



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF OHIO

Board of Regional Ministries Meeting

Saturday, November 6, 2021

10:00 -2:00 PM

Virtual

Present: Rick Dostal, Rev. Jeremy Spence, Rev. Denny McDonald, David Daniels, Rev. Andrew Shields, Rev. Craig Washington, Paula Duncan, Rev. Dr. James Willis, Rev. Dr. Jason A. Hentschel, Rev. Landon Adams, Gary Ingle, Susan Slotts, Rev. M. Click, Rev. J. Gibbons, Amanda Lloyd

Absent: Rev. Howard Thompson, Rev. Bryan Manary, Tim Kaiser, Amy Fallon, Rev. Joshua Ward, Rev. Dan Clemens, Dr. Celeste Didlick-Davis

The Call to Order and Welcome were given by Mr. Rick Dostal, President.

Our Devotions and Prayer were presented by Mrs. Paula Duncan. Using Matt.9:16-17, after reading the scripture, she said in the past it was easier to repair than buy new. The patcher must use washed and used patches to avoid a worse tear. Jesus came not to repair the old but to provide a new thing. He came to fulfill the prophets. We can't use some of the patches but the full new heart & mind he gives. The incompatibility of the old and new was part of Jesus' ministry and life. This reminds us of the "Seven Deadly Words of the Church" – 'We've never done it that way before.' We need to trust in the blessings that God has for us.

The Consent Agenda and Minutes, Board of Regional Ministries, September 18, 2021 were approved following a motion by Rev. Dr. Willis and 2nd by Rev. Denny McDonald

The Alesco Investment Annual Report was reviewed Mr. Fritz Minges, Advisor. The portfolio report was previously emailed to each member. At the early stages of coming out of the Pandemic Economy, the market has done well and our portfolio as well. Our Equity range is 55-75% we have 69.95, Real Return TIPS Range 5-15% we have 5.9% Fixed Income range 15-35% we have 23%, Cash range 0-5% we are at 0.6%. He reviewed the various fluctuations of the stock market over the past two (2) years and the current recovery.

Our investment strategy is working well with a stable mix. He reviewed each section of the asset allocation in detail with the diversification strategy of the equity and fixed income. Overall, our YTD performance 9.6% return in the first nine (9) months. Even with our withdrawals our returns have made up for that and more. This has increased in the recent past as well. We can project a very good return moving forward. The Bear market has continued to be a challenge but we continue to experience growth. Rev. McDonald also noted that our withdrawal rate has decreased as well. Our target being 4.5% withdrawal we are moving closer to that. Mr. Dostal further noted that the withdraw from 2021 will take us into 2022 at this point. Mr. Minges stated that the current strategy for our portfolio remains good unless we would need to change our financial needs. The two (2) withdrawals this year in February and August have rebalanced within the account. Again, overall, he noted compared to the major performance indicators we have done well. He reviewed the specific Portfolio Holdings showing the social consciousness of the investments. Mr. Dostal expressed the appreciation of the board for Fritz's and Alesco's monitoring and attention to our portfolio.

Our Financial Reports were presented and reviewed by Rev. Denny McDonald, Treasurer, and Mrs. Amanda Lloyd, Senior Accountant. She shared that we are back to the expected numbers for this year. Hoping that the Q4 will continue to improve as well (detailed reports were emailed to all previously, for review.) Expenses for Q3 are under expected but will 'rebound' with Q4 expenses. BFI noted that Xenia has closed and that will agreement will cease, also East Livingstone has paid off their loan. She will send out a corrected report for the investment account. She is adjusting some of the fund allocations to meet the

recommendation a of the auditors for clarity. This will show in the way the management fees are shown. Rev. Spence expressed appreciation in the tracking and use of the Restricted Funds accounts.

The 2022 Budget was presented for review and approval by Rev. Denny McDonald, Treasurer. He noted an adjustment to address salary increases and other details that the Executive Committee approved. A larger Pass-Through dollar amount was included to better balance the various funds used. Including the Palmer Grant funds. Corrections to the salaries are shown with provisions for increases. There will still be a staff benefits adjustment after January to accommodate adjustments. A Motion to approve the budget and financial report with the noted contingencies was made by Susan Stotts and 2nd by Rev. Andrew Shields. Approved.

A REFRESHMENT BREAK WAS TAKEN

On return, President Dostal asked to suspend the ABC Ohio Board Meeting and Called to Order the Annual Meeting of the Baptist Foundation, Inc. meeting.

A review was given by of the following:

- Kent Fund Loan(s) Update
 - Shiloh BC, is working on theirs
 - East Livingston BC-Paid off their loan!
 - Faith BC – has not paid anything in several years. Grove City is purchasing part of their property for \$11,000.00. That payment will come directly to BFI for their loan in part of the indebtedness. At this point, they owe as much in interest as in their loan. Our attorney has advised us that his firm represents both Columbus B.A but also us. Currently, this property has been deeded over to the Columbus Baptist Association. Of note, the Kent Fund is 'owned by' the Columbus Baptist Association but is managed by BFI. BFI needs to approve the purchase by Grove City (essentially an affirmation of the plan for the purchase. GC will buy anyway.) David Ball, our Attorney has advised that we take a vote to demonstrate our consent to this. Motion to approve the purchase was voiced by Rev. Spence, and 2nd by Rev. Dr. Willis, Sr. Approved. \$960.00 was spent to do the research on the property. He recommends that this cost be paid by the BFI or Kent Fund whichever is appropriate. Mrs. Lloyd will investigate where it is most appropriate.
- Jamestown City of Zion Land Contract – They are current in their payments. Rev. Click has communicated with their new pastor and will meet with him to review the land contract and their responsibilities.
- Xenia Property Update – is on the market currently. One bid for 50% of the price but have not heard anything further after we offered to drop the price somewhat. Next step is to 'winterize' the building. Rev. Click asked if he should check on this with the current HVAC group. That was agreed. He will also check on an App to monitor the current status of the temperature.

President Dostal then called for adjournment of the BFI meeting Moved by Rev. Dr. Willis, 2nd Rev. McDonald. Adjourned.

Mr. Dostal resumed the Region Board Meeting.

Rev. Mark Click, Executive Minister for Administration & Denominational Relations then gave a presentation of three (3) future Executive Staff options that the Executive Committee charged him with creating as initial options for Board considerations. This will be further reviewed and final agreement at the February Retreat.

1. Hire a Co-Executive Minister – continue with the current structure at a total cost of \$126,000.00/year (salary, benefits, travel, etc.) Using a national search model.
2. Two (2) full time Executive staff - Executive Minister Associate Executive Minister
3. One Full Time Executive Minister and three (3) Regional Ministers for the NW, NE, and SE

See Addendum A for the proposal outline

Rev. Shields asked about the hiring process and if Rev. Click retired how the future hiring would be done with opinions 2 & 3. Rev. Click indicated that Rev. Dr. Jeff Woods would be an option to consider guiding that process.

The strength of option 1 is Rev. Gibbons and Click have worked together for many years. Bringing someone from outside brings more challenge in orientation.

Option 2 would have a lot of responsibilities but the oversight would shift to the Executive Minister. That person could be groomed to be a candidate for the Executive Minister, when Rev. Click retires (7-10 years)

Option 3 offers more diversity in the region staff and could include a 'bi-vocational' role. Less travel cost as they serve in their specific area.

Each of these options will be challenging in finding the people that are interested and available for any of the 3. Rev. Click's recommendation is either option 2 or 3.

Rev. Hentschel shared that in academia searches can offer a variety of options that as the search commences depending on the people could open any one of the three options as candidate skills and gifts are revealed. Rev. Gibbons stated that option 3 offers a variety of recognition of giftedness based on the position descriptions. This option increases the opportunity for great diversity in the region office, in age, gender and **RACE?** "Replacing me would be challenging due to my experience and historical knowledge. This could be challenging to someone coming into an Option 1 role."

Mr. Dostal encouraged each board member to further discuss these options with both Rev. Click and Rev. Gibbons for further insights. Additional details will be emailed as they arise for a definitive discussion at the February Board Retreat. Rev. Adams expressed appreciation to Revs. Click and Gibbons for their service and noted that consideration be given to the options and possibly other options and recommendations. Mr. Dostal recognized these concerns and the associated issues with each. Rev. Shields noted the need for Rev. Click's position description change and his thoughts on this. Rev. McDonald responded that discussions with Rev. Click and the Executive Committee have been recognition of the changes that will occur regardless of the model chosen. Rev. Spence shared that the full board will approve whatever model the board feels is best for our needs. Rev. McDonald encouraged thinking of other options that might be considered given our budget restraints. In Option 2 or 3 would authorize Rev. Click to hire, monitor and review the staff hired.

Mr. Dostal will email the proposed position descriptions to the board members as they become available. The goal is to discern God's will for the region. The descriptions will be mailed as hard copy for consistency in content and style with the Option and associated positions for each.

Rev. Gibbons will send a letter of announcement in January. The following week will be the option plans mailing.

Several members expressed appreciation for Rev. Gibbons service and their own experiences with 'retirement'.

Staff Ministry Reports:

Rev. Jane Gibbons – Executive Minister for Program & Ministry Development (see Addendum B)

Highlights include:

- Events The Annual Gathering went well with about 100 people present live and others on line. Good feed back on the speakers. The mission luncheon was also a blessed event
- Various celebrations of years and service were a joy.

- ARMS Retreat next week with Rev. Joe Seese & Christina Gutierrez on Soul Care, Attorney David Ball will review professional ethics and boundaries, and Rev. Gibbons will review the funding sources for ABC-Ohio
- Leadership Academy will hold it's first in-person intensive next weekend. Sessions will be hybrid this year as well.
- Received the Palmer Grant funds for ARMS retreat, a Pastoral Retreat and possibly a Pastor & family retreat next summer; and a Leadership Conference as well
- Currently we have twenty (20) ordination candidates
- Numerous Pastoral changes are in process which creates a need for Search committee support
- Prayer concerns: Rev. Brian Manary has had cardiac bypass surgery with numerous complications but is in the slow recovery process; others are dealing with Covid/Pneumonia, and post op recovery, Pastor Steven Bloomfield died of Covid recently as well.

She expressed her appreciation to the Board and what we offer to her and the region.

Rev. Mark Click – Executive Minister for Administration & Denominational Relations (see Addendum C)

He highlighted:

- The annual review of the region support staff Leslie for 20 years and Amanda for 3 years.
- The Congregational Support fund that was initiated last year was very beneficial
- We would like all board members to contribute to the support of the region and noted that the on-line option is now active and available
- Expressed appreciation for Mr. Dostal and his folks for their help with the Xenia property
- Have distributed about \$14,000.00 in assistance from the Congregational Support fund also the Executive Ministers fund has been used as well for many pastors who have had needs
- At the Executive Ministers Conference much discussion was on the availability of candidates for churches
- His ARMs are serving well those areas for which they have responsibilities
- Many openings are still in process
- All churches are still dealing with low attendance but they have lost no pastors to Covid

Rev. Spence shared that the on-line giving option show a clearer designation of the offering so Leslie doesn't have to email back "Where do you want this to go?" He further thanked both Rev. Click and Rev. Gibbons on their work to make this happen.

Mr. Rick Dostal, President, then recognized the Departing Region Board Members, Rev. Howard Thompson and the late Rev. Dr. Hai Vung Lian.

The current 2022 Region Board Officers include: President – Mr. Rick Dostal, Vice-President – Rev. Jeremy Spence, Past-President – Rev. Dr. James Willis, Treasurer – Rev. Denny McDonald, and Secretary – Mr. David Daniels

Mr. Dostal then opened the floor for Family Time & Prayer Concerns: Rev. Landon introduced his son, Mark introduced his newest grandson as well, and Rev. Dr. Willis expressed his appreciation for the region support for the grant for spiritual gift formation.

Announcements the Board Retreat will be at the Drury Inn in **GROVE CITY NOT DUBLIN** beginning Tuesday, November 9, at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at the hotel and ends at 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 10.

Benediction was given by Mr. Dostal recognizing Thanksgiving and the appropriateness of Psalm 100:5 "For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. He particularly noted the 'faithfulness to all generations' and our inclusion in that. And also the mirror scripture noting the consistency of God in Psalm 119:90 – 'Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.' We have to be patient in waiting for God's leading and as referenced at The Annual Gathering the "mixing" of all the ingredients to make wonderful 'biscuits'. We can appreciate and reflect our faithfulness in the blessings of family and fellowship together and encouraging each other.

Following prayer the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David Daniels, Secretary

Region Board Retreat on February 11-12, 2022 @ Drury Inn, GROVE CITY

ADDENDUM A

2023 Proposed Executive Staff Options:

Option # 1 – Co-Executive Ministers

Executive Minister for Administration & Denominational Relations Executive Minister for Program & Ministry Development

Estimated total costs for an Executive Minister for Program & Ministry Development:

Salary - \$80,000

Benefits – \$28,000

Reimbursements – \$18,000

Total - \$126,000.00

- Nothing changes in the current Executive Staff model.
- Maintains potential for some diversity on Executive Staff.
- Conduct national staff search.
- Available seven days a week/Sunday included.
- Provides added stability in the event of a transition in the Co-Executive Minister.
- No reduction in staff costs.

Option # 2 – Two Full-Time Executive Staff

Executive Minister Associate Executive Minister

Estimated total costs for an Associate Executive Minister:

Salary - \$60,000

Benefits - \$27,000

Reimbursements - \$18,000

Total - \$105,000.00

- Staff and program supervision/oversight is concentrated in the Executive Minister.
- Continue with two full-time Executive Staff members.
- Maintains some potential for some diversity on Executive Staff.
- Possibility of serving as the next Executive Minister.
- Conduct a national search.
- Available seven days a week/Sunday included.
- Two levels of field staff (Executive Staff & ARMs).
- Provides stability in the event of a transition in the Executive Minister.
- Reduction (\$21,000 in staff costs).

Option # 3 – One Full-Time Executive Minister & Three Part-Time Regional Ministers

Executive Minister

Regional Ministers for the NW, NE, and SE

Estimated total costs for three part-time Regional Ministers:

Salary - \$25,000 x 3 = \$75,000

Benefits - \$0.00

Reimbursements - \$15,000

Total -
\$90,000.00

- Staff and program supervision/oversight is concentrated in the Executive Minister.
- Total of four Executive Staff members.
- Full-Time Executive Minister
- Three Part-Time Regional Ministers
- Increases potential for diversity on the Executive Staff.
- Conduct a regional search.
- Regional Ministers live in their assignment areas.
- Not available on Sunday.
- Sundays will have to be covered by the Executive Minister and ARMs.
- Three levels of field staff (Executive Minister, Regional Ministers & ARMs).
- Travel time and reimbursement costs reduced.
- The reduction in staff costs could lead to an expansion of additional staff.
- No benefit costs.
- Reduction (\$36,000 in staff costs).

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Mark Click,
Executive Minister for Administration
& Denominational Relations

ADDENDUM B

**Report to the Board of Regional Ministries
American Baptist Churches of Ohio
November 6, 2021
Rev. Jane Gibbons
Executive Minister for Program and Ministry Development**

While it has only been a short while since I shared with you in my September report, there are some new things to report to the board...

EVENTS

Completed Events

The 2021 Annual Gathering took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 12-13 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, North, in Columbus with approximately 100 persons in attendance and a dozen joining us on line. Mark and I were both pleased with the attendance at this complete, two-day, in-person event that included speakers and meals. Keynote speaker was Rev. Phil Posthuma, Pastor of Montgomery Community Church in Cincinnati. Bible study leaders were Rev. Mark Eaton and Rev. Kevin Crum. Mission speakers were Emerson and Rev. Ivy Wu. A luncheon program was presented by Rev. Chris Thomas and the leaders of the Ohio Baptist Education Society. Kim Brown, who has retired from missions in Thailand was recognized with a gift and a reception. Certificates were presented to Ohio Leadership Academy graduates, and Urban Leadership Academy graduates were recognized.

Celebrations

- On October 10, I participated in a celebration of the ministry of Rev. Ivy and Emerson Wu as missionaries in Asia. Karl Road hosted this worship service and a luncheon following the service.
- Allen Center Baptist Church celebrated 150 years of ministry on Sunday, October 17, with a worship service and church luncheon.
- The Columbus Baptist Association celebrated its annual Multicultural Worship Service on Sunday, October 17 at the historic Second Baptist Church. Pastor Dan Brown was the preacher for the day. Rev. Dr. Howard Washington was host pastor.

Upcoming Events

ARMs TRAINING EVENT

Every few years, we offer an equipping conference to welcome new Associate Regional Ministers to our team and to develop new skills among our ARMs. This year's ARMs training event will take place on November 9 and 10 in the Region office. ABC Ohio currently has 16 ARMs serving in Pastoral Care, Transition Consulting, Ohio Leadership Academy Dean, and Baptist History and Polity. Fourteen ARMs have registered to attend the training event. Rev. Joe Seese, Rev. David Ball, and Dr. Kristina Gutiérrez will present the program. Rev. Seese will administer the DISC workstyle instrument and help ARMs learn more about the ministry styles of their pastors. Rev. Ball will discuss pastoral/legal ethics for ARMs. Dr. Gutiérrez will present her new research on the subject of soul care for pastors and their families. The event will be funded in part by the new Palmer Grant.

OHIO LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Ohio Leadership Academy will hold its first intensive next weekend. It will be an in-person meeting at The Bridge at Sunbury. The program has eight students in Year 3, seven students in Year 2 and three students in Year 1. The Ohio Leadership Academy program will be offered in hybrid form this coming year. All students will study virtually for one entire class, in addition to their four quarterly intensives. The quarterly intensives will take place with two in-person sessions and two on-line sessions. We are continuing to reap the benefits of having a dedicated faculty of ten ABC Ohio ministry leaders or retired leaders and Dr. Seth Fallon as our Academic Dean.

GRANTS

ABC OHIO GRANTS

ABC Ohio continues to support new ministries throughout the region this year through two kinds of grants: Building on Common Ground Outreach and Evangelism Grants, and Next Generation Grants. ABC Ohio has budgeted \$18,000 for these grants. I was pleased with the quantity and quality of grant applications for the 2021 year. All of our funds have been awarded to local congregations for worthy ministry projects. New funds will be available beginning next year.

PALMER TRUST/AMERICAN BAPTIST FOUNDATION

I am pleased to announce that ABC Ohio has been awarded a Palmer Trust/American Baptist Foundation grant for \$25,000 for the upcoming year. This year's theme is ***In the Aftermath: Renewing the Soul of a Leader***, focusing on the impact of COVID on Pastoral Leaders. I wrote and submitted a grant application this summer, ***Caring for Pastors After Covid***, that focuses on the impact COVID has had on pastoral leaders in ABC Ohio and a proposal for soul/spiritual care for ABC Ohio pastors. The grant will allow us to train our ARMs in recognizing soul/self-care needs in our pastors, provide for a pre-service session in soul/self-care for Leadership Academy students, offer a retreat to pastors in the summer of 2022, and pay for some of the speaker expenses for our 2022 Leadership Conference.

ORDINATION

The **ABC Ohio Advisory Committee on Ordination** did not meet this quarter. Mr. Tony Kendrick of New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus chairs the committee. Approximately 20 candidates are currently in the ordination process.

The following candidates are in the ordination process in northern Ohio:

Steve Cope – Trinity Baptist Church – Akron Association

Gary Ingle – Ashland Church -Toledo Association

Donna Haynes – Liberty Hill Baptist Church – Mohican Association

Epris Curry – Liberty Hill Baptist Church – Mohican Association

Sylvia Smith – Love Zion Baptist Church – Columbus Association

Debra Moreland – Prospect Baptist Church – Marion Association

Bryan Owens – First Baptist Church of Richwood – Marion Association

Jonathan James – Living Word Bible Fellowship – Columbus Association

Timothy Caldwell – Shiloh Baptist Church – Columbus Association
Floria Washington – Second Baptist Church – Columbus Association
Diedra Avery – Columbus Baptist Association
Mark Haines, Jr. – Columbus Baptist Association

PASTORAL CHANGES

- Rev. David Hines will retire as Pastor of First Baptist Church of Kingsville in February after 22 years of service.
- Rev. Howard Burnett retired on Sunday, October 10 after 42 years of ministry at Perrysville Baptist Church.
- Rev. Dr. Richard Breusch has announced his upcoming retirement from the Karl Road Baptist Church in Columbus.

PASTORAL SEARCH

Please pray for the following congregations in the Pastoral Transition Process...

The Bridge of Sunbury, Dr. Al Cooper, Interim Pastor.

Third Baptist Church in Toledo, Dr. Jeff Cooper is their Transition Consultant ARM.

Third Baptist Church in Youngstown, has secured an interim and is working on their congregational self-study.

Grand Prairie Baptist Church, Pastor Ed Goodwin is Interim Pastor. Dr. Jeff Cooper is serving as their Transition Consultant ARM.

First Baptist Church of Perry Rev. Dr. Kevin Slyh began as their Interim Pastor on May 2.

Perry Chapel Baptist Church is continuing in the search process.

Perrysville Baptist Church has called Pastor Barry Williams as their interim pastor.

Karl Road Baptist Church is developing their church profile.

First Baptist Church of Kingsville is working with me to secure an interim pastor to begin in February.

Owl Creek Baptist Church in Mount Vernon is working with me to secure an interim pastor.

First Baptist Church of Norwalk is seeking a new interim pastor following the resignation of interim Rev. Robert Hendrix.

I am grateful for the ministry of Transition Consultant ARMs David Daniels, Bruce Wells, Dr. Jeff Cooper, and Rev. Michael Cole.

PASTORS' GROUPS

Association Pastors Groups continue to be a primary source of support and opportunities for encouragement for ABC Ohio pastors. The groups from North East, Northwestern, Akron, Mohican, North Central, and Mahoning Valley Baptist Associations have been meeting in person. Toledo Association has continued to meet virtually by Zoom. I am so thankful for the work of our pastoral care ARMs for their many phone calls and hours spent listening to, praying with, and encouraging our pastors. Serving as Pastoral Care ARMs in northern Ohio are: Rev. Chuck Armstrong, Dr. Dean Davidson, Rev. Ruby Radford, and Rev. David Sedziol.

Prayer Concerns

- **Rev. Brian Manary** had triple bypass heart surgery on October 27. He is still hospitalized. Please pray for him and his family and the Geneva United Church.
- **Rev. Don Smith** of Waynesfield Baptist Church is hospitalized in Intensive Care with COVID. Please pray for him and his family and church family.
- **Rev. Dr. Dean Davidson**, Pastoral Care ARM for North Central Association, had shoulder surgery on October 26.
- **Pastor Stephan Bloomfield**, Recently retired pastor of FBC Mount Gilead died of COVID two weeks ago. His memorial service was last Saturday. Please pray for his wife LuAnn and family.

APPRECIATION

As always, I am grateful for the work God has called me to do in ABC Ohio and for you as the Board of Regional Ministries for your encouragement, giftedness and commitment to the ministries of ABC Ohio. Blessings to all of you!

ADDENDUM C

Executive Minister/Administration & Denominational Relations and South Area Churches & Related Ministries Report

November 06, 2021

The American Baptist Churches of Ohio has 234 member congregations and 19 associations. The southern Ohio area is comprised of 10 Associations, 120 congregations and many related ministries.

In support of the ABC Ohio mission: ***“Equipping the People of God to Impact the World for Christ,”*** I provide administrative oversight of the daily operations, office support staff and Associate Regional Ministers (ARMs). Provide care, support, coaching and consultation to the pastors, congregations and related ministries. Teach at the Ohio Leadership Academy and preach for local congregations. I represent the Region to ABC USA’s Office of the General Secretary, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, International Ministries, Ministers & Missionaries Benefit Board, Multi-Region Corporation, American Baptist Foundation, and Regional Executive Ministers Council.

Administration Updates:

The **Annual Review of the Region Support Staff** was conducted in September. Leslie Hoskinson (Core Services Administrator) and Amanda Lloyd (Senior Accountant) continue to excel in their dedication and work in support of the mission and ministry of ABC Ohio. Leslie has now served over 20 years and Amanda has now completed 3 years. We are BLESSED to have both of these ladies serving on our ministry team.

Region Fund Development Strategy update. A Year-End Special Offering request will be mailed in November inviting churches to support the Associate Regional Ministers (ARM) Ministry. Region Board members and staff are encouraged to contribute financially toward the ABC Ohio mission to “Equip the People of God to Impact the World for Christ.” Our GOAL is for every Board and Staff member to demonstrate their support for the Region’s mission and ministries through their prayer, partnership and financial donations. All donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. You can now DONATE online at www.abc-ohio.org by clicking on the **GIVE ONLINE TO ABC-OHIO** button on the left side of the page.

Property Management.

The *Xenia Property* is now vacant effective September 1, 2021. Rick Dostal organized a cleaning crew from the City Gospel Mission of Cincinnati in October to clean out the building and parking lot. Some interest has been shown in the building.

City of Zion Church Jamestown continues to meet at the church and are up to date on their monthly land contract payments.

Congregation Assistance Fund. \$21,073.00 was received during our 2020 Year End Offering to assist ABC Ohio congregations struggling from the impact of the pandemic. Financial awards of up to \$1,000 each continue to be distributed to local congregations. Approximately \$14,000 has been distributed. Additional assistance is available while the funds last.

Denominational Relations:

I participate in the bi-monthly Zoom meetings of the **Region Executive Ministers Council**.

I attended an **Executive Minister Cluster meeting** in northern Idaho at the Ross Point Camp from November 1-4, 2021. Executive Ministers from seven of 10 Regions attended. The meeting was hosted by ABC of the Northwest. The meeting focused on: Region Structure Shifts, Congregational Revitalization Models, International Ministries, ABC USA Issues and fellowship.

I serve on the **American Baptist Foundation** Board of Governors, Finance Committee and as the Multi-Region Corporation Treasurer.

Associate Regional Ministers (ARMs) Update:

Rev. Clay Self is the Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Hillsboro and serves as the Clinton Baptist Association ARM. Clay began in October and is off to a great start.

Dr. Jason Hentschel is the Senior Pastor of the Wyoming Baptist Church of Cincinnati and will be serving as the Miami Baptist Association ARM. Jason will begin his service on January 2022.

Dr. Marva Hughes continues as the Dayton Area Baptist Association ARM.

Dr. Paul Mitchell continues as the Western Baptist Association ARM. Dr. Mitchell will be having hip surgery in November. Please keep him in your prayers.

Rev. Scott Johnston continues as the Zanesville Baptist Association ARM. Rev. Johnston continues to struggle with some health issues, but remains active in ministry. Please keep him in your prayers.

Rev. Mark Eaton continues as the Marietta Baptist Association ARM. Rev. Eaton is the senior pastor of the Porterfield Baptist Church.

Rev. Kent Hall continues to serve as the SE Ohio Transitional Consultant ARM. He has served for the past two years. Rev. Hall is the pastor of the Newport Baptist Church.

Three southern Ohio associations are without an ARM – Lawrence (3), Rio Grande (5), and Zoar (2).

We are blessed to have a wonderful (gifted and generous) group of ministers who're willing to serve as ARMs.

Pastoral Transitions and Searches:

First Baptist Hamilton – Dr. Christopher Osterbrock is serving during the interim period as the Acting Senior Pastor.

New Jerusalem Cincinnati – Dr. Damon Lynch Jr has announced his retirement. The PSC is currently reviewing potential candidates for a senior pastor.

Mt. Zion Cincinnati – PSC continues their review of profiles and applications for a senior pastor.

Mt. Auburn Cincinnati – PSC continues to look for a bi-vocational pastor.

Walnut Hills Cincinnati – PSC continues to look for a bi-vocational pastor.

First Baptist South Zanesville – Rev. David Nuhfer has been serving as the interim for five years.

Silver Grove Oregonia – Rev. Steve Tufts has announced his planned retirement. PSC continues to look for a bi-vocational pastor.

Mullen Memorial Belpre – Dr. Seth Fallon accepted the call to another church. The PSC has begun the transitional process.

Shroyer Road Baptist Church – Dr. Stephen Patrick is serving as the Interim Pastor, leading the congregation through the Natural Church Development assessment process and helping the church develop a revitalization strategy.

New Pastor Called:

Pastor Andrew (Drew) Hindbaugh will begin as the new pastor of the Shroyer Road Baptist Church of Dayton on January 01, 2022. He's a First Year Student at the Ohio Leadership Academy and will be licensed for ministry on November 14, 2021.

ABC Ohio Related Ministries:

American Baptist Campus Ministry @ University of Cincinnati, Campus Minister Connor Ham is active on the UC campus working with the Medical College and Undergraduate Students.

Dayton Christian Center has reopened for in-person attendance of the many children that participate in their ministry. Mrs. Tasha Johnson is the Executive Director. Dr. Marva Hughes is the Spiritual Director.

Special Celebrations:

First Baptist Cambridge will be celebrating their 170th Anniversary on November 14, 2021. Rev. Jon Lobos, pastor.

Pastoral Care & Leadership Development:

All southern Ohio Association **Clergy Fellowship Groups** are again meeting in person, with the exception of the Dayton Baptist Association. The pastor groups have been eager to get back together in person and enjoy one another's fellowship and encouragement.

Most churches are still dealing with the impact of COVID-19 upon their ministries with on average a 30% decline in worship attendance, but remain stable financially.

It continues to be a blessing to serve as the Co-Executive Minister for Administration, Denominational Relations and southern Ohio pastors and congregations.

For His Glory,
Rev. Mark Click

ABC Ohio mission:
"Equip the People of God to Impact the World for Christ."