

194th Annual Meeting
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
March 2, 2020

Minutes

Opening and Welcome: The 2020 Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island was held at Lakewood Baptist Church in Warwick, Rhode Island, at 7:00 p.m. Executive Minister Rev. Dr. Tom Wiles greeted all in attendance. Persons who had not registered were asked to do so. Pastor Ron Provencal of Lakewood Baptist Church also welcomed everyone to Lakewood and led us in singing.

Opening Prayer: Rendered by President Wendy Kiefer-O'Brien.

The Annual Meetings of Affiliated Corporations were held:

*The Baptist Heritage Center: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone, presiding (pp. 32-25) – The 2019 annual report, slate of officers and board members for 2018-2021 and nominations for 2020-2023 was moved/seconded and approved. Rev. Malone also reported the Baptist Heritage Weekend will be held at Greenville Baptist Church the weekend of November 7-8, 2020. Dr. Curtis Freeman will be the keynote speaker.

*The Baptist Home Board: Rev. Dr. Reppa Cottrell, presiding (pp. 26-29) – The 2019 annual report and the 2019 financial report were moved/seconded and approved. Rev. Cottrell also reported that John Clarke Retirement Center and Elder Care Ministries are major grant recipients. Berean Baptist Church received a grant for the repair of its ramp. She encouraged churches to apply for grants through the grant process.

*The Rhode Island Baptist Education Society: Rev. Jake McGuire, presiding (pp. 30-31). The 2019 annual report, board of directors for 2020-2023, and financial report were moved/seconded and approved.

Call to Order: President Wendy Kiefer-O'Brien call the meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island to order and named Peggy Johnson as parliamentarian. Ann McGloshen, clerk, called the roll of churches in attendance and declared a quorum (27 churches were present) with 64 voting delegates (42 delegates, 22 pastors, and 8 guests). Please note: each church received a copy of the 2019 Annual Report Yearbook.

Approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the 193rd Annual Meeting (pp. 36-37) were moved/seconded and approved as written.

Financial Report and Recommendation: Treasurer Bob Butzier presented the 2019 annual financial report (pp. 15-20). It was moved/seconded and approved as presented

and placed on file and is subject to audit. The recommended 2020 operating budget was presented and moved/seconded and approved.

Recruitment Committee Report and Slate of Officers: (p. 22) It was moved/seconded and approved, along with the joint recommendation of the Recruitment Committee and Board of Ministries.

Leadership Reports

***Report of the President:** Rev. Wendy Kiefer-O'Brien (p. 9) – annual report.

***Elder Care Ministries:** Rev. Kathryn Palen (pp. 5-6) – annual report.

***Camping Ministries:** (p. 7) – annual report. Amanda Ogilvie, newly appointed camping director, commented on her excitement in her new position and her aspirations for the camping ministry. An open house is planned for May 9, 2020.

***Conferencing:** Kathy Black – 112 bookings; loss of three large bookings.

Other reports included in the 2019 Annual Report Yearbook include: Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry, Rev. Dr. Linda Bausserman (p. 9); Baptist Fund of Rhode Island, Vonnie Dutton (p. 10); Investment Committee (p. 11); Properties Committee (p. 12); Personnel Committee, Stanley Lemons (p. 13); American Baptist Women's Ministries of Rhode Island, Meredith Eckel (pp. 23-24); and Ministers Council, Rev. Dr. Reppa Cottrell (p. 25).

***Executive Minister:** Rev. Dr. Tom Wiles (pp. 2-3) – annual report. Highlighted the past 7 years he has served as our executive minister and the joy he has received in serving us. He spoke of his impending departure and encouraged us as a region to: 1) continue to pay attention to one another; 2) continue to give generously to our shared mission, and 3) continue to improvise as we faithfully minister.

Future Gatherings

***All-Church Worship Service**

Sunday, June 21, 2020 – 3:00 p.m. – Greenville Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. C. Jeff Woods, Acting General Secretary, ABCUSA, guest speaker

***Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island**

Monday, March 1, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. – First Baptist Church, Wickford

Closing: It was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn the annual meeting. The meeting closed with the singing of one song and benediction by Pastor Ron Provencal. A time of fellowship with refreshments prepared by the host church followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann M. McGloshen, Clerk