

**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
September 9-10, 2011**

Friday afternoon, September 9, 2011

President Lonny Bruce welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Naomi Teubner and Juanita Parker led the singing and Crystal Wolgast shared a devotion reflecting on John 1:1-9.

Minutes of the May 6-8, 2011, Board of Directors meeting were approved as printed and minutes of the 2010 Annual Gathering were approved as corrected.

Reports

Adjunct for Risk Management

Bev Fink's husband was ill, so she was not able to give a report.

Ottawa University

Janet Peters

Executive Assistant to the President

- Current enrollment this fall is 607 at the college and over 9,000 university-wide.
- President Eichner has been there for three years and is starting Phase II of his Vision 2020 plan. One very important emphasis for this phase is academic quality.
- Several enhanced and new ministries are part of the commitment to the Fredrikson Center for Church and Faith Vitality.
- Campus Ministries are strong with 64 students participating regularly.
- Adventures in Faith, established by Dr. Roger Fredrikson, continues to be a wonderful opportunity for Ottawa alumni to tell students how their faith has impacted their lives and careers.
- The first Church Revitalization Conference was held in conjunction with Adventures in Faith.
- An important mission of Ottawa University is their commitment to the education of members of the Ottawa Tribe. OU provides a free education to all tribe members enrolled in the colleges or online program. This year there are 61 tribe members participating.
- The capital campaign, Advancing the Vision, is in progress and \$7 million of the \$24 million goal has been underwritten. Part of this campaign is to raise funds for renovation of the Fredrikson Chapel and for programming in the Fredrikson Center for Church and Faith Vitality.

Central Baptist Theological Seminary

Heather Entrekin

Des Peres Associate Professor in Congregational Health

- When the Des Peres Church in St Louis closed, they gave a \$2.2 million gift to CBTS to support congregational health. Part of the funds is being used to create a library resource center on congregational health.
- Addition funds are being used to found a chair to support the strongest leaders of congregations. Classroom programs being developed include missional focus studies, mentors and coaching for students, and in-depth global and inter-cultural internships. In the church, they are working alongside ABC/CR staff to develop a culture of vocational calling for youth and they plan to provide CPE to strengthen pastors in church ministry. They also will provide coaching for

- pastors, interim ministry training and coaching, and crisis and conflict resolution.
- In October of 2012, Bill Wilson, the author of Seven Things your Pastor Wishes You Knew..., will present a workshop for clergy with a different twist, “Seven Things your Laity Wishes you Knew, But Is Afraid to Tell You”.
- CBTS will be offering a Doctor of Ministry degree in Missional Church and Pastoral Care. More information can be found on the internet at www.CBTS.edu.

President Molly Marshall’s written report on Central Baptist Theological Seminary included the following highlights:

- Duane and Marsha Binkley, long-time missionaries to Thailand, will be deployed at Central beginning in January 2012. It is a three-way partnership with American Baptist Churches, Central, and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to coordinate educational ministries for refugees from Burma.
- CBTS partnership with Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT) continues to flourish. Central is starting its Doctor of Ministry program this fall, a collaborative program with MIT in Congregational Health.
- The Worship Arts program/recital series in Baugh-Marshall has begun. The courses for a certificate in Worship Arts will begin spring 2012.
- Enrollment continues to grow with the preliminary count of over 200.
- Congregational Health emphasis is growing and new initiatives are being launched.
- Central has begun the FOUNDATIONS program, a ten course certificate in ministry studies for persons without a baccalaureate degree. Presently, 25 students are attending this Saturday course of study.
- Central has begun the Korean Contextual Studies program. There is great need for theological education in the Korean language. Dr. Rock Choi has been gathering cohorts of learners across the country to engage in biblical and theological studies for ministry preparation.
- Central is grateful for the support of the Kansas Plan to help sustain their mission. Please continue to recommend students for Central and then call our graduates to serve your churches.

Murrow Indian Children's Home

Betty Martin report read by Lorene Brannin

Betty was unable to attend due to lack of funds at Murrow.

- Murrow provides a safe nurturing home for native children in foster care. Murrow is licensed for 30 children and presently provides care for 25 children from ages 3-17 from Sac & Fox, Creek, Cherokee, and Comanche tribes.
- Seven mission groups from seven states have volunteered at Murrow over the past few months.
- Ceramic tile has replaced carpet in two of the cottages and they hope to get the third cottage tiled before the end of the year.
- Community Baptist Church members in Tulsa donated a commercial copier, paid to have a rebuilt engine put in one of the vans, and are doing a food drive.
- Bacone donates the printing and their American Indian Cultural Clubs provide cultural experience by teaching the children basket weaving, beading, quilting, and stickball.
- Donations are down by 53%. If they don’t secure funding quickly, Murrow is in danger of closing its doors.

Sunset Home

Larry Blochlinger

- Sunset Home currently has 80 residents. They are licensed for 47 in the nursing center and are averaging 35. The remaining residents live in assisted living (32), 3 duplexes, and 5 single family homes.
- Sunset Home is a 5 star program. They consistently receive 4-5 stars each quarter. "US New & World Report" ranked them in the top 50 so, using that methodology, they would have ranked #10 in Kansas. They are waiting for the current survey results.
- There have been many changes in the past year including a software update and four major staffing changes.
- Their portfolio took a hit and Medicaid funding dropped, so the Board decided to do fund raising. They are expanding their home health program and may need to go out into the community. Their main goal is to take care of their residents.
- Sunset Home keeps its church history in mind with Monday church service (playing the Sunday service recorded by the Baptist Church), Thursday Bible Study group, Friday Ministerial Association service, and a resident choir. Five residents still play the mini-grand piano and they start each meal and each staff meeting with prayer.

Bacone College

Leroy Thompson and Wil Brown

- The Cherokee Warrior statue sculpted by Kelly Haney was dedicated on May 7, Founders Day. It was a gift from the Chickasaw Nation.
- Congressman Dan Boren was commencement speaker.
- Bacone recently purchased an old shopping center and renamed it Bacone Commons. It is being renovated and will include Student Life Center and offices, a book store, dining hall, athletic offices, weight room, and athletic field house. A new library and administrative welcome center will be in the old grocery store.
- There are currently 1,085 students enrolled including residents, commuter, and adult education.
- Bacone has been approved as a degree site location at Pawnee Nation College and continues as the educational partner with Pawnee and Comanche Nation Colleges.
- The scholarship program continues to expand. The Center for American Indians is increasing the Students of Promise Scholarship for residential students.
- The Center for Christian Ministries will be offering 100% TRB Learning Work Community scholarships to children of any paid staff person in an ABC or Caucus church. The student must have a 3.0 grade point average and qualify for federal financial aid.
- The Center for Christian Ministries will be offering a Students of Promise scholarship of 100% tuition for residential students in the Christian Ministry Degree program.
- As a donation to Murrow, Bacone is now providing the evening meal to Murrow children and staff from their dining facility.
- The History & Polity class is available on-line in video format. John Williams is one of the teachers.

Executive Committee Report

Lonny Bruce

- Annual Gathering update - The agenda is finished and plans are in place for the 2011 Annual Gathering in Junction City. Two missionary couples are coming. Jill and Mike Lowery will be in the region before the event.
- Planning has begun for 2013 Biennial in Overland Park. Lois Chiles, Leo Thorne, Annie Marcucci, and John Williams met at the Overland Park Convention Center. The Executive Committee brought forth the following motion.

B-14-11 **The Executive Committee recommends that the Board of Directors extend an invitation to ABC/USA for Central Region to host the Biennial in 2015. Motion passes unanimously.**

- *Common Budget Covenant*
The Board of Directors needs to affirm a change to the Common Budget Covenant. Currently, there are two ways that regions can report income - the unified stewardship plan and the flex plan. Since no regions are using the flex plan, the recommendation is that the flex plan be eliminated. Approval is needed to make that change. This is a formality with no effect on how we participate. United Mission funds will be divided in the same way.

B-15-11 **The Executive Committee recommends to the Board of Directors that the flex plan be removed from the Common Budget Covenant. Motion passes.**

- *Transformed by the Spirit*

B-16-11 **John reported that the Executive Committee is concerned that an additional team project would spread staff too thin, especially with reduced staff and hosting Biennial. The Executive Committee suggests that John write a letter declining the opportunity to participate in the Transformed by the Spirit program. John agrees with that recommendation.**

B-17-11 **After much discussion, Shirley Fair moved that the suggestion from the Executive Committee be tabled at least until Saturday. Wil Brown seconded and the motion passed.**

New Business

- *Rules of Procedure Changes*
(Church Dismissal & Withdrawal // FBC, Reading & Hugoton Baptist Church) The First Baptist Church of Reading indicates they have been SBC for 11 years. Recommend they be dismissed for non-participation. The Hugoton Baptist Church voted to withdraw from ABC at the first of the year. We received notification July 22, 2011. Recommend their action be recognized.

- B-18-11** **Rules of Procedure Changes**
- 1. Article XI. Areas**
 11.2 1) Northeast
 DELETE: Reading, First Baptist Church
 - 2. Article XI. Areas**
 11.2 6) Western
 DELETE: Hugoton, Hugoton

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

B-19-11

Inclusion of Oklahoma Indian American Baptist Association as an area/election district of the ABCCR Contingent upon ratification by the churches of the OIABA:

3. Article XI. Areas

11.2 ADD:

7) Oklahoma Indian American Baptist Association (OIABA)

Anadarko, Red Stone Baptist Church

***Anadarko, Wichita Community Church**

***Canton, Canton Indian Ministries**

***Ft. Cobb, First Apache Baptist Church**

Geary, All Tribes Community

Hobart, First American Baptist Church

Lawton, Deyo Baptist Mission

Mountain View, Rainy Mountain Kiowa Indian Baptist Church

Muskogee, Bacone Baptist

Tulsa, All Tribes

Walters, Brown Indian Church

Watonga, Watonga Indian Baptist Church

*** = church yet to formalize ABCCR relationship,
still related through ABHMS**

11.2 3) Southeast

DELETE:

Muskogee, Bacone Baptist

Tulsa (OK), All Tribes

11.2 6) Western

DELETE:

Anadarko, OK, Red Stone Baptist

Geary, OK, All Tribes Community

Hobart, OK, First American Baptist Ch

Lawton, OK, Deyo Baptist Mission

Mountain View, OK, Rainy Mountain Kiowa Indian BC

Walters, Oklahoma, Brown Indian

Watonga, Oklahoma, Indian Baptist

Wil Brown moved to accept the change to the Rules of Procedure. Carl Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

• Resignations

B-20-11

**Don Shapley resigned from the KS Baptist Convention Foundation
(leaves unexpired term ending 12/31/2012)**

**Gary Winget resigned from KS Baptist Convention Foundation
(leaves unexpired term ending 12/31/2012)**

Stan Hendershot moved to accept these resignations and Jim McIntosh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Nominating Committee will fill these nominations.

- Saturday's Board offering will go to pay for the Annual Gathering youth brunch. This brunch will provide an opportunity for interested youth to meet with the missionaries. Any reserve funds will go towards other Annual Gathering expenses.

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

Saturday morning, September 10, 2011

Vision Teams met until 10:00 a.m. then President Lonny Bruce welcomed the full board back into session and called the meeting to order. Naomi Teubner and Juanita Parker led the singing and Crystal Wolgast shared a devotion. The Board offering to cover the expense of the youth brunch at Annual Gathering was \$550.

Administration and Finance

Lyle Adcock and Rita Adams

Lyle reported that the 2010 audit found no significant problems to report.

- B-21-11 The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends accepting the 2010 audit report as prepared by Summers, Spencer & Company, P.A. Motion carried.**
- B-22-11 The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends retaining Summers, Spencer & Company, PA to perform the 2011 audit. Motion carried.**
- B-23-11 The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends placing the proceeds from both cashed ABEC CDs (approximately \$10,500) into the College Opportunity Scholarship Fund to increase the fund and provide scholarships for hopefully the next five years. Motion carried.**
- B-24-11 The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends placing the Florance E Sherrill Estate monies (\$94,902.38) into the ABCCR portion of the Foundation's Wells Fargo account and establishing the Florance E Sherrill Estate Fund as Unrestricted Budget Support with no monetary restriction on the fund balance. Motion carried.**
- B-25-11 The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends moving the Frances E Law Estate Principal monies (\$308,486.24) from low interest -bearing CDs into the proposed aggressive Wells Fargo investment package as proposed by the Foundation's Investment Council. Motion carried.**
- B-26-11 The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends placing the net amount from the sale of the Russell FBC (approximately \$40,000) into the New Church Planting Fund and classifying the \$50,906.12 cash proceeds from the church closing, already invested in the Foundation's Wells Fargo account, as Unrestricted Budget Support with no monetary restriction on the fund balance. Motion carried.**
- B-27-11 The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends funding a Special Ministry Grants from the 2011 Budget: \$5,000 to First Baptist Church Hays for Hispanic Ministry. Motion carried.**

B-28-11 **The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends funding a Special Ministry Grant from the 2011 Budget: \$2,500 to West Side Baptist Church Wichita for two ministries assisting the Wichita area churches including Lay Leader Core and Cooperating Churches of the Wichita Area. Motion carried.**

B-29-11 **The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends lowering the restricted cap on the New Church Planting Fund from \$100,000 to \$75,000 to cover the \$27,000 committed for 2012 support, the final year in the five-year contract with Journey Community Church, Shawnee KS. Motion carried.**

B-30-11 **The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends to modifying the team's February 26, 2011, motion to "include \$10,000 for Biennial Expenses in both the 2012 and 2013 budgets" to "set aside the same \$10,000 on January 1 of both 2012 and 2013 from Unrestricted Net Assets to a new Temporarily Restricted – Biennial account in the equity section of the balance sheet". Motion carried.**

The affected lines in the proposed 2012 budget were then revised.

B-31-11 **The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends accepting the 2012 proposed budget as amended and present it to the Annual Gathering in October. Motion carried.**

Christian Education

Linda Rhodes

- The Christian Education Vision Team is sponsoring several satellite ministry teams including camping, campus ministry, youth ministry, senior adults, etc.
- For the last two years, the vision team has had a vision of mentoring youth and adding a mentoring ministry team to the list of satellite ministries.
- This plan is still in process. The mentoring ministry started last summer by requesting prayer partners for youth attending camp. A line was added on the camper registration form requesting the name of a prayer partner for each camper. Positive feedback has come back from some churches. The churches and prayer partners were supportive and followed through by keeping in contact with the youth. The vision team is sending out a letter to participating churches explaining the Prayer Partner Program with suggestions about additional things they can be doing. The vision team hopes to have a program in place to train prayer partners and mentoring teams.
- Rob encourages the vision team to get information about the Prayer Partner Program out to camp directors so they will know what is happening.
- Heather Entrekin visited with Linda about the possibility of putting together mentoring teams with Central, Ottawa, and Bacone working together. This could evolve into a college internship program.

Communications

Joanna Gillette

- The vision team discussed the need to focus on United Mission Giving in various region communications and what the region is doing with the money.
- The vision team continues to encourage churches to send information about what they are doing and include action photos.

- The team has been researching multiple technologies to use to share information. There will be “how to” materials, Drop Box, Skype. They are checking into purchasing an online meeting service.

Mission and Stewardship

Shirley Fair

- If budget passes at Annual Gathering, the \$1200 (\$100 per month) that has been requested to support an International Ministries couple will be sent to Pieter & Nora Kalkman.
- Future articles that will be written in Central Region Life include World Mission offering information by Ruth Clark and Retired Ministers offering appeal by Naomi Teubner. Thank you to Carolyn Predmore for writing several “green” articles for Central Region Life..
- The Mid-Winter Mission Conference will be January 13 & 14 at Cross Wind Conference Center. The three missionaries who will be attending are Duane & Marsha Binkley and Bruce Borquist. Wilma Engle is the treasurer and registrar for this event.
- The vision team is still talking about developing a good way to find out when missionaries are coming and sharing that information with churches. They also hope to start the Mission Advocates program that will help with this communication.
- If the budget is approved at Annual Gathering, they look forward to being able to offer a \$500 scholarship so someone can go on a Mission Encounter tours or Mission work trip. The application will require a reference from their pastor and two other people.
- Last year, the vision team wrote hand-written notes thanking churches for their support. Now, they will be sending letters to those who haven’t given, asking churches to be involved in the Region.
- Significant celebrations are coming up in the next couple of years. 2012 is the 200th anniversary of when the Judsons set sail for Burma, 2013 is the 200th anniversary of their arrival in Burma, and 2014 is the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Foreign Missionary Society, now known as International Ministries.
- The team asked Ruth to visit with their committee about Transformed by the Spirit.
- Greg McLaren is retiring from the committee.

NET

Stan Hendershot

- Preaching Symposiums were held at various sites around the Region. Most of them were well-attended and pastors found them very helpful.
- These symposiums will be continued through 2012 including seminars for OIABA, the far western part of the state, the eastern part of the state and one as a webinar to allow participation by pastors unable to travel.
- They are looking at ideas to take to the churches to strengthen outreach.
- The vision team is also looking at spiritual retreats and educational pieces that would strengthen connections with unchurched, church members, and with God.

Professional Church Leadership

Ron Smith

- B-32-11 The Professional Church Leadership Vision Team recommends the formation of an Adjunct Position for Women in Ministry. This person is to be appointed by Region staff. Motion carried.**

- Ministers Council will meet on Thursday before Annual Gathering.
- RCOM has reestablished career assessment for ordination candidates
- Lay Leader Training is no longer being handled by the Region. Bacone, Central and David Schirer from West Side, Wichita, are now providing the training.
- The Tri-Region Clergy training event is expanding to include four regions, the Dakotas, Mid-America, Nebraska, and Central.
- The New Pastor Fellowship will be held at the Region office on September 20.
- The Region Leadership Recruitment survey form initially developed by this team is online, thanks to the Communications Vision Team.
- Boundaries workshops led by David Lundholm will be held in the northeast and southeast areas on September 19 and 20, 2012.

Continued from Friday- Transformed by the Spirit

- Ruth Clark, incoming president of ABC-USA discussed the national “Transformed by the Spirit” program.

B-33-11 Dr. Jim McIntosh moved that the motion be brought off the table. Seconded by Warren Stanton. Motion carried.

Dr. McIntosh called the question.

B-16-11 John reported that the Executive Committee is concerned that an additional team project would spread staff too thin especially with reduced staff, hosting Biennial, etc. The Executive Committee suggests that John write a letter declining the opportunity to participate in the Transformed by the Spirit program. John agrees with that recommendation. Motion defeated.

B-34-11 Ruth Clark made the following motion, “I challenge us to use the resources of Bacone, Central, and Ottawa as well as some of our professional church leadership to allow Central Region to be an integral part of the Transformed by the Spirit initiative adopted by ABC-USA.” Seconded by Gary Martin. Motion carried.

Lonny suggested that, due to the lateness of the hour, the Board meeting be continued in the dining hall.

Camp and Conference Corporation

Ron Jones

- In 2007, a recommendation was made to the region that the Western Area form a 501c3 corporation on their own and take over the operation of Camp Christy.
- The crisis came to a head in 2010. They went to the Western Area and made three recommendations: 1.do nothing, 2. get support from Western Area to keep Camp Christy alive and functioning, 3.sell Camp Christy
- September 1, 2011, the Western Area took over operation and management of Camp Christy. Camp Christy and Cross Wind are owned by the region. Nothing can be done with the two facilities without the approval of the Region.
- Cross Wind is doing everything possible to keep everything going with the Camp and Conference Corporation. In 2011, they sold off 54 acres at Cross Wind to financially support the Corporation. This leaves Cross Wind with over 80 acres, plenty of room for further expansion.
- Effective September 1, Lance and Suzanne are no longer employed by the Corporation, but he’ll stay and help maintain the water supply at Camp Christy.

- The Western Area is taking responsibility for the operation, upkeep, and management of Camp Christy. The challenge for Cross Wind is how to get the rest of churches to buy into the mission and get behind Cross Wind. United Mission giving money isn't coming in.
- Their goal is to have Cross Wind be self-supporting in two years without future help of ABCCR. Right now, 80% of Cross Wind income comes from outside ABCCR.
- The Camp & Conference Corporation, specifically Camp Christy & Cross Wind, is going to contact churches for support. One of the greatest mission fields is right in our own backyard. They need support of churches to continue to operate and maintain the facilities; not just Camp Christy in Western Area, but Cross Wind as well.
- To avert a crisis, they need to change. Cross Wind is questioning how to go about doing business, how to get bookings, how much to charge for the facility, and where else they might look to keep facility alive.
- Churches are encouraged to go look at Cross Wind and Camp Christy and see what they have to offer. The greatest mission is the camping program.

Camping Ministry Report

Rob Fabin

- Thank you to Ottawa and Bacone for sponsoring T-shirts for campers this year.
- For the last three years, there has been an increase in the number of campers. In the summer of 2011, 619 children & youth attended Region camps. Of those, 53 made first time decisions to follow Christ, 172 rededicated their lives to Christ, and 33 decided to go into full-time Christian work. About 290 youth made some kind of decision.
- This year, they are starting a "Sponsor a Counselor" project. It costs about \$200 per week, \$11,000 per year, to have counselors trained and ready to go.
- The 2012 theme is "Fired Up". Watch for new schedule.
- They are trying to expand camps. One possibility is to offer a softball or volleyball camp to run concurrently with Praise and Worship camp. This is not just a music camp - it also includes drama and technology i.e. how to run sound system, video equipment, PowerPoint.
- The camping program is a vital mission for youth in the Central Region.

Planned Giving

Wilma Engle

- Wilma would like to be able to tell you that lots of annuities are coming in, but she can't. In this economy, it is increasingly difficult to get people interested.
- Please invite her to your church to explain what the Foundation does and share information on the charitable gift annuity that can benefit individual churches, the Region, or other institutions.
- Have Board members considered getting an annuity?
- Look for new information at Annual Gathering.

Report on volunteering in Joplin after tornado

Warren Stanton

Warren reported on the work that is going on in Joplin following the May tornado. First Baptist, Columbus, is the closest American Baptist church to Joplin. They have been a collection point and are taking donations over every Thursday. The ABWomen from Wellington brought over a truck load of supplies. FBC is working with the Cooperative Baptists in Joplin. FBC has provided lodging, meals, and laundry service to volunteers in Joplin.

Certificates of Appreciation

Lonny Bruce

Lonny distributed Certificates of Appreciation to ten people who will be leaving the Board.

Constituency Concerns and Celebrations

Wayne Fink is celebrating his 50th Year of ordination.

Alma Fair from Alden, KS, passed away at the age of 96.

Ruth Clark's sister-in-law who recently had neurosurgery needs prayer.

Jerry Sprock is in intensive care in the hospital in Hays.

Tim Davish, the pastor at Ft Scott, FBC, died unexpectedly. The church has rallied around Tim's wife and family. An interim pastor is there, helping the church deal with the loss.

Tomorrow is the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on New York City. John is preaching tomorrow at McPherson.

John Williams closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Carter

Secretary

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

Absent: George Henry, Steve Neal

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

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