

May 7-8, 2010
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region
Board of Directors Meeting
Cross Wind Conference Center

Growing Healthy Churches to Fulfill Christ's Mission
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region
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Hesston, Kansas
May 7-8, 2010

Lonny Bruce called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the May Board of Directors meeting. Ruth Clark led the group in singing and Lonny gave the opening devotion and prayer.

B-06-10 Merle Schmidt moved to accept the minutes of the February 5-6, 2010, Board of Directors meeting as printed. Rick Nelson seconded and the motion was approved.

Reports

Homestead Health Center

Steve Berndsen

Steve Berndsen brought greetings from Homestead Health Center and told a bit about the 80 bed facility in Wichita.

- The day before, Steve was at the Governor's Conference on Aging in Topeka and he discussed pending legislation concerning a proposed bed tax on nursing facilities in the state.
- There is a changing paradigm in the state. Assisted living numbers are up, nursing home numbers are down. Families are now taking care of most of those needing long term care. There has been an increase in home health agencies and other levels of care are gaining in popularity. Private homes can take up to 8 residents. Right now, 32% of Kansans are 65 years old or older with the greatest increase in the 85+ age bracket.
- An exciting new program is in the field of tele-medicine. In a trial program, 100 elderly people in Coffeyville, Kansas, have tests set up on their home computer. Data is sent to a nurse at a nursing home and monthly reports are sent to their primary physician.
- Homestead Health Center brought in a consulting firm and the Board of Directors is considering recommendations at this time. The center owns the property and now they need to decide whether to go in debt to remodel the facilities. The neighborhood is aging and the facility is aging so they need to look at investments in future operations. The least attractive option would be to sell the facility and cease operations. If that were to happen, any assets would revert back to ABCCR.
- The good news is Homestead Health Center continues to operate with a dedicated, devoted, and loving staff and are in compliance with all federal and state regulations.
- Steve concluded his report by stating that Homestead Health Center will continue to be there for people as long as it can be.

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ABW Ministries

Janie Allen

Janie Allen reported on 2009 women's local and associational meetings around the state for fellowship, information, and worship. The women fulfilled white cross quotas, contributed to Love Gift on a regular basis, and provided scholarships for students at Ottawa University and Central Seminary. They have raised \$33,120.58 for the region project "Break the Chains of Slavery in the 21st Century". There is ongoing giving to National Support, Refit, and now the Endowment Fund Campaign.

She also told about Pat Brown's visit in April. The Special Interest Missionary visited every area in the state and shared her inspirational message about her ministry in Thailand. Pat told the 317 women who attended the rallies about the missionaries' financial responsibility and challenged them to participate in the Luther Rice Society Matching Gift program. Many women met that challenge.

Janie also described highlights of the June Region Summer Conference at Cross Wind and the Annual Gathering in October.

National Ministries

Lois Chiles

Lois Chiles reported on National Ministries activities.

- National Ministries Board members met last November.
- In April, National Ministries reclaimed their historic identity and name as the American Baptist Home Mission Societies.
- One exciting project is the Penny Project. This program seeks to raise awareness of the extent of child poverty throughout the United States and Puerto Rico and increase support for programs and ministries responding to the needs of children in poverty. It was started by the youth of First Baptist Church in New London, New Hampshire, who collected 60,000 pennies to represent the number of children living in poverty in their state. National Ministries is encouraging youth and adults to raise 14 million pennies to visually represent the number of children living in poverty in the United States and Puerto Rico. As of the end of March, the 100+ American Baptist churches participating in the project have reached the 2 million mark.
- A few weeks ago, Beverly McNally, vice president of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies passed away. Prayers continue for her family and friends.
- Lois thanked the Central Region for giving her the opportunity to serve on the General Board.

Camping Report

Adriana Chaney

Adriana came to know Jesus at a church camp where she was a chaperone. She asked the group how many had led someone to Christ at a camp and many raised their hands. The Central Region invests in the summer camping program and it is an effective evangelistic tool. Right now, over 300 are enrolled in a summer camp. Many churches provide scholarships to camp. In addition to that, Adriana issued a challenge to each person there to find a kid who is unchurched and make it possible for him/her to go to church camp - and personally pay for it. Camping is important.

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Pastor-to-Pastor Adjunct

Jim Autrey, written

Jim Autrey recently had surgery so he submitted a written report highlighting recent activities.

- Pastor-to-Pastor was established in January 2009 to encourage pastors to gather periodically with other pastors in their cluster for fellowship, prayer, support, study, and communication.
- Jim's responsibility is to recruit a pastor from each of the clusters to be the coordinator. He communicates with each coordinator monthly by e-mail and the coordinators meet three times a year at Council Grove.
- A new cluster in the southern half of the Western area began meeting in December and meet monthly at Dodge City for lunch, fellowship, and prayer.
- Cluster Coordinators are:
Cross-Roads Area: Cliff Kirk, Ark Valley; David Walters, Smoky Valley; Jim Zier, Wichita; Teddy Cook, Two Rivers; Tom Thompson, Koinonia; Jack Gilstrap, A
Western Area: Russell King, north half; Gary Winget, south half
Northeast Area: Fred Ansell, Topeka; James Callaway, Big Lakes; Jim Autrey, Flint Hills; Scott Berry, Koinonia
East Central Area: Bob Kraus, West; Carl Olson, Koinonia; Joel Fredrickson, West Franklin County; Steve Neal, Kaw Valley; None for Cluster D or Heart of the City
Southeast Area: Rick Qualls, Grace Hill Association; Wayne Norton, Crawford Association

Risk Management Adjunct

John explained that Beverly Fink is being honored this weekend by Ottawa University so was unable to provide a report.

Interim Ministry

Merle Davis

- Merle Davis reported that in 2009, 30 churches were served by the interim ministries program with the highest month being in May with 22. Currently there are 12 churches using ABCCR services - the lowest since Merle began working with this program.
- Most of the interims report new members were added. One church had 36 additions during a 14 month interim.
- At present, there is a pool of 93 pastors from which to call upon for interim positions and pulpit supply.
- Merle thanked John and the churches for their help and understanding during his recovery from a stroke.

Sabbatical information

Jerry Seabaugh

Jerry Seabaugh is beginning his sabbatical and will leave for Greece on May 12, 2010. He and his wife will be participating in the "Footsteps of Paul Tour". They are flying into Athens and touring Greece. Jerry will continue into Israel for an archeological dig at Bethsaida May 23 - June 5. Jerry appreciates the many comments and concerns he has received concerning his health issues. His neurologist told him to go and have a good time. Interested people can follow Jerry's sabbatical on his blog at www.seabaughtrip.blogspot.com or www.abccr.org

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Camp and Conference Corporation

Ron Jones

Ron Jones gave a report on improvements at Cross Wind.

- The deteriorated siding in the front has been replaced with seamless steel siding at a cost of \$96,000.
- Plans are being made to implement the ABWomen's Ministries project to replace the carpet on the foyer, entryway, and upstairs. The flooring in the food service area will be easy to clean tile. When additional funding is received, they would like to buy some new furniture.
- The grounds are looking better and many maintenance improvements have been made.
- Cross Wind hosted 5,000 people last year and they are preparing for the summer camping season. All weekends are booked through May of 2011.

Opportunity Scholarship Recipients

Lonny Bruce told about the 24 applicants for the Opportunity Scholarships and the process of choosing the two recipients selected by the Executive Committee for 2010. Every single one of the applicants was outstanding and deserving.

B-07-10 Warren Stanton made the motion that the Board of Directors affirm Devra Redford of Leavenworth and Parker Artz of Scott City as the recipients of \$1,000 scholarships each. Following Lois Chiles' second, the motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Committee Report

Lonny Bruce

- Lonny Bruce gave a report of the 1:00 Executive Committee meeting. The minutes from last meeting on February 6, 2010, were approved as printed.
- Discussion was held on the upcoming Annual Gathering in Atchison. The planning committee has met five times including two conference calls. Guest speakers will be Dr. A. Roy Medley and Felicia Zamora from Nicaragua.
- The tax-exempt status for churches was discussed. Everyone is reminded that this is the time to talk to their representatives about this issue.
- Haiti is out of the news, but American Baptists are still there. International Ministries is working a three-year recovery plan - includes focusing on basic needs, rebuilding, and recovery of life and livelihoods.
- Joan Brown has retired from Murrow Indian Children's Home and an event will be held in her honor at Bacone College Chapel on May 22 starting at 1 p.m.

Following supper, the Board of Directors reconvened with singing led by Ruth Clark.

Dr Molly Marshall from Central Seminary gave an impromptu report.

- She explained that for the first time, graduates from Milwaukee and Murfreesboro campuses will graduate with the students from the Shawnee campus.
- New buildings being built include the library to be completed in August or September and the chapel to be completed by the end of December.

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- She spent 13 days in Myanmar. Projects are being developed for Burmese refugees and a Burmese pastor will lead a class the last of August to help with Burmese assimilation.
- The new church plant at the seminary is going well. Wallace Smith is the pastor of the new church.

John Williams told the vision teams they need to start looking at their budgets for next year and pass along their budgets to Administration and Finance by early in July. The group divided into vision teams.

Saturday morning, May 8, 2010

8:00 am Breakfast at Cross Wind
8:45 am Vision teams meet

Saturday morning, Lonny Bruce reconvened the Board of Directors at 10:45 after the vision teams completed their planning sessions. Ruth Clark led the group in singing.

John Williams explained that today's offering will go to the Wichita Community Church in Anadarko, Oklahoma. Last year, a tornado destroyed the church and the dining hall at the campground. The debris has been cleaned up and the site has been prepared for rebuilding. The church was not insured. During the past year, the Native American church families have raised about \$15,000 from bake sales, etc. Now, two Southern Baptist groups from Louisiana are offering help. In addition to raising funds, they plan to construct the church building. The modest 45' x 100' building will have Sunday School rooms, bathrooms, and a sanctuary and will cost about \$75,000. The groups hope to raise \$40-50,000 but will be about \$20,000 short. About \$10,000 One Great Hour of Sharing funds designated for rebuilding have been received. The group "I Am Able" plans to break ground on May 10 and over 100 workers will be there from May 31-June 4. Finishing work will be done from June 21-25. An offering of \$865.00 was taken for the Wichita Community Church.

Vision Team Reports

Mission and Stewardship

Greg McLaren distributed a statement that describes the different areas covered by the Mission and Stewardship Vision Team. Highlights from several of those areas are included in this report.

- Mission Team Opportunities - Mission trips are planned to Mexico and Philippines.
- Stewardship Resources - Marshall has updated the information on the website.
- Mission Advocate - Every church needs to have a mission advocate and Ruth Clark is coordinating this effort. Two new missionary couples have been endorsed. One couple is going to Bolivia and the other to northeast India.

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B-08-10 AB Women's Ministries of the Central Region recommends that all project money for 2010-2011 be used for student scholarships at the Christian University of Northern Haiti. The recommended goal of \$30,000 would be for 60 half scholarships of \$500 each. Any amount over the goal will be applied to additional scholarships. This proposal is in response to the request from the Haitian Baptist Convention via International Ministries. The University has taken in students from other universities which have been damaged by the earthquake. There is a sudden availability of university professors because their schools were destroyed. No second needed. Motion unanimously approved.

- The women will be voting on this project on June 5.
- ABWomen's Ministries Cross Wind project will end in August and the new project will begin on September 1. AB Women's Ministries Region Conference will be at Cross Wind June 4-5; the National Conference will be in Columbus, Ohio, July 10-15; and the Leadership Conference in Honolulu July 24-27.
- ABMen will be at Cross Wind June 1-6 helping young people clean up the camp ground and at Camp Christy July 17-18 where they will have a skeet shoot on Saturday. The work days at the Region Office will be in September.
- Rick Nelson reported on missionary deputation. Japanese missionary Tomoko Armagost will be at Pleasant Valley in Wichita June 6 and at FBC Overland Park on June 13. Ramona Shawver from Mexico will be available in October.
- The Mid-Winter Conference, whose purpose is to raise interest and support for our American Baptist mission program at home and around the world, will be January 14-15 at Cross Wind.

New Church Planting, Evangelism, and Transformation (NET)

- Bob Artz reported for the vision team that in 2011, they hope to raise awareness and funds for local new church plants. They want to encourage churches to think about starting a new church. Starting a new church is a more effective way to reach people than trying to get people to come to an existing church.
- The team is hoping to coordinate a preaching seminar that will demonstrate different preaching styles. They are checking with the Professional Church Leadership Vision Team on that.
- The team is wondering how to establish a fund for evangelistic projects. Funds could be applied for by churches. If there were an initial pool of money available, it could be replenished by funds from the projects.

Administration and Finance

- John Williams reported for the group because Jim Gerlach was sick and unable to attend. Lonny & John co-chaired the meeting.
- United Mission Giving is above last year's donation amount but not as high as budgeted.

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B-09-10 The Administration and Finance Vision Team moves to designate today's offering to the Wichita Community Church of Anadarko, Oklahoma. No second required and no discussion. Motion approved unanimously.

- The offering for the Wichita Community Church totaled \$865.00.

B-10-10 The Administration and Finance Vision Team moves to award a Special Ministry Grant in the amount of \$5,000 to the Wichita Community Church of Anadarko, Oklahoma, to be used for erecting their new church building. The funds are to be drawn from the Church Transformation Fund. No second required. Following discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

- John presented information about a discrepancy in Terri Long's pay that began in March 2005. At that time, Terri signed a contract to work for ABCCR for a starting salary of \$10/hour. That contract was recently discovered and she brought it to John's attention. In order to maintain integrity with the contract we established with her and who we are as American Baptists we need to make this right.

B-11-10 The Administration and Finance Vision Team recommends that back pay salary due to Terri Long for hourly rate deficit be paid in the amount of \$12,195.07. Total cost to Region, including Region's share of Social Security/Medicare taxes is \$13,127.99. This is to come from the Oakland Park Baptist Church Fund, which was given with the intent to be used for operating budget supplemental funds. No second required. After discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

- Budget requests from vision teams are due by July 1.

Professional Church Leadership

- Jim Kiker reported that the meeting opened with a devotion opened with prayer.
- Discussion was held concerning Ministry Teams. Jerry Seabaugh reported that about 30 people attended the Minister's Council Retreat and Jim Autrey provided a written report.
- The Professional Church Leadership Vision Team is planning a series of workshops and conferences that they anticipate will be self-funded. However, a line item to draw from to cover the initial administration and publicity costs.
- A Boundaries Workshop for pastors will be held August 17-18 and hopefully repeated next year.
- It is hoped that a Crisis Training Seminar can be held in 2011. Additional areas that may need to be addressed include Natural Disasters, Re-integration of Military to Civilian Life, and Suicide. Crisis Training may need to be postponed to 2012 due to time and financial constraints.
- Discussed budget issues and requested seed money for training seminars.

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Christian Education

- Rodger Charles reported that he and Linda Rhodes were the two members present.
- They discussed a mentoring ministry team to work with people who are called to ministry. He thought he had found someone to lead the mentoring team but that person is now unable to do so. The mentors would work with youth from church camps who are interested in the ministry. The Christian Education Vision Team needs the help of the board. The region staff cannot be expected to do this.
- Molly Marshall attended the vision team meeting and made suggestions of various curriculum on training mentors.
- The team has spoken with all three of the colleges about providing trainers and curriculum, but they must have the mentoring team first. Please send mentoring team suggestions to a vision team member.
- Most of programs are self-funded so don't need additional money.
- Children's Ministry budget might need more money

Communications

Joanna Gillette reported for the vision team.

- Progress is being made on the history book and submissions are still being accepted.
- Martha Robbins is asking that specific historic information be sent to the Region Office.
- A highlight at the Annual Gathering will be Voices from the Past. A picture of an important person will be projected on screen and a paragraph will be read in the words of the person.
- The team wants to increase the number of Central Region Life subscriptions so they will take samples to meetings.
- Please give the vision team any suggestions on how to improve communications.
- Send your church histories to the Region Office. Martha will keep them on file.

Ruth Clark gave a report on her recent trip to Haiti with International Ministries, made at the request of the Haitian Baptist Convention. Follow this link to read more about Ruth's trip:
<http://www.internationalministries.org/read/20107>

Lonny Bruce led the request for constituency concerns.

Prayers were requested for the following:

Kathy Longhead and her husband Micky. He will be moved into hospice care when he is able to leave the hospital.

New pastors at FBC Colby, FBC Meade, and FBC Stilwell. These churches that have been in transition are now at a new stage. Dan Hawn is moving to Harland, Iowa, so FBC Wichita is moving into a new chapter. Sharon Springs is still in the pastoral church process. Active searches are at a lower level than at other times. Prayerful support for sisters and brothers in transition around the region is requested.

Jim Autrey is recovering from surgery

Wayne Paulsen is still in hospital, coming home tomorrow

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Following the closing prayer and grace by John Williams, Lonny Bruce adjourned the meeting at 12:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Carter
Secretary

Members present: Janie Allen, Bob Artz, Lorene Brannin, Steve Brecheisen, Wilfred Brown, Lonny Bruce, Mary Bruner, Rodger Charles, Lois Chiles, Ruth Clark, Bill Cowell, Shirley Fair, Andy Frye, Joanna Gillette, Stan Hendershot, George Henry, Jim Kiker, Jim McIntosh, Greg McLaren, Rick Nelson, Carl Olson, Reuben Paulsen, Linda Rhodes, Marshall Schirer, Merle Schmidt, Ron Smith, Warren Stanton, Matt Sturtevant, Naomi Teubner, and John Williams.

Staff present: Rita Adams, Linda Carter, Adriana Chaney, Merle Davis, Martha Robbins, and Jerry Seabaugh.

Institutional representatives: Steve Berndsen, Ron Jones, and Molly Marshall

Excused absence: James Callaway, Janet Crowl, Jim Gerlach, Jack Gilstrap, Gloria Moore, Carolyn Paul, Ken Poland, Phil Schmidt, Lee Yarrow.

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