

**American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region
REGIONAL MINISTRY BOARD
Minutes From Meeting Friday, October 30, 2009**

Holiday Inn City Centre Hotel, Peoria, Illinois
Joel Lohr, President • Roland Sundberg, Recorder

Present:	Delano Benson Sharon Farral Walter Holt Stephanie Johanpeter Benjamin Manso PJ Patterson Bud Pruett (21 of 29 members)	Elaine Bolen Rene' Gorbold Keith Ingold Mark Keyser Reg Mills Merredith Peterson Mary Sharp	Sharon Brown Deborah Harkness David Johanpeter Joel Lohr Harry Parker Gerald Phillips Dwight Stinnett
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Regrets:	Kenneth Board Courtney Jones Robert Scott	Henrietta Brown Susan Metcalf Janet Waychoff	Vicki Edwards Quinton Runyon
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Incidental Items		None

President Joel Lohr called the business meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He then led us in prayer. The Minutes from the May 22, 2009 meeting were reviewed without objection and will be entered into the record. In lieu of board training, Dwight Stinnett gave an encouraging presentation about the state of the region and a look to the future.

DECISION ITEMS

Annual Reports. The Annual Reports from all Board-related activities were included in the convention program booklet. The Board formally endorsed these compiled reports as the official annual report of the Region, and the recorded vote was unanimous.

Withdrawing Churches. In a notice dated May 30, 2009, **Judson Memorial Baptist Church of Joliet, IL**, took action to withdraw from the Great Rivers Region and American Baptist Churches. It was verified that the necessary procedures have been followed. After discussion, the board voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Minister to report a change of status to ABC/USA.

In a notice dated May 27, 2009, **Delavan Baptist Church of Delavan, IL**, took action to withdraw from the Great Rivers Region and American Baptist Churches. It was verified that the necessary procedures have been followed. After discussion, the board voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Minister to report a change of status to ABC/USA.

2010 Budgets. The proposed budgets for the region and both camps for 2010 were mailed to board members in advance. These proposed budgets were prepared by the Ministry of Financial Stewardship with input from the Ministry of Staff Relations. The region will need to draw an additional \$30,000 from investment principal to balance the 2010 budget of \$1,045,669. We have experienced an especially difficult economic situation over the past year, as have our churches. It seems likely that churches will begin seeing recovery in mid-2010, and we are optimistic that things will begin looking better for us in the latter half of 2010. We are also projecting budget surpluses for both camps next year. After discussion, the board voted to adopt the 2010 Budgets for the Region, for Lake Springfield Camp and Blackhawk Camp, as recommended by the Ministry of Financial Stewardship.

Sale of Lake Benton Baptist Camp Property. We have received a contract for purchase of the Lake Benton Baptist Camp property. The negotiated price to purchase the camp property is \$325,000 from Andrew Brown and Daniel Gabel of St. Louis. After discussion and reviewing the options, the board voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Minister and officers of the Region to execute any documents necessary for the transaction to accept the Real Estate Purchase Contract for the Benton property from the above-named parties.

Creation of New Corporations for the Two Remaining Camps. The task force on camping has met throughout the year to fulfill their charge from the board. They have surveyed region churches and a written report was offered to board members. The task force recommends that the Executive Minister be authorized to complete the actions to create a Lake Springfield Baptist Camp Corporation and a Blackhawk Baptist Camp Corporation and transfer legal, financial, and operational responsibilities to these corporations by the end of 2010. The region would continue to own the Blackhawk Baptist Camp property and lease it to the new Blackhawk Baptist Camp Corporation, while the lake lot lease from the City of Springfield for Lake Springfield Baptist Camp would be transferred from the region to the new Lake Springfield Baptist Camp Corporation before June of 2010. After discussion, the board voted unanimously to accept the above recommendation from the task force.

Increase in Line of Credit for Staff Credit Cards. At the July meeting of the Ministry of Financial Stewardship it was reported that at certain times during the year, the staff has cash flow difficulty with the present \$3,000 credit limit on their credit cards, particularly during convention and annual area meetings. Our overall credit limit with Christian Community Credit Union is currently \$20,000. The Ministry of Financial Stewardship recommends that the Board act to increase the overall credit limit from \$20,000 to \$30,000 with the credit accounts provided by Christian Community Credit Union. This does not affect the Budget. After discussion, the board voted unanimously to allow the increase in the overall credit limit through CCCU to \$30,000.

Future Regional Staffing Proposal. Financial considerations have become the major limiting factor for regional staffing, programming, and services. We have been moving toward a smaller staff and more selective programming for a few years now, and it is evident that we will be even smaller in the future. The Ministry of Planning & Review submitted a written proposal to the board for future regional staffing. The plan would reduce the present ministerial staff by one, leaving a total of five (3+1+1); offset the expanded area ministry responsibilities of ministerial staff by a reduction in their extra portfolio responsibilities; and provide for a “specialist” minister who will be integral to the goals established by the board. After discussion, the board voted unanimously to: Adopt the ministerial staffing plan of five full-time regional associate ministers, consisting of three field ministers with area ministry responsibilities, one region-wide specialist, and one executive minister; Charge the Executive Minister to report the interim staffing plan in effect at the first board meeting in 2010; Charge the Ministry of Planning & Review to describe and propose the “specialist” position based on Board-adopted goals and objectives; and Set January, 2013, as the target date for full implementation of this plan.

Meeting Dates for 2010. The board voted to adopt the following 2010 meeting dates:
Monday, February 22 at 1:00 p.m. (Region office in Springfield)
Monday, May 10 at 1:00 p.m. (Region office in Springfield)
Friday, October 1, prior to Annual Assembly in Mount Vernon

MONITORING ITEMS

A Look To The Future. Dwight Stinnett offered encouragement for the region in the current financial situation. The board acted seven years ago to reorganize, streamline, remove departments and reduce the size of the board from 55 members to 30 members. Dwight provided a word-picture of a kayaker going over a waterfall. Like the kayak, the board provided the region with the right vessel to weather the financial waterfall of the past few years, in effect sparing the region from the financial agony of going over the cliff blindly with the wrong equipment. Board members should be commended for their foresight and swift action.

Review of Financial Statements Through September 30, 2009. Treasurer PJ Patterson provided to board members a financial snapshot of region activity for the first nine months of 2009. With 75% of the year passed, 67% of the budgeted income has

come in and 70% of the budgeted expenses have been spent. Sixty-four percent of the budget for United Mission income has been received for the year, and only 48% of the budget for ABMS Specifics has come in so far. Expenses for General Ministry are right on target at 75% of the budget spent. The Capital Fund is currently showing an excess of \$198,568, thanks to unrealized gains on investments. Lake Springfield Camp shows an excess of \$14,139 and Blackhawk Camp shows an excess of \$13,944 as of September 30.

INCIDENTAL ITEMS

None

The board adjourned with prayer at 11:45 p.m., agreeing to hold its next regular meeting on Monday, February 22, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at the Regional Resource Center in Springfield.

**American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region
MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS SESSION**

**42nd Annual Assembly, Friday, October 30, 2009
Holiday Inn City Centre Hotel, Peoria, Illinois
Joel Lohr, President • Roland Sundberg, Recorder**

The voting delegates of the 42nd Annual Assembly of American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region were called to order for the Business Session at 2:00 p.m. by President Joel Lohr, who led us in prayer. Attendance at this year's annual meeting was 242 people registered, of which 213 were present. Voting Delegates totaled 62. Sixty churches in the region were represented. Appreciation was expressed for the host churches in Area 3 and for the volunteers working this weekend.

Acting on behalf of the Region, Reg Mills recognized Candy Stivers for 30 years of service and Cheryl Henson for 10 years of service. Plaques commemorating their anniversaries were presented to them, as well as gifts of appreciation for them and their spouses. In addition, we said "good-bye" to Randy McNeely after 8 years of service, with a plaque and gift. Randy resigned earlier this year to return to the pastorate, and was asked to return specifically for this recognition.

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 goldenrod pages. These reports were accepted into record by the Regional Ministry Board 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. Sharon Farral for President; Rev. Dr. Benjamin Manso for First Vice-President; Elmer Voudrie for Second Vice-President; and Rev. Gerald Phillips for Vice-President for Personnel. The motion to accept the slate of candidates was made by the Ministry of Planning & Review and seconded by Reg Mills, voting delegate and member of Central Baptist Church of Springfield. The slate of candidates was approved by voice vote of the voting delegates.

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

Representatives from Area 4 gave the invitation to the 43rd Annual Assembly to be held next year in Mount Vernon, Illinois. The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn, where it was last held five years ago.

The Business Session of the 42nd Annual Assembly was then declared closed at 2:30 p.m.