

ABCOM Christian Nurture Committee

Members of the Christian Nurture Committee: Russ LaFlamme (Chair), Al Fletcher, Bonnie Higgins, Braden Rancourt, Peter Barrett, Randall B. Kelloway

Report to the ABCOM Board for ZOOM meeting, September 24, 2022.

Since our last report to the Board in April, we are continuing to look at the needs of our American Baptist Churches in Maine and how we can help facilitate the calling of more pastors to our churches particularly to rural settings? With the approval of the Board at the April Meeting we have worked on the following:

- The Christian Nurture Committee is actively working to build relationships with pastors that are new to the American Baptist Churches of Maine by:
 1. Paying the registration fee for the ABCOM Annual Meeting on pastors who are new to ABCOM. We would like to invite all new pastors who have come on in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Currently the registration fee for the Annual Meeting is \$40.00. The Board approved this plan at the last meeting.
 2. Provide lunch for new pastors (\$10 for 20 pastors and spouses) at the Annual Meeting where an orientation to ABCOM and the importance of working within our Associations is the agenda. This also provides an opportunity for new pastors to connect with other pastors in ABCOM and with the work of the Christian Nurture Committee. We have reserve space at the Greene Baptist Church who will provide the lunch. We sent out letters to all the new pastors in June and are following up with phone invites by members of the Christian Nurture Committee. We would like to invite all new pastors who have come on in 2020, 2021 and 2022.
- The Christian Nurture Committee has recommended an Evangelism and Discipleship emphasis at the 2023 Annual Meeting. This would provide the ABCOM with an opportunity to bring the ABHMS Director of Evangelism, Dr. Jeff Johnson, to be the keynote speaker having him address “developing your local church style of evangelism” for the 2023 Annual Meeting. Al Fletcher is working on this.
- We are encouraging ABCOM Board Association’s representatives to share with their associations this board report and ask them to provide suggestions and ideas for the Christian Nurture Committee. Please send feedback to the Christian Nurture Committee Chair, Russ LaFlamme.
- The Christian Nurture Committee is hoping to work more with Josh Burden thru AIM on the possibility of developing a vocational plan that could be used with AIM curriculum to assist a gifted local church pastor to mentor students as part of their local church’s ministry team. We are anticipating a possible partnership with the Northern Baptist Education Society as a pilot project for developing pastoral ministry in one of our rural settings.
- We have agreed to continue to promote monthly articles for the “End of the Month” ABCOM Newsletter on answering God’s call to help get “calling” in front of people’s minds. – we have been writing articles as a good way to stimulate people to think about their call. We continue to ask for articles telling your story of their calling. Any Board Members who like to tell their story are encouraged to send them in to myself or through Al Fletcher.
- We have also in the early stages of a discussion concerning how we can help our churches to deal with the increase of Special Needs Children in our churches and a possible Mission Table on Discipleship training in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ LaFlamme, Chair Christian Nurture Committee