

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region
MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS SESSION
40th Annual Meeting, Saturday, October 6, 2007
Decatur Conference Center and Hotel, Decatur, Illinois
Roland Sundberg, Recorder

The voting delegates of the 40th Annual Meeting of American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region were called to order for the Business Session at 8:00 p.m. by President George Rosales, who led us in prayer. Attendance at this year's annual meeting was 348 people registered, of which 319 were present. Voting Delegates totaled 99. Seventy-seven churches in the region were represented. Appreciation was expressed for the host churches in Area 2 and for the volunteers working this weekend.

Reg Mills spoke on behalf of the Region, and honored both John Grisham and Max Klinkenborg for 20 years of service each to the Region. Certificates commemorating their anniversaries were presented to them, as well as small gifts for them and their spouses. Reg honored Dwight Stinnett for 10 years of service to the Region and presented Dwight and his wife, Ginny, with gifts of appreciation.

Dwight Stinnett presented the annual reports of all the region's ministries, councils and staff persons to those present. These reports were found in the bound Program Book on the blue pages. These reports were accepted into record without objection.

Dwight Stinnett then called attention to the GRR Ballot, prepared by the Ministry of Planning & Review. The slate of officers on this Ballot includes Rev. Diane DeSmidt for President. The motion to accept the slate of candidates was made by the Ministry of Planning & Review and seconded by Elaine Bolen, voting delegate and member of Second Baptist Church of Peoria. The slate of candidates was approved by voice vote of the voting delegates.

George Rosales was then asked to present proposed Bylaw amendments for the consideration of the voting delegates. A question-and-answer session was held earlier in the day about the proposed Bylaw amendments. Voting delegates voted unanimously to approve Amendment 1, unanimously to approve Amendment 2, and unanimously to approve Amendment 3, thus adopting the Bylaw amendments.

Cheryl Henson and others from churches in Area 1 gave the invitation to the 41st Annual Meeting to be held next year in Moline, Illinois. The convention will be held at the Airport Holiday Inn, and the keynote speaker will be Mylinda Baits. Cheryl asked trivia questions of the audience and gave away T-shirts to those who responded correctly.

George Rosales then presented the next President of the Great Rivers Region, Rev. Diane DeSmidt. Dwight Stinnett presented Diane with the GRR Pin and with the presidential gavel, and Diane spoke briefly afterwards. Dwight expressed the Region's appreciation for George's work over the past year.

The Business Session of the 40th Annual Meeting was then declared closed at 8:30 p.m.