



American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region
Fall Delegates Meeting
Saturday, November 1, 2025
Virtually via Zoom

Delegates from the member churches of the American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region met via Zoom on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. EDT.

1) Opening Worship

Soe Win, Region Vice President and Chair of the Connectional Life Team read passages from Ephesians and Luke and offered an opening prayer. Executive Minister Rev. Dr. Sandra Hasenauer introduced the guest preacher the Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain, General Secretary, ABCUSA. Before delivering her message, Rev. Jacobs-Strain brought greetings from the denomination and RGR's sister regions and provided an update on the many ways the Office of the General Secretary works to gather the denomination, functions as a supporting partner, and creates space for meaningful conversations among the denomination's diverse membership. In keeping with All Saints Day, Rev. Jacobs-Strain's message was a reflection on Hebrews 12:1, emphasizing that we stand on the shoulders of our elders who came before us, as well as our responsibility to create our own legacy for future generations.

2) Call to Order and Roll Call of Churches

Reverend Alspaugh called the meeting to order. Region Clerk, Anne Farrell, announced that 40 people were in attendance, representing 22 churches of which 17 had delegates present; therefore, a quorum was established.

3) Acceptance of Minutes

On a motion duly made and seconded, the May 3, 2025 Delegates Meeting minutes were approved.

4) Financial Report

Treasurer Beverly Murrell-Frasier presented highlights from the Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for the period ending September 30, 2025, reporting that the Region's financial position continues to be positive. She and Rev. Hasenauer have continued to work with BooksTime, the new bookkeeping service, to make necessary adjustments to align income and expenses with the proper budget line items.

The delegates were reminded that, at the behest of the Finance and Investment Committee, Lilly grant funds were invested in CDs with maturity dates timed so that the funds would be available when needed. The first of these CDs has matured and yielded \$13,000 in interest, the use of which the Lilly Endowment does not restrict. The earnings have been reserved for the Thriving Congregations Initiative expenses in the event of a shortfall in grant funding.

It was noted that there is no line item in the budget for the Thriving Congregations Project Coordinator/Associate Executive Minister. This expense is being split between Lilly grant and Good Shepherd Community of Faith funds. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Treasurer's report was accepted with gratitude.

5) Election of Executive Board Members

On behalf of the Board Life Committee, functioning as the Nominating Committee, Rev. Alspaugh nominated the following candidates to fill vacancies on the Executive Board created by the resignations of three members whose terms were due to expire in the fall of 2026: Ciara Lilly, St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC; Karen Mendes, First Baptist Church, Burlington, VT; and Travis Norvell, Judson Memorial Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN. A motion was duly made and seconded to elect the above-named candidates, each to a one-year term. Motion carried unanimously. Upon completion of the unexpired terms, the new Board members will be eligible to serve two consecutive full terms.

6) Thriving Congregations Report

Rev. Alicia Dixon-Garrard, Associate Executive Minister, provided a detailed update on the Thriving Congregations Initiative. Churches in Cohort 1 will be completing their work in January; Cohort 2 launched in August; Cohort 3 will be selected in the spring of 2026.

7) MissionFest Report

Rev. Denise Carrell, Missional Life Team Chair, shared that an innovative approach to MissionFest was introduced this fall. Churches were invited to share stories about new or ongoing mission projects. A slideshow featuring the submissions was presented.

8) Executive Minister's Report

Rev. Sandy Hasenauer welcomed ABCUSA staff members Wendy Clemmer, Biennial Mission Summit Program Coordinator, and Melissa Davignon, Events Manager. RGR will be collaborating closely with staff in planning the 2027 Biennial, which will be held in Rochester. Rev. Hasenauer thanked the Executive Board for granting her request to take a portion of her sabbatical this past summer. This allowed her to assume the duties of Executive Director at Cameron Community Ministries to stabilize the organization while recruiting for a new Executive Director. Rev. Hasenauer announced that she would be taking the balance of her sabbatical from December 8 to January 20. She acknowledged Tarra Hartmann and Rev. Dixon-Garrard for managing the Region's affairs during her absence.

9) Associate Executive Minister Position

Rev. Dixon-Garrard was excused for the discussion of the position that she is currently filling. Rev. Alspaugh reported that within the powers delegated to the Executive Board in the Bylaws to conduct business between meetings of the delegates, creation of an Associate Executive Minister position was approved at its June 17, 2025 meeting. As the Region has continued to grow, the workload has also grown beyond what one full-time and one part-time staff can manage. The Lilly Endowment grant previously made it possible to hire a Project Coordinator. Receipt of a significant gift from Good Shepherd Community of Faith made it financially feasible to expand that role with additional responsibilities of an Associate Executive Minister. A position description was provided to the delegates. It was noted that the only position that is appointed by the delegates is the Executive Minister; all other positions are filled at the discretion of the Executive Minister; therefore, Rev. Hasenauer chose to appoint Rev. Dixon-Garrard. Discussion ensued regarding the creation of the new position; positive experiences in working the Rev. Dixon-Garrard were shared. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Executive Board's previous decision to establish an Associate Executive Minister position was confirmed. Rev. Hasenauer abstained.

10) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne E. Farrell, Clerk