

190th Annual Meeting
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
March 6, 2017

Minutes

The 2017 Annual Meeting of ABCORI was held at the Warwick Central Baptist Church in Warwick, RI. At 7:00pm, Board of Ministry President Marrocco greeted all present. In response to the 'welcome' by host pastor, Rev. John Houliker, Pres. Marrocco expressed ABCORI's 'thanks!' for the hospitality provided by the host church, called any one in attendance who had not registered to do and, opened the gathering with prayer.

The Annual Meetings of Affiliated Corporations were held: the Baptist Heritage Center – Rev. Dr. Charles Hartman, presiding (p. 24 - 28 '16 A R + election of officers); the Baptist Home Board – Vernon Hanson, presiding (p. 22 '16 A R + election of officers); the RI Baptist Educational Society – Rev. Bob Auld, presiding (p. 23 '16 A R + election). It was m/s/a to accept each Annual Report (as well as a financial statement and/or slate of officers) as presented.

President Marrocco called the Annual Meeting of ABCORI to order and named Rev. Peggy Johnson its Parliamentarian. Rev. Dr. Malcolm Mac Kenzie, Clerk called the roll of churches in attendance and declared a quorum (37 churches were represented / 23 needed): 95 delegates (60 - delegates, 30 – pastors, and 8 – guests). Norwood with 7 and Greenville with 6 took this year's attendance honors. Note: about 10% were first-time attendees.

The Minutes of the 189th Annual Meeting (p. 33 '16 AR) were m/s/a.

The 2016 Treasurer's Report (pp. 29-31 '16 A R) by Bob Butzier was m/s/a and filed for audit. The 2016 Annual Meeting rejoiced in the solid financial health of ABCORI and the laity and staff who have been excellent stewards of our region's resources. The 2017 Budget (p. 32 '16 A R) was m/s/a.

It was m/s/a to accept the Recruitment Committee's Report (p. 8 '16 A R).

Reports: Board of Ministry Pres. Marrocco (p. 3 '16 A R); ABC-USA: Bd Gen Min – Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone (p. 18 '16 A R); ABWomen – Ginny Rasmussen (pp. 19-20 '16 A R); Baptist Fund of RI (p. 13 '16 A R); Camping (pp. 6, 7 '16 A R), Eldercare - (p. 5 '16 A R), Minister's Council – Joyce Duerr (p. 21 '16 AR), Operations / Personnel Properties (pp. 12, 15, 16 '16 A R), Social Witness (p. 11 '16 A R)), Standing Comm on Ordained Ministry (p. 10 '16 A R). Verbal Reports from Affiliated Ministries: Baptist Peacemakers – Sandra Kelly, RI State Council of Churches – Rev. Dr. Don Anderson, RI Interfaith Coalition – Emily Jones.

Executive Minister – Rev. Dr. Tom Wiles encouraged our understanding of the breadth of the impact in our regional and local church ministries and ABCORI shared initiatives. He declared that our region has great cause to first be thankful for and, then, to celebrate the gifts and vision of our region's staff.

President Morrocco made brief, celebratory remarks to bring his involvement with the region's leadership to a close.

The new leadership of the Board of Ministry: Rev. Dr. Carl Balark, President and Rev. Wendy Kiefer-O'Brien, Vice Pres. was recognized and prayer was offered on their behalf.

The date and location of the next Annual Gathering & Meeting were announced: Gathering – Sept 24, 2017 at Ebenezer Baptist Church and, Meeting – March 5, 2018 at 7:00pm at Greenville Baptist Church.

It was m/s/a to adjourn the Annual Meeting.

Rev. Dr. Malcolm Mac Kenzie, Clerk

Note: All written reports and Meeting documents are on file in the ABCORI office.