

**American Baptist Home Mission Societies
Board of ABHMS, Valley Forge, PA
Meeting overviews
Oct. 24-26, 2012**

The ABHMS Board began with welcoming remarks from Board president Rev. Dr. Clifford Johnson; followed by devotions from Rev. James Calloway based on the ABHMS theme, “Stretching Toward a Bright Future.” (Phil. 3:13-14)

Report of the Executive Director

Present day challenges: no sustained ministry model, great changes in human resources/technology, few visible staff members at the ABC Mission Center, few youth /Christian Ed staff at Region levels, region staff down to two people, urban ministries/metro Regions are areas of great concern to ABC family.

Three Priorities of ABHMS in 2013

- 1) Launch a learning collaborative/ABHMS Academy: could be actual or virtual.
- 2) Relate to/serve better the under 35 year olds, especially 18 – 29 years of age. ABHMS began partnerships with Christian Center/Neighborhood Action Programs, American Baptist Foundation to provide scholarships to churches focusing on youth, and the Barnabas project working with pastors working with ministry issues.
- 3) Complete a Missional Map – networking with ABHMS family interested in missional church movement.
“Wright-Riggins emphasized the importance of collaboration in our ongoing commitment to transform congregations, communities and cultures”.

Other Highlights

Life-long learning: ABHMS Future Search Conference: “To Engage and Equip the Pursuit of Calling Thru Lifelong Learning.”

Circle of Hope “Ask Event” – 150 attended/pledges received totaling \$125K

Baptist World Alliance meeting in Chile

Financial Report

Brief training for Directors on how to read/analyze financial statements of ABHMS to enhance Board’s ability to be faithful stewards of organization’s financial resources. Birdsall, treasurer of ABHMS, reported that the financial health of ABHMS is stable. The mid-term goal is to stabilize/ultimately expand the reach and mission impact of ABHMS thru increase of sustainable income sources thru fund raising efforts.

Finance Committee Chair Report

This action required ABHMS Board approval and was approved: The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of ABHMS approve the proposed 2013 operating income budget of \$11,323,198.00 and proposed operating expenses of \$11,323,198.00.

Governance Committee Report

- Development of a Recruitment Volunteer Nominations Form
- Fine tune the Board Handbook/Policy Manual (goal for completion, June 2013)
- Review of the position, assigned to ABHMS by the Board of General Ministries (BGM), ABHMS special director (Rev. Perla Belo) who reports to BGM highlighting the work of ABHMS.

ABHMS webpage – to feature ABHMS members for Class C, executive committee members, committee members for audit, finance, governance, World Relief.

Home Missionaries Commissioning Process by common consent

The Board approved the request of Dr. Wright-Riggins to affirm the Commissioning Document so that receiving of applications/launching the processes to commissioning home missionaries begin.

Celebrating Home Missions – “ABHMS News” – A multi-media/presentation of mission stories in the U.S./Puerto Rico

ABC scholarships of \$322,300 to 475 students in colleges, seminaries, and continuing education.

Penny Project – the 7.6 million pennies collected for children in poverty.

Disability ministries (in Christian Century magazine)

Chin National Convention in Indianapolis drew 3,000 attendees.

Strategic Training/Development

Training in the use of Netbooks as we seek to do the Lord’s work in the 21st century (provided by ABHMS information service officer and information technology associate.

The Board of ABHMS meeting was adjourned with closing prayer by President Johnson.

Report by Rev. Perla Belo

**American Baptist Home Mission Societies
Board of ABHMS/Retreat Overviews
Atlanta, GA
January 21 – 24, 2013**

The Board of Directors retreat began with dinner, Tuesday, January 22nd. “An American Baptist Home Mission Roots (1824 – 2010)”, a booklet by Rev. David Laubach, was given to the Board members.

The Board was to visit Martin Luther King Center for Non- violent Social Change, Habitat for Humanity and the American Baptist Historical Society.

David Laubach spoke on “Proclaiming Liberty” taken from Leviticus 25:10, “proclaim throughout the land to all its inhabitants”, “If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:30

Martin Luther King Center

Visited the Ebenezer Baptist Church where Dr. King was ordained; the museum near the church which contains the ordination robe and stories of his ministry in the earlier days; visited the tombs where the Kings were buried; went inside the home of the King family – a spacious middle class home, from a well-educated family.

Habitat for Humanity

Visited the offices of Habitat for Humanity. Their work is more than providing housing but also developing sustainable communities. The organization has expanded their work thru community impact (improve housing conditions), sector impact (partner to increase shelter access), and societal impact (inspire action to end poverty housing).

American Baptist Historical Society

Visited the Historical Society housed in a wonderful and bigger facility located at the campus of Mercer University (a Baptist School). Materials and resources are now located in one place and enables the

staff to work effectively. It was great to see this new home for the Baptist Historical Society.

2013 ABHMS Biennial Awards

The Board of Directors approved the recommendations of the Biennial Awards Task Force for 2013: Edwin Dahlberg Peace Award, American Baptist Peace Freedom Award, Richard Hoiland Local Christian Ed. Award, Newton C. Fetler High Ed. And Campus Ministry Award, Luther Wesley Smith Ed. Award, Rosa D. Hall and Small Town Award, Edward H. Rhoades Urban Ministry Award, Jitsuo Morikawa Evangelism Award, Merit Award for Military Chaplaincy, Merit Award for Institutional Chaplaincy, and Merit Award for Pastoral Counseling.

ABHMS Public Witness Statement on Gun Violence

A draft of the “statement on gun violence” was discussed and approved as a statement by the Board of Directors.

Submitted by Rev. Perla Belo, 5/22/13