

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska
Saturday, February 28, 2026
Region Meeting
ABC Nebraska Region Office / Zoom

Full recording can be accessed online:

https://ministrelife.zoom.us/rec/share/qgsL6u4HAM5BKwQMlj8SjAkhKEVNbtKgNB5xmx5oOpkcw24ueLFh3NCqL5hKQCL.cW76_iV3q2gBcvxw

Passcode: M6qxWf.?

Members attending:

President Jane Gangwish, Treasurer Bob Fairchild, Doug Larsen, Traci Gilmer, Nola Crooks ABWomen, Pawsbeh Moo, Scott Jones, Brad Pope ABMen, Carlos Angulo, Jamie Yendra, Chaplain Dale Pracht, Executive Minister Greg Mamula

Members attending by ZOOM:

Jason Owens, Patrick Fleeman, Jill Blaylock, Deanna Hoatson, Orin Clinger ABCUSA BGM, Vice President Marlesh Mbory, Aaron Sprock, Lauren Parliament

***Summary**

The American Baptist Churches of Nebraska leadership team met to discuss various operational updates and strategic initiatives. Greg provided a tour of the new office space and reviewed the calendar of upcoming events, including the annual meeting in June. The team approved budget adjustments and discussed a potential partnership with Central Seminary's Antioch Center. Updates on summer camp plans were shared, with the theme set as "Pursue Wisdom" for 2026. Infrastructure needs at camp were outlined, including repairs to pumps, furnaces, and windows, with some costs to be covered by proceeds from the recent building sale. The team also discussed creating a dedicated fund for infrastructure repairs and maintenance. Lauren Parliament, the new associate region minister, introduced herself and shared her plans for upcoming speaking engagements and youth programming. The conversation ended with a discussion of a recent legal settlement protecting religious spaces from immigration enforcement actions, and guidance was provided for churches to display appropriate signage, if desired.

Devotions:

Rev. Dale Pracht opened the meeting with a devotional from Matthew 7:24-27, emphasizing the call to not only hear Christ's words but to put them into practice. The reflection also referenced James 1:22, encouraging leaders to embody faithful action in ministry.

Leadership Team:

Jane Gangwish welcomed the board and opened the meeting.

Review of Minutes:

Traci Gilmer moved that the previous meeting minutes be approved.

Seconded by Nola Crooks.

Motion passed.

Finance / Budget:

The Leadership Team reviewed proposed budget adjustments (as outlined in supporting documents). Discussion focused on aligning financial resources with current ministry priorities and ensuring responsible stewardship.

Motion:

Brad Pope moved to approve the proposed budget adjustments.
Seconded by Jamie Yendra.

Vote:

Motion passed unanimously.

Review of Region, Camp, and ABCUA calendars

Finance

YTD was presented for Region and Camp

Vanguard investments

Updates were made to region budget to reflect income from building sale, additional staff, and travel line items.

Rev. Dr. Christine Rousch visited via Zoom to share more information about the American Baptist Foundation and how we can invest our building sale resources safely.

Discussion of the new Antioch Center at Central Seminary.

Jamie Yendra made a motion to approve changes to 2026 budget and participate in the Antioch Center.
Seconded by Nola Crooks

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center and summer schedule.

ABC NE Region staff updates from Aaron Sprock and Lauren Parliament.

Department reports from ABWomen and ABMen and ABCUSA.

Ministry Discussion:

The board engaged in discussion regarding current ministry realities across the region, including:

- Ongoing challenges faced by congregations
- The importance of leadership responsiveness and adaptability
- Continued emphasis on aligning mission, resources, and action

No formal motions were made during this discussion.

Additional Business:

No additional formal business was brought forward.

*Action items from conversations:

- Greg: Send out the ABC USA sensitive space litigation signage (ABC logo or appropriate sign) to churches for optional posting on doors, especially for churches with multiple buildings or non-ABC meeting locations.
- Greg: Complete and send Phase 2 documentation describing additional buildings/properties for each church (beyond the main sanctuary) for the sensitive space litigation coverage.
- Region/Becky: Continue transition of property insurance to new coverage after building sale is finalized (do not drop insurance until sale is complete).

- Aaron: Recruit a new person for the Department of Professional Ministries to replace Bill Prather.
- Jesse: Continue contacting churches to update youth contact information and plan a youth pastor training event.
- AB Women: Finalize and distribute details for the June 5-6 conference in Kearney within the next week.
- Region/Staff: Consider starting a capital/infrastructure campaign for ongoing camp maintenance and building repair needs.
- Orin: Send email to new budget review officer to suggest/arrange a Zoom meeting for the finance committee.
- Lauren: Continue preparation for moving to Nebraska and for speaking at the AB Men's Retreat in August.
- Region/Staff: Identify and recruit new members for the AB Men board, especially to address the aging out of current leadership.
- Region/Staff: Transition remaining AB Men scholarship funds to the region for future use as determined by the region.
- Region/Staff: Continue to monitor and address upcoming camp maintenance needs (e.g., re-windowing Calendar House, painting Conference Center, completing metal siding on Weaver Hall, and addressing outstanding repairs as funds allow).
- Region/Staff: Plan and coordinate the visit to Community Baptist Church in Kodiak, Alaska, including budget review and scheduling for September, and determine which staff will attend.
- Region/Staff: Continue to update church addresses and contact information in NetSuite as needed for sensitive space litigation and other communications.

Closing:

The meeting concluded with closing remarks and prayer from Chaplain Dale Pracht.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula, Executive Minister

ABC Nebraska

*Summary and Action items generated by Zoom AI