

**American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region
REGIONAL MINISTRY BOARD**

Minutes From Meeting Friday, October 3, 2008

Ambrose Room, Fifth Season Hotel and Conference Center, Moline, Illinois

Diane DeSmidt, President
Roland Sundberg, Recorder

Present:	Francis Bartley Jeffrey Hammer Stephanie Johanpeter Gerald Phillips Elmer Voudrie	Paul Burden Deborah Harkness Mark Keyser Mary Sharp Dwight Stinnett	Diane DeSmidt David Johanpeter Helen Murrell Geraldine Sirls (14 of 27 members)
Guests:	John Grisham Richard Ricks Roland Sundberg	Cheryl Henson Randy McNeely	Linda Ricks Muriel Johnson
Regrets:	Elaine Bolen Rene' Gorbald Susan Metcalf Harry Parker Hari Smith	Henrietta Brown Keith Ingold Patricia Midkiff PJ Patterson Janet Waychoff	Sharon Brown Courtney Jones Reg Mills William Schneck

Contents:

General	1	Introduction
Decision Items	1	Audits of the 2007 GRR Financial Statements
	2	Closing Church: Des Peres Baptist Church of St. Louis
	2	Closing Church: Immanuel Baptist Church of Quincy
	2	Church Changing Name: First Baptist Church of Batavia
	2	2009 Budgets
	2	Agenda and Ballot for Business Session
	3	Meeting Dates for 2009
Monitoring Items	3	Staff Reports

Diane DeSmidt called the business meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. She then led us in prayer. The Minutes from the May 2, 2008 meeting were reviewed with one change in attendance and will be entered into the record with the change.

DECISION ITEMS

Audits of the 2007 Financial Statements. Richard Grafton of Estes, Bridgewater & Ogden, performed the audit this year of the region's 2007 financial records. He met with the Ministry of Financial Stewardship on May 2, 2008, to present his preliminary draft of the 2007 Audit to the committee. The committee requested no changes to the audit and unanimously recommended forwarding the final draft of the 2007 Audit to the Regional Ministry Board for their approval. Richard Grafton's letter of audit was made available to the Regional Ministry Board, which approved the 2007 Audit unanimously. A copy of the finished Audit is on file in the region office.

Closing Churches. **Des Peres Baptist Church of St. Louis** and **Immanuel Baptist Church of Quincy** (also known as **Bluff Ridge Church**) have closed their doors. Dwight verified that the procedures specified by GRR Standing Rule V.E. have been followed. After discussion, the board voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Minister to report a “change of status” for each church to ABC/USA.

The **Des Peres Baptist Church** sold its property when it closed, and they have created an endowment, or **Legacy**, through the American Baptist Foundation with the region as one of the beneficiaries. Dwight acknowledged this gift with board members and explained the restrictions involved with the annual distribution of this gift. The funds are to be spent by the end of the following year after they are received, and detailed reporting about the usage of these funds will be necessary. If the funds are not spent within the allotted time, all unused funds are to be returned to the Foundation. There are two directives on the use of the funds: 1) one-third of the funds shall be used for new church plantings in Area V; and 2) the remaining two-thirds shall be used for congregational renewal and church health.

Name Change. **First Baptist Church of Batavia** has moved to a new location and has voted to change its name to **Faith Baptist Church at Mill Creek**. The new location has a Geneva, Illinois, address. The board voted unanimously to accept this name change and authorized the Executive Minister to report this change to ABC/USA.

2009 Budgets. The proposed budgets for the region and both camps for 2009 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. It was explained that United Mission giving has leveled off from its recent drops. Lake Springfield Camp is expecting another year with a very tight budget after borrowing from the region to cover cash flow. The region will not need to draw funds from investment principal to balance the 2009 budget of \$1,113,655. Salary increases averaging 2% were recommended for 2009 by the Ministry of Staff Relations. Lake Springfield’s 2009 budget would be \$138,650 while Blackhawk’s 2009 budget would be \$78,475. After discussion, the board voted to accept the 2009 budgets for the Region, for Lake Springfield Camp and Blackhawk Camp.

Agenda and Ballot for the Business Session of the Annual Gathering. The board unanimously agreed on an agenda for the convention’s business session, and the ballot of nominations for next year’s slate of officers for the region. The Business Session was to be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 4, in Ballroom D of the Fifth Season Hotel and Conference Center, Moline, Illinois. The slate of officers being nominated are: Joel Lohr, President; Sharon Farral, First Vice President; Benjamin Manso, Second Vice President; PJ Patterson, Vice President for Finance; Wally Holt, Vice President for Planning; Kenneth Board, Area 1 Nominee to the General Board of ABC/USA; Wally Holt, Area 3 Nominee to the General Board of ABC/USA; and Robert Scott, Area 5 Nominee to the General Board of ABC/USA.

Meeting Dates for 2009. The board voted to adopt the following 2009 meeting dates:
Friday, February 6 at 1:00 p.m. (Region office in Springfield)
Friday, May 22 at 1:00 p.m. (Region office in Springfield)
Friday, October 30, prior to Annual Meeting in Peoria

MONITORING ITEMS

Staff Report. Dwight offered to briefly discuss key issues and answer questions, particularly on issues related to the Regional Ministry Board and reorganization of the national denomination. A written update of all staff activity since the last annual meeting was provided to board members.

The Financial Roadmap adopted by the board three years ago was successful in guiding the region through a very tough time financially. The board was raised up in thanksgiving for a job well done. We now have a balanced budget with no draw on Capital.

Max Klinkenborg has retired, and John Grisham has taken on his duties as Area 2 Minister. More staff will be retiring in the near future, and it is possible that we may not have the financial ability to replace some of the retirees. The region is experiencing a clergy shortage as many clergy are reaching retirement age.

Natural Church Development is still being used as a region-wide tool. Consecration Sunday is now administered by all our Area Ministers as John Grisham has added extra duties to his plate. The region continues to experience financial struggles with the Camping programs, and this will be discussed in an upcoming board meeting.

The board adjourned with prayer at 7:30 p.m., agreeing to hold its next regular meeting on Friday, February 6, 2009, at 1:00 a.m. at the Regional Resource Center in Springfield.