

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska
Saturday, August 16, 2025
Region Meeting
Gibbon First Baptist Church, Gibbon, Nebraska

Members attending: Orin Clinger, Nola Crooks, Jane Gangwish, Scott Jones, Greg Mamula, Bev Pacas, Jamie Yendra

Members attending by ZOOM: Carlos Angulo, Jill Blaylock, Doug Larsen

Devotions: Greg Mamula opened the meeting at 10:02 a.m. with greetings, a devotional from Matthew 13.

Leadership Team: Jane Gangwish welcomed the board to Gibbon. Jane expressed her appreciation for all the work that was done at the ABC USA Biennial Mission Summit. Jamie Yendra also followed up with her appreciation for the assistance that was provided by our state.

Discussion followed among the board regarding the mission summit with both positive and negative feedback on the event.

Review of Minutes: Traci Gilmer fix Doug Larsen spelling of the name
Scott Jones moved that we approve the minutes with corrections to the last names, seconded by Jamie Yendra, motion passed.

Calendar: State convention is October 10-11, 2025, in Scottsbluff. There is a scavenger hunt and two workshops. Brian will also be a workshop presenter on Saturday. There is an opportunity for groups associated with the region to have a group meeting.

November 14-15, 2025 is the scheduled date for the fall retreat. Dr. Jeff Woods is board training/board encouragement – potential speaker/ facilitator for the meeting/retreat

Greg Mamula encouraged the board to create the 2026 Calendar for new members of the board to have.

2026 Dates

February 28, 2026- Region Office
May 2, 2026 – Norfolk, Nebraska
August 15, 2026 - Gibbon, Nebraska
October 2-3, 2026 State Convention - Fremont
November 13-14, 2026 – Fall Retreat at Moses Merrill

ABCUSA General Board: - Orin Clinger reported that at the national meetings of the ABCUSA he sat next to a pastor and was moved by his faith story.

Orin expressed concerns that he become aware of regarding AWAB and the national denomination. He expressed issues that he became aware of at the national meeting and he inquired as to how the board expected him to approach the issues.

Greg Mamula shared his belief regarding the issue and the responsibility of region leadership to support local churches. He shared that the work of the region is to affirm the priesthood of all believers and support autonomy of the local church, protecting churches to do the work that God is calling them to do. Greg expressed his hope that our region would be able to work in harmony, regardless of individual church beliefs.

Nola Crooks moved that we table the conversation regarding the issue. There was no second. Greg Mamula indicated we can pursue conversation at our November retreat if the board feels it is necessary.

Moses Merrill Camp: Bev Pacas shared there were 167 campers for the summer and felt the summer was very impactful. Senior High Camp was the most phenomenal – the message, the leaders and the campers. Keira recruited leadership from young working adults.

This summer, 13 campers received financial aid of approximately \$4,120.00. Seven churches in our region offered financial assistance to their campers. The rates for summer camp, charged to the campers, does not cover the entire cost for the camp.

Looking forward to 2026, one of the goals is to recruit at the college level and older for leaders over the summer and look for more mature leaders.

The summer 2026 summer camp schedule is set and Bev Pacas is looking for input from board members for creative ways to recruit summer campers.

A young adult retreat is scheduled at camp on November 1st and 2nd 2025.

Due to age, there has been a loss of eight members of the 2300 team, looking for new members. Encouraged any current board members who are not already a member to become a member of the 2300 club. The funds received through the 2300 club total approximately \$30,000.00 each year and covers the utilities for the camp.

Bev Pacas and Greg Mamula are working on a new capital campaign and encouraging legacy giving throughout the region.

Construction Updates: The well is in the final stages, there have been two clear tests and are just waiting a final inspection. Weaver Hall – Almost completely done and landscaping is being completed this morning. Retaining wall along the road is complete. Patio is in process.

The meeting paused for a break for lunch, at 11:40, reconvened at 12:10

Exec Min Report - Greg Mamula has visited multiple churches since our last board meeting. FBC Omaha will be candidating a pastor, Andrew Mahoney, next weekend. Has been advised from Blair FBC and Hastings FBC that they will not be searching for pastors – will work with pulpit supply and other options.

The search for a pastor for 2nd Baptist Lincoln continues as they are ready to public their profile for the pastor search. FBC Lincoln is working with options in terms of the multiple ministries that work in their space as they consider the search process.

First Karen Church in Lincoln is moving to a new space from FBC Lincoln, a cohort of the church will remain at FBC Lincoln.

Susan Gillies received the Sparrowk award on Sunday evening. The idea of a reception was suggested and Greg Mamula will follow up with the idea.

Staff transitions – Joy Martinez Marshall has moved to Kansas, Sue Gammel has announced her retirement from the office, she will leave at the end of the year. Greg Mamula provided a “working” job description for a new position. The hope for the region is to hire before the end of November. allowing the new hire some time to shadow with Sue Gammel before the end of the year.

National Leadership Council – in May of 2025 – Ryan Burge shared the data ABCUSA member ships are down 40%, individuals who identify as Christian 9%, only the Assemblies of God church is increasing membership but are also having growth pains with leadership.

Questions regarding our structure, on a national level, and what is needed and necessary versus as opposed to how we are currently structured. The expectation is the regions and staff will be merging across states in the future.

International Ministries is reaching out to the Midwest for more board members.

Greg Mamula is part of the Immigration response group with the Executive Ministers board of ABCUSA.

The most recent Palmer Grant cycle just closed and the funds were disbursed on Thursday. Palmer Foundation will make the announcement regarding who won the grants. There were 388 applications for the technology groups, totaling more than \$4 Million dollars.

Burma Advocacy group hired an advocacy group to assist with lobbying in Washington D.C., the group continues to work with Roy Medley

Greg Mamula has been asked to serve on the AB Historical Society Board and will begin in 2026. He is still service on the American Baptist Nursing Care board. He attended a planning meeting for the Mountain Prairie Youth conference in Colorado last week.

Finance: Bob Fairchild reported on the current financials of the region and Moses Merrill Camp and Conference. The board reviewed the midyear totals for the different line items and there were no outstanding categories that caused concern.

Bob Fairchild and Greg Mamula shared a line item inventory of expenses for each category as well as contributions.

Greg Mamula shared the information regarding the region and giving to United Mission.

Our mission giving has been audited by request by ABCUSA and the region is in compliance.

Greg Mamula shared a prospective document regarding the open positions on the board and the individuals who will be departing the board as well as those who have agreed to serve in the future.

Greg Mamula shared that the region has contracted with Mail Chimp to create an SMS notification system and will be working to set that up.

Department of Professional Ministry:

Scott Jones advised there are no new ordinations or new pastors currently in the process. One clergy misconduct case was resolved

AB Men: There was no report for ABMen

American Baptist Women's Ministries:

Nola Crooks reported that the fall conference and the spring conferences are being "redesigned" and will begin on Friday evening and end on Saturday after dinner.

There is a fall retreat happening October 24, 2025 and a Spring conference June 5&6, looking into new locations and formats. Conferences are coming up – changing them to just a Friday night – 24 hours conference, with a potential "preconference" on Friday afternoon.

The project for ABWM this year is the Kodiak Baptist Mission Bicycle Project and the goal is \$2500.00, currently we have reached 35% of our goal.

Weichelman Fund – Susan Howell is coordinating the committee to create the new trust and facilitate the trust/fund.

Greg Mamula closed the meeting at 1:10 p.m. with prayer and benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Nola Crooks

Nola Crooks
ABCNE Secretary