



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF OHIO
Board of Regional Ministries
Board Meeting
Saturday, September 17, 2016

PRESENT: Ken Atchison, Dan Camick, Rockney Carter, Paula DeMott, Rick Dostal, Paula Duncan, Marvin Haught, Anita King, Denny McDonald, Barb Rockwell, Joe Sanders, Sharron Sedziol, James Willis. STAFF: Ernest Jones, Mark Click, Jane Gibbons,

ABSENT: Roger Alber, John Boxill, Bev Keyse, Hai Vung Lian, Rita McClure, Josh Ward

Call to Order / Welcome..... Mrs. Sharron Sedziol, President
Sharron made introductions of new members. Shared who would not be present.

Devotions & Prayer..... Rev. Dr. Rockney Carter
1 John 4 There are people who don't love because they don't know God. This is our mission that they know God's love by our love for one other. God's dwelling within us, His Spirit, causes us to tell them that Jesus is the Savior. God's love for us, He gave to us first, turns our hatred, misunderstandings, into love for others. "He who loves God, loves His brothers and sisters."

Approval of Consent Agenda

- Minutes, Board of Regional Ministries, May 21, 2016
 - Association Task Force Update
 - Office of the Future Task Force Update
 - State Advisory Committee on Ordination Report
- Motion to accept: James Willis Second: Marvin Haught*

Discussion of Strategic Action #3Mr. Lon Swartzentruber (DGI) & Dr. Ernest Jones

Dr Jones referred to the 100 Day Report from May 2016 engaging in one-to-one, groups, and town hall conversations. God in His wisdom has put together this Board for where God is leading. Dr. Jones discerned problems and challenges: examine our culture within our board and how we are perceived. Specifically the finances of the Region. We need to focus on what we can and not on what we can't. Four areas of concern: Associational disconnect, Communication and Transparency, Identity Issues, Strategic and Structural Adaptivity. We are seeking to build new habits to empower churches and associations to do ministry. Within the next 24-36 months laying the work for long term.

Lon shared the video 'Start with Why' by Simon Sinek. Everybody knows what they do. Some know how they do it. Very few know why they do it. To be successful at fulfilling our mission we need to share why we do what we do.

Strategic planning exercise: 'Stand in the middle' – Lon

We looked at our mission statement, our ministry mission, cornerstone core values
On the other hand - large group discussion

1. What is ABC-Ohio's reason for being?

To build healthy churches that are Christ Centered.

To provide resources to meet the goals.
To perform the associational function that gathers for similar goals.
We are the tie/connection device with churches.
To enlarge the Kingdom of God.
To have a greater impact on Society. (This is a why answer.)
Building God's Kingdom. (This is a why answer.)
We do this out of the love of God.
To help those in need with the gospel - mission centered - reach more people.
Formerly to be able to do something bigger than one church.
Spiritually growth and provide opportunities for people to discover God's mission for their lives. (This is a why answer.)
Sense of Community / making a difference
This is a welcoming family that is diverse, we value one another.
Strengthen our values so we can share with others.
Believe in doing what we say, standing up, embracing justice.

2. How is all of this American Baptist of Ohio?

Autonomous body and believers baptism, Church and State, Soul Liberty (personal accountability and respectability), Authority of Scripture, People need to be saved, Priesthood of all Believers, Truth seekers. How do we fit into the greater body of Christ? Approaching God as people with no hierarchy (Why) Working together from grassroots.

Have we moved from these distinctives?

Most people in our churches are not aware of our distinctives.

3. Are we getting adequate results for its efforts?

No, God's Kingdom growing at slow pace.

Healthy Church: Regenerate membership and growth; not segregating ourselves; caring for the community of believers; standing for Biblical beliefs and what is right.

We are not as healthy as we think we are.

4. Who is our customer?

A. Local Church: (What do they value and how are we doing?)

1. Changing demographic that is older and smaller churches with less capacity to serve and minister along but wanting help

2. Changing demographic that is younger and larger churches without historical value (ABC?) who are disconnected not needing help (Montgomery, Omega, Perry Chapel)

B. Community (indirectly): (What do they value and how are we doing?)

1. They value the future, safety and justice, cooperation.

2. Creating dialogue, sharing testimonies, loving others.

C. Pastors: (What do they value and how are we doing?)

1. They value Education, Continuing Education to help impact people in our communities and be in mission; resources to meet specific needs; relationships that encourage and educate; Bio-vocationally.

D. Ministry Partners: (What do they value and how are we doing?)

1. Different Priorities

E. Growing leaders: (Leadership Academy Students): (What do they value and how are we doing?)

Provide what can't be done by local church and associations. There are lots of competition available. What other things can we offer to develop leadership?

F. Church members (indirectly) and Associations: No report given due to time. Lon gathered this information

5. Do our mission, vision, values still fit?

We need a better handle on what customers considers value?

Yes.

Priorities are different.

6. Strategic planning process map

September 27 in Columbus and October 27 in Cincinnati involving our constituency

Building consensus, Developing Goal area teams 3-5 major issues may emerge, Identifying Strategies and Tactics, Funding Initiative, Developing case for support, Meetings with donors, Ask for gifts, Further developing relationship with donors.

REGION BOARD MEETING SUSPENDED until after the BFI Meeting

Sharron suspended the meeting and Marvin prayed for our Lunch.

LUNCH

Call to Order - Meeting of the Baptist Foundation, Inc.....Mrs. Sharron Sedziol

- Tax Reduction Request Resolution
Licking County Auditor approved Tax reduction. Based on the assessed value with a savings of about \$10,000.
- Sawmill Baptist Church, Powell
The church has closed and made the first of two donations in the amount about \$195,000.
- Matt Thomas has recommended to cash in a CD in the amount of \$10, 273.68.
- East Livingston church has a Kent Fund Loan which is up to date.
- Faith Baptist of Grove City is 92 months behind in payments.
- Resurrection Crossing Baptist Church, Xenia/Lease.....Mr. Rick Dostal
As a mission of the Clinton Association Resurrection Crossing church was planted and is occupying the former First Baptist Church of Xenia. FBC Xenia has handed over the property to ABC-Ohio. Several of the Clinton Association churches are helping to provide financial support. Resurrection Crossing church needs to finalize insurance. The lease was discussed, with rent being held for upkeep and repairs. The members of Resurrection on their own made the property usable. The security deposit reference needs to be removed from the lease. Clinton Association will be at Resurrection Church on October 2, 2016. *Motion to accept the lease with changes: Paula Duncan Second: Dan Camick. Approved.*
- First Baptist Church, Sidney.....Dr. Ernest Jones
Sidney First Baptist Church is in transition. Rev George Gnade is retiring in May 2017. An independent church, Grace Baptist, split and about 50 members came to First. Scott New from Cedarville College was appointed as Associate pastor. Scott New refuses to be an American Baptist Church. Sidney First is constitutionally bound to ABC pastors only and to be an ABC church. The church is requesting to be released from agreement to give resources to ABC-Ohio. Following a straw vote a majority is willing to leave, but there is remnant which does desire to remain - ABW

has stated they will continue to associate. There is no precedent for this situation. Legal advice is to work out the situation. If dis-affiliation is the outcome then the request be denied.

The motion was made to continue to seek reconciliation with Sidney First Baptist Church as an American Baptist Church and we will be denying their request to reverse the reversionary language: Denny McDonald Second: James Willis.
Approved.

Adjourn BFI meeting – Resume Region Board Meeting

Motion to adjourn: Denny McDonald, Second: James Willis

Financial Reports..... Mr. Rick Dostal, Treasurer

- Assets have been received but not all is cash. The staff was thanked for due diligence on keeping within the budget. Investments have increased. Audit will be available by October.

- Contract for Services

Motion to accept and budget for the contract of \$75,534.00 for Matt Thomas to provide accounting services: Denny McDonald, Second Barb Rockwell. Approved.

The changes in the contract from previous years were explained including putting the per diem work into the contract. The cost for a consulting firm to do accounting is more than to have an accounting firm to do the accounting. Dr Jones needs time to assess the process. Changes will also need to be made.

Motion to accept Design Group International for \$39,000 to provide consultation on the next steps of the Strategic Funding Plan. Motion to accept: Denny McDonald Second: Rick Dostal. Approved.

- 2017 Preliminary Budget Design as a tool to tell the story of the ministry. The PBD will provide transparency, use of resources, and help generate enthusiasm to give. Foundational Values: Prudent Resource management and Ministry Connectedness. Changing the language will help change the availability for being generous. The budget for 2017 will be sent in the coming weeks.

Region Board Update

- Resignation Letter: Barbe Crosier of Sawmill is no longer a member of an ABC-Ohio church. Motion to accept resignation: Denny McDonald Second: James Willis Approved.
- Presidential Appointees: Paula DeMott, from First Baptist Martins Ferry filling Chad Mugrage's term. Paula Duncan, Christians Beyond Church at Highland Avenue (Portsmouth) filling Barbe Crosier's term.
- Thank You Letter: Joe Seese writes from Clendenin, WV, his thanks for the going away gift and support of the board. He is grateful for the friendships. He shared about the extensive damage to both the church and parsonage. He is hoping to move into the parsonage by the middle of October. He asks for our continued prayers.
- Nominating Committee Report for Annual Gathering
Slate of officers is prepared. Dr Willis will be President, Dr. Ken Atchison will be Vice President, David Daniels to fill an unexpired term, Rev. Cindy White
- Introduction of Task Force to Update Personnel Manual/Job Descriptions

Dan Camick, Debbie Johnston, Lonie Sanders, Dr Jones.

Staff Reports

Rev. Jane Gibbons reported: Sawmill Baptist Church had decided to sell their property. Due to being unsettled on the vision for the church in their community, they could not see themselves moving forward as a congregation. She guided them through the process of closing and supporting other ministries.

The ministry of a northeast Ohio church has gone through a divisive issue. Other pastors in the association provided help in listening sessions. Jane has written a proposal for ministry recommending including an interim who will intentionally work on reconciliation. A proposed interim is meeting with the church leaders. This is a new model for a support ministry.

The Leadership Academy received a grant to help the partnership with Cleveland Baptist Association. Eight new students, for a total of sixteen students. Six graduated in 2016. A new dean for the academy is Dr Kevin Hairston, Living Word Bible Fellowship of Columbus. Training for about 20 pastors to assist Academy graduates in their first three years of ministry.

Rev. Mark Click reported: Resurrection Crossing pastor is Joe Rhonemus. FBC Springfield - called Adam Banks. Myrtle Tree called Tom Walter as interim, a graduate of the Academy. FBC Zanesville has called David Nuhfer as their interim. FBC Tipp City has called Paul Mitchell as interim. He is also an ARM. FBC Middletown pastor Ken Fey has retired. Wayne Paulsen is serving as the interim. There are twelve southern Ohio churches in pastoral transition. There was a Youth Workers Summit on 8/20/16 with 22 youth workers for a good conversation. Two ordination candidates are in process. Camp Kirkwood recently completed a new bathhouse/lodge. The Miami Baptist Association will be holding a special business meeting about the future of the camp due to a \$450,000 balloon payment coming due July 2017. The Dayton Christian Center is debt free and in excellent financial position. American Baptist Campus Ministry @ University of Cincinnati with Lydia Davis as the campus director. Eric Metaxis was their guest speaker last spring. Regular ministry to about 130 medical students.

Dr. Ernest Jones reported: From his mentor, "Where God guides, God provides." We are positioning ourselves to be in line with God's guidance and provision. Denise has arrived and his life has had some changes building their relation. They are traveling together on some the trips. He is energized by the work to be done, especially with the Annual Gathering within a few weeks.

Dr Jones lead us in closing worship song "How Great is Our God" and prayer.

ANNUAL GATHERING – OCTOBER 4-5, 2016

Note: Next Region Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 5, 2016

Submitted by Joe Sanders
Secretary Pro Tempore

APPROVED BY THE REGION BOARD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2016