

**American Baptist Churches of Maine**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**  
**September 21, 2024 Zoom Meeting**

Present: Marlene Everett - Chair; Al Fletcher, Kathy Saarinen, Peter Neelon, Sharon Workman, Bonnie Higgins, Phyllis Taylor, Gary York, Josh Burden, Chip Hilton, Jay Noll, Gayle Long, Rob Clapp, Debbie LaFlamme and Melissa Dennett

**CALL TO ORDER** Marlene called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. Al offered devotions and prayer.

**BOARD TRAINING** Al reviewed the *8 Church Board Responsibilities* for every church Board and Board of ABCOM (see handout).

**PREVIOUS MINUTES** It was moved, seconded and voted to accept and file the amended minutes from May 11, 2024.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT** Melissa presented a Nominating Committee Report/Ballot. She is still waiting to hear from 4 associations and their nominations. M/S/V to accept the ballot for the business meeting at the Annual Meeting. It was also m/s/v to accept the quorum of 38.

**ABCOM BOARD REPORT FOR ANNUAL MEETING** Al is seeing a sense of normalcy returning over the past year since the start of the COVID pandemic. He presented a written report which will be presented and voted on during the Annual Meeting Business Session. It was moved, seconded, and voted to accept the report.

**TREASURER'S WRITTEN REPORT** Sharon Workman reviewed her Profit and Loss YTD Comparison showing a net loss of operations of \$34,618. Proceeds from investments to date are \$25,219 with the unrealized net gain of \$39,816. The depreciation to date is \$30,256. Total net year to date at \$161. It was m/s/v to receive the financial reports as presented. The Internal Review Committee will be completing their review at the ABCOM office on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

**ANNUAL MEETING LOCATION 2026** The Board m/s/v to accept the invitation to Warren Baptist Church for the 2026 Annual Meeting.

**ABCUSA GENERAL BOARD COOPERATING CHURCH STATUS** Al reviewed the ABCUSA Board Cooperating Churches qualifications. A member representing Maine to the ABCUSA Board needs to be in compliance to be appointed to represent Maine on the ABCUSA Board. Rev. Bonnie Higgins will term out at the end of 2024.

**ANNUAL MEETING 2025** The celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of George Dana Boardman's ordination will be held at the Yarmouth Meeting House and Yarmouth First Baptist Church. The celebration is a regional one as well as national. Funds will be raised in the next year and as well as using funds from the sale of the Seldon property, if available. It was m/s/v to use funds from investments not to exceed \$10,000 for the celebration, if needed.

**SEPTEMBER 2025 BOARD MEETING** It was m/s/v to move the September Board Meeting to October 4, 2025 due to the earlier dates of the Annual Meeting (September 18-20, 2025). It was also m/s/v to give the Executive Committee the authority to accept the quorum and nominating report/ballot for 2025 Annual Meeting.

**ABCOM RULES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE** The ABCOM Rules and Procedures Committee has been populated to review and make changes to the ABCOM Rules and Procedures to bring them up to date. The changes will be brought to the Board to review the changes in March, then for a possible vote in May.

**AIM PROPOSAL ABCOM HISTORY 1979-2029** Josh Burden, Director of AIM, requested that the Board form a committee to start looking into updating the ABCOM History from 1979-2029. It was m/s/v for Al Fletcher and Josh Burden to work together to form a committee, with Josh agreeing to serve on the committee, to find a person(s) to update the History of the American Baptist Churches of Maine 1979-2029 with the deadline of 2029 and budget TBD.

**GREEN SHOOTS STORIES** The Green Shoots stories will now be part of the Mission Support Committee's work. All stories may be sent to that committee.

**2025 ABCOM BUDGET** Sharon Workman presented the 2025 ABCOM Budget. The salaries were recommended by the Finance Committee and voted by the Executive Committee. It was m/s/v to accept the 2025 ABCOM Budget.

**ADJOURNMENT** It was moved, seconded, and voted to adjourn at 10:37 am. Al closed in prayer.

**2025 Board Meetings: March 8, May 10 and October 4**

Al Fletcher/Melissa Dennett