

## MINUTES

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Cross Wind Conference Center  
September 11-12, 2009

### *GROWING HEALTHY CHURCHES TO FULFILL CHRIST'S MISSION*

Mary Bruner welcomed everyone to the September Board of Directors meeting and Jerry Seabaugh led in a time of singing with Ruth Clark playing the piano.

#### **DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER**

Ruth Clark shared "good news - bad news" stories that showed a ray of sunlight in the midst of bad news. She said it is our perspective that provides the "good news." We can choose to mourn about the past or get busy for the future because of the resurrection power in Jesus Christ. Ruth read from II Corinthians 9:8, and closed with prayer.

#### **MINUTES**

**B-26-09 Janet Crawl moved to accept the Minutes of the May 1-2, 2009, Board of Directors meeting as mailed. Following a second by Kim Drum, the motion carried.**

#### **ABCCR YOUTH MINISTRIES ADJUNCT POSITION**

**B-27-09 Amy Sherbenou moved, with regret, to accept the resignation of Kyle Gardner as the ABCCR Youth Ministries Adjunct. Following a second by Bob Southard, the motion carried.**

**B-28-09 Ruth Clark moved to accept the appointment of Wendy Haviland as the new ABCCR Youth Ministries Adjunct. Following a second by Lonny Bruce, the motion carried.**

#### **AMERICAN BAPTIST MEN REPORT**

Reuben Paulsen reported that the American Baptist Men are alive, active and well, but most of the men are aging and some of the projects are beyond their capabilities. Reuben said he would like to see younger men get involved.

They scheduled the following three weekends at their January 24<sup>th</sup> planning session:

- April 16-18, 2009 – prep work for the camping season at Cross Wind.
- May 14-16, 2009 – similar projects for the camping season at Camp Christy
- July 17-19, 2009 – Men's Retreat at Camp Christy. They stained all the boys cabins and a couple of the other cabins.

Reuben said their goal this year is communication. He would like all the churches to have a main contact person if a problem arises. Reuben's email address is: RPaulsen1@kc.rr.com Twelve people worked 416 volunteer hours at Anadarko on August 2-7. The chapel and general building were gone so they did cleanup after the storm. Bethel Neighborhood Center had a 30 foot tree that had split and was dangerously resting on another tree trunk. It was a dangerous job and more than the men could handle. Reuben received a call from Charles Beltz and his wife who were trained tree climbers and in one day they had the huge tree on the ground.

#### **REGION COUNCIL ON MINISTRY (RCOM) REPORT**

John Williams reported that RCOM is the credentialing committee within the Central Region. It has oversight in helping individuals move through the licensing, ordination or the recognition of ordination process however, ordination is always the decision of the local church. Each area has two representatives that serve on RCOM for three years. They meet with the individuals, help them through the process and provide a watch care relationship with them. The whole RCOM group meets in January and August but the real work takes place at the area level. RCOM has spent the last several years working through clarifying its standards because the Region was out of sync with national standards.

There are three separate tracks for nationally recognized ordination.

1. Track I - standard ordination - four years of college, three years of seminary and a lot of other requirements.
2. Track II - provides for years of experience or equivalence for educational training which means that someone does not have to have a Master of Divinity degree in order to meet the national standards.
3. Track III - requires so many years of experience for educational equivalence but is primarily for individuals coming from a different culture. Example: Some Hispanic pastors have engaged a training process in their homeland that is not comparable to a seminary degree.

In all three tracks there is a requirement that candidates go through a candidacy assessment to determine their social and emotional readiness for ministry. It is an essential element for ordination because we often end up with pastoral leaders who are not emotionally ready. The cost to the individual is \$300-\$400. This summer there were three ordinations in the Northeast Area on the same weekend.

**B-29-09      John Williams moved, on behalf of RCOM, to reinstate the candidacy assessment component with an approved agency. Following a second by Greg McLaren, the motion carried**

### **NATIONAL MINISTRIES**

James Callaway reported that the new design and structure of ABC/USA did not pass at the Biennial in June and will go back to the drawing board at the ABC General Board meeting in November. National Ministries has a piece called "*Key Messages*" that explains what they will be working on at their Board meetings. The following are some of the "*Key Messages*" items:

4. National Ministries is still celebrating financial stability in spite of the economy.
5. The National Ministries board will probably have around 19 people or more when it is reorganized.
6. Each member was to ask their region if they are receiving the Key Messages. James posts Key Messages on the church bulletin board and asks the people to read what National Ministries is doing. This is helping his congregation connect with ABC.

James closed by stating that National Ministries is alive and well and functioning. The *Key Messages* is on National Ministries link to the ABC-USA website.

### **MURROW INDIAN CHILDREN'S HOME**

Joan Brown shared that two Murrow graduates are in college this fall at two different places. Desmond is in his fourth year at college and his sister, Susan, is in her first year at college. They still have another sister and younger brother at Murrow. Desmond, an achieving young man, is part of an entertainment team. He recently signed with the Caribbean Cruise Lines. He flew to England to sing at a wedding, went to Egypt to sing at the opening of a big hotel and also went sky diving.

Murrow was blessed this summer with many work groups. One group of ladies from Minnesota have come for five years. A group from Caney fixed the roof and worked on the cottages. Another group from Arkansas visited and presented the children with throw quilts. It is wonderful for the children to see the people who come and help. They have three cottages for the children and a fourth one that houses volunteers.

Joan said they are still collecting soup labels to obtain educational material for the cottages, but they only need the bar codes of the labels. They also received regulated stimulus money through the school system that allows Murrow to pay for tutoring the children. People may bring big cans of food, paper products, school supplies and/or toiletries to the Annual Gathering to be put on a pickup and taken back to Murrow. Joan said she loves to have people come to Murrow.

Murrow will take family groups to keep siblings together. Many times the grand parents are unable to care for the children. All of their children are from Oklahoma and Murrow has a contract with the State

of Oklahoma that pays for six children a year. Murrow is licensed for 40 children, but their budget can only handle thirty. Joan closed by expressing appreciation for all of the support she had received last year when she lost her daughter.

### **BACONE COLLEGE REPORT**

Wil Brown is a special assistant to Dr. Duncan and the connection between the college and ABCUSA. Bacone's fall enrollment is 1,053 - over 500 are resident students and the remainder are in adult education. About 40% of the students are of Native American heritage. They would like to see that raised to 51% Native American. Bacone College has been a four-year college since 2002 offering 22 associate degrees and 23 bachelor degrees. Thirty one percent of their full time teaching faculty is American Indian.

Bacone began three American Indian Scholarship programs this fall:

1. American Indian Learning Work Community - is full tuition, room and board providing any scholarship needed to supplement federal assistance. Students are nominated by their tribe.
2. American Indian Students of Promise - is a 35% scholarship tuition, room and board. Currently 50 American Indian students are selected each year in AISP. It is designed for residential students and can support up to 200 students.
3. American Indian Cultural Clubs - is a 35% tuition scholarship offered to support each student participant in one of six American Indian Cultural Clubs. They are kick ball, Indian arts program, story telling, dance, native language and crafts.

Bacone renovated one of their historical dorms and will have the grand opening on October 1. This is for American Indian Learning Work Community students and programs under the direction of Rev. Kyle Taylor. This fall they will begin their American Indian Studies degree program. They also hope to add a four-year art degree in Native American Arts. This is the second year of their Christian Ministries four-year degree program.

Bacone has partnered with West Side Baptist Church in Wichita to hold a contemporary Sunday evening service from 8-10 p.m., led by the Christian Ministry students under Dr. Leroy Thompson. There were 50 students at their first service with Rev. David Schirer preaching the message.

### **SUNSET HOME**

Larry Blocklinger reported that Sunset Home Retirement Center began in 1905. The original building was built in 1911, and an addition was built in 1926. The nursing center was built in the early 70's. Since then they have added three duplexes and five single homes. Sunset Home has a \$2.9 million budget and they employ 96 people which is down from six years ago.

Sunset Home is licensed for 98 beds - 50 are in skilled care and the rest are in assisted living or residential care. The homes are sold under "life lease", which means one pays the price of the home but Sunset retains ownership. When a person is no longer able to stay in their home, they will have care in the nursing facility. There are strict Medicare and Medicaid regulation standards that have to be met in a yearly survey. The federal surveyors look harder at new administrators and Larry's first survey showed 24 deficiencies, many of which were paperwork problems. The next couple of years they only had three to five deficiencies and this last survey reported they had zero deficiencies. The buildings are old but they have a good, caring staff. Several committees are working on their strategic planning. Larry concluded by thanking the Central Region for all of their support and donations.

### **OTTAWA UNIVERSITY**

Susan Backofen, Vice President for Marketing and Communication gave the report for Kevin Eichner who became Ottawa's 21st president a year ago. The first thing he did was sit down with the staff to develop a strategic plan and vision statement. Last fall they held a faculty symposium which was the

first time in twelve years that the faculty had all been together. They renewed their agreement with the Ottawa Tribe in Oklahoma that allows any tribal member to earn their bachelor's or master's degree at any Ottawa University location, including online, at no cost to the student. As a result over 30 tribal members enrolled.

This fall they began the Adawe Life Plan Center which will provide students with academic support, career exploration and development opportunities – including internship and travel abroad. The Center for Academic and Professional Services (CAPS) is the adult and online version of the Adawe Center. Ottawa's music program, under the direction of Dr. Roger Kugler, includes a pep band for athletic games, jazz band and concert band. There are also many student ministry groups for students to join including a Gospel Choir, SURGE and a weekly student-led worship service. Eight of their athletic teams were named as NAIA Scholar Teams which requires that the students collectively have a minimum 3.0 grade point average. Ottawa is also involved with ABCCR Senior High Camp, the Braving Discipleship program and the American Baptist Association of Colleges and Universities with President Eichner serving as their chairman over the next two years.

### **CAMPING REPORT**

John Williams reported there were 599 campers this summer which is about 14 less than last summer. Thirty five of them made decisions to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior, 154 made some kind of a commitment or rededication and 14 young people responded to a call to ministry. Camping raises up new leaders that will help fill our dwindling leadership pool.

Jerry Seabaugh shared about his canoe camp in Eminence, Missouri on the Current River. They "rough it" by sleeping in tents on the ground and doing a lot of hard work. Jerry said it is amazing how the kids work together. Groups are assigned to put up the tents, gather fire wood, and set up the camp kitchen area. The same thing is true when it is time to tear down the camp. They travel on Monday, canoe on Tuesday, visit some state parks on Wednesday, and canoe again on Thursday and Friday. They have a camp nurse and camp pastor as well as several counselors. They camped at Round Springs National Park. The canoe rental place provides transportation and picks up the campers where they get out of the river. They had 25 kids, 5 counselors and 1 junior counselor. Andrew Taylor, one of the counselors, will be the camp director next summer while Jerry is on Sabbatical.

John said in addition to the 599 campers there were 180 staff volunteers from around the region. They give their time, energy and extra out-of-pocket money. Everything we do, including camping, is made possible from donations to United Mission, the America For Christ Offering and the Region Offering.

Mary recognized Mang Sonna, the new Director of Bethel Neighborhood Center, and asked Jim Kiker to close the afternoon session with grace for the evening meal.

The Friday evening session reconvened with Jerry Seabaugh leading in congregational singing, accompanied by Ruth Clark at the piano.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The following items were discussed at the July Executive Committee meeting:

- ABCCR Audit
  - The audit was approved and the Region was able to take care of the few recommendations from the auditors.
- The ABCCR 2010 budget.
  - The budget will be finalized at the vision team meeting and presented to the Board in the morning.
- There will be two \$1,000 scholarships in 2010.
  - Mary read a thank you letter from the mother of one of the 2009 scholarship recipients.
- Oakland Park property, Kansas City

- Celebration of Praise leased the church from ABCCR. They abandoned the property, taking the organ and owing rent to the ABCCR. A new group is now in the facility and they are cleaning up, re-carpeting and making it ready for worship again.
- Executive Minister Evaluation
  - Mary will be mailing an evaluation tool to the board members, staff and some churches John has had contact with the past couple of years.
- Round Table
  - John was asked to reactive the Round Table discussion meetings and bring a report to the December Executive Committee meeting. The members are: Ottawa University, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Bacone College, Prairie Homestead, Sunset Home and Murrow Indian Children's Home.

The Board members adjourned to meet with their respective Vision Teams for the remainder of the evening and again first thing on Saturday morning.

The Saturday morning plenary session was opened to Mary Bruner playing the piano.

## **VISION TEAM REPORTS**

### **NET**

Warren Stanton stated that they met and discussed some things but had nothing to report at this time.

### **Professional Church Leadership**

Janet Crowl reported the team began talking about a professional leadership training conference on crisis care and emotional distress. Some possible topics would be:

grief (pre and post bereavement)	death
suicide	disaster
how to respond as pastors and lay leaders	how to handle physical needs.

Janet said they are in the process of putting the ministry team together and would like the names of people who might be interested or would like to volunteer to serve on the team. They are planning to bring in professional people from around the region.

### **Christian Education**

Gloria Moore shared that Rodger Charles had developed a graphic about the vision teams. They talked about bringing structure to the Mentoring Ministry Team. Linda Rhodes drafted an outline that addresses helping campers define the calling in their lives that they received at camp. They talked about developing a mentoring program, a brochure, a theme and vision statement. They would also like to include on the brochure the purpose statements for camping, risk management, youth ministry and senior adult retreat.

### **Communication**

Joanna Gillette reported that the vision team talked about having communications advocates to receive and assimilate information to their local churches. Carolyn Paul will contact each area moderator to ask for help in finding a communications advocate from each church. The names will be turned into Martha Robbins by the end of the year. The team is also continuing the prayer emphasis for 2010 to run from October to October.

Excerpts from historical articles and a mystery photo will be in Central Region Life. People can contact Martha about the identity of the person/s in the photos. They are looking for the longest ABCCR church member. They are also asking each vision team to e-mail a mission statement to Joanna or Martha to be put on the Region website. The team also discussed using a social network as another information tool. It would be a one-sided communication with region staff and volunteers sharing in the implementation.

**B-30-09 The Communications Vision Team moved that the board allow them to research and develop an ABCCR social networking site such as facebook to aid in timely dissemination of information and build relationships with the family - especially the younger generation. The proposed site would allow a “fan” relationship rather than a “friend” relationship. Administration of the site would be shared by region staff and volunteers. The motion carried.**

The vision team also worked on a new monthly list of prayer requests to be put in Central Region Life.

January	Renewed Relationship	July	Our Troops; and Freedoms we enjoy
February	America For Christ	August	Back to School
March	Easter	September	Laborers
April	One Great Hour of Sharing	October	World Mission Offering
May	Graduation, Facing the Future	November	Thanksgiving
June	Camping, Vacation Bible Schools	December	Retired Ministers & Missionaries

**Mission and Stewardship**

Bob Southard reported that the vision team discussed having a retreat on the subject of “Going Green” for young adult ABC women. The retreat is being organized by Carolyn Predmore and Janet Crowl.

Rick Nelson will help churches coordinate missionary speakers for their churches. Marshall Schirer has spearheaded highlighting Stewardship resources on the Region website. The vision team would like to re-start the mission advocate program to supplement the pastor’s energy and time in ministry. There are 105 full time ABC missionaries and 4,000 people on missionary partnership networks and teams who help to raise 68% of the missionaries’ support. The Luther Rice Society matched donations resulting in \$814,000 of new money for our missionaries. Bill Cowell shared with the vision team that the Mid-Winter Missions Conference will be at Cross Wind on January 15-16, 2010. Mang Sonna, Director of Bethel Neighborhood Center, and the Nzungas from Haiti will be the speakers. Bill is trying to arrange Skype conversations with Lauren Bethell (Amsterdam), Duane Binkley (Thailand and refugee work) Annie Dieselberg (Thailand), Judith Sutterlin (China), Pieter Kalkman (Europe) and Daniel Schweissing (Caribbean).

Mang Sonna, Director of Bethel Neighborhood Center, shared they lost a \$77,000 grant for their Parish Nurse Ministry but they plan to re-apply for it. They had several work groups this year including a group that led in VBS under the direction of Robyn Widener of Judson Baptist Church of Kansas City. They have new children from Nepal and Burma, and Mang Sonna shared he has a new DVD of Bethel’s ministry.

The Regional Missions Conference will be held at Franklin College in Indianapolis, Indiana on July 11-13, 2010. Bob concluded by reporting his term on the board ends December 31, 2009 and Greg McLaren will be the temporary chair until the February Board meeting.

**Administration/Finance**

The 2008 audit and the 2010 budget were reviewed by the vision team. Jim Gerlach reported there are no deficits and the Region is gaining by 1.1%, but those numbers could change by year’s end. Rita Adams explained that under the Kansas Plan ,28.69% comes off the top of United Mission monies and is divided among our six institutions. The remaining 71.31% is divided among ABCCR (55%), National Ministries and International Ministries (45%). The vision team had two motions on the audit.

### 2008 AUDIT

**B-31-09 The Finance and Administration Vision Team moved that the Board of Directors accept the 2008 Audit Report prepared by Summers, Spencer & Callison, CPA's, Chtd. The motion carried.**

John reported that the opinion of the auditors is that our financial state is in order according to the standards that are in place. John opened the floor to questions and comments. A request was made that the board members receive the written audit a few days before the September board meeting to give the members time to read and understand it. John said that could be done and stated that both the Executive Committee and the Finance and Administration Vision Team had reviewed and approved the audit.

Mary read the approved motions from the July Executive Committee meeting and explained that an additional motion was made to authorize John and Rita to take care of maintaining FDIC coverage with the Francis E. Law Estate monies. That issue has been resolved.

**B-32-09 The Finance and Administration Vision Team moved that the Board of Directors retain Summers, Spencer & Callison, CPA's, Chtd., for the 2009 audit, at a fee based on 75% of actual time spent at their standard hourly rate, not to exceed \$12,500 plus out-of-pocket costs. The motion carried.**

### 2010 ABCCR BUDGET

John explained the Region is required to present a balanced budget. They were able to grant all of the requests from the vision teams. The budget is funded through the Region Offering, United Mission giving, designated gifts to the region, and transfers from investments that have been set aside for specific purposes. It reflects a 3% Cost of Living increase for all staff salaries and a 14% increase in the medical insurance premiums. The Region has committed to give Bethel Neighborhood Center the same percentage increase that the ABCCR staff receives in salary increases. The budget will be presented to the Annual Gathering delegates for approval and then posted on the ABCCR website. A time for further questioning was held with two requests being made. The first, to have a narrative explanation on the shortened budget that will be in the attendees packets. The other request is to have a break down under UM to show Love Gift and Designated gifts. Mary Bruner made the comment that she voted against the budget at the Executive Committee meeting because it did not grant the staff the 5% cost of living increase that was initially in the budget. At the Executive Committee meeting a motion was made and approved that the Executive Committee would review the budget in mid-2010 to see if the original salary increase of 5% could be reinstated as recommended by the Finance and Administration Vision Team.

**B-33-09 The Executive Committee moved that the Board of Directors approve the 2010 Budget and recommend it for approval by the delegates at the Annual Gathering in Junction City on October 9-10, 2009. The motion carried.**

### 2009 ANNUAL GATHERING REPORT

Mary Bruner reported that the Big Lakes Cluster pastors have been working hard. Registration deadline is September 15<sup>th</sup>. Duffy Robbins, an intergenerational ministry speaker, and ABCCR President Mary Hulst are the main speakers. Darrel Geist will be leading the music. The Ministry and Mission Fair can begin set up at 1:00 Thursday afternoon and registration at the Marriott Hotel will begin at 3:00 p.m. The Ministers Council meeting will be held at 2nd Missionary Baptist Church with missionary Charles Jones speaking. The Friday noon luncheons will be at the 2nd Missionary Baptist Church for \$6.50, but the seating will be limited to 150.

### 2010 ANNUAL GATHERING REPORT

Lonny Bruce announced the members of his 2010 Annual Gathering Planning Committee as follows:

At-large Members

Rev. Kathy Carlson, Chanute  
Rev. John Bliss, Haysville  
Mrs. Dottie McCrossen, Overland Park  
Rev. Melissa Newberry, Leavenworth

Presidential Appointment

Rev. Dan Rhodes, Louisburg  
Mrs. Monica Hendershot, Pratt  
Mrs. Joanna Gillette, Lawrence  
Rev. John Williams, Staff

Lonny also reported that he is still in conversation with First Baptist Church of Atchison to host the Gathering. Atchison was the location of the first Annual Convention of Kansas Baptists 150 years ago. The 2010 Annual Gathering will be held on October 8-9.

### RECOGNIZE RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Bruner recognized the following retiring board members and presented an appreciation certificate: Danny Trent, Richard Crooks, Bob Southard, Jim Hargett, Kim Drum, Jack Gilstrap, Amy Sherbenou, Barbara Vincent, Tim Sherwood and Archie Mason.

### CONSTITUENCY CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Constituency concerns and celebration were shared by Ruth Clark, Mary Bruner, John Williams, Lorene Brannin and Janet Crowl. John Williams closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Sossoman  
Secretary

MEMBERS PRESENT: Janie Allen, Lorene Brannin, Steve Brecheisen, Wil Brown, Lonny Bruce, Mary Bruner, James Callaway, Rodger Charles, Lois Chiles, Ruth Clark, Bill Cowell, Janet Crowl, Kim Drum, Shirley Fair, Andy Frye, Jim Gerlach, Joanna Gillette, Jack Gilstrap, Jim Kiker, Archie Mason, Greg McLaren, Gloria Moore, Rick Nelson, Carolyn Paul, Reuben Paulsen, Ken Poland, Linda Rhodes, Mart Schirer, Merle Schmidt, Amy Sherbenou, Tim Sherwood, Ron Smith, Bob Southard, Warren Stanton, Danny Trent, John Williams and Lee Yarrow.

STAFF PRESENT: Rita Adams, Adriana Chaney, Dan Cole, Martha Robbins and Jerry Seabaugh.

INSTITUTIONAL REPS: Susan Backofen, Larry Blochlinger, Joan Brown and Mang Sonna.

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Bob Artz, Richard Crooks, Carl Olson, Phil Schmidt, Matt Sturtevant and Barbara Vincent.