

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Cross Wind Conference Center  
Hesston, KS  
May 6-7, 2011

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**Friday afternoon, May 6, 2011**

President Lonny Bruce welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm. Naomi Teubner selected the hymns and accompanied on the piano as Juanita Parker led the singing. Stan Hendershot shared a devotion on being filled by the spirit and producing fruit with Galatians 5 as the text.

Minutes of the February, 2011 Board of Directors meeting were approved as printed.

**Reports**

Homestead Health Center  
Steve Berndsen

- The north wing is being completely remodeled, changing it to a medicare wing with 12 private rooms. This north wing is away from the rest of Homestead Health Center so the rest of the building hasn't been disrupted with this construction.
- In January, they reduced from 80 to 62 beds. Part of the reduction was due to their converting semi-private rooms to private. They weren't able to keep 80 beds at capacity and most were medicaid clients. Nationwide, there are increasing numbers of people needing long term care. They hope to provide a facility that will allow people to use medicare benefits then stay for long term care, if needed.
- There has been an increase in operational expenses. For example, Workers' Compensation, went up \$30,000 in 1 year. Health insurance for 78 people has increased by 32% over 3 years. They are in regulatory compliance and have had an overall rating of 4 stars out of 5. The facility is not fancy and primarily serves people who need assistance. When he came to Homestead Health Center, 32% of the people were on Medicaid. By the end of this year, 65-70% will be on Medicaid.
- Wilma Engle is on their Board of Directors

ABMen

Dan Kough

- ABMen annual business meeting was held January 22, 2011 in Hutchinson.
- Financial report: \$2132 in checking account. ABMen are sending \$500 each to national ABMen, Central Seminary, Ottawa University, Bacone College, AIM, and Victory Village.
- Larry Oyer gave the disaster relief report. \$500 was sent to One Great Hour of Sharing. BCONE College has equipped a disaster trailer for their area. Trailers are now located at Sedan, Cross Wind, Leavenworth, and Scott City. Larry would like to step down as coordinator.
- Camp Christy work day is May 28 or June 4 (alternate date). Cross Wind work day is May 14.
- Dan suggested that Shawn Powelson from Scott City be the speaker for ABMen Annual Gathering in Junction City. He is the leader of Celebrate Recovery

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#### Pastor to Pastor Adjunct

Jim Autrey

- The purpose of Pastor to Pastor is to encourage pastors to gather on a regular basis for a time of prayer, fellowship, study, support.
- The challenge is to let those not attending know that these meetings are beneficial and relevant.
- Jim's responsibility is to recruit coordinators from each cluster and send them a monthly information sheet to share with their cluster pastors. The coordinators meet together three times year.
- About 35% of non-bivocational pastors in the region are participating to some degree.
- As a result of the cluster groups, pastors are working together on a Cross Wind clean-up day. Another group is sponsoring a Holy Land trip next year and organizing a Biennial scholarship program to help defray costs for the 2013 Biennial in Overland Park. Both pastors and laity will be eligible for these scholarships.

#### Interim Ministries

Merle Davis

- Currently, eight churches are participating in the region Interim Ministries program.
- Merle is drafting a letter to be sent to church leadership shortly after their pastor leaves. This letter will express their Region's concern, availability of the Interim Ministries program, and requesting a personal interview about using interim program.
- Currently, our total pool of interim and supply pastors is 67 of which 39 would be considered able and active to serve. Several have been able to locate small churches nearby to pastor part-time.
- March 29-30, seventeen people attended the Interim Ministry Workshop held at the region office.

#### American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Lois Chiles

- Staff in Valley Forge is getting ready for Biennial in Puerto Rico this June. Numerous pre- and post-biennial volunteer opportunities are explained on the National Ministries website at [www.nationalministries.org/biennial](http://www.nationalministries.org/biennial).
- ABHMS is working on the restructuring process. If new bylaws are passed at Biennial, ABHMS will also be changing.
- Palmer Grants - \$5,000 to \$25,000 will be awarded in the Fall 2011. Request forms can be found on the website.
- The Judson Press Regional Rewards program provides an easy way to generate funds for Region ministries. When purchasing something on-line from Judson Press, look for the pull-down menu and select Central Region. On a quarterly basis, Judson Press will send the Region office a check for 10% of total sales.

#### Executive Committee Report

Lonny Bruce

- All areas were represented and reported at the Executive committee
- Highlights included information from Ron Smith (Northeast Area) that a Leavenworth church wants to be affiliated with ABC/CR. Also, Lyle Adcock (Southeast Area) reported that the area has two leaders to work with youth.
- The Annual Gathering planning committee has had two conference calls and tomorrow they are

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going to Junction City to look at the facility.

- Lonny needs volunteers to lead the music at Board of Directors meetings

### New Business

- **B-12-11**

- Rules of Procedure Changes**

- The First Baptist Church of Iola, Kansas, a dually aligned church with the Southern Baptist Church, has voted to withdraw affiliation with ABC/USA.**

- 1. Article XI. Areas**

- 11.2 3) Southeast**

- DELETE: Iola, First Baptist Church**

- Jim McIntosh moved to accept the change to the Rules of Procedure. Warren Stanton seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- Appointments

The Northeast Area has elected Dr. Cheryl Henson to fulfill the unexpired term of Greg Pudwill to the ABCCR Region Council on the Ministry

- Announcement of Opportunity Scholarship Recipients

Officers of the Executive Committee had a conference call and reviewed the applications and references of the 11 applicants. Brielle Bissett from Holton and Bryton Schulenberg from Hiawatha will each receive \$1,000 to be used to further their college education. Hearing no objection, president Lonny Bruce confirmed the recipients. The letters of congratulations will be sent soon and the checks and certificates will be presented in later this summer.

- Saturday's offering will go to One Great Hour of Sharing, Alabama Tornado Relief

- OIABA - Oklahoma Indian American Baptist Association

This is a first-reading recommendation to be made to the ABCCR Board of Directors. Since this would be a rules of procedure change, final vote would be at the September board meeting.

- Recommendation that the Oklahoma Indian American Baptist Association (OIABA) be recognized as an Association of the ABCCR with the same representation status as the ECA, NEA, SEA and Western Area: Moderator and representative to the Region Board, two representatives to the Region Council on the Ministry and representative to the ABCCR Nominating Committee.

This action would add an area and remove these churches from the Southeast and Western Areas.

- Vision Teams will be working on their budget needs for 2012. These figures are due in the Region office by June 15.

Following supper, the Vision Teams met for strategic and ministry planning.

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**Saturday morning, May 7, 2011**

The full board reconvened following the morning Vision Team meetings. Naomi Teubner selected the hymns and accompanied on the piano as Juanita Parker led the singing. Stan Hendershot was unable to be present this morning, so Lonny read the devotion that Stan had prepared for the Executive Committee.

The offering taken for One Great Hour of Sharing, Alabama Tornado Relief, was \$468.00.

**Vision Team Reports**

Administration and Finance

Lyle Adcock

- Instead of cutting expenses further, the Administration and Finance team will endeavor to increase income. Further reductions would cut into programs and services.
- Major energy will be put into getting out the message on the value of services churches receive from the Region.
- A goal is for everyone to receive Central Region Life and the Focus packet so each person can be informed.

**B-13-11**

**“The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends authorizing John Williams to sign the legal document to assist attorneys Nye and Nye to close the estate of Florance E. Sherill estate, benefitting the Region in the approximate amount of \$94,950 unrestricted funds.” Motion passed.**

Christian Education

Ken Poland

- The camp registration forms include a request for a camp prayer partner. To track whether this is beneficial and how it is being used, campers are being asked to complete a postcard questionnaire the last day of camp. They will add the name of their prayer partner and any personal decision they made. Cards will be mailed to the Region office by the camp director.
- Marriage & Family Life ministry - Roger Charles heads this ministry team.
- Dan Kough would like the region to endorse the program of Celebration Recovery. The Christian Education Team is not recommending regional endorsement at this time. Board members are encouraged to explore the website at [www.celebraterecovery.com](http://www.celebraterecovery.com) before the next Board meeting.

Communications

Joanna Gillette

- The recruitment survey is on the website under Focus Newsletter in lefthand column. Some responses have been received. The committee is asking churches to get recruitment surveys out.
- The committee is investigating different web conferencing software and want information from churches that have experience with web conferencing
- Please send Martha the names of people who would be interested in participation on the technology team.

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Mission and Stewardship  
Shirley Fair

- The Team sent a thank you note to every church in the Region that gave to United Missions in 2009.
- Carolyn Predmore prepared a “green” article for the last Central Region Life. Stewardship of natural resources, including recycling, is important..
- Budget - The Vision Team wants to support financially an International Ministries missionary in 2012. They would choose the recipient annually and donate about \$100 per month to someone who spends time in the Central Region.
- Wilma is hoping to be invited to churches to help with budgeting and help members better understand finance. This will encourage individuals to contribute to the foundation.
- The Team hopes to reinstate Mission Advocates program. They plan to bring it back with a different name and are looking for a person or persons in each church who receive information then share it with the congregation .Be thinking about a name.
- With a credit card through Christian Community Credit Union, card holders can designate reward points to benefit an organization. International Ministries is one of them.
- Check out “Igive.com” (Amazon is one of the stores) ABW Ministries is a designee.

NET

Adriana Chaney

- Now thru September, there are preaching symposiums around the Region. Adriana will get out dates and locations to pastors.

Professional Church Leadership

George Henry

- Their team discussed the budget.
- Have in process two Boundaries Workshops in 2012. The Boundaries Workshop in 2010 well-received. They are looking at locations around region instead of having one big meeting at Cross Wind.
- The Team discussed how they will hold meetings without being at this Board meeting.

Constituency Concerns and Celebrations

Lonny Bruce

Lonny announced that Holden Rolf and Katie Hendershot will be representing the Region youth at Biennial in Puerto Rico. They are the only two youth being sent by the Region.

Jerry Seabaugh’s mother-in-law passed away last weekend so he is in St. Louis with his family.

Dan Cole is on the Bacone Board of Directors that is meeting this weekend so he is attending that meeting.

The Central Seminary open house for the chapel and new library was a wonderful celebration. Journey Community Church is using this worship space and now has room to grow.

Bethel Neighborhood Center 100 Anniversary celebration was the same day.

Discussion continues on how Vision Teams can find ways to connect beyond board meetings.

The meeting was adjourned by president Lonny Bruce and John Williams dismissed with the closing prayer and grace.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Carter  
Secretary

Present: Lyle Adcock, Wil Brown, Lonny Bruce, Lois Chiles, Ruth Clark, Shirley Fair, Joanna Gillette, George Henry, Dan Kough, 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: James Callaway, Greg McLaren, Steve Neal

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

*Journey home to impact the church and the world with the love of Christ.*