

September 10-11, 2010
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region and the
Board of Directors Meeting
Cross Wind Conference Center

Growing Healthy Churches to Fulfill Christ's Mission
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region
Board of Directors Meeting
Cross Wind Conference Center
Hesston, Kansas
September 10-11, 2010

Friday, September 10

Lonny Bruce called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the September Board of Directors meeting. Jim McIntosh and Ruth Clark led the group in singing, and Bill Cowell gave the opening devotion and prayer.

B-12-10 Phil Schmidt moved to accept the minutes of the May 7-8, 2010, Board of Directors meeting as printed. James Callaway seconded and the motion was approved.

Reports

Sunset Home

Larry Blochlinger, administrator of Sunset Home.

- ▶ Larry has been with Sunset Home for 7 years, first as Human Resources director in 2003 then as administrator since July 2004. He brought regards from the board, residents, and staff of Sunset Home and thanked the Central Region for the mission funds they receive. The United Mission support is added to the general fund to cover salaries, etc.
- ▶ This past year, they implemented a staff strategic plan to work better as a staff. The new receptionist who was hired the first of the year is developing a website while learning the rest of her job.
- ▶ The current 2.9 million budget was built on resident occupancy of 43 in the nursing center and 33 in assisted living. This summer, the number in the nursing center was down to 36. Hospitals haven't had as many patients so Sunset Home hasn't received as many referrals. Lower residency numbers are typical industry-wide. Three private rooms will be available as of October 1. More people are requesting private rooms so they are pulling semi-private rooms to make them private. They may convert a couple more rooms after Jan. 1. There has been an increase in the number of assisted living residents.
- ▶ Over a year ago, they hired a consulting firm. Through some of their recommendations, they have cut some expenses. Also, they have increased some income areas for things that were being done too cheaply. They are using less of their investment funds to offset expenses.
- ▶ Sunset Home started in 1905 and moved to Concordia in 1911. Much of large investment income came from people who passed away in the 1960s – 80s. Much of wealth was created back in those days. They hope to save income for major projects like a new van.
- ▶ They try to make the facility look more homey by encouraging people to bring pictures and things from home. They have very good people who want to do a good job and make sure it is a pleasant place. Two activities staff members keep the residents' minds moving.
- ▶ Weekly activities include playing a taped worship service, Bible Study, weekly church services led by a group of ministers. Once a month, a minister from Clyde leads a service. They also have prayer and devotions before meals and staff meetings.

September 10-11, 2010
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region and the
Board of Directors Meeting
Cross Wind Conference Center

- ▶ Sunset Home offers a wide range of care with assisted living, skilled care, plus independent living. A couple of cottages were built in the 1930's, 4 duplexes were built around 2000 and 5 single-family homes have been built since then. This has slowed over the last 2 years so they have begun using inexpensive advertising on cable TV.
- ▶ Medicare changes coming October 1 may require them to move one nurse off the floor to do paperwork so they can get reimbursement. When they transfer a resident in or out, they will have a 28 page document to complete. This week, they are doing training on the new software.

Murrow Children's Home

Dan Cole for Betty Martin

- ▶ Betty has been Executive Director at Murrow Children's Home for 7 months. She wishes to send a personal thank you to each supporter.
- ▶ Several new children were enrolled in school in August, and twenty back packs were filled with school supplies donated by Community Baptist Church in Tulsa. The 20 children are in 6 different schools so all staff attended an open house.
- ▶ Eight mission groups came to Murrow and worked throughout the summer. They did everything from mowing to replacing a fuse box. In addition to working, they provided VBS, took the children to the zoo, water park, and on picnics.
- ▶ The children received recognition from one of the schools and from Youth Volunteer Core. The school had just received the State Test scores, and Frank ranked in the top 10% of students in the state. Marissa and Sydney each received a \$500 education award for volunteering 100 hours.
- ▶ Dan shared that some much-needed building updates are being done. Murrow is part of the link of ABC homes so they have access to endowment funds. They recently received a check for \$75,000 and another \$25,000 will be coming to help with other expenses.

Ottawa University

Gaynia Menninger, Executive Assistant to the President

- ▶ Gaynia is pleased to work at Ottawa University because they have a great president, board, and support from ABCCR. They are beginning to grow and are looking at new buildings for their campus.
- ▶ This fall, there are 570 students with 230 new students, the largest enrollment in 30 years.
- ▶ OU is in its second year of the Adawe Life Plan Center. It started last year with first year students and was so successful that upper class came in and requested the same service. They have now branched into internships.
- ▶ This is the first semester of the MBA program. There is also a graduate assistant program.
- ▶ Out of 230 new students, 40 of the new students are music majors. Last year, OU did very well in sports.
- ▶ Campus ministries are active. Important youth ministry dates include the Nov. 5-7 "Braving Discipleship" youth event.
- ▶ Ottawa University has additional locations in Phoenix, Chandler and Surprise, Arizona; Jeffersonville, Indiana; Overland Park, Kansas; and Brookfield, Wisconsin. Programs are also offered online. Traditional students are discouraged from taking online classes right away because OU wants them to have the traditional experience. Total enrollment is 2,700 in all locations and online classes.

September 10-11, 2010
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region and the
Board of Directors Meeting
Cross Wind Conference Center

Bacone College –

Wil Brown for Robert Duncan

- ▶ Bacone College is enjoying the largest fall enrollment ever – nearly 1,160 students, up from 1,037 this time in 2009 for an increase of 12%.
- ▶ In the fall of 2007, Bacone College established its four-year bachelors degree in Christian Ministry. Students can select from one of three concentrations within the degree: Christian Counseling Concentration, Worship Arts Concentration, or Small Group concentration. The Christian ministry degree program graduated its first four students in Spring of 2010.
- ▶ Last summer, students who are part of the Center for Christian Ministry went on a summer missions trip to Bethel Neighborhood Center. Students led a Vacation Bible School experience for the children and youth including music, crafts, recreation, lunch, and a presentation about Bacone College. A smaller Summer Praise Team made several appearances around the region, and Adam Bourne, Christian Ministry recruiter, attended 8 church camps.
- ▶ Two ABC leaders have been recruited to represent Bacone College on a part time contract basis. Ms. Betty Wright-Riggins will be working on the east coast, and Rev. Max Klinkenborg will work in the Great Rivers Region.
- ▶ Over the past nine months, Dr. Robert Duncan, Dr. Leroy Thompson, and Rev. Wil Brown have traveled coast to coast to meet with Regional Executive Ministers. An unexpected outcome was an opportunity to create a new Doctrine and Polity Course for them. Plans are to use Bacone's classroom management software and post lectures on iTunesUniversity so prospective ministers may prepare for the ordination process online.
- ▶ Bacone worked with the Kansas Plan institutions to create a 35-minute video to explain the Kansas Plan to the churches that support it. The 7 part video opens with John Williams giving a short history and explanation of the Kansas Plan. Then each ministry describes its program. In addition to the video presentation, the Graphic Arts department at Bacone worked with these institutions to create a series of promotional bulletin inserts for use by churches. The video will be shown at the Annual Gathering and will, along with the bulletin insert files, be available to the churches of the Central Region.
- ▶ Bacone College wants to thank the churches of the Central Region for their continuing support. Bacone is proud to be part of the Central Region of the ABC.

Central Theological Seminary

John Gravley, Vice President for Institutional Advancement

- ▶ Largest enrollment since 1956, around 180.
- ▶ One new program is the training of refugee leaders from Burma. The United States is receiving 16,000 to 18,000 refugees from Burma. Because of the Judsons' missionary work, many of these refugees want to be connected to American Baptist Churches. There is a task force working with refugee leaders and the regions. Last spring, the Association of American Baptist Seminaries met at Central to talk about credentialing these Burmese pastors. Central offered to teach a class in ministerial ethics and Baptist polity. Regions from all over the country sent 26 leaders to Ottawa to participate in this intense program. They used a grant to provide housing and meals. Afterwards, they were presented a certificate at a joint worship service. Many of these pastors were forced from home without their records so receiving this certificate recognizing leadership

September 10-11, 2010
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region and the
Board of Directors Meeting
Cross Wind Conference Center

was extremely important to them. All of this is happening because of missionaries who went to this area 100s of years ago. These Burmese pastors are coming back to the United States and revitalizing our churches.

- ▶ Foundations program (non-degree) is providing a bilingual program in Spanish and English to provide pastoral leaders with the basics. This is a streamline training program for pastoral leaders who are not prepared for seminary. CBTS is exploring other possibilities to train pastors.
- ▶ Doctor of Ministry program will hopefully start in the spring. Central is trying to make a commitment that every student will have a cross-cultural international experience. Doctor of Ministry students will have the opportunity to do at least one seminar in Myanmar School of Theology.
- ▶ Create Program - The typical student at Central is in their second career. Why aren't they getting students from Ottawa or Bacone? Seminary has been seen as the denominational place to get credentials, but younger people are questioning whether denominational seminary is essential. Many students have a heart for ministry, but have tremendous educational debt. Central is removing the debt problem by giving full scholarships. Last year, nine students entered the program, and this year there are 26 students with full scholarships. They are applying for grants to pay for these scholarships.
- ▶ Construction projects continue. Stonework is going up on the outside, and the chapel and library expansion are nearing completion. Ribbon cutting ceremony is April 8.
- ▶ Journey Community Church, the joint church start, will be celebrating Easter in the new chapel.

Executive Minister Report

John Williams

- ▶ John hopes everyone listened to these reports so they know what the Kansas Plan money is doing. (Prairie Homestead gives its report in the spring). 28.69% of each United Mission dollar goes to the Kansas Plan and supports these agencies. Our colleges - Bacone, Ottawa, and Central are doing well and are connected to the denomination and their roots. The Kansas Plan keeps us connected and makes a difference in our institutions.
- ▶ Clergy Boundaries Workshop – David Lundholm, ABC Nebraska, was presenter. Forty clergy participated in the 24-hour meeting, and United Mission giving helped support it.
- ▶ Next week, New Pastors Fellowship Day will be here at Cross Wind. Soozie Ford who is working at the national level will be speaking about stewardship resources.

Executive Committee report

Lonny Bruce

- ▶ The Executive Committee meeting began at 1:00 following lunch. Lonny gave the devotion and prayer.
- ▶ Jerry Seabaugh used scripture from Acts in his presentation about Athens and surrounding area where Paul preached.
- ▶ Marshall Schirer is retiring in December, and Wilma Engle is being trained to take over Marshall's work in planned giving.
- ▶ Discussed 2011 budget and the shortfall. If every person gave an additional \$1 per week to United Mission, our budget would be completely underwritten. At the rate we are using the available endowment fund interest, in three years, this fund will be at a level we can't go below.

September 10-11, 2010
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region and the
Board of Directors Meeting
Cross Wind Conference Center

Sabbatical Report

Jerry Seabaugh

Jerry talked about a few highlights of his trip and archeological dig and offered to present programs around the region. He has several presentations prepared including Travels and Missionary Journeys of Paul and the Bethsaida Archeological Dig. Another possible program would be about the Greek Monasteries of Meteora and the Minoan Empire on Crete and a similar location at Corinth.

Lonny Bruce reported that the 2010 Annual Gathering will be in Atchison and 2011 Annual Gathering will be in Junction City. The 2012 Annual Gathering will be in another town yet to be determined and will return to Junction City in 2013.

B-13-10 Central Region has been asked to host the 2013 Biennial ABC/USA. The Executive Committee agreed. Jim McIntosh moved that we affirm the Executive Committee decision to invite ABC to come to Overland Park Convention Center. Phil Schmidt seconded. Motion approved.

ABC USA will provide staff and a tremendous amount of support. They suggest that the Local Arrangements committee should have 125 people. That chair has not been selected yet.

2010 Annual Gathering Report

Adriana Chaney

Annual Gathering will be October 8 and 9 at the Heritage Conference Center in Atchison. Rev. Roy Medley will be Keynote speaker. This location was chosen because of the historical connection. 150 years ago, the first meeting of Kansas Baptist Convention was in Atchison.

Motel space is filling up. It will be a great Annual Gathering with inspiring worship. There will be a group picture taken at 4:00.

Other business

Lorene Brannin carried a message from Tom Moore, pastor of All Tribes Baptist church in Tulsa. They have been meeting in a tent for a year. Now, have located mobile buildings in Lawton, but need help moving them from Lawton to Tulsa.

Adriana dismissed the meeting with prayer.

Saturday, September 11

The board reconvened Saturday morning following Vision Team meetings. Jim McIntosh and Ruth Clark led the group in singing, and Bill Cowell gave the devotion. Following the devotion, John Williams explained that the Bethel Neighborhood Center's "Hop-a-thon" is taking place today. Since none of this Board of Directors can be there to hop, an offering totaling \$712.00 was taken for Bethel.

September 10-11, 2010
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region and the
Board of Directors Meeting
Cross Wind Conference Center

Vision Team Reports

No NET report

Professional Church Leadership

Jim Kiker

- ▶ Friday evening, the Professional Church Leadership team met with NET to discuss sponsoring a preaching symposium to examine other styles of preaching. They decided it should be a stand-alone event in four different geographic areas. They discussed which churches would be involved and who presenters should be.
- ▶ Janet Crowl, chair, continued the report of Saturday's meeting. In light of the cooperative efforts of their committee and NET, they have decided to set aside the crisis conference or workshop until 2013.
- ▶ The group spent most of their time talking about recruitment. They believe there are clergy and lay leaders who want to serve, but haven't been contacted.

B-14-10 Professional Leadership Vision Team proposes a Regional Leadership Recruitment Survey to be available online and sent out twice a year, spring and fall, for use by the Region Nominating Committee and Region Board Vision Teams. This would provide an avenue for folks to express their interest in becoming involved in Regional life and Ministry.

Discussion followed. The survey will be sent in the Focus next spring and fall, be available on-line, and be included in the Annual Gathering packets. Surveys will be returned to the Region Office, then mailed to Janet who will respond to information with a personal follow-up call.

Motion passed unanimously

Christian Education

Rodger Charles

- ▶ Christian Education is focusing on mentoring ministry teams. They have been in communication with the partnering colleges who have interns willing to help. Also, there is interest in providing curriculum for churches, etc. They still need someone to be the coordinator for this mentoring ministry team.
- ▶ They visited with the camping group downstairs. They want each camper to have a prayer partner from their church who is not the parent or pastor. This person's name will be sent in on the registration form. This prayer partner will pray for the camper while they are at camp. This will be the first step in the mentoring process. If the camper makes a decision at camp, the pastor and the prayer partner will be notified. In this on-going mentoring process, the prayer partner will be in frequent contact with the youth. Camping leaders will be working on this process and will be in touch with Christian Education Vision Team.
- ▶ Rodger expressed the committee's concern about the shrinking Board of Directors and Vision Teams. How are we going to function with so much work and so few people on our group? Will board people need to serve on multiple committees? Can we set up our Vision Teams so we can have more continuity between the Board turnovers? What will be the final size of our Vision Teams?

September 10-11, 2010
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region and the
Board of Directors Meeting
Cross Wind Conference Center

John replied to Rodger's concern. The new board structure is slowly taking shape. The new board will consist of a moderator (two from Cross-Roads) and an elected representative from each area plus officers and affiliated organization representatives. This means Vision Teams must recruit from outside the board to do their work. Each Vision Team will only have 1 or 2 board members.

How will we function as a Board? Should we bring all of Vision Teams in during Board meetings? This would defeat the money-saving purpose of smaller board. Vision Teams will set their own schedules - when, how, where, what they will do.

Board will be streamlined and will be receiving reports and dealing with administrative business. The real work will be done outside of board meetings. This is still a work in progress.

The purpose of Vision Teams and ministry teams is to connect people with passion and gifts with the jobs that need to be done. Some Vision Teams might be operating with a much smaller geographic area.

Communications -

Joanna Gillette

- ▶ Gearing up for Annual Gathering - all projects are coming to a head. The Vision team is putting together historical vignettes to present at Annual Gathering. Joanna gave a sneak peek at one of them.
- ▶ Everyone is invited to stop by the booth at Annual Gathering to see historical pictures. The book entitled, American Baptist Pioneers in the Central Region, Planting the Baptist Banner will be on display and available for orders. A small number of books will be available at the meeting.
- ▶ Discussion is ongoing on the best way to share the vignettes.

Mission and Stewardship -

Greg McLaren

- ▶ The AB Women's Ministries project has a video on their Central Region project, scholarships for Haitian students. Their goal is 60 scholarships of \$500 per person for a total of \$30,000 to match scholarships for Haitian students.
- ▶ Deputation - Missionaries are coming into our area. In 2011, The Meyers, the Manns, and Wold White will be here so we want to find places for them so speak. The Shawvers and Felicia Zamora will be in the area in October.
- ▶ There will be a Mission Advocate Training session at the Annual Gathering, Friday at 4:30, after the photo. Invitations are being sent to individuals interested in mission and everyone interested is invited to attend.
- ▶ Next Saturday, there is an all-day training session on short-term mission trips. First Baptist, Olathe, and First Baptist, Lawrence, are sponsoring this meeting in Lawrence.
- ▶ The ABMen work project at Region building Friday and Saturday morning September 24 and 25. Meet there at 8:30 or 9:00. Reuben invited the women to participate, too.
- ▶ Bill Cowell reported that the Mid-Winter Mission Conference will be held at Cross Wind in January, 2011. The informative flyers will be available at the Annual Gathering and in the Focus Packet.
- ▶ Ruth Clark announced that three couples have been endorsed as missionaries. International Ministries is always in the process of recruiting and training Missionary partner teams. JD and

September 10-11, 2010
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region and the
Board of Directors Meeting
Cross Wind Conference Center

Ronda Reed from West Virginia will be going to Bolivia. Katie and Taku Longcumor, both ordained ministers, are going to northeast India, his home. Rev. Dagoberto (Dago) and Dilia Marleni Zelaya are going to Honduras, a new field of ministry. He is from First Baptist Church, Marshalltown, Iowa. Joel Hoefle and Trish Magal of St. Paul, Minnesota, are being appointed as development workers through Hope International in Myanmar and Thailand.

- ▶ We need to support United Missions and encourage churches to give. The team showed a Powerpoint presentation supporting United Missions.
- ▶ World Mission Offering is in September and October
- ▶ Greg thanked Marshall Schirer, Bill Cowell, Rick Nelson for their service on the Mission and Stewardship Team.

Administration and Finance -

Jim Gerlach

- ▶ Administration and Finance met in August and today. They are trying to cut financial corners without hurting ministry, but it can't be done.
- ▶ In 2008, the Miracle Offering pulled finances out of the hole for that year. Before that, John wrote a letter to all of the churches that seemed to help. He will be doing so again this year.
- ▶ As people leave here and go back to your churches, stress the importance of giving through United Missions.
- ▶ Budget has been cut as far as it can be cut.
- ▶ United Missions is extremely important for this year's budget to continue and for next year's budget.
- ▶ Several team members are going off the board - Merle Schmidt and Reuben Paulsen.

B-15-10 The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends to the Board of Directors to approve a Special Ministry Grant for 2011 to the First Baptist Church of Wamego in the amount of \$800.

Jim Kiker was asked to elaborate on the request. The church wants to use the grant to purchase a portable public address system to make possible a weekly Sunday morning service in Wamego City Park. Total cost is \$1,200 and the church will raise the remaining \$400. This public address system will be used in various ways as a ministry to the community.

Discussion followed. Mary Bruner called for the question. The motion was approved with one person voting no and one abstention.

- ▶ John Williams presented the audit. Everything is in good order. A couple of recommendations were acted on by the Executive Committee and the Finance and Administration Vision Team. Some notations are listed every year but the Executive Committee feels that there are adequate checks and balances in place. In the past, auditors have come in and given a long report. The books are in order to the auditors' satisfaction.

B-16-10 The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends to the Board of Directors to accept the 2009 audit as prepared by Summers, Spencer, & Callison, CPAs, Chartered.

September 10-11, 2010
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region and the
Board of Directors Meeting
Cross Wind Conference Center

The motion was approved.

B-17-10 The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends to the Board of Directors to retain Summers, Spencer, & Callison, CPAs, Chartered as the auditors for the 2010 audit based on the proposed engagement letter stating fees to be 75% of the billable rate up to a maximum of \$12,500.

Discussion was held concerning the cost of the audit. Several people stated that the cost seemed in line due to the complexity of our books. Mary Bruner called for the question. The motion was approved.

During a break in the meeting, Shirley Fair requested information about the Baptist World Congress held in Hawaii. John reported that 15 to 17 people from the Central Region were there. It was a remarkable gathering of Baptists with inspirational preaching and marvelous music from around the Baptist world. The groups from Nigeria and other African countries wore colorful native dress. John got a wider glimpse of the impact of Baptist World Alliance around the world. While the group was in Hawaii, service projects were going on to feed homeless and hungry in Honolulu.

B-17-10 The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends to the Board of Directors to present the proposed 2011 budget, as prepared, to the general body at the Annual Gathering for approval.

The income projections are based on past history, but there are no guarantees that income will stay at that level. United Mission income is going down. It dropped to \$495,000. To balance the 2011 budget, \$195,766 will need to be drawn from invested income. Some programs pay for themselves with fees such as camping and Annual Gathering. There are no salary increases in 2011.

The motion was approved.

Camping -

Rob Fabin

Rob thanked Ottawa University for providing each camper with a T-shirt. There was an increase of 60 campers this year, a 10% increase over 2009. He is grateful for the dedicated staff and that people are contacting him to volunteer.

Rob has developed a camping page on Facebook. This is a free resource that they will be using more extensively. They are also using some print advertising.

The camp report for 2010 definitely ends on a high note. A total of 614 youth participated and 186 staff were involved. Twenty four youth were saved, 129 rededicated, 13 were interested in Christian Service. The Mentoring program proposed by the Christian Education Vision team would continue their dedication to serve.

The 2011 theme is "Live Life Loud" with the scripture of Acts 4:20.

September 10-11, 2010
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region and the
Board of Directors Meeting
Cross Wind Conference Center

Recognition -

Lonny and John recognized and presented certificates to the following retiring Board Members:

Janie Allen	Janet Crowl
Bob Artz	Andy Frye
Steve Brecheisen	Rick Nelson
Mary Bruner	Reuben Paulsen
Rodger Charles	Marshall Schirer
Bill Cowell	Merle Schmidt
	Phil Schmidt

Lonny Bruce adjourned the meeting, and John Williams dismissed the group with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Carter
Secretary

Members present: Bob Artz, Lorene Brannin, Wilfred Brown, Lonny Bruce, Mary Bruner, James Callaway, Rodger Charles, Lois Chiles, Ruth Clark, Bill Cowell, Janet Crowl, Shirley Fair, Andy Frye, Jim Gerlach, Joanna Gillette, Jack Gilstrap, Stan Hendershot, George Henry, Jim Kiker, Jim McIntosh, Greg McLaren, Rick Nelson, Juanita Parker, Carolyn Paul, Reuben Paulsen, Ken Poland, Linda Rhodes, Marshall Schirer, Merle Schmidt, Phil Schmidt, Ron Smith, Warren Stanton, Matt Sturtevant, Naomi Teubner, John Williams, Lee Yarrow.

Staff present: Rita Adams, Linda Carter, Adriana Chaney, Dan Cole, Rob Fabin, Martha Robbins, and Jerry Seabaugh.

Institutional representatives: Larry Blochlinger, John Gravley, Gaynia Menninger

Excused absence: Gloria Moore