



**American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region  
Delegates Conference and Business Meeting  
Saturday, September 9, 2023  
11:00 a.m. Central/12:00 p.m. Eastern  
University Baptist Church, Minneapolis & Zoom\***

**Minutes**

- Invocation and Opening Worship

Connectional Life Team – Welcome & Call to Worship: Rev. Jason Alspaugh (ABCRGR VP, United Church of Granville) for Rev. Tanya Spencer (ABCRGR President, Good Shepherd Community of Faith Buffalo, NY). Sang “This is My Song’ #591 NCH, Scripture read (Matthew 14: 13-21) by Tanya Thurman (2<sup>nd</sup> BC, Mumford): Rev. Dr. Cliff Matthews (St. Luke Missionary BC) gave message. *“There is nothing we can’t do, if we decide to do it together.”* Sang “My Life Flows On” #476 NCH.

- Call to Order/prayer

Rev. Jason Alspaugh, VP (Prayer) -- ‘Together, Courage and Wisdom’.  
Rev. Tanya Spencer, Pres. (Call to Order, 12:55 pm, additional prayer)

- Roll Call of Churches

Tarra Hartmann (ABCRGR Admin) for Anne Farrell (Soon to be ABCRGR Clerk, FB Ithaca) – 33 people gathered together (in-person and on Zoom) and representing 15 churches (quorum established).

- Acceptance of Delegates Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2023

D. Donley moved to accept, T. Norvell seconded, T. Spencer called to vote. Unanimous, no abstentions, passed and approved.

- \*Financial Report

Scott McClellan (ABCRGR Treasurer) -- \*Reminder of 18-mo. Fiscal year (Jan. 2022-June 2023) changed from calendar year. Sandy assisted in explaining line items in the General Support area of budget.

- Election of Board member: Anne Farrell, Clerk (filling out term)

Board proposed to delegates to elect A. Farrell to complete Penny Crudup’s term as ABCRGR Clerk. Rev. Tanya called for vote; vote was unanimous, no abstentions, passed and approved.

- Board Updates and region news

EM Rev. Dr. Sandy H. briefly explained what the teams are currently engaged in.

**CLT (Connectional Life Team - Chair, J. Alspaugh):** Team led today’s opening worship service. The CLT has not been able to meet in recent months, but we have continued to plan opening worship for delegates meetings, as we ponder a variety of ways to strengthen ties within the region. We are also considering creative ways to encourage our region churches outside of Rochester to build relationships and sponsor activities/ministries with other region churches that may be close to them.

**FIC (Finance & Investment Committee-Chair, J. Lessard):** Are in the midst of financial review and setting up the Heidi Fuller Fund.

**MLT (Missional Life Team – Acting Chair, S. Hasenauer):** Prepping for Missionfest May 3-4, to be held at First Baptist Rochester along with the May Delegates Meeting.

**OLT (Organizational Life Team – Chair, L. Tubbs):** Working on policies of ABCRGR to bring them into alignment with the current non-profit laws.

**BLT (Board Life Team – Chair, S. Brotzman):** Has met twice. Working on need to fill board positions. Also suggested nomination of clerk (A. Farrell).

- Sandy highlighted the past May Delegates Post-Meeting Newsletter that was distributed. Will be distributing similar after this Delegates meeting.
- Mission Table Priorities (breakout groups met)

Regional mission priorities of Anti-racism, Ecological Justice and Mental health were raised up as important to us as a region. All through the lens of discipleship and Baptist principles.

Meeting ended abruptly at **1:50 pm** as Zoom logged off all participants. In-person at UBC adjourned with prayer.

## **Documents:**

- [Minutes of Delegates Meeting 5-21-23](#)
- [Press Release ABCUSA Mission Table Priorities](#)
- Financial Reports: [FY2023 Statement of Activity vs Budget](#) & [FY2023 Statement of Financial Position](#)
- [ABCUSA Biennial Priorities Document](#)
- Link to Delegates Meeting recording:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LdCOEfA8UFCvt7otObbTz7dv5FzjD7Rr/view?pli=1>