



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF OHIO
Board of Regional Ministries
Board Meeting
Saturday, May 20, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Roger Alber, Ken Atchison, David Daniel, Paula DeMott, Paula Duncan, Anita King, Rita McClure, Denny McDonald, Barb Rockwell, Sharron Sedziol, Cindy White STAFF: Dr Jones, Mark Click, Jane Gibbons

ABSENT: John Boxill, Dan Camick, Rockney Carter, Rick Dostal, Hai Vung Lian, Josh Ward, James Willis, Sr.

The meeting was Call to Order and a welcome by Rev. Dr. Ken Atchison, Vice-President. He mentioned that Josh Ward is home being a good dad watching two of his children, while awaiting the birth of their third child.

Devotions & Prayer were offered by Rev. Marvin Haught looking at Acts 28:1-28. The world believes everything except the Word of God. That is until something bad happens. This then is the opportunity for the people of God to respond with the grace and love of God. We don't get what we deserve, there is still hope in Jesus Christ. The world needs to see Jesus in everything we do.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- Board Retreat Minutes, Board of Regional Ministries, February 17 & 18, 2017
MOTION made by Roger and second by Rita. Passed

Financial Reports..... Rev. Denny McDonald
2017 Budget Updates giving has leveled off. We are no longer declining. The two weak spots are donor development is delayed, and the sale of a property. The market is doing better than expected helping with the two previous items. Fixed expenses are right on. The variable expenses are being handled by better efficiency. Surplus year to date \$91,466.81. Motion by David Daniels, Second by Rita McClure, Passed.

Job Description for In-House Accountant Review

Dr Jones shared that he has reached out to Wilson, Shannon and Snow. They are able handle the in-house accounting and audit. They are working at overcoming internal conflicts of interests. Under this plan there would be a need for a part-time bookkeeper position for ABC-USA. Wilson, Shannon and Snow will cost \$50,000 plus. Motion made by Roger Alber second by David Daniels for Dr Jones and the Finance Committee to investigate and to implement the best decision to hire a financial position(s). A report will be made to the Board. Approved.

Sharron shared about the dedication of Leslie Hoskinson.

Association Task Force Covenant Recommendations

Joe Sanders recommended the Covenant of Clergy, Churches, Associations, and the ABC-OHIO be adopted for distribution to clergy, churches, and associations, to be signed by those participating. The Task Force is assigned with providing further information with this distribution for clergy, churches and associations on how participate and to sign.

Leadership Conference Update

Rev. David Nuhfer, events coordinator. Hosted by FBC Newark and Rev Jim Addy. An excellent facility provided good blessings. Dr Carl Slaikeu was the speaker. The timeliness of Conflict Resolution was greatly appreciated. David expressed his thanks to Jane, Mark, Chuck, Leslie and his wife Paulette. Forty-three surveys gave high marks. Great fellowship is and has been a vital part if the events. Honeybaked Ham or Panera Bread have been good options for lunches. The location caused a minor concern because of travel time. Forty Pastors on Friday and seventy people on Saturday. A thought for the future is an one evening intensive, or evening sessions to help bi-vocational clergy, or all day Saturday. Future sites need to have tables and chairs. Dr Jones shared the staff will continue the conversation for utilizing this Conflict Resolution process.

Office of the Future Task Force Update

Sharron Sedziol reported on the history of the Task Force. The Building was put on the market in 2011. The price has been reduced several time from over \$600,000. On May 10, 2017, we once again received a written cash offer of \$450K with a month-to-month leaseback option for us from the same company who presented similar offers at the end of 2015 and 2016. Dr Jones shared that the offer would place the Region in a deficit. Dr Jones is uncomfortable with the demands and the attitude of the buyers. Dr Jones would like to discover other options for the building with the Region as a landlord. He would like the board to dream about the facility. This might include becoming an incubator for related ministries. The Office of the Future Task Force brings the following recommendations to the Region Board: **(1)** Reject the current offer of purchase with leaseback option; **(2)** Suspend our active listing with Bill Mickey of ReMax Premier Choice in Granville for at least six (6) months; **(3)** Hire an architect to do a feasibility study of the building as soon as is possible; and **(4)** The Task Force will then meet with Dr. Jones, with the study results, and review the history of the sale of the building to date, in order to bring further recommendations to the board on how to proceed in regard to our office building. Motion made by Denny McDonald second by Rita McClure. Approved.

Personnel Manual & Job Description Update

Dan Camick was not in attendance.

Staff Reports

Rev. Jane Gibbons reported that January through May and August to Thanksgiving are her busiest seasons. She is thankful for the responses when her dad passed away in April. The Mentor / Pastor process is just beginning to help Leadership Academy graduates, pastors new to the region, and pastors who are being ordained. This provides a mentoring pastor to walk alongside. The mentoring pastor received "coaching" training. The process is identifying partnerships and expectations.

Ken expressed the appreciation of the Board to Jane.

Rev. Mark Click reported on highlights from the South Area from January 1 – May 20, 2017. The South Area comprising 10 associations and 120 congregations.

The first 5 months of the year have been busy with pastoral transitions, celebrations, recognitions, and conference and training opportunities.

Currently, 15 churches are open and in pastoral transition. 6 out of 15 are bi-vocational congregations.

- 3 – Clinton Association
- 1 – Cambridge Association
- 1 – Dayton Association
- 4 – Miami Association
- 3 – Western Association
- 3- Zanesville Association

Rev. Don Dewey retired from St. Clair Ave. Baptist Hamilton on January 8, 2017.

Rev. Terry Walters retired from Pemberton Baptist Pemberton on January 8, 2017.

Rev. George Gnade retired from First Baptist Sidney on May 14, 2017. The church has stabilized after the recent attempt of a takeover split last fall. The facility is deeded to ABC/OHIO.

Second Baptist Newark celebrated their 100th anniversary on April 30, 2017. Rev. Bob Davidson is the pastor.

Rev. Jane Gibbons and I co-lead the ABC Multi-Region Face2Face Event @ First Baptist Greenwood, IN from March 24-25, 2017. This is program for pastoral search teams and pastoral candidates. Several Ohio churches participated.

Western Association Clergy Fellowship hosted an overnight Pastor's Retreat in April @ Deer Creek State Park Lodge. 8 pastors participated. Dr. David Hansen, ABC pastor & author from Heritage Community Cincinnati led the retreat. The retreat was completely paid for by a grant from the Western Association. Focus was on strengthening the pastor peer covenant.

ABC/OHIO Youth @ Converge Lima from March 31-April 2. This was the youth conference event that replaced Dare2Share this year. The churches that attended expressed a desire to attend again next year.

ABC/OHIO Youth Mission Trip to West Virginia from June 19-23 has evolved into a Multi-Generational Trip being led by Rev. Howard Thompson and Market Street Baptist Zanesville due to a lack of response from church youth groups.

ABC/OHIO Youth Consuming Fire Music Festival on August 19 @ First Baptist Newark. FREE concert featuring several bands, onsite camping, and meal plans.

5 clergy from the South Area participated in the Pastor Mentor Training Event from May 3-4 in Cleveland. They will serve as Pastor Mentor ARMs.

Dr. Ken Atchison – Miami Association

Dr. Jerome Stevenson – Dayton Association
Rev. Larry Stewart – Clinton Association
Rev. Reg Martin – Cambridge, Zanesville & Zoar Associations
Dr. Paul Mitchell – Western Association

There are a total of 8 ARMs serving in the South Area: There are three Pastoral Care ARMs not serving on the Pastor Mentor Team.

Dr. Marva Hughes – Dayton Association
Rev. Scott Johnston – Zanesville & Marietta
Rev. Chris Osterbrock – Student Ministries

Matthew 25: Ministries of Cincinnati purchased Camp Kirkwood of Wilmington in May 2017. Former ABC Pastor Wendell Mettey is the founder of M25M and his son ABC PK Tim Mettey is the CEO. M25M is a global outreach ministry with a major support and volunteer base. Since taking over Kirkwood, M25M has already invested \$250,000 in camp improvements. M25M plans to invest \$250,000 every year for the next four years in improving the camp grounds and facilities. All ABC campers and organizations can use the camp at cost.

Resurrection Crossing ~ Xenia

Ministry Update May 2017

Grace and Peace to you all in the thanksgiving and celebration of the glorious gift of God's Son, our Savior and Redeemer. I wanted to update you all on the ministry and mission that we have embarked on in Xenia, Ohio. I want to share with you where my heart is, and what I feel the church needs to become in order to fulfill the mission God has for us. In my heart, the church universal is too quiet. I feel we have a deep need and calling to be, in a loving way, much louder. To accomplish that does not mean to turn up the volume during worship. It means however that we need to be focused on the message of Jesus and share with our communities. That sounds pretty standard right? People want to see and experience what is real. They need to see us being real in their lives and real in the way we live ours.

At Resurrection Crossing the theme has been learning to Serve like Jesus and Love like Jesus. In everything we do that is our focus. Letting the people we come into contact with, that the main reason we are loving on them is because what Jesus taught us to do.

When we began in Sept 2016, we started with 13 people who felt called to begin a ministry in Xenia. Well into our first year we have seen a little growth in numbers, and now we have to begin to focus on the growth in maturity of our faith. Helping people go from the milk to the solid food. Since God has opened doors to us with folks from the community. We met Krista and Matthew and have been connected to them in many ways. From being at the hospital when their daughter was born, to working with them to get their lives in a better direction. I have begun to meet with Matthew for Bible study and "guy" time to help disciple him. That interaction has brought Krista's family into the church. They have been attending for a little over a month, and have been bringing friends and their neighbor kids.

Our average attendance has been 28, with a high Sunday of 35, with a realization that if everyone who has been attending were there on the same day we would be 45 strong. I feel this is a strong start to this mission as we seek to grow the faith of the people in this community. In the midst of our worship and interaction, God made it very clear we need to help meet the needs of the folks we are coming into contact with. The physical hunger and basic needs to be more specific. In

that we have put into place a weekly ministry item, which we are encouraging the folks to bring. It has ranged from a box of Mac-n-cheese to soap. Things that when someone needs some food or help we have it. To this point we have been able to bless 4 or 5 families. We also have turned these items into blessing bags to place in our cars to have ready for people who need help as we are out and about.

At this current moment we are planning several upcoming ministry events to accomplish the mission of telling people about Jesus.

A Church without walls -

1. *Outdoor Worship ministry at Kenzie Greene apartments (right behind the church). We are going to have worship outside at the complex. We plan to have an activity for kids, food and most importantly Worship. We have permission from the manager and have 2 families who have been coming to church who live within the complex. We will also be giving out Bibles to those who do not have one.*
2. *Outdoor movie night. Popcorn, drinks, Movie at dusk on the front lawn of the church.*
3. *Family event at the Reds faith day. Our thought is to reach out to the kids that have been coming, is to invite them and a parent/guardian to join us in going to the Reds faith day event this summer. We plan to rent a van/bus to get them there. Tickets and other info is still in the works.*
4. *Xenia First Friday event – Community festival event. I am working on training our folks to do a Dare 2 Share style outreach for this. Using their methods with a twist. My thoughts are to walk around the festival with coolers of Coke-a-Cola. The bottles that have people's names on them. Ask if they are thirsty and would like a free coke? If they can find a bottle with their name on it, it is theirs. That will then lead into a discussion of something like... You found your name on the Coke bottle, will your name be found in the Book of Life? That gives us a chance to share with them the message of forgiveness and grace. We can then give them info on the church and a Bible if they don't have one.*
5. *The Gathering – We were approached by a Southern gospel group to host a gathering style event. We are waiting for more info. This is a great chance to get the church's name out there and bring in a lot of people. The great part, other than signing about Jesus, is that it will have little to no cost to us. The groups have said they will do the advertising and promotion. We will just be the host. It will open the doors to a lot of people and hopefully allow us a chance to minister to some new folks.*

That leads to coming up with our plan for the next year. We realize and have been praying over how to move further into this ministry. So our focus will be on continued amazing worship gatherings. A focus on a kid's ministry, which we are calling Kids Crossing. A Sunday morning and for now a twice a month Wednesday night event.

Once a month I would like us to begin helping out (both physically and financially) at a local business called One Bistro. This is a place where if you are hungry and can't pay, you still eat. It is a ministry with free Wednesday community meal. I would love for us to go and serve there. Also a once or twice monthly Bible study for everyone. With the ability to change locations and or topics, even split and do a men's and a women's study.

As always we have an online presence which we are wanting to expand and reach out to the ones who are checking us out from a distance. Please refer to our web site and Facebook pages. (www.resurrectionxenia.com or FB @ Resurrection Crossing)

Year 2 Financial plan –

We will be meeting with the churches of the Clinton Association starting in the month of May and June to see where their hearts are leading them in regards to continued support for this mission.

The churches that have given towards Resurrection Crossing are as follows.

1. Silver Grove
2. FBC Greenfield
3. FBC Hillsboro
4. Jonah's Run
5. Tabernacle
6. FBC Wilmington

The giving from Resurrection Crossing folks has on average been \$490.00

Dr. Ernest Jones

He has been at numerous churches and events. This has been increasing over time as Denise is driving to many of the locations. In that process he and Denise are also seeking a home church. He has been attending and leading Town Hall meetings with the goal of building relationships which will help with ministry opportunities and also provide for fund development in the future. Through his treatments he is pacing himself, and slowly getting up to speed. As long as we keep praying he will keep fighting. Although, he doesn't have an end date for the treatments, he will continue as long as he is doing well. The ministry is the goal.

Announcements

Denny shared about the ministry in Massillon restoring homes on June 5.

Cindy shared about her and Rob having both of their children away leading at camp.

David shared about their ecumenical ministry of clean-up and home repair work in Alliance.

Jane shared about being a nine year cancer survivor.

Prayer requests for Sheryl Wise's sister, Ann. Carl Crow lung transplant. Rick Dostal's mom recovering from hip surgery. Frank McClure recovery from back surgery.

Adjournment and Prayer by Rev. Dr. Ken Atchison, Vice-President. Motion to adjourn by Denny McDonald, second by Rita McClure.

Submitted by Joe Sanders

ANNUAL GATHERING – OCTOBER 3 - 4, 2017

Note: Next Region Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, 2017.