

**American Baptist Churches of Maine**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**  
**March 8, 2025 – 9:00 a.m. Zoom Meeting**

Present: Kathy Saarinen - Chair; Al Fletcher, Kathy Saarinen, Peter Neelon, Pam Carnicelli, Sharon Workman, Marlene Everett, Phyllis Taylor, Gary York, Josh Burden, Jay Noll, Dave Rodrigue, Debbie LaFlamme, Ron Morrell, Rob Clapp, Josh Burden, and Melissa Dennett

**CALL TO ORDER** Kathy called the meeting to order @10:05 a.m. Al offered devotions and prayer.

**RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS** New members to the ABCOM Board; Pam Carnicelli - 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Marilee Harris – Damariscotta Association, Linda Hadley-Rood, Kennebec Association, Ron Morrell - At-large.

**COMMISSIONING** Jay Noll accepted the call as the Regional Executive Minister of ABC VT/NH. As he starts a new position within the American Baptist Churches, hands were laid upon Jay (virtually) with prayer.

**BOARD TRAINING** Al reviewed the Purpose and Responsibilities of the Board. He also requested all new members of the Board sign the Board Code of Ethics to have on file at the ABCOM office.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES** It was moved to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2024 meeting as written, it was seconded and voted.

**TREASURER'S WRITTEN REPORT** ABCOM Treasurer Sharon Workman presented the report from the Treasurer as written. It was moved to receive the report, seconded and voted.

**ANNUAL MEETING 2025 - GEORGE DANA BOARDMAN CELEBRATION UPDATE** The Annual Meeting Committee recommended to the Board, in August, the windjammer "Schooner Alert" be chartered for an evening cruise with a reenactment of George Dana Boardman "sending off party" as he set sail to Burma. This would include a picnic for anybody interested and a 3-hour sail. The Schooner Alert has a limited capacity of 28 passengers. It was m/s/v to move forward with reserving and promoting this event.

**AIM GRADUATION** – Will be held on Thursday evening, September 18, 2025 to coincide with this year's Annual Meeting and George Dana Boardman's Celebration.

**MISSION SUPPORT COMMITTEE MISSION BANQUET** In May of 2026, the Mission Support Committee Mission Banquet will recognize 1 category each year. Local churches will nominate candidates to be voted on to win an award. There will be one overall award names "George Dana Boardman Society Award" which will recognize and celebrate an individual for outstanding leadership. This banquet will be held at CLCC. Churches will buy "tables" for their church to attend and support their nominees. The banquet will include time a meal, awards and a time to worship together. Also the committee has asked for "Greenshoots" articles to add to the monthly newsletter. Testimonials on why support ABCOM.

**ABCUSA BIENNIAL** This year's Biennial is being held in Omaha Nebraska from July 3-5, 2025. General Board Member, Ted Chaffee will attend. It was M/S/V to accept Lynn Chaffee and Scott Dow as ABCOM Delegates at the Biennial.

**ANNUAL MEETING 2025 BUSINESS AGENDA** The Board was asked if there were any other items of business to add to the agenda outside of the Nominating Committee Report/Ballot and Board Report. There were no items to add.

**AIM PROPOSAL ABCOM HISTORY 1979-2029** Josh Burden reports that this committee will be populated in the mid-year as many possible candidates are seasonal. This will be a committee approach to writing the history, not an individual. The Board will be updated as this moves forward.

**ADJOURNMENT** It was moved, seconded, and voted to adjourn at 11:05 a.m. Al closed in prayer.

Al Fletcher/Melissa Dennett