



Region Board Retreat
Friday & Saturday — February 17 & 18, 2017

TRANSFORMED BY THE JOURNEY LUKE 24:32

PRESENT: Ken Atchinson, Dan Camick, Rockney Carter, David Daniels, Paula DeMott, Rick Dostal, Paula Duncan, Marvin Haight, Rita McClure, Denny McDonald, Barb Rockwell, Joe Sanders, Sharron Sedziol, Josh Ward, Cindy White, James Willis, Mark Click, Jane Gibbons, Chuck Jones,

JOURNEYING WITH ONE ANOTHER

Friday, February 17, 2017

Rev. Mark Click offered a welcome to all board members, thanking everyone for taking the time to be away from family and activities. He welcomed new board members.

Denny McDonald and Joe Sanders with Kathy Click and Jane Gibbons led the group in a time of singing, prayer, and worship. "Open the Eyes of My Heart", "My Life is in You, Lord", "Holy Spirit You Are Welcome Here".

Mark shared from Acts 8:25-40. "Transformed by the Journey" is the theme for the year. Life is a journey of multiple journeys. God appointed journeys coming with a purpose. Our journey often begins with a disruption. Philip's ministry began with disruption, God sending him in various directions. It takes a disruption sometimes to get us out of the church. Philip has been from one end of Judea to the other, when God called him to the Ethiopian. This person has been on his own journey. He was already a religious outsider. He was a God fearer. Now there is an intersection of two journeys to make a new third journey. Being in the right place comes from being faithful to God. This results in people coming to Jesus Christ. Nothing prevents them from receiving God's saving grace. We are all received into the family of God with our blemishes.

Rev. Jane Gibbons helped us prepare us to become a board. Our relationships with one another are the glue that hold us together in ministry. Through our small groups we shared faith questions to get to know one another. Good stories were shared by all.

Mark Click shared about the Covenant and Conflict of Interest Forms. All Board members are required to sign and return forms.

UNDERSTANDING THE JOURNEY

Saturday, February 18, 2017

Worship Songs led by Denny McDonald and Joe Sanders with Kathy Click. "You are my in all", "Bless the Lord (10,000 Reasons)", "Good, Good Father", "Draw Me Close"

Rev. Jane Gibbons shared from Acts 9:1-31. God in many in unexpected ways in what we are called to do. Paul's mission in ministry was to make sure that nothing tainted the name of YAHWEH. So, he arrested those who followed the Way. What he thought God wanted was not what God wanted. Paul's journey took a sharp change of direction. Instead of God destroying Saul, God transformed him into Paul. God has turned around our lives in many ways. We did this when we accepted Jesus Christ. On our journey God adjusts how we see the world, how we experience things in life, how we respond to others. God is a God who doesn't waste anything, and uses everything. What has

transpired in your life to help you be better equipped to follow Jesus, to share His grace, to serve in His name? We closed by hearing "Blessings" by Laura Story.

TRANSFORMED IN UNEXPECTED WAYS

Dr. Ernest Jones shared how close the journey is for him. Through his physical struggles he proclaimed that he never lost faith in God.

The theme for the year came to Dr Jones as he prayed in the conference room of the offices in Granville. He was surrounded by the various scriptures on the posters. In Luke 24:32&45 Jesus opened by their minds to the scriptures. The transformation God may have in mind is deep change. God changing us despite the things going on around us. The impact of the journey is the encounter with crises and overcoming it. We are changed by the overcoming of the crises. God may instigate the crises. We are bewildered and praying without hearing an answer. God could be saying, "The way we used to pray is no longer sufficient." Through this we realize that we praying like we are praying for the first time. In crises we may become paralyzed, anger, or do our own thing. But God is sending us signs. We are like the disciples in Luke we are going back to old ways of life. Then Jesus meets them on the road prepping them for transformation. God understands our humanness: doubts, fears, and even anger. We need to give it to God. Psalm 42 sitting before God. We have to travel the valley of the shadow of death. We need to know the shepherd, to stop and look at him. We need to yield to God. To hear God, to listen to our bodies, in order to detoxify. We must be a willing, active participant on the journey of transformation. God will not force us because God is love. The disciples on the road were crushed by the events in Jerusalem. They could not stop replaying those events. In crises we close down, but we need to open up. Jesus opened to them to God's truth. Jesus showed up in their struggle. He linked their trauma to a deeper meaning. Jesus revealed what they need to understand salvation not just the cross. Transformation sparks a different world view and action. Jesus is constantly seeking to change us. We are called to embrace the uncertainty because God is already in the uncertainty. The certainty comes when are open to allow God to come in. This is when God blesses us. There is no power in uncertainty unless we give it power in our fear. God is going to do something that we have not expected.

THE SHAPE OF THE JOURNEY

Worship Songs led by Denny McDonald and Joe Sanders with Kathy Click. "Because of Your Love", "Mighty to Save", "Wonderful Merciful Savior"

Prayer Dr. Ken Atchinson

Jane spoke about upcoming ministries 2017.

1) Leadership Conference was discussed by David Nufer. The Conference is April 28 and 29 at First Baptist Newark, Ohio. This conference is entitled Preferred Path by Dr. Karl Slaikeu. The focus is on Communicating, Building Community and Conflict Resolution. Three pricing options for Friday only, Saturday only, and Friday and Saturday. Dr Slaikeu's course on conflict will be available to be used in our local churches. Grants are available for pastors. Please register before April 21. This is event prepares God's people for a testimony in the world of conflict in which we live.

The Mission of the Region is to help build healthy churches for Jesus Christ. The Leadership Conference is intentionally designed to build up our local congregations. Annually it is equipping people to carry out the mission in their local setting.

2) Student Ministries was introduced by Mark Click. He shared a promotional video for Converge 2017 on March 31 and April 2. Dare to Share is no longer coming to Ohio. About twenty-five youth leaders from around the Region who have recommended a threefold approach. More than a half this

group were volunteers working in churches with less than a dozen students. Part One is Converge, a large conference with national speakers and musicians. First Baptist Lima is hosting worship on April 2 for students. Part Two is inter-generational Mission Trip to Clendenin, WVA from June 19-23. This trip is being coordinated through Market Street Baptist Church of Zanesville under the guidance Rev Howard Thompson. April 22 at the Region Office is an informational meeting. This work trip will include working in an area recovering from a flood, ministry with children, and worship experiences. Part Three is the Christian Music Festival in Newark, Ohio on August 19, 20. Camping will be available at the sight with worship on Sunday morning at First Baptist Newark. Speakers and bands are still being confirmed later.

3) Leadership Academy was introduced by Jane Gibbons. This ministry has changed over the years. It has been designed for Christians who want more. Through the years individuals have gone onto be ordained and are pastors in churches. This year marks the first year that ABC-OHIO and the Cleveland Baptist Association. Leadership will be from both regions. It is now titled Ohio Leadership Academy. Partial funding is coming from a grant. Rev. Kevin Hairston is the new dean.

4) Mentor Training is for new to ABC-USA, new pastors in Associations, pastors having completed Leadership Academy for three years. This will also coincide with a conference in Cleveland, May 3-4. New Pastors in twill be paired with Associate Regional Ministers to help train and guide them through ministry issues. Dr Phil Bergey from Design Group International will be training the Mentors.

Jane distributed numerous forms about these activities.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order by Rev. James Willis, President American Baptist Churches of Ohio

Consent Agenda Board of Regional Ministries Meeting Minutes from Nov. 5, 2016
Denny McDonald moved Rockney Carter second Approved.

(SUBMITTED) OFFICE OF THE FUTURE TASK FORCE REPORT

FEBRUARY 13, 2017

On November 10, 2016, our realtor, Bill Mickey of ReMax Premier Choice in Granville, called with a verbal cash offer from the same prospective buyer who gave us an unacceptable cash offer at the end of 2015. The current cash offer was for them to buy our building for \$425K with us leasing from them approximately 2400 square feet at \$12.50 per square foot for a minimum of 2 years, with common fees of \$700 totaling \$3200/month plus our share of utilities. Bill recommended that we counter offer \$450K.

In talking with the task force members it was decided to counter with \$450K and \$10 per square foot with a request for a written contract proposal.

The written Real Estate Purchase Contract dated November 15, 2016, stated the following:

RENTALS AND OTHER PRORATIONS: Rents and operating expenses shall be prorated as of the date of closing. Security deposits, if any, shall to be paid by Buyer at closing. CURRENT OWNER TO RENT 2,600 SQ FT FOR \$2,200.00 (TWENTY-TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS) PER MONTH PLUS 50% OF THE HOA FEE, PROPERTY TAXES AND UTILITIES FOR A 3 YEAR LEASE - FORMAL LEASE TO FOLLOW.

Bill felt that the lease proposal was a “very fair rate for commercial for Granville” (they did lower the square footage rate) and that 50% of HOA Fees at \$360/month plus taxes at \$592/month (reflects reduced taxes at \$14,202/year divided by 12) and utilities was “very typical”;. This would amount to a lease payment of \$3,152 per month plus utilities for 2600 square feet. However, this written contract specified \$450K with a 3 year lease. Bill also mentioned in an email that the prospective buyer planned to have a tenant in the basement. Matt Thomas of DGI provided financial implications on our part for such a sale with leaseback.

We asked if they would entertain “an early out clause with no penalty” on the 3 year lease if we left in two years. Their answer was \$450K for a 3 year lease OR \$415K for a 2 year lease.

Dr. Jones, who was on a medical leave of absence, did weigh in on November 16th with a lot of concern about their unwillingness to negotiate and a distinct sense of unease about proceeding any further with this offer. Since his arrival he has not had the opportunity to discuss and clarify with the task force the history of our decision to sell/lease the building. We all felt that such a discussion is necessary and would be beneficial in determining our next steps.

Thus, our realtor was notified that we could not accept either offer: \$450K with a 3 year lease OR \$415K with a 2 year lease. Bill was advised that the task force needed time for further in depth conversation with Dr. Jones in 2017 before proceeding with the sale or lease of the building and would not entertain any further offers until Spring of 2017. He said he would keep the building on the market and notify us if there are any other interested buyers in the meantime.

Since many questions came up during the discussion among task force members about this offer, we do plan to more fully explore our directions and options with Dr. Jones as we envision the ABC/Ohio Office of the Future.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharron F. Sedziol, on behalf of the Office of the Future Task Force: Dr. Ernest Jones, Executive Minister; James Willis, Sr., President; Joe Sanders, Secretary; Rick Dostal, Treasurer; Marva Hughes, Past President; Reg Martin, BFI Chair; and Sharron Sedziol, Past President

Financial Reports / 2016 Budget Ratification/ In-House Accounting Mr. Rick Dostal
Treasurer, American Baptist Churches of Ohio

Baptist Foundation Incorporated has received funds from the Resurrection Crossroads in Xenia for rent. Our contract ends with them in September and discussions will be taking place with staff and church leadership. There are furnace issues and the church wants to work on curb appeal. David Ball, region attorney has reviewed the legal issues. BFI has received funds for a parsonage for a pastor. These funds are being held.

The audit of the books is finished.

A big thank you to staff for their hard work in keeping expenses at a minimum.

(SUBMITTED) ABC Ohio Board Retreat
Treasurer's Report
February 17, 2017

Personally I am involved in a study called the Gospel according to Jonah. Now you probably don't equate the Gospel message with an Old Testament prophet. One of the very first questions asked in the study guide is “who is the main character?” Some might say Jonah, some might say the fish, after all he saved the ship that Jonah was on and he saved Jonah, but in the end God was and still is the main character. Jonah was given a command and he had three options – “stay” – “go” – “run”. He not only ran, he ran in the opposite direction in his mind as far away from God as possible.

Why would I start my report using this story from the Bible? I have come to appreciate this is not just a story, it is an account of a relationship between God and Jonah. It is also a lesson for me to make an application to compare my response to the commands from God.

The times in which we live are challenging - Not only the financial but the physical, social and spiritual challenges that we have faced and will continue to face are numerous and rapidly changing. Just when we think things are settling in place and we experience a little more stability than we had the previous year, we learn we will be without the full services of Dr. Jones due to a cancer diagnosis that would require surgery and some extensive recovery. Through it all God has continued to do what only God can do. He has brought healing to Dr. Jones, He has brought us through one of the worst election cycles any of us can remember and it is my prayer that God will heal this Nation. We need Him more now than ever. What is our response to commands from God? If we are to experience God in the midst of the storms we have to run in to the storm not away from it.

We have spent much time in prayer, not only individually but also corporately. We came together at the Board Retreat in February 2015 with the theme for the year from Ecclesiastes 4:12 – **“a cord of three strands is not easily broken.”** We were all given key rings with 3 woven strands as a reminder of our need, as our Region President, Sharron Sedziol wrote *“to be in authentic relationships between ourselves and others with God as the central strand knitting us together for His glory.”*

Last year our theme was Partners in the Gospel – taken from the book of Philemon we find three points of emphasis in this partnership – Partnering with One Another, Partnering in Understanding and Partnering for the Sake of Christ. I find it interesting that for the last several years our themes have been about strengthening the bonds between us as a Board, our constituent churches and more importantly with God. The Region continues to look for ways to accomplish its mission of “building healthy churches that impact the world for Christ.”

This year our theme is “transformed by the journey” from Luke 24:32. I won’t take time here to discuss what this means for us, but for me, I can say that I am being transformed by the journey. Not only our journey here, but my journey each and every day through life.

Every year for the last several years one or more of us from the Finance and Investment Team have stood before you and presented a snapshot of where we are financially and where we believe the challenges lie in the days ahead.

While the Region has been able to “balance” the budget, we have done so at the expense of our reserves, this is not a sustainable model. One of the bright spots in all of this is the fact that, through the end of the 2016, that actual giving through American Baptist Mission Support came in ahead of budget by \$41,984.13 (actual \$347,546.59 vs. budget \$335,691.60). The down side to this is for the last several years the amount of revenue through ABMS has steadily declined and we are anticipating a decline of approximately \$23,000 dollars for 2017 from \$335,000 down to \$312,000. This portion of the revenue is not adequate to cover the operating budget so we are dependent on the reserves and the investments to make up the difference.

See Financial Reports

1. Monthly Revenue Trends 2016
2. 2016 Financial Report

The year-end deficits as reported on page 16 point out just how dependent we are on the income from investments and windfalls (real or otherwise). These investments not only support programs and ministry to the churches, but also support day to day operations through the Region Office.

When we look at the numbers – you will see that without the following we are in deficit:

1. Xenia Church Building: \$337,250.00

2. Market Appreciation: \$194,046.12
3. Sawmill Baptist Gift: \$195,919.45
4. Mary Thomas Estate: \$147,940.72
5. Church Of The Carpenter Distribution: \$19,426.06
6. American Baptist Mission Support Giving greater than Budget: \$11,854.99
7. Closeout Interest on Sawmill: \$15,309.00
8. Xenia Church Rent: \$6,000.00
9. Other differential factors: \$4,259.05

These total adjustments to revenue are equal to: \$932,004.39

Adjustments to expenses:

1. Associate Regional MinisterS and Accounting Staff not yet hired: \$49,207.22
2. Building Expenses offset by reduced real estate taxes and refund: \$32,389.00
3. Baptist Foundation Incorporated (primarily Xenia, including Depreciation): (\$14,808.97)
4. Annual Gathering Expense: (\$6,187.26)
5. Other Differential Factors: (\$5,530.97)

These total adjustments to expenses are equal to \$46,069.22

Indicated Surplus = \$715,551.18

Net Total Adjustments = \$978,073.61

Surplus/(Deficit) = (\$262,522.43)

As you can see we are still operating in deficit and if it weren't for the windfalls during the year, it would be significantly worse. Are we better at the end of 2016 than 2015 – YES, BUT we cannot continue to run these deficits year over year.

If you remember there have been 3 components to these reports. I have commonly referred to them as legs on a stool. The first leg is called “**stabilize**”, we have been able to bring some stability to the finances of the Region through various administrative and technical changes, the second leg we called “**sustain**” that we have sustained current ministries, as best we could, without jeopardizing the future, but the reality is, the future is in jeopardy and we have to make some very difficult decisions if we are to see the third leg or the “**growth**” leg.

Even though I am giving you a report as the Treasurer of the Region, I truly believe this growth is more than finances, it is also physical growth, but most importantly it is spiritual growth.

There are a number of things to think about as we move forward in 2017:

1. I said this last year and I will say it again - I think it may be worth looking at a change in the timing of the Board Retreat – at this point it is almost too close to the end of the prior year – it is difficult to have closed books this early – (some of the reports for this weekend just arrived on Thursday)
2. The gap between the Retreat and the May Board meeting may be too long – a full Board Meeting may not be necessary, but a joint Executive and Finance Committee meeting may be a good idea.
3. We are looking at Ministry Priorities this year, two of which are Youth Ministry and Donor Development, these will need to be front and center for all of us – especially Youth since we don't have Dare to Share as our ministry partner.

Much has been accomplished over the years, but there still remains much to do. If we are to “rise up and build healthy churches that impact the world for Christ” we will need to become fully devoted “partners in the Gospel that are transformed by the journey”

For 2017 Rick shared a new budget. At the November meeting the Board approved a contingency budget. During that time period numerous issues have been discussed. American Baptist Mission Support income is a low estimate. Investment revenue is on the risky side being high. New development donor is anticipated. Grants have been added to income and shown also as expenses as it is pass through funds. Other Income line item could come from some church property incomes. Rick reviewed the line items on the expense side of the budget. Balance budget proposal of \$889,367.00. There are several scenarios which could create a deficit. These were clarified by Denny.

Approved, motion Denny McDonald second Rita McClure.

Reports / Updates

Association Task Force

(SUBMITTED) Draft Ten of the Covenant has been distributed over various forms of media. This is helping to provide opportunities for discussions with church leaders and pastors at clergy gatherings and association meetings. These meetings have been or will take place in the fall of 2016 and the winter of 2017, including the Annual Gathering.

The Task Force will reassemble in April of 2017. At this time we will review the ideas suggested from the various meetings. A revised covenant will be prepared for the Region Board spring meeting. At the spring meeting the board will be asked to approve the Covenant. It will then be distributed over the various forms of media again. At the Annual Gathering in October 2017 a covenant signing and celebration will take place. (The celebration maybe the task force kicking up our heals that we are finally finished.)

Co-Chairs

Joe Sanders

Scott Johnston

Approved motion Rick Dorsal, Ken Atchison

Personnel Manual Task Force Mr. Dan Camick will have information short coming with a report for the May meeting.

Adjournment of Business Meeting

Approved, motion Rita McClure, second Sharron Sedziol

WORSHIP ~ COMMUNION

Denny McDonald lead singing. "Once Again", "Lead Me to the Cross"

Dr. Ernest Jones & Rev. James Willis

Benediction and Dismissal

~ Reminder ~

Next Board of Regional Ministries Meeting is Saturday, May 20, 2017
From 10:00 am ~ 3:00 pm at the ABC/Ohio Region Office

Submitted by,
Rev Joe Sanders, Secretary