Mees, Caleb Cornelius, Craig Erickson, Traci Gilmer, Brian Jenkins, Brad Pope, Orin Clinger, Jane Gangwish, Clint Walker, Mark Harvey

Welcome: LaVonna Cline opened the meeting with a devotional from Proverbs 30:7-9, The prayer of Agur.

Review of Minutes: Craig Erickson moved to accept the minutes. Brad Pope seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

Finance:

Robin Stoops, our investments are doing well. Reviewing the region budget this has been a good year. We ended the year almost \$12,000.00 to the positive. The PPP loan, which was forgiven in October, enabled the region to have a much more solid year, without the loan we would have been in dire shape. The region contracted for approximately \$9,000.00 in non ABC church contract work. In addition, camp has been unbelievable, considering we had zero campers, we ended up \$1,198.00 to the positive.

We originally received \$23,269.00 from the PPE loan and have applied for the 2nd round of PPE. We had to prove our income was down 25% from 2020 to 2021. Funds from the PPE loan can only be used to cover payroll for the region office and camp.

So far, no draw has been taken from the investment funds this year, this generally happens in April, and this has allowed the region to catch up on some things.

Moses Merrill Camp/Conference:

Caleb Cornelius reported that they are working on a plan to open camp safely this summer, although camp plans are in flux right now and changing weekly. LIT will be held virtually next week and we have 20 kids registered.

Moses Merrill sent out a survey from 3CA to get a pulse on the feelings and attitudes of parents about camp this summer. The survey revealed that a large segment of parents just want to

send their kids to camp and are less worried about precautions. The expectation is that more parents will feel more comfortable about registering their kids as we get closer to summer.

Bev Pacas reported that the 2020 annual report will be mailed out to all 2300 team members and the churches with summer camp information. The Cabin Project is progressing. The electrical and plumbing still need to be finished on Cabin 10, otherwise it is mostly done. Second Lincoln has been working on Cabin 6, it is ready for plumbing and electrical rough in and is making great progress. We have been blown away by the church support over the past few months and have eight of ten cabins funded for renovation. Funding will not stand in the way of renovations over the next few years. Still needing to be finished, the electrical and plumbing is mostly done. Cabins 6 & 10 will be done by summer camp and we are progressing a little faster now.

Monday is the last day for the first order of bricks for the brick order with the order for 29 bricks going in next week. Our initial plan is to lay them by Memorial Day.

We are looking for volunteers to help clear the trees that went down in the ice storm it is our spring project. We also plan to have the stargazing deck completed before summer camp. There are a few retreat groups scheduled through the spring.

The youth retreat and the women's getaway were cancelled and there are a few outside groups scheduled after Easter. Communicable diseases have been added to the insurance waiver.

A violation was recently received because the Nitrate levels in the water have been high. The camp water supply tested at 10.9, with a second test at 10.5 and we are required to post that we have high nitrates. Nitrates are most detrimental to infants so we have provided bottled water to Caleb and to Weaver Hall. The water specialist at the water department is Tim Harris and he has given the options to drill a new well and hope for lower nitrate levels or install an ion replacement system. An ion replacement system is an oversized water softener and would require a building with heating requiring an engineer to design the project. At this point in time, we are not forced to do anything unless we have two testing periods with high nitrate levels. This was the first testing period and if in the next testing period the nitrates test high we would not be able to fill the pool and would need to continue to provide bottled drinking water. Since we don't meter our water we currently don't know exactly what size system we would need and are seeking to consult with a water engineer. The ball park estimate for this is between \$20-25,000.

Robin advocated that we need to solve the issue and not just band aid it. Craig Erickson agreed, stating that we just need to take care of the water issue, suggesting that we use funds from the endowment and replace them later.

Caleb and Bev have participated in several webinars with the camping industry to update themselves on the latest information regarding the COVID and camping situation.

Professional Ministry:

Greg Mamula reported that we have a few pastors that are new to the region or to vocational ministry. The pastor in Gibbon and Scottsbluff are looking to begin the ordination process.

ABMen of Nebraska:

Brad Pope reported that the AB Men have not met in person for some time and have been keeping track via email. The disaster trailer is in Scottsbluff and we are in a transition period about who is going to be responsible for it. We have yet to plan the summer conference and will get together for a formal meeting in March to finalize plans.

We continue to help out the camp in various ways, we recently purchased tires for the skid loader and as ABMen we purchased another mower to back up the first mower in addition we have replaced the bush hog shredder that was going out. We will run a campaign to raise the approximately \$5000.00 to pay for the new tools.

ABWM:

Lavonna Cline reported that we are definitely planning to have our annual meeting in June, the women are working on a state project for ABWM. We are raising funds for the Immigrant Sewing project at Bethel Neighborhood Center and have raised approximately \$463.00 towards our \$3000.00 goal and we will also create 100 sewing kits for the program.

ABC/USA General Board:

Mark Harvey advised he didn't have much to report, has not heard many details about Biennial, it will be held as a Zoom meeting at the end of June and the Puerto Rico Biennial has been rescheduled for 2023. The orientation for new pastors has been a series of meetings over the spring.

The interim General Secretary of ABC-USA has written a letter to President Biden regarding the situation in Myanmar. The ABC church is involved and that is exciting. Hoping that President Biden heeds the request of the letter and takes action in Myanmar. The Executive Committee met in June to adopt the term "anti-racist" and Mark appreciates that the ABC Church, as a denomination is associating itself with that word.

Executive Minister's Report

Robin Stoops advised of several things to let the team know. The first is the the Prairie Pastor's Conference that was held virtually on February 11, 2021 has been the catalyst for an African American Church and a White church to come together in the neighborhood. churches in a Denver neighborhood. The conference was able to provide grant money for pastors to connect with someone in their community that they wouldn't generally connect with. The intention is

to encourage pastors to create relationships and befriend new individuals. Encourage pastors to stretch themselves by getting out of their four walls and take risks with new relationships.

Churches in our area are struggling with many different issues and we are working on putting together a series of interviews with good conversations about their perspectives and create some integrative solutions about regarding working together and civil conversations. This creative effort is teamed with FBC Omaha.

The region has several churches in transition although we have no full time positions open in Nebraska right now we do have several churches looking for a bi-vocational person.

The facility at Miracle Hills has been a blessing however we have recently had issues with the skylight in the sanctuary area. It has been leaking and there are major cracks in the skylight. We investigated having the skylight repaired and resealed but we will have to replace the skylight at a cost of approximately \$4600.00/

The EXPO for the region was originally scheduled for April 30-May 1 weekend but we feel a little leery in scheduling it at this time. We might be able to get together as a small board in April but scheduling it for the Fall would be a better time as the vaccinations are rolled out. We really don't want to cancel it and we don't want to have it as a ZOOM meeting, our desire is really to have it as an in-person event.

Consensus of the board to move the meeting to the fall, Robin Stoops will discuss timing of the event with FBC Fremont about the dates that are available.

Robin Stoops advised the next ZOO< meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2021.

Traci Gilmer moved that we accept the proposed slate of officers and Brian Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Traci Gilmer asked Bev Pacas about the number of people that were added to the 2300 club after the membership campaign. Bev Pacas reported that we have added 13 new people and a lot of those new additions came after the fall campaign.

Other Business:

Lavonna Cline asked if there was any other business to be brought forward to the board. No responses were given. No other business brought forward

Craig Erickson closed the meeting with prayer.

**American Baptist Churches of Nebraska
Leadership Team Meeting
Saturday, April 17, 2021
Online Zoom Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

The American Baptist Churches of Nebraska Leadership team gathered digitally via
ZOOM Video Conference.

Meeting called to order at 10:00

Attendees: Robin Stoops, Greg Mamula, LaVonna Cline, Bev Pacas, Lorlea Mees, Caleb Cornelius, Craig Erickson, Traci Gilmer, Brian Jenkins, Brad Pope, Orin Clinger, Jane Gangwish, Clint Walker, Bob Fairchild, Caleb Lind, Connie Harvey

Welcome: LaVonna Cline opened the meeting with a devotional; "Joy and Awe", Leviticus 9:24.

Review of Minutes: Brad Pope moved to accept the minutes, pending corrected typos Bob Fairchild and Traci Gilmer seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

Finance:

Bob Fairchild reported the PPE loan has kept us in the black for the first quarter, and without it the region would be in the red. Camp is also in the black and with the addition of more members in the 2300 Club we have had increased giving and it has made a difference.

Our endowments, invested with Vanguard is growing, as compared to the same time period last year.

Robin Stoops added that God has blessed us this year, with both the PPE loan and the continued giving from churches. This year we have not had to pull additional funds from the endowment above the 2.5% we pull twice a year. The next draw is nearing and we may not have to take the draw

Region offering is up, our expectation is approximately \$51,000 for the year and at the end of the first quarter we are closing in on half of that figure. Even United Mission is on track for the budgeted about of giving

Camp the same way, the added 2300 team members have helped as well as PPE, but our churches stepping up have made a big difference. The Hill Tribe churches that have joined our region are contributing financially and increasing their gifts to the region. We are in the best shape that we have been in a while and especially considering the fact we are coming out of a pandemic we are blessed.

The stargazing deck was impacted by Joel's shoulder, we have the funds to complete it, we have ordered the lumber and it should be delivered this week. Our hope is to have it done by summer but definitely by the fall.

On our last test our Nitrate level was 7.2, with 10 the legal limit number. We are good for right now and have been able to take the signs down. It is definitely something we need to look at and there are a lot of variants to the issue. The drop in levels gives us time to look at the problem thoroughly and develop a plan; digging a deeper well or setting up a filtration system. It is an ongoing issue that we will need to address.

Robin Stoops added that we have continued to work on the water issue for a long term solution. The nitrate level dropping has eased the issue but we would like to not have to make that a continuing concern. If we have another high nitrate reading in the next quarter – we will be in violation – a second violation in a quarterly testing, the Health Department will mandate a correction. Our next test is in July.

Orin Clinger asked if the health department was testing all the wells in the area or just ours? Are nitrate levels a broad problem in the area?

Bev Pacas responded that local farmers are not required to test their wells for nitrates and they generally don't test. So, we don't know if this is a widespread problem or just a problem with our wells. We don't have any data to compare it to.

Greg Mamula asked for an update on registration numbers for 2021 summer camp. Bev Pacas indicated that there are 73 preregistered for summer camp, and we are evenly split between groups. There are only two registered for daycamp and camp staff would be doing an advertising blitz next week with door hangars.

ABMen of Nebraska:

Brad Pope reported that they have not had their planning meeting yet for their summer conference. They are planning on meeting next Saturday, April 24, 2021 to plan the summer conference.

Craig Erickson reported that throughout the year they have been noticing what needs camp has and the ABMen have been able to respond diligently to the needs of camp, the whole goal and purpose was to continue to support the camp.

ABWM:

Lavonna Cline reported that ABWM groups are varying in meeting in person and also via ZOOM. She sees that as we reach a plateau with the pandemic more people will be more comfortable meeting.

been more preaching in the churches, and both he and Greg Mamula are excited to get back and connect with churches.

Greg Mamula is preaching at FBC Omaha this weekend and Robin Stoops is preaching at FBC Lincoln and via video at FBC Gardner, Kansas.

Churches currently in transition are all looking for bivocational pastors, working with Hasting, Albion and Riverside. It looks like Parkside is going to close, the Anglo congregation is not meeting weekly and they are planning one final service. The Karen congregation is meeting there as well.

The second PPE grant of \$59,285. has been received and has been a huge help for the region and camp.

The region also received a grant from the Palmer Foundation at the end of last year, we are looking to help churches and pastors to establish uncommon connections. Those grants are available, those are small grants, \$100-\$500. FBC Omaha received a grant to purchase ten high top tables for a once a month food truck gathering in their parking lot.

All of the churches in the region are meeting at this time and worshipping together. One church in Omaha is still moving fairly slowly, but most of our churches are still doing a virtual connection as well.

We have replaced the skylight in our building, there were some scuffs on the new skylight, that we can't see and don't impact the functionality of the skylight. The installer gave us a \$500 reduction on the price of the skylight due to the scuffs. There are some issues with the roof around the skylight, whoever designed the roof originally, put a gutter around the skylight and it is causing issues right now. We are working with the roofing company to get it resolved.

One of the members of Verdad y Vida repainted the ceiling in the sanctuary for the region

Greg Mamula is continuing his podcast, "Mission in 5."

We did a pastors call on Zoom last week and will be doing one per month in the future. Choosing a monthly theme, the first one was completed last week, and the theme was Church Membership. What does it look like and what can it look like? Discussed what church membership will look like in 2021. We had a dozen attend the zoom meeting last week. We continue to work with churches who are in transition – blessing to come along side

Robin Stoops was in Hastings last week and learned of a unique ministry started by a member of that church. This church member started a non profit ice cream shop, called "Special Scoops" that employs special needs adults.

2021 Churches Helping Churches ABC NE Region Expo
Say Yes to the Call: An Online Zoom Experience
October 2, 2021 9am-12pm

Welcome by President LaVonna Cline

Begin Business Session

Review of 2020 Region Expo Minutes provided via email PDF and weblink PDF

Dale Pracht motion accept as written

Nathaniel King second

Approved

2020 Financial Report provided by Treasurer Bob Fairchild

Presented 2020 final budgets for Region, Camp, and Investments

Dale Pracht noticed typo in 2020 final budget

It was acknowledged and corrected

Robin: we have received a PPP grant and it has already been forgiven

Motion to accept financial reports as corrected

Mike Kidder motion to accept

Clint Walker second

Approved

ABMen Report Craig Erickson on behalf of President Brad Pope

Purchased four all season tires for camp vehicle

Campaign for garage doors...waiting on springs

ABW by President LaVonna Cline

Womens retreat this past summer completed 22 sewing kits for Bethel Neighborhood Center

Upcoming in October 22-24 retreat promotion

ABW are in process of updating by-laws and constitution

Executive Ministers Report by Rev. Dr. Robin Stoops

2021 has been more normal than 2020

Catalyst to make connections with other churches and ministries they do not normally connect with

Work with Hill Tribe Churches to gain status as non-profits and ABC Status

Promote well-being and sanctions in Burma with local senators

Certificate of Religious Fundraising Lake Institute

North Platte 151 and Parkside

National meetings in Green Lake and Idaho

Helping churches navigate search process

Helping churches adjust

Helping churches close gracefully and legally if necessary

Fall Pastors Conference in October

Other Business

Nominating committee

Dale Pracht proposed to accept slated list of names
Clint Walker Second
Approved

Business Meeting adjourned

Transition to Expo Material

Introduction of Mike and Becky Mann Missionaries to Thailand Video
Play Video

Introduction of new pastors who have arrived since 2020 Expo
Memorial of pastors and leaders who passed away since 2020 Expo

Introduction of JD and Rhonda Reed Missionaries to Bolivia
Play Video

Camp Presentation by Bev Pacas and Caleb Cornelius
Summary of Summer Camp 2021
Summary of ministry at camp

Introduction of Stephen and Kelli Foreman Missionaries to Kodiak Alaska
Play Video

Sermon from Executive Minister Rev. Dr. Robin Stoops

Breakout Discussion Questions.

The participants were placed in 2-3 person breakout rooms for 3-4minutes at a time to discuss questions related to the theme, "Say Yes to the Call"

Good conversation was had after multiple rounds of discussion.

Zoom small groups

1. Who are you? Provide a quick intro of your name, hometown, local church, job information, and most significant thing you are involved in.
2. Tell us the story of how you came to "say yes to the call" to live into the KOG by being in community with your local church.
3. Tell us the story of how you can say yes to the call to serve your community in your vocation, hobbies, and other community engagements.

Dismiss and Benediction by Rev. Dr. Robin Stoops.

Transcript from Chat Feature of Zoom:

08:52:39 From Dale Pracht to Everyone:

Here a bit early but wanted to enter note when not in the middle of the meeting.... RE budgets.
1) ABC NE budget. I added the numbers and get the same projected income (289400) but my expense total is 284900 vs the printed 283900 So a difference of 1000 2) Camp budget line 7270 should be 91500 vs 90000. But the ending total of 299550 still seems correct. So just a subtotal difference in 7200 which on the page doesn't change the final number. I may have added wrong and am first to admit my limits but these are two points I had questions about. Thanks. Dale

09:03:53 From Joy Martinez-Marshall to Churches Helping Churches(Direct Message):

LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED.

09:04:03 From Churches Helping Churches to Everyone:

Here is our business session agenda:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10t9S03rym4rSna1yP9S0Rp8kReqQAsKQ/view>

09:04:20 From brian to Everyone:

I thought ties were optional this morning :-)

09:04:42 From Dale Pracht to Everyone:

Here a bit early but wanted to enter note when not in the middle of the meeting.... RE budgets.
1) ABC NE budget. I added the numbers and get the same projected income (289400) but my expense total is 284900 vs the printed 283900 So a difference of 1000 2) Camp budget line 7270 should be 91500 vs 90000. But the ending total of 299550 still seems correct. So just a subtotal difference in 7200 which on the page doesn't change the final number. I may have added wrong and am first to admit my limits but these are two points I had questions about. Thanks. Dale

09:05:30 From Robin Stoops to Everyone:

I think a typo

09:08:42 From Churches Helping Churches to Everyone:

Here is the pdf minutes and agenda

09:08:43 From Churches Helping Churches to Everyone:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10t9S03rym4rSna1yP9S0Rp8kReqQAsKQ/view>

09:09:12 From Dale Pracht to Everyone:

Move to accept as printed

09:09:37 From Nathan King to Everyone:

Second

09:09:40 From Traci Gilmer to Everyone:

i 2nd

09:10:00 From Dale Pracht to Everyone:

Minutes.....YES

09:11:42 From Susan Howell to Everyone:

We didn't get a packet.

09:12:00 From Dale Pracht to Everyone:

I entered a chat note here of two glitches in the proposed budgets

09:12:12 From Churches Helping Churches to Susan Howell(Direct Message):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10t9S03rym4rSna1yP9S0Rp8kReqQAsKQ/view>

09:12:26 From Churches Helping Churches to Susan Howell(Direct Message):

You can view the packet by clicking this link

09:16:51 From Dale Pracht to Everyone:

YES as corrected

09:16:52 From Jim Cummings to Everyone:

thank you Dale for your careful reading.

09:17:39 From Grace Wisthoff to Everyone:

For your headcount -- Both Steve and Grace Wisthoff are on her profile this morning.

09:17:53 From Joy Martinez-Marshall to Everyone:
Thank you Bob Fairchild!!!

09:31:56 From Churches Helping Churches to Everyone:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10t9S03rym4rSna1yP9S0Rp8kReqQAsKQ/view>

09:32:33 From Churches Helping Churches to Everyone:
it is the final page

09:32:46 From Dale Pracht to Everyone:
Leadership slate - Move to accept

09:46:50 From Clint and Jennifer Walker to Everyone:
Greg what time did you have to get up?

09:47:17 From Clint and Jennifer Walker to Everyone:
for the video

09:50:04 From Nathan King to Everyone:
Riverside got a new pastor too, I think.

09:50:54 From Robin Stoops to Everyone:
Pastor Dale Robbins is now serving in Riverside

09:51:13 From Nathan King to Everyone:
That's what I thought. Thanks!

10:27:59 From brian to Everyone:
Amen!

10:28:38 From Churches Helping Churches to Everyone:
You can get further information from our guests by listening to the Mission in 5 podcast available on iTunes, Spotify, iHeart Radio, Podbean, and many other podcasting platforms.
<https://missionin5.podbean.com/>

10:50:18 From Churches Helping Churches to Everyone:
7 Each of you should continue to live in whatever situation the Lord has placed you, and remain as you were when God first called you. This is my rule for all the churches. 18 For instance, a man who was circumcised before he became a believer should not try to reverse it. And the man who was uncircumcised when he became a believer should not be circumcised now. 19 For it makes no difference whether or not a man has been circumcised. The important thing is to keep God's commandments.

20 Yes, each of you should remain as you were when God called you

11:01:24 From Bob Slechta to Everyone:
Rev Stoops, your message is spot on. Amen!

11:05:55 From Dale Pracht to Everyone:
Amen

11:06:54 From Churches Helping Churches to Everyone:
1. Who are you? Provide a quick intro of your name, hometown, local church, job information, and most significant thing you are involved in.

11:21:05 From Churches Helping Churches to Everyone:
2. Tell us the story of how you came to "say yes to the call" to live into the KOG by being in community with your local church.

11:29:32 From Joy Martinez-Marshall to Everyone:
Greg, are you sure you're not a boomer?

11:50:17 From Churches Helping Churches to Everyone:
ABC Nebraska YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdsvUrL86b1rYR6x2YJBQIQ>

11:52:32 From brian to Everyone:

Bob S. - glad to see you still wear the "colors" (nice hat)

11:53:05 From Dale Pracht to Everyone:

John - Ottawa - We had a link to someone there in the past who had interest in helping us take the VBS materials my wife has written and turning them into web content for others to use for free. Would there be any interest? dale.pracht@gmail.com

11:55:01 From Bob Slechta to Everyone:

Brian - GBR!!!

11:57:14 From Churches Helping Churches to Everyone:

register for the fall pastor retreat <http://campmerrill.com/abc-ne-fall-pastors-retreat/>

**American Baptist Churches of Nebraska
Leadership Team Meeting
Saturday, November 13, 2021
Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center
Linwood, Nebraska**

Meeting called to order at 10:00

Attendees: Robin Stoops, Greg Mamula, LaVonna Cline, Bev Pacas, Lorlea Mees, Craig Erickson, Traci Gilmer, Brian Jenkins, Brad Pope, Orin Clinger, Jane Gangwish, Caleb Lind, Connie Harvey

Bob Fairchild, Clint Walker attended by ZOOM

Welcome: Craig Erickson opened the meeting with prayer.

Review of Minutes: There are no minutes from the previous meeting in July.

Finance:

Robin Stoops reported on the current budget and the region budget is currently negative \$16,346.15. This is mainly due to necessary work on region building and increased in lawn care and all the expenses for maintenance. The expectation is that giving will increase in this last quarter of the year.

This year there was no revenue from outside contracting but there is a contract recently signed for one church.

There has been no need to pull the full budgeted \$115,000 from investments, we have only pulled \$43,541.17. This is mainly due to the PPE loans that were received and forgiven.

Moses Merrill Camp and Convention Center is ending the year \$30,363.80. This is mainly due to reduced costs in staffing, issues with staffing over the summer and increased giving from churches, 2300 Club and camp registrations.

Kudos were given to Bev Pacas for managing camp through a difficult year.

Brad Pope moved to approve finance reports and Traci Gilmer seconded. Motion to approve finance reports passed unanimously.

Robin Stoops reviewed the ABC of Nebraska giving and the giving by churches documents.

The proposed budget was presented and discussion occurred regarding salaries for all region staff and discussion ensued regarding salaries in the private sector versus our region. It was moved that we raise salaries for the hourly employees at Moses Merrill. The motion included a raise in salaries for Bev Pacas, Robin Stoops, and Greg Mamula. Also included was the addition of a \$5000 healthcare offset amount for Bev Pacas and also for the new staff person in the budget. Discussion followed regarding Traci Gilmer and her expenses between Omaha and Moses Merrill, she acts as courier between region office and Moses Merrill for documents and goods. An approval for reimbursement for mileage for Traci Gilmer was included in the budget.

The motion to approve the adjusted 2022 budget came from Clint Walker and seconded by Brad Pope.

Bev Pacas added that our greatest need for camp is a facilities person – in terms of replacing Caleb Cornelius. Moses Merrill does not necessarily need a year round programming person and a facilities person would have the responsibilities of caring for the pool and zipline that were previously under the purview of Caleb Cornelius

MISSION REPORT:

Have not received any information from Mark Harvey and unsure if he is attending Hasting FBC. Robin Stoops advised that he would be reaching out to individuals in the region to submit their name as a replacement.

Moses Merrill Camp/Conference:

Bev Pacas provided the 2021 Summer camp report; 42% of attendees were first time campers. and the report/newsletter has just gone out. Summer camp 2022 registration and information will launch in January. Still a great deal of uncertainty for camp 2022 due to the impact of the pandemic.

Bev Pacas advised we would need to hire more individuals to assist for summer staff, kitchen and the activities to help alleviate the issues that impacted summer 2021. Last year we hired nine individuals to help in the kitchen and her goal is 11-12 providing more help in the kitchen. Developing the idea of hiring 16 year old youth as summer staff, they would help in the cabins as well as flex into the kitchen when necessary. One of the greatest needs is to have a cook/food service manager for the kitchen. This would relieve doubling the duties of Bev Pacas in the summer. Jane Gangwish asked for clarification for the difference between the tasks of the two positions. Bev explained that a food service manager would be able to create the menus, evaluate inventory and order food and non-perishables for the facility. The best scenario would be to find a facilities person with a spouse who could serve in the kitchen manager position, allowing them to share the house and live on site.

The stargazing deck is done and the memorial garden patio is installed. There are more landscaping needs to be completed and we have 25 more bricks on order. There will be another brick order in the spring and we will schedule two brick orders a year in the upcoming years. The brick orders have been a great fundraiser, the money from ordering the 50 bricks has paid for landscaping and has been a great way to memorialize someone. Moses Merrill has used a local contractor from Mead, Nebraska to complete the construction and landscaping.

Moses Merrill is planning an open house on the 1st Saturday in May. It will include a ribbon cutting and a camp event to register kids for camp. Potentially may include a supper for the 2300 members as a thank you for their giving. in

Moses Merrill has one more group scheduled in December and other than that 2021 season is done. The 2022 calendar is already filling up because most people book for the next year when they depart.

Bev Pacas reviewed Weaver Hall and gave a tour of the kitchen. Much of the facility remains unchanged since it was built several decades ago. Bev shared her goals for the kitchen and dining area including updated electrical, work stations, interior walls and appliances.

Cabin 3 has been demo'd and we are currently waiting on a plumber, the HVAC unit and windows. Everything is taking two to four times as long compared to the other cabins. We have a retired contractor from Hays, who will be bringing some additional retired guys to come in, stay for a few days and finish the work on each cabin.

Thank you to ABMEN, purchased new gas grill for Weaver, garage doors are ordered, log splitter and bushhog,

ABMEN in 2nd in Lincoln purchased new tires for Ford Truck, they had factory tires that aren't good for snow. The plow is on we are ready for the snow.

The ABMEN of Nebraska received a \$10,000 donation and it was decided to be used to replace the brakes on the CASE tractor. The repair is expected to cost approximately \$11-12,000 and we have scheduled the repair for after harvest.

Donation from Judson Baptist church has provided \$5000 and then \$2500 designated for road rock. We have had it delivered and we still have another half load and the remaining \$2500 will be reserved for the spring to see where we need the rock.

Issues continue with the water. Our recent test had nitrite levels at 11.7. 10 is the legal limited so we have posted notices. If we have two tests in a row with high levels it will require changes to the system and the next test is in February.

2021 has been the year of repairs for Moses Merrill. We have replaced the cutting blade on case tractor, front gate was repaired, the Gator, sewer repair, tearing out concrete, the

conference center door, the zero turn mower, the convection oven, coffee pot and the curb stops replaced.

Bev Pacas recently participated the religious fund raising workshops and is developing a plan to work on the fund raising for Moses Merrill.

There will be the year end appeal campaign in December and Bev Pacas will be attending the 3CA conference in December. The conference is virtual this year.

The new project with the apiary resulted in the harvest of 100 lbs of honey this year and the hives are insulated for the winter,. We have three hives and all the honey has been sold. The funds from the honey sales went into the Building Bridges campaign.

ABMEN

Brad Pope reported that the men enjoy providing items for camp. ABMEN is providing g \$20 for each camper that attended this summer, from their scholarship fund this summer, \$4600.00 provided so far, will be providing another \$100.00

ABMen of Nebraska added a new member to their board, Gene Hill from Scottsbluff. Ben Pool and Glen Hill came in a day early and did some work at camp before the conference,

ABWM

Lavonna Cline reported that ABWM committee updating constitution and bylaws. The October 22023 women's retreat was organized by Susan Schwartz and the Beatrice FBC. La Rose Karr, past ABWM president of Colorado, and is on the national board for ABWM was the speaker. Theme was "Let Go, Let God" and we had 29 women attend, a record number for a fall conference.

Executive Minister Report

Robin Stoops reported churches that we have been working with Palestine Baptist Church, NW of Columbus. They haven't had services for 3 years, and the region is pushing to either close or reopen, there were 15 people at meeting. This is a country church that is only having services to keep their non profit status and expect to close in the not too distant future. Expect to give the building to the community and the cemetery is a separate non profit organization.

The Ainsley church went through a split and now is doing well. Utilizing a new lay person for the message and occasionally have a pastor from Kearney. Church has a positive outlook for the future.

The church in Wayne, Nebraska has closed. The church in Parkside hasn't officially closed but they had a final service a few months ago. The Karen church is currently using the church and

the belief is that potentially they could morph into the church at Parkside. The Hastings church currently have five different lay pastors from Kearney that rotate and fill the pulpit. Dick Syte is currently working with them to do some leadership workshops and help them redefine their mission and purpose. They currently do not have the funds to call a pastor.

The New Beginnings church, a pastor and wife from Liberia with a diverse congregation, is meeting at Belmont Baptist church in Lincoln. The sermons are in English and they have a passion for the gospel and evangelism.

Palmer Foundation Grants: we have received \$25,000 and are providing pastors with tools and respite after COVID. Book study on "Discerning God's Will" by Ruth Haley Barton and had hoped to bring her here but are unable to do so now. We plan to take 8-10 pastors to Chicago in July 2022 for a retreat with her and then come back and design an into workshop to take to churches to expose them to the idea of discerning god's will.

We have two retreats for pastors, one in the west and one on the east, rest and relaxation for pastors, especially after this season of the pandemic.

Region is finishing up grant from 2020, encouraging churches to create some new relationships with groups that haven't had relationships before, across racial lines. Seeking to see who we can connect with and who we don't connect with.

Robin Stoops spent last week at Ross Point Camp and it was a time of great community fellowship with 17 of the ABC regions that have an orthodox view of scripture. Focused on evangelism and discipleship with zoom meetings and calls with the speakers. It was a time of support, encouragement and a powerful opportunity to share resources and connect with regions that are similar to our moderately conservative outlook.

Pastors retreat scheduled for March of 2022 and a fall pastors retreat with J.R. Briggs.

2022 – Business Meeting in January via ZOOM, January 22 – Saturday 9:30 exec board, full meeting at 10 a.m.

Exec Board Meeting: April 2-Gibbon
Aug 20-region office
Nov. 19 – MMCC

EXPO: Oct. 13-Pastors
Oct 14-15 EXPO

Jane Gangwish closed the meeting in prayer.