# Leadership Team Meeting 3/1/25

Greg opened with words of welcome at 10:01 am

*What does spring make you hopeful for?*

Things to Remember:

* Bob Fairchild retries May 10th
* Steve Wisthoff retires on June 8th – his last Sunday at SBC in Lincoln, NE

Prayer

* Nola—pneumonia
* Craig’s wife-Jan Erickson- has been really sick and has had respiratory challenges
* Bill Prather- medical challenges with cancer

Upcoming Dates:

* May 3, 2025-Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center 9am-11:30am
* August 16, 2025-Gibbon Baptist Church 10am-12:30pm
* October 10-11, 2025-FBC Scottsbluff, ABC NE State Convention
* November 15, 2025-Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center 9am-11:30am
* March 22, This is (your Story: Baptist History Conference- Second Baptist Church, Lincoln
* March 27, MLB Opening Day
* March 31-April 2 Prairie Pastors Conference
* Sunset Hills Baptist Church
* April 13, Palm Sunday
* April 13-April 20 Holy Week
* April 20, Easter
* May 3, Weaver Hall Dedication and Open House
* June 1-3, JAM Camp
* June 6-8, Women's Retreat
* June 8-13, Junior Camp
* June 15-20, Mid High Camp
* June 22-27 Senior High Camp
* June 27-29, Family Camp
* July 3-6, ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit "Come Seek Living Water"
* August 8-9, ABMen Summer Conference
* October 10-11, ABC NE Region Convention "Love with Courage"
* October 24-26, ABW Retreat
* October 27-29, Fall Pastor Retreat
* November 14-15, Leadership Team Retreat
* November 30-December 21 Advent

Notes:

Steve shares devotional 2 Cor. 12:9- we are reminded in scripture that God is with us in our challenges

Jane, Madam President, offers greetings and thanks to those in attendance

No minutes available from November Meeting

Guest: Paul Weers, AB Foundation

* Gave an update on what’s happening at ABF
  + Uniform Prudent management of institutional Funds Acts, Broader gift awareness, financial Services firms, community foundations, SYFF. [www.abcofgiving.org](http://www.abcofgiving.org)
* ABF offers planned giving services and offers help to ABC family to expand your future
* ABF is different than others cause they increase financial support by investment group and inspiring support
* SYFF (Strengthening Your Financial Future) Program
  + Helps with vision, custom made literature/brochures, ways to honor donors
* Handle funds for churches and ABC institutions

Rev. Dr. Christine Roush, Chief Executive Officer, will be guest speaker at our ABC NE Convention in October—ABC NE working on how we would go about strengthening our financial future

*All resources online and on ABC NE “Resource” Page*

Greg gave upcoming dates—please see “Upcoming Dates” Subtitle

Follow up from Nov. Meeting- subcommittees

* These committees have work to do every group meet minus Personnel Committee

Finance: Bob Fairchild- finance team reviewed last years’ results and looked at the purposed budget for 2025

* Region has upwards of $25,000 deficit budget and ahead primarily because of money from Layton legacy
* Camp- first 2 months of year is hard to get a picture of what is going on but budgeting a surplus right now
  + More January and February donations this year than have ever seen
  + Churches have been generous to Region
* Budget Line 7190 had some more clarity and added specific lines (like speakers and conferences, church filings, clergy wellness- Jason Workmann, FBC Hastings, hospitality)
* Budget Line 4685 building usage had been run separately and now we are tracking those differently than just “in and out”
  + Example- Sanctuary windows repaired because they were rotted out
* Jamie said the meeting provided details and really helped
* Designated Funds that ABC NE manages besides budgeting

Bev: Camp Moses Merrill updated (following region theme of loving courageously)

* Registrations coming in and same pace as last couple years and going back to 1 month camping in June
* Church visits have begun
* LIT had 22 young people that are planning on serving at camp and it’s creating a culture of participation
* Youth Retreat next weekend- Greg will be the speaker
* Alarm system was not working and needed to be repaired $22,000 completed and part of process was that the system must be approved by the Fire Marshal
* Well has been approved by State Department and should be connected by Spring (had signed for well in 2023)
* Cabin 1 in progress and will be done by summer
  + 8 bunks in a cabin is too many and decrease to 7- which will be 14 kids
* New investment-- $58,000 gift to camp per memorial
* Weaver Hall- check social media and in rebuilding point
  + Demo started in November with volunteers gutting kitchen
  + Contractors started at end of January
    - New sewer lines, sheetrock, water lines
    - Resin floor throughout building
    - HVAC is in
    - Custom cabinets made because of steam table and salad bar
    - New appliances are going to be ordered in cycles so that they can be put in as construction continues
  + Weaver Hall Estimated Project Cost-- $369,671.00 (see handout)
    - Hoping to have $100,000 left after the project—protentional to but fire pit by the bell or to replace the deck with composite and to take bricks outside building and awning for the grill
* May 3 opening of Weaver Hall
  + Bev will have next capital campaign ready for the next projects for all the buildings that need to be updated because everything is 20 years old

Department of Professional Ministries: Aaron

* 1 incident does not include ABC NE pastor at current churches and person that has ordination and uses it for chaplaincy in military working with misconduct allegation
  + Provided pathway to forgiveness and restoration and set for them and looking at finances to assist that person
* Meet together and put ordination practices into 1 document along with ethics

ABMen: Brad Pope- Men’s conference August 8-9 and have men do work projects with devotional time

* Purchased tires for skid loader for Camp
* Disaster relief money used to have trailers but now are focusing on providing money to rural fire departments that are helping with wildfires ($500 to Gage County) and help with Western
* Strongly considering the one north of Broken Bow, NE grassland fire giving about $500 each and something to assist and support the work that they are doing

ABWM: Susan Howell- final stages of planning June Conference (Be Strong and Courageous) Rev. LeThelma Yenn-Batah will be speaker

* Have by-laws and with elections
* Request for things to be virtual as well as in-person
* Fall Retreat—October 24-26 and hoping to find a church out west that will do the western side of state and then the east side to have them do same theme
* Found Wycleman Funds- some in Pennsylvania and California
  + Filling out paperwork and working towards
* Helping with ABWM Women and Girls’ Day at the Biennial
  + Announcement in ABC NE newsletter and ABWM NE newsletter as well
* Plans to visit churches in the Spring

ABC USA BGM: Orin- provided the report and working on confidentiality

* Item 13 change of relationships with churches and the number of churches we have that and those that leave
* Go to ABC NE website <http://abcnebraska.com/ministry-partners> will find mission organizations and partners
* Next meeting prior to summit meetings in Omaha and signed up for that

ABC NE Region Staff: Blake

* Guild projects in Arthur, NE- training lay ministers to preach (currently has 6 members)
  + Discipleship pathway with theological emphasis/training
  + Have them preach last Sunday of the month and will use them during Sabbatical
* C3C clergy groups meeting on Zoom every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month

Aaron

* Pulpit Swap with Pastor Charlie in Scottsbluff and working to incorporate the churches in the West
* Continuing to work on how to do corporate fellowship and region convention and try to encourage the churches to participate
* International Ministries Global Servants in Nebraska in time around mission summit
* To do a pastoral spousal support and in pre-planning process together

Joy

* America for Christ Offering 2025
* Space for Grace in 2026—Cleveland, Ohio
* Immigrant Updates/ Meeting to talk about how churches can respond
* LAC update
  + Finances
  + Working with volunteers

Mission Summit

* July 4th family picnic with carnival games, face painting, corn hole (camp has one)
* Region Exhibit Table
* Finance Team
  + Counting after worship services
    - Tracy
    - Bob (will help with driving)
  + Jamie will be a point person
* Added conversation about security at the event have to pay per hour and pay plain-clothes officers - OGS is looking into this
  + Tracy’s son works for the Sheriff
  + Marlesh Mbory might be a good contact too

Greg

* Lenten Devotional Series- Rev. Taylor Shippy helped be the editor
* What Teenagers Want You To Know Webinar—Fuller Youth Institute through Northern Seminary
* American Baptist Homes of the Midwest- Greg continues to serve on that board and strengthening those relationships
* Burma Advocacy Group and working with group to assist with our folks that are affected by changes in the government
  + Providing accurate information
  + Advocating for humanitarian aid where there are refugees
  + Education- training teachers in refugee camps and diaspora areas
  + Met with Senator Pete Rickett’s staff to talk about this (he is on Foreign Affairs)
    - Have audience with his Washington staff
    - Our goal is to make the stories real and heard because there are personal stories
    - Burmese and South Sudan
* 3 vehicles- 2 to be traded-in for a new one—blue book prices included in your packet
  + Black escape to Bev—old camp and Greg’s car to be traded in for another vehicle Greg would drive
  + Brad makes motion for Greg to continue forward with car trade-in/ pricing of new vehicle
  + Jamie seconds motion
  + Motion carried
* Greg taking 2 weeks off in July

Jane closes meeting with prayer 12:40 pm