



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE
ROCHESTER/GENESEE REGION DELGATES MEETING

May 21, 2023, 3:00 PM

First Baptist Church of Brockport & Zoom

Minutes

Invocation and Opening Worship, 3pm

Connectional Life Team – Theme of Creation Care. Hymn shared from University Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN, pastor Rev. Doug Donley. Rev. Jen Lessard provided a video about women of Ecuador protesting against mining operations that are polluting water and taking away farmable land; violence between mining companies and local protestors has killed many. Rev. Lessard is currently in Ecuador working with the women’s group, replanting native herbs, learning about the situation, and planning further engagement. Scripture Matthew 6:24-34. Message from Rev. Jen Lessard in Ecuador emphasizing the need to care for God’s creation as what happens in one part of the world has an impact on all.

Call To Order

Rev. Tanya Spencer, President – Called meeting to order at 3:30p.

Roll Call of Churches

Tarra Hartmann, Region Administrator – reported that there were 20 (+/-1) online and 20(+/-2) present representing 26 churches. Quorum was met.

Acceptance of Minutes February 5th, 2023

Rev. Tanya Spencer – M. McCarthy moved to accept, R. Duttweiler seconded, 3 abstained, passed and approved.

Financial Report and Voting on 2023-2024 Budget

Scott McClellan, Treasurer – Presented from board, passed and approved with 1 abstention (Rev. Dr. Hasenauer as her salary is included in the budget).

Overview of how region budget has changed. Q&A session about how the four national offerings are distributed (United Mission, World Mission Offering, America for Christ, and One Great Hour of Sharing). Also emphasized that endowment funds are largely restricted. Scott McClellan presented a brief overview of the amount of funds that are restricted versus unrestricted. Region office will be sending draft minutes to delegates with a bulleted list of what we would like them to share with their congregation.

Executive Ministers Report

Rev. Dr. Sandy Hasenauer – Has been in this role for nearly 5 years! Things are just getting rolling again after prolonged pandemic isolation and recent medical leave. Plans to start traveling again by end of summer. Requested to hold the families, friends, and congregations of three pastors related to our region who have passed away to date in 2023: Rev. David Brakle (graduated CRCDS and was serving in ABC of NJ); Rev. Dr. David Evans (graduated CRDS/BH/CTS and served churches in the region, retired); Rev. Dr. Carol Garrett (pastor of True Faith Christian Community, formerly known as Historic Parsells). Rev. Dan Brockway led

in prayer. Gave thanks for the tremendous leadership in the region of members of the committees who serve and are able to function without Sandy needing to be present at every meeting.

Ministry reports

Board Life Team/Nominating committee Rev. Steven Brotzman, Chair

Board Life Team is tasked with attending to board membership policies, recruitment of potential board members, and overseeing the nominating committee. Nomination Committee report is below.

Organizational Life Team Laura Tubbs, Chair

Organizational Life Team has been at work updating bylaws as per previous delegates meeting votes; recently they have been updating the personnel policy and hope to have that finished in the next month or so. After that time, they will be developing an evaluation process of the Executive Minister.

Connectional Life Team Rev. Jason Alspaugh, Chair

In addition to being responsible for worship planning at delegates meetings, the Connectional Life Team is planning some region-wide events, the first of which will be a day-hike in the Rochester area, led by Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone of Wilderness Journeys (and ABC clergy). They will also be planning region events to be held in other parts of the country, such as a backpacking trip perhaps in KY. They're also exploring other ways to bring churches together.

Missional Life Team Rev. Dr. Sandra Hasenauer

The Missional Life Team is without a chairperson and therefore is at the mercy of Sandy's schedule to get together, which hasn't happened yet. However, it will soon. Also, the executive board approved the plan to have a MissionFest in the alternate years of the Region biennial gathering so the Missional Life Team will be at work to plan that soon. Finally, the Missional Life Team is also tasked with overseeing the designation of endowment funds to be directed towards international missions, and with liaising with Cameron Community and Camps Vick and Pathfinder.

Financial Life Team Scott McClellan on behalf of Rev. Jen Lessard (Chair)

Scott McClellan reported that Rev. Jen Lessard was recently appointed chair of the Financial Life Team (Finance and Investment Committee), but is currently in Ecuador. The FLT/FIC has been at work establishing the two new endowments, the First Baptist Church of Fairport Fund and the Heidi Fuller Fund, as well as combining the 21st Century Fund into the Abundant Blessings Fund.

Vote for Executive Board

The Nominating Committee, with Executive Board approval, presented Rev. Dr. Dan Brockway, pastor of First Baptist Church of Brockport, to finish an open term on Executive Board, concluding in 2024. At that time, he would be eligible to be presented as a nominee for a full term on the Executive Board. Vote: Accepted unanimously.

News and Announcements from Region Family

An opportunity to share what's happening in your church! – Lots of sharing!

Adjournment

Rev. Tanya Spencer – Call for adjournment. Linda Clark seconded. Unanimous. Time (5pm)

Closing prayer.

Supplemental documents:

- Minutes Feb 5th, 2023 Delegates Meeting
- Financial Reports
- Draft Budget 2023-2024
- Notice of election of board member.