

Growing Healthy Churches to Fulfill Christ's Mission
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region
Board of Directors Meeting
Cross Wind Conference Center
Hesston, KS
February 4-5, 2011

Friday afternoon, February 4, 2011

Lonny Bruce, president, called the meeting to order. Stan Hendershot wasn't able to be present to give devotions so individuals shared how God had blessed their lives. Carl Olson led the group in singing with Ruth Clark accompanying on the piano.

Minutes of September 10-11, 2010, Board of Directors meeting were approved as written.

Reports

Bethel Neighborhood Center

Mang Sonna

- Bethel Neighborhood Center is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Their mission is “to offer a renewed sense of hope through the sharing of material, educational, social, and spiritual resources.” Their goal is to improve the quality of their ministry while minimizing their costs. They are accomplishing this goal by recruiting more volunteers, using what they already have, finding new ways to save, cross-training staff members and finding staff members’ strengths.
- Important programs at the Center include the Senior Program, Youth Program, Refugee Assistance, and the food pantry. The Senior Program has 25 participants who, in addition to participating in activities, made 195 Empathy Dolls for Children’s Mercy Hospital and 180 Bone Pillows for Cancer Action Center. The Youth Program provided 32 weeks of After School Program activities for youth ages 6-14 and 10 weeks of summer program for 100 youth. Refugees received translation help, job training, transportation, and ESL classes. The food pantry fed 3,750 people last year.
- Wilma Engle presented a Financial Literacy Training Workshop that was translated into Spanish and Burmese. Fifty Bethel families and 30 from the Senior Adult Program participated.
- Last year, ABCCR donated \$85,510 and ABWomen’s Ministries and churches gave \$42,000.

AB Women's Ministries

Juanita Parker

- Juanita Parker reported on AB Women’s Ministries activities from September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010. She began by introducing Central Region women who are active in areas outside our Region. Jane Smith, Ottawa, was Midwest Section Coordinator. Lois Chiles, Leavenworth, is currently chair for the National ABC/USA Convention Endowment Campaign. Ruth Clark, Kansas City, is president of the Board of International Ministries/USA.
- The 2009-2010 project was to raise \$30,000 to refurbish Cross Wind. Central Region women donated a total of \$34,222.04 to this project.
- The 2010 summer conference theme was “Measuring Up...God’s Pattern for Life.” The 155 women registered included 38 first-timers. Speakers were Chris Marziale, International Ministries Consultant to AB Women's Ministries, and Tomoko Armagost, special interest missionary.
- Overland White Cross Requests amounting to more than \$20,000 were given to Bethel Neighborhood Center, Anadarko Christian Center, and Brown Indian Baptist Church. Women of

the Central Region have contributed about \$27,800 to the Overseas Purchase Plan for the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, and Gifts of the Heart. Monetary donations were also given to overseas funds for the Republic of Georgia and India. They also contributed \$51,999.09 to the Love Gift during calendar year 2010.

- During the time of the Haiti hurricane crisis, churches involved women, men and youth in bandage-rolling events and shipped an untold number of bandages. This year, 1,568 women, 154 men, 36 AB Girls, and 37 youth were involved in White Cross projects.

Prairie Homestead

Diane Hull

- Prairie Homestead's assisted living area is maintaining 95% occupancy rate. The independent living area is still struggling due to the past couple of years of economic unrest. The financial position continues to be solid and residents have not endured any changes in services.
- The Board of Directors of Prairie Homestead is moving forward in 2011 with changes to the campus. They are looking at additional services to help residents in the aging process as their needs become greater. Along with additions, there will be some demolition in areas that are no longer needed and are becoming too costly to maintain.
- Prairie Homestead is proud of the affiliation with the ABCCR. This affiliation has helped many residents over the years. ABCCR monies are deposited in a Good Samaritan Fund that helps subsidize monthly service charges for residents when their financial resources run out. This subsidy has been as little as \$50 per month to as much as \$750 per month. These monies also help when residents have needs that they cannot afford, such as assistive devices, glasses, medicine, etc. Prairie Homestead firmly believes that a resident should not have to relocate due to exhaustion of their financial assets.
- Diane extended an invitation to any church groups that would like to come and tour the facility. Just contact her to schedule a date and time.

Ministers Council

Steve Neal

- Steve just began serving a 2-year term as president of Ministers' Council. The meeting at the Annual Gathering went well. Dr. Richard Olson from Central Seminary spoke on his book, Love Letter to a Conflicted Church. He is also speaking at the clergy retreat in April on the theme "Conflict as Opportunity." The Clergy Retreat is April 11-13 at Cross Wind. Cost is \$120 for double occupancy or \$170 for a single room.
- Last January, the executive board of Ministers' Council met at Cross Wind with Dr. Joe Kutter. The theme from here forward is "One in the Spirit - learning to do ministry with those different from us."
- The national dues doubled and will probably increase at the Region level. These dues haven't been raised for 20 years. Because membership dues have increased, Ministers' Council is offering scholarships to help with dues. Before the increase, dues were \$35 (national dues \$25 + \$10 regional) and now, for 2011, dues are \$60 (national dues \$50 + \$10 for regional).
- Since the Ministers' Council is here to support full-time ministers and bi-vocational and retired ministers, they are planning ½ day retreats so bi-vocational pastors can attend. The Council is working with John Bliss to locate and stay in touch with retired ministers. They will be offering resources to women in ministry and native American pastors.
- They have been giving Together in Ministry grants and are looking at creative ways to keep the grants going. Currently, about 50 pastors are members and Steve hopes to double that number during the next two years.

International Missions

Ruth Clark

- Ruth reminded the Board that last year when she gave her report, the Haiti earthquake had just occurred. A coalition of IM staff, missionaries and leaders of the Haitian Baptist Convention under the leadership of Emmanuel Pierre has designed a plan to meet both the immediate and long-term needs. Ruth reported that by the end of 2010, \$2.8 million had been given. A new seven-part series of brief video updates are available for download from the IM website, www.internationalministries.org.
- During this past year, Dwight Bolick (Chile) and Duane Binkley (Thailand/Burmese refugees) were ordained. Appointments include the following:
 Joel Hoefle and his wife Patricia (Trish) as development workers in Burma and Thailand who are jointly appointed with HOPE International and are members of the Judson Baptist Church of St. Paul, Minnesota.
 Dagoberto and Dilia Zelaya as educational and evangelism missionaries in Honduras. They are jointly appointed with their home church, the FBC of Marshalltown, Iowa. They have been working in an orphanage they helped to build and will begin a new church as well.
 Catherine (Katie) and Taku Longkumer, who have been serving in Illinois have been endorsed to create their MPT and hope to soon be in Northeast India where they will work with the CBCNEI (Council of Baptist Churches of North East India). Katie will provide worship and counseling training to churches in northeast India and share her gifts in missionary training. Taku will work with the mission secretaries of CBCNEI and its member conventions to provide the pre-field and in-service training to the missionaries; to equip churches to better support their sponsored missionaries; and to visit and provide pastoral care to the missionaries in their work areas.
 JD and Rhonda Reed from West Virginia will become the first MPT members to be commissioned as missionaries. They have been endorsed and are working with their MPT to prepare for service in Bolivia. They will serve in theological education for both lay leaders and pastors, in starting new work and in development of the work in the Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the southern part of Bolivia. The Reeds will also interpret the ministries of The Union Bautista Boliviana in the U.S. and globally.
- As IM moves into its third century of mission, the Third Century Working Group has been formed to provide a springboard for IM's future ministry. It includes five board members, five missionaries, five staff members, and the executive director of American Baptist Women's Ministries and a facilitator. The first meeting held in late November was exhilarating and challenging as members talked of the opportunities and frustrations of doing mission around the world.
- To keep your congregation in tune with what is happening in these volatile times, please use the IM website to find current information, share up-to-date journals from our partners and missionaries, and sign up for the weekly Prayer Call with updates of our missionaries' work and prayer needs.
- Baptist churches of Burma (Myanmar) are celebrating the 200th anniversary of Adoniram and Ann Judson which was the stimulus for the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, the oldest mission organization in North America. In 2014, there will be a gathering in Green Lake with all missionaries. Baptists of Israel will be celebrating 100 years of work there in May.

Ecumenical Relations Adjunct

David Harader (Written report)

- As Adjunct Staff for Ecumenical Relations, David Harader serves on the Kansas Ecumenical Ministries (KEM) Board. Activities this past year included the annual gathering in April featuring Dr. Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, with 52 people attending.
- Linda Kemp tendered her resignation at the January 24, 2011 meeting.

A gathering will be scheduled to discuss the future of KEM. Those interested should contact dlharader@cox.net . For more information on KEM go to www.kansasecumenical.com.

Youth Adjunct

Wendy Haviland (Written report)

- During 2010, Youth Ministry Planning Committee sponsored Jr Hi Jamboree in February at Webster Conference Center in Salina, KS. Steve Hollingsworth and Richard Crooks co-coordinated the successful event. The weather resulted in many churches leaving Saturday. The event created positive cash flow for the year.
- YMPC also sponsored Sr Hi Gathering in March at Youth Front Camp South in LaCygne, KS. Layman Pierce and Aaron Trent co-coordinated this successful event. This event created negative cash flow so excess funds from the Jamboree fund were used to cover the additional expenditures. All of these coordinators except Aaron Trent have agreed to take on the events again in 2011.
- YMPC also sponsored Youth Leader Core in 2009-2010. The group started with ten youth, but only four graduated due to attendance policies. The leadership team was Dava Cooper, Wendy Haviland, Bryan Miller, Keith Niemeyer, and Jennifer Schneider. The material is modified by the leaders to be relevant to today's youth in order to teach them four key areas of study: personal awareness, faith, missions and ministry, and leadership. YLC will be taking a sabbatical for the 2010-2011 year due to lack of attendance. The leadership team is going to rework the programming during the year in order to gain new momentum next year for the program. YLC was also a slightly positive cash flow.
- In 2010, YLC II was also offered to past graduates of YLC. There were ten youth who participated in the program which included three events culminating with a capstone trip to Mexico City where they worked with Chuck Shawver. The leadership team was Wendy Haviland, Layman Pierce, Libby Pierce, and Bob Southard. All youth and leaders had a great experience with the new format provided this year. YLC II was breakeven with the income and expenses due to the capstone experience. YLC II will be offered again in four years in order to have enough youth eligible for participation.

Executive Committee Report

Lonny Bruce

- Lonny's report centered on the Annual Gathering that will be October 14-15, 2011. Appointed members to the Annual Gathering Planning Team are Joanna Gillette who will be the "point person" and Corey Fields, technology. On Friday, we will celebrate Bethel Neighborhood Center's 100th Anniversary. Mang plans to bring some of the Bethel kids and hopes to have time to speak. Lonny is in the process of organizing a praise band.

Foundation Report

Wilma Engle

- Wilma represents the Foundation as the new Minister of Planned Giving. In addition to getting more people to invest money, she hopes to be able to offer her services to people who are struggling financially. Many are struggling because they don't follow biblical principles of giving. Money is mentioned in the Bible 2,050 times. There is too much emphasis on things. People cheat God by using their credit cards inappropriately and going into debt. They have to get their finances straightened out before they can invest in the Foundation.
- Wilma wants to offer her services and be invited into churches to give a 30-40 minute informative talk. This workshop was well-received at Bethel Neighborhood Center. She also wants to help people in their 50's prepare for the future.

New Business

Rules of Procedure Changes

- B-1-11** Motion by Ken Poland and second by George Henry to accept the following change to the Rules of Procedure:
Article XI. Areas
11.2 4) Cross-Roads North
DELETE: Russell, First Baptist Church because they disbanded.
Motion carries.
- B-2-11** Motion by Warren Stanton and second by Lyle Adcock to accept the following change to the Rules of Procedure:
Article XI. Areas
11.2 4) Cross-Roads South
DELETE: Sharon, Community Church of Sharon because they disbanded.
Motion carries.

Resignations and Appointments

Several people have resigned from their elected positions.

- B-3-11** Ken Poland moved and Gary Martin seconded the motion to accept the resignation of Jim Gerlach as Area Representative for Cross-Roads Area. Motion carries.
- B-4-11** Crystal Wolgast moved and Warren Stanton seconded the motion to accept the resignation of Greg Pudwill as Northeast Area RCOM representative. Motion carries.
- B-5-11** Crystal Wolgast moved and Ron Smith seconded the motion to accept the resignation of Andrew Currier as East Central Area RCOM representative. Motion carries.
- B-6-11** Carolyn Paul moved and Ken Poland seconded the motion to accept the resignation of Rafael Loera as Western Area RCOM representative. Motion carries.
- B-7-11** Carolyn Paul moved and Ken Poland seconded the motion to accept the resignation of Carley Hazelton as Western Area representative on Nominating Committee. Motion carries.
- B-8-11** Juanita Parker moved and Lois Chiles seconded the motion to accept the nomination of Bob Artz as Western Area representative on the Nominating Committee. Motion carries.

Board recommendation concerning Camp Christy

John Williams

- B-9-11** George Henry moved and Juanita Parker seconded the motion to give approval for the Central Region Camp & Conference Corporation Board to transfer Camp Christy property to a yet to be formed Not-for-profit corporation made up of Western Area Churches for the purpose of assuming responsibility for the camp facilities in Western Kansas if Central Region Camp & Conference Corporation Board deems it a prudent move.

Discussion followed. Carl Olson called for the question. Motion carries.

Youth representative for Biennial

John Williams

- Money has been budgeted to pay half of the expenses for two youth to attend Biennial in Puerto Rico this summer. ABC-USA will pay the other half. Four worthy youth have applied for this scholarship. A call has been placed to ABC-USA to see if they would be willing to pay half the cost for two additional youth to attend. The two selected are Holden Rolfs and Katie Hendershot.

B-10-11 Carl Olson moved that two youth be sent to Biennial and, if funding is available, that four youth be sent. Ron Smith seconded. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned.

The evening meeting, led by John Williams, was devoted to learning about the Vision Team process.

Saturday morning, February 5, 2011

Vision Teams met for strategic planning then the Board of Directors reconvened at 10:30 a.m..

Lonny Bruce, president, called the meeting to order. Carl Olson led the singing and Ruth Clark accompanied him on the piano.

John Williams shared a Pastor Bart story for the devotion. It emphasized the importance of demonstrating the love of Jesus both inside the church and outside in the world.

The offering for Murrow Indian Children's Home totaled \$439.

Vision Team reports were shared.

Administration and Finance

Lyle Adcock, Chairman Pro Tem from Cherry Grove Baptist Church and moderator of the Southeast Area, gave the report. The vision team will be inviting additional people to a meeting on February 26 at the Region office and will hold an election at that time. Part of the meeting was dedicated to catching Lyle up and doing some brainstorming. They hope to improve the attitude toward giving. Drastic steps are under serious consideration because of finances. Either giving needs to increase or expenses need to decrease. Cursory business issues were discussed, mostly about where the team is headed this year. It is the goal of the Administration and Finance team to create financial viability for the Region.

Christian Education

Lee Yarrow & Linda Rhodes

The Christian Education Vision Team is a small group that includes Ken Poland, Linda Rhodes, and Lee Yarrow. Ken agreed to stay on the vision team in 2012 to maintain continuity.

The mentoring program is making progress. One goal is to have a prayer partner who can pray with the youth before going to camp and follow-up before the flame goes out. This year's camp registration form has a line requesting a prayer partner for each person attending camp.

Lee reported that Rodger Charles wants to organize a new ministry team dealing with Marriage and Family Life. The current plan is to train three to six couples to do events in churches in the Region.

B-11-11 The Christian Education Vision Team is recommending a Marriage and Family Life ministry team. The goal of the team will be to support and strengthen marriages and families. The team will encourage a plan of training couples or individuals who can lead events within the Region. Motion passes.

Communications

Joanna Gillette

The Communications Vision Team is letting go of the 150th Anniversary Project which has been completed. They are hoping to be able to better relate to constituents and churches around the Region by expanding the use of technology. Webinars and online meetings can make contact with churches possible while saving the time and cost of traveling. The team plans to update the ABCCR image by changing the website. They will be bringing back software recommendations.

The Professional Church Leadership Vision Team visited with the Communications team and requested help getting the volunteer survey out. If other teams have events they want to have publicized, please contact the Communications team. Current avenues of publicity include the website, Focus packet, ABCCR Facebook page, and Central Region Life.

150th Anniversary book project - the goal was to publish the books and break even. Currently, the financial goal has been exceeded by \$15. There are no more copies available, so Martha is collecting names of people who would like to have a copy of the book. When enough people sign up, a second printing will be ordered. Shirley Fair suggests that every church be encouraged to have a copy of the history book in their church library.

Mission and Stewardship

Shirley Fair

Before beginning her report, Shirley talked about Egypt and requested that everyone keep the people there in their prayers. In 2009, she went on a missions trip and visited many mission projects and places in Cairo. ABC works with Hands Along the Nile in Cairo.

Shirley asked the Mission and Stewardship Vision Team to stand. Other team members include Naomi Teubner, Greg McLaren, Juanita Parker, Ruth Clark, Crystal Wolgast, Wilma Engle.

First, they took a few moments to reflect on the faithfulness of Marshall Schirer.

Areas that they are considering dropping from active team consideration include the Alaska and Ukraine Connections. The connection is still there, but does not have region-wide focus.

A volunteer is going to write the Mission Moments column in Central Region Life for six months.

Each year, there are four ABC offerings. The America for Christ offering is currently in progress. Part of this offering returns to the Region and helps the neighborhood centers and camping programs.

The Armagosts, a missionary family with the Missionary Partnership Team here, will be on home assignment this summer.

On the anniversary of the Greensburg tornado, the Mission and Stewardship Team is asking Marvin George to write an article for the May issue of Central Region Life describing how they have been green and how they have accomplished this.

Members of the team are going to send handwritten thank you notes to every church in the region that has contributed to United Missions. The note will say that they appreciate the donation and support.

The Team would like to continue the Mission Advocate Program. At least one person in each church would be a mission advocate to spread the news about missions. They want to find a way to connect churches or groups who are wanting to do a mission trip. Also, the Team is hoping to find a way to coordinate the visits of missionaries who are on home leave.

NET

Matt Sturtevant

Stan Hendershot has been elected chair. The first Preaching Symposium will be held Thursday, March 17, at FBC Lawrence from 10-3:30. They are checking into recording it and having it available as a webinar on the website. Cost is \$5 to cover lunch.

Professional Church Leadership

George Henry

George was elected chair of the Vision Team. They began with discussion of the Team's structure and connections and what they do. Their group looks like a spider web with ministry teams working together with other ministry teams including Communications and NET teams.

They are pushing back their projects to 2012 and beyond and will support the boundaries workshop in 2012. The team hopes to have additional team members present on Saturday morning at the May meeting.

Constituency Concerns and Celebrations

Is there a list of churches seeking new pastors? It would be helpful to have this list available to Board members.

Linda will be sending out the Coordinated Calendar to all Board members.

Celebrations include the following:

Lois Chiles - upcoming birth of her granddaughter on May 31

Matt Sturtevant - exploring possibilities of securing KU campus minister

Steve Neal - praise for new ministries and vision team process. He was on the original task force and this is what they had in mind.

Ruth Clark - 4th annual wedding May 28. Jamie was engaged Dec. 23.

John Williams explained that Bacone College is renewing ABC connection. Representatives have been visiting a number of regions and, in response to the question, "What can Bacone College do for you?", Bacone is putting together an online course on American Baptist History and Polity. This class is a requirement for ordination so needs to be available. Each of the Executive Ministers from Rocky Mountain, Great Rivers, ABC of the Dakotas, Mid-America, and Central Region recorded a lecture at Bacone that will be incorporated into the course.

Central Seminary will be celebrating the dedication of the new chapel on April 8.

Lonny adjourned the meeting and John closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Carter
Secretary

Present: Lyle Adcock, Wil Brown, Lonny Bruce, Lois Chiles, Ruth Clark, Shirley Fair, Joanna Gillette, George Henry, Gary Martin, Jim McIntosh, Greg McLaren, Steve Neal, Carl Olson, Juanita Parker, Carolyn Paul, Ken Poland, Linda Rhodes, Ron Smith, Warren Stanton, Matt Sturtevant, Naomi Teubner, Crystal Wolgast, Lee Yarrow

Absent: Lorene Brannin, James Callaway, Dan Kough, Stan Hendershot

Staff present: Rita Adams, Linda Carter, Adriana Chaney, Wilma Engle, Martha Robbins, Jerry Seabaugh, John Williams

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