TABCOM seeks to add value to the ministry to which God has called each congregation. These are the reports and reflections from the staff, officers and ministry teams for the year 2016.
Officers & Leadership

OFFICERS
Executive Minister Rev. Mary Miller
President Annette Thomas
Vice President Paul Moore
Treasurer Weimin Feng
Clerk Barbara Drauschke
Immediate Past President Rev. Howard McLendon

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Elected
Rev. Atula Jamir ~ Lowell, Calvary Baptist
Richard Lynch ~ Boston, Tremont Temple Jessica
Jessica Merrill ~ South Hadley, Second Baptist
Pearl Morrison ~ Milton, Concord Baptist
Sheila McCravy Gazharian ~ Bedford, First Baptist
Rev. Mikel Satcher ~ Milton, Concord Baptist
Rev. Morris Stimage-Norwood ~ Springfield, Greater New Life Christian Center

Representatives Nominated by Ethnic Communities
Rev. David Lee ~ Winchester, First Baptist Church
Rev. Jackson Oliveira ~ Hudson, Renewed Life Baptist Community Church
Rev. Jose Nora ~ Jamaica Plain, First Hispanic Baptist
Rev. Fred Ulysse ~ Brockton, Evangelique de l’Union Chretienne
ABC USA Board of General Ministries
Rev. Wesley Roberts ~ Boston, Peoples Baptist

COMMISSION ON ORDAINED MINISTRY
Commission on Ordained Ministry Rev. Dr. Richard Haley ~ North Andover, First Calvary Baptist
Ministerial Preparation Committee Rev. Dr. Richard Haley ~ North Andover, First Calvary Baptist
Ministerial Standing Committee Rev. Barbara Jean ~ Somerset, Somerset Baptist
Watchcare Rev. Ellen Tatreau ~ Aquinnah, Community Baptist

MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS
Administration & Finance Dexter Bishop ~ Lynn, First Baptist
Mission & Stewardship Kevin E. Porter ~ Lowell, First United
George Wright Fund Task Force Paul Moore ~ Framingham, First Baptist

ASSOCIATION MODERATORS
Adoniram Judson Rev. Eric Nelson
Berkshire Donald Fredenburg
Boston Southwest Rev. Howard McLendon
Central Rev. Becky Tornblom
Merrimack Valley Emily Leavitt
Old Colony Rev. Baffour Nkrumah-Appiah
Samuel Stillman Rev. Tali Jamir
Welcome to our Jubilee!

The dictionary definition of Jubilee is “a special anniversary of an event, especially one celebrating 50 years.” This is indeed the 50th anniversary of the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts. We are celebrating half a century as “TABCOM” and an ongoing heritage as Baptists sharing in work of God’s Kingdom that goes back literally centuries more.

But the biblical meaning of Jubilee goes much deeper. Jubilee is looking back and looking forward. According to the spirit of Jubilee seen in the book of Leviticus (25:8-28) it is an occasion for the remembrance of past events; for repentance from sin; for redemption of what has been lost; for the return to the spirit of our ancestors. We join in rejoicing in the grace we have received and recognizing God’s mercy towards his people. Jubilee is also a time of re-dedication and looking forward to making ‘the Kingdom of God at hand’ (Mark 1:16).

Have you read our TABCOM Mission Statement lately? Ponder anew these words:

God has called us to be a communion of American Baptist churches in Massachusetts that have come together to build the body of Christ through prayer, mutual support and fellowship. The focus of our organization is to engage in mission and to strengthen our member churches, enabling them to nurture personal faith while also offering a dynamic evangelical witness in their communities. We recognize that there are some things no one church can accomplish alone and that we benefit greatly from the sharing of our diverse gifts and perspectives. Thus we use our association to maximize our shared resources for mission, education, and social witness. In all things we will be defined—and measured—by our discipleship to Jesus Christ and our distinctive character as American Baptists.

At our Board of Directors’ Visioning Retreat last fall, we identified three near-future ministry priorities for TABCOM: 1) Developing ministry leadership 2) Equipping churches for outward (missional) focus and 3) Diversity and inclusion. These are areas where we are focusing our ministry for this particular time in our service of Christ and the Kingdom.

We are facing a year of significant change in TABCOM, including the turnover of several key staff positions. The funding of our mission and ministry continues to be a challenge, as it is for many of our churches. In the near future we are expecting a major revision of our region by-laws. We change, not for change’s sake, but for the most effective ministry in our Region, here and now.

Anniversaries are a wonderful time for remembering – not just people and places and events, but the purposes that call us together. Though we live in an era of dizzying change, and era when our methods are constantly evolving, we cling to our gospel purpose and trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to energize us to fulfill our calling.
I was amused to discover that another definition of “Jubilee” is “on fire” (such as a dessert like cherries jubilee). On second thought, that is a pretty good definition for us also! May the flame of the Holy Spirit burn brightly in Massachusetts through the people, the churches, and the organization that share in our calling. Amen!

**TABCOM Liaisons**

As 2017 drew to a close the TABCOM Liaisons welcomed two newly appointed Liaisons. At that time the foundational work of Rev. Daniel Auguste with Haitian pastors and churches and Rev. Marlene Gil’s work with Native American pastors and churches was recognized. Pastor Veronique Lapaix and Rev. Leo Christian will be serving in those capacities going forward.

- Rev. Leo Christian - Native American Pastors and Churches
- Rev. Tali Jamir - Asian Pastors and Churches
- Pastor Veronique Lapaix - Haitian Pastors and Churches
- Rev. Jose Nora – Spanish-Speaking Pastors and Churches
- Rev. Dalton Said – Portuguese-Speaking Pastors and Churches

In 2017 TABCOM received a Palmer Grant, which will make it possible for our Liaison Team to participate in the Nehemiah Leadership Network. This is a 3-year continuing education opportunity intended as a time for Liaisons to formulate goals for ministry with their constituencies and identify what it will take to accomplish these goals.

At the 2017 Annual Gathering the Asian, Haitian, and Portuguese Speaking Liaisons gathered pastors for prayer, worship, and fellowship. The TABCOM members of these caucus along with the Spanish-Speaking Caucus were present and met with their sisters and brothers from other parts of the United States. It was there that The Rev. Dr. Dalton Said, received the Kenneth L. Cober Regional Discipleship Award for faithful, effective leadership in discipleship education in an American Baptist region.

The Asian, Haitian and Portuguese-Speaking Caucuses met during 2017 to discuss, pray and celebrate their ministries. In September of 2017 the Portuguese-Speaking Pastors celebrated churches who had been TABCOM members for over 25 years. They also continued to develop an organization of pastors by electing officers. The Haitian Pastors participated in a joint gathering of HABMA—the Haitian American Baptist Ministers Association of Massachusetts—and the pastors of VT/NH. TABCOM was represented at the meeting of Asian Women in Ministry from throughout the United States.

Our region is blessed and made more vibrant by the Ministries of the Liaisons and the pastors and Churches with whom they work.

Serving Christ,

Rev. Mary Miller
Executive Minister
President’s Reflection
Annette Thomas

“David conferred with each of his officers, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds. He then said to the whole assembly of Israel, if it seems good to you and if it is the will of the Lord our God, let us send word far and wide to the rest of our brothers… to come and join us”. (1 Chronicles 13:1-2).

Our TABCOM family is not only hearers of God’s call to action. The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts are doers who take action on the word of God. God’s purpose for TABCOM and for each of us and our local church is equipped with a deep well of living waters that will never run dry. The grace of God endures forever. It has been a blessing for me to serve for two terms as president of this organization. I want to express my gratitude for the many people I have met, worked with and have come to know during my tenure as president. A great number of which I would not have met otherwise. Each of you have shone an amazing commitment to TABCOM’s future mission and ministries of the 250 local churches.

The unforeseeable challenges the denomination faced in 2016-2017 are disconcerting to some, but no worries. We are not defeated because we serve a God who is able. I am optimistic that strategic recovery is on the horizon. I am looking forward to the reconfiguration of TABCOM, a plan envisioned by Executive Minister Mary Day Miller. Once the plan is implemented, the blessings upon TABCOM will triumph over all adversities in this millennium. This is an opportune time to use different approaches to reconfigure TABCOM and to narrow the cultural gap between the traditionalists’ and millennials’ method of conducting church services. It is my hope that the plan continues to move forward in these specific areas:

1. Reach out to millennials and provide coaching/mentoring and training programs.
2. Utilize the expertise of elder servants/leaders within the local congregations to impart wisdom to the next generation.
3. Partner with and encourage any level of participation from local churches.
4. Revisit/revamp bylaws to allow for tactical performances in this millennium instead of being hindered by outdated requirements.
5. Bylaws changes will broaden duties and responsibilities of members of the Board of Directors in an effort to increase synergy among ministry teams.

It has been a privilege to serve for the past two years; I am grateful for the opportunity. It has truly been a blessing for me, one that I will forever hold dear. I wish many blessings upon TABCOM family corporately and individually for many profitable years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Rowell-Thomas,
President, Board of Directors/TABCOM
Administration & Finance
Dexter Bishop, chair

I wish to thank the members of Administration & Finance and TABCOM staff for their support and dedication to the work of the committee. 2017 was a challenging year for A & F. TABCOM’s primary source of income continues to decline while expenses continue to rise.

We initiated a review of our churches to determine ownership of the property and those churches that have revisionary clauses in their deeds. We are presently working with three churches to resolve insurance issues or actual disposition of the property. If you have any questions reach out to myself or Richard Wolf.

Appointed Members of A & F in 2017
Dexter Bishop, Chair ~ Lynn, First Baptist
Fred Drauschke ~ Medford, First Baptist
Weimin Feng, TABCOM Treasurer ~ Wakefield, First Baptist
Rev. Dana Gosnal ~ Boston, People’s Baptist
Rev. Tali Jamir ~ Waltham, First Baptist
Rev. Eric Nelson ~ Lynn, Washington St. Baptist

Kevin E. Porter ~ Lowell, First United Baptist
Rev. LeSette Wright ~ Boston, Tremont Temple
Rev. Simeon Damas ~ Tewksbury, First Baptist
Earl Norman ~ Boston, First Baptist
Annette Thomas, ex officio, TABCOM President
Rev. Mary Miller, ex officio ~ TABCOM Executive Minister

Thank you to the following staff who provided support or reports for our monthly meetings.
Ed Guerard ~ Coordinator, Friends of Regional Ministries
Richard Wolf, Director ~ TABCOM Administration & Finance and Camps and Conferences
Daniel Everitt ~ Director, Grotonwood Camp & Conference Center
Kasandra Kane ~ Director, Oceanwood Camp & Conference Center
2017 was a year of achievement for both the ministry and finances at Oceanwood. In 2015, we implemented a 3 year plan that included investment in year-round staff and the development of our Christian Camping Ministry and Horse Ministry. The plan included a projected loss for two years, with 2017 being the year we’d begin seeing returns on the investments.

We are pleased to state that we have exceeded our revenue goals, but more importantly surpassed the projected goals of people served at Oceanwood.

Our combined ministries in camping, retreats, and equestrian activities served 2,005 individuals in 2017. We have continued our trend of steady growth, and are projected to continue further down the path in 2018.

Our Pastor In Residence program continues to flourish, with TABCOM pastors serving during one of our weeks of summer camp.

There are still a myriad of opportunities for growth and improvement in our ministries. While we take a moment to celebrate the achievements of 2017, we do so with the drive and passion to impact even more lives in 2018. Financially, we will remain vigilant of cash flow, which becomes concerning in the height of the winter months.
2017 Horse Ministry Highlights
The Horse Program Director & Horsemanship Program Staff at The Oceanwood Equestrian Center set forth several aggressive initiatives to assist in steady growth for 2017. This growth was not only within Oceanwood’s programming but within the community. These horse ministry initiatives included building new relationships with local business owners as well as developing and/or consistently maintaining partnerships with local organizations. The highlights for The Oceanwood Equestrian Center are as follows:

**Metrics:**
Horse Summer Camp has evidenced a positive, steady growth in camper registrations since Horse Program, Jen Hayes, took over the position in February, 2015. Camper numbers are reflected below:
2014: 24 campers
2015: 35 campers
2016: 56 campers
2017: 70 campers

Along with steady growth in camper numbers, a successful seasonal horsemanship activities/horse riding lesson program (Feb-late Nov) continued. The number of lessons given during the season are reflected below:
2015: > 80.
2016: > 175
2017: > 288

**New Equestrian Center Program Initiatives:**
Along with a rebrand of Oceanwood’s Horse Program title to Oceanwood Equestrian Center & Oceanwood Summer Horsemanship Camps, Jen Hayes is proud to announce several new initiatives that rolled out in 2017. These initiatives include:

1.) **Junior Instructor Program** - a program in which potential instructor candidates must attend four classroom trainings, successfully complete a 10-page written exam, complete 125 hours of shadow hours/sample teaching, & successfully pass a riding exam. Oceanwood’s first Junior Instructor graduated from the program in August, 2017 and is currently teaching beginner riders and will be joining Summer Camp 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEBC Oceanwood</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Bank Accounts</td>
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<td>34,102</td>
<td>16,673</td>
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<td>16,673</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Accounts</td>
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<td>25,263</td>
<td>33,323</td>
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<td>Total Bank Accounts</td>
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<td>345</td>
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<td>3,565</td>
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<td>36,280</td>
<td>1,866</td>
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<td>69,603</td>
<td>13,806</td>
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<td>Long-Term Liabilities</td>
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<td>Total Long-Term Liabilities</td>
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<td>22,000</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>85,409</td>
<td>69,603</td>
<td>15,806</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.) **Rec Trotters** - a 4-week partnership program with Old Orchard Beach Recreation Department to expose local youth to not only the Horsemanship Program, but also to the many other programs at Oceanwood.

3.) **Horsemanship Club with Thornton Academy** - a 4-week program designed to introduce local and multinational high school students to horsemanship thru a mutual partnership with our neighboring town, Saco’s, high school students.

A total of three, 4-week sessions, were executed in 2017 exposing 15 students to Oceanwood’s herd, staff, and training techniques.

4.) **Old Orchard Beach Life Skills - Room 106 Partnership** - a program completely funded in donations offering OOB High School students with disabilities the opportunity to experience therapeutic riding in a structured and nurturing environment.

**Worthy of Acknowledgment:**
Along with providing a year-round ministry, continued staff development, and herd maintenance & training, the Oceanwood Equestrian Center had some other notables in 2017, including:

* acquisition of a UTV via donation from Landstar & local business owners & supporters
* continued partnerships & invitations to OOB & OP parades with our herd
* redevelopment of paddock fence lines and barnyard via volunteer assistance
* public exposure including:
  a.) ECTA Horse Expo
  b.) Massachusetts Equine Affaire (4 day event)
  c.) Biddeford + Saco Board of Director election
  d.) Biddeford + Saco Job Fair
  e.) 30 minute Radio interview with Biddeford + Saco Executive Director
  f.) Saco Main Street Harvest Festival
  g.) Saco Main Street Parade of Lights
  h.) Oceanwood Christmas Spectacular
  i.) #GivingTuesday - in which $900 was raised
Grotonwood Core

Income across the board in 2017, apart from Natures Classroom saw a reduction.

For Camping there were two major influences, a lack of Winter Camp, which typically generates around $40,000 and no Summer Director being in place to promote and recruit for camp. New Directors were recruited and in place for June, just as summer started. 2018 summer planning and promotion began in the last quarter of 2017, which will have a positive affect on income for 2018.

The loss of Memorial Lodge took it’s toll on H1 income for conferencing, however the completion of Prescott Lodge in June, will be a great asset to the conferencing ministry. A stronger H2 and bookings for Q1 2018 being almost full before the end of year proves that.

In addition to the reduced income, expenses rose in 2017 again in almost all areas. However, some positive news comes from the Kitchen. Daniel Kaleo sky rocketed the dining experience and quality of food by creating a new varied menu, which is tailored to each party and cooked from scratch where ever possible. Cooking from scratch, shopping around for the best suppliers and maximizing the food purchased has helped reduced kitchen expenses, over the increased investment in his salary.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grotonwood</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<td>10,000</td>
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<td>214,016</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
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<td>Natures Classroom</td>
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<td>193,500</td>
<td>224,197</td>
<td>193,500</td>
<td>215,000</td>
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<td>416,340</td>
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<td>34,575</td>
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<td>40,740</td>
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<td>925,712</td>
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<td>1,018,900</td>
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</table>
In 2017 due to the increased costs and reduced income our cash position decreased year on year. However 2016 was an unusual year to compare to with as the Memorial Lodge fund has a huge affect on the figures.

Our short term asset/liability ratio finished at 0.81 for the year, which ideally should be at least over 1.0. However, this figure is typical for Grotonwood as deposits for retreats and camping, which contain an element of surplus are held until the event and then transferred from current liabilities into revenue after the event.
Our mission at Grotonwood is to see “lives transformed and hearts renewed”. In 2017 over 352 Adults with disabilities, 393 children and an additional 2,700 people through conferences and retreats experienced a place away from the busyness of school, work and home. Away from the distractions of the TV, internet and phone they worshiped together, grew closer to Christ and took time for renewal and growth in our awe inspiring and peaceful outdoor setting. This is only possible through the support of our staff, volunteers, donors and our TABCOM churches. Thank you.

Highlights for 2017 Include:

Project New Hope Summer Camp. This was a pilot run for children of veterans and active service personnel. Many of these children had moved homes several times and struggled to make friends. This week at camp introduced them to children of the same age in the same scenario. With this common bond friendships were made and a wonderful week of camp was had. A specialized daily chapel service, with fun engaging messages along with bible study every night introduced the gospel to these children. This program will be continued in 2018.

Make a Change Inc Summer Camp. A pilot summer camp for children in the foster care system. Grotonwood was given the precious opportunity to make a difference in these young lives. Many came to camp with their belongings in a black trash bag many had been abused in the past. Sexually. Physically. Emotionally. Grotonwood shared the good news with these children, gave them a peaceful place to be and enabled them to have fun, to be a kid. After the successful pilot this program will be expanded in 2018.

Adult Fall Vacation. A record breaking number of adults met in the fall for a retreat where they worshipped in the chapel and saw Gods beauty at Grotonwood in the fall. A waiting list of adults was formed as we run out of beds in Blanchard Hall. This will be continued in 2018.

Cultivate. This was a chance for our summer camp children to spend a weekend, having fun, praising, worshiping and studying their bibles. This was the first year for Cultivate and 32 young people spent the weekend studying Matthew 5:13-16 learning how to be salt and light in their lives. From their experience at Cultivate a camper is moving schools in order to move away from negative influencers in his life.

A summer counselor was lead to change her career path after spending eight weeks with our adults with disabilities. Her natural ability and love of these campers was revealed to her whilst she served at Grotonwood. She is now completing her education in Ireland, which will end with her working full time for adults with disabilities.
The operating income reduction in 2016 continued into 2017. United Mission contributions from our family of churches continued the multi year trend down. Add to this the end of Pines Management fees as they moved to another organization, and the consequence came as we anticipated. MMF was well responded to by many in the appeal for increased support, however this appeared to be seasonal, and not a true and continuing trend.

We did see what we hope to be a bottoming out of losses, most significantly from the reduced expense for regular staff. The largest portion of this reduction came as a result of the fact that the Mission and Stewardship portion was not filled for most of the year after the departure of Rev Sandra Dorsainvil.

Late in 2017 there were adjustments made to the staff structure, which did contribute. There is an extraordinary expense from the support of the former Braintree Baptist Church. When this is eventually sold, any of the accumulated expenses will be repaid and the balance from the sale has the opportunity to be added to the invested funds from our other real estate. This could then add to the income on account 41094, and be a continuing source of growing support.

Thru the end of 2017, and into 2018, the staff model was evolving with reductions that were voluntary, and some that were not. Late in 2017 a suggestion from the Director of Finance was offered to re-imagine the structure of the staff to combine some roles, and re-assign others as a potential longer term way to both develop revenue and be able to fund the staff in this new configuration.
In 2017 there was a significant re-bound of invested funds, and grant activity. As we transferred our activity to a local bank, one of he cash accounts was educed and the other replaced it. Over the year we did see growth in cash, with a corresponding growth in the liability accounts that reflect cash being held for others. This report has the introduction of the Short Term Asset / Liability Ratio, a useful reference to be aware of the true balance of how much of the cash we hold is reserved for others. Anything greater that 1.0 means that we are in acceptable shape, but the goal is to have it be 2.0 or better. This will be tracked as we move forward.

Invested funds finished the transition to the new managers, and with the performance of markets in 2017, saw a considerable improvement. The TrandFORMation Fund had the benefit of strong markets, and considerable contributions, have this fund well on the way to the $1M target to begin the ability to draw.

Within account 16500 Other Invested Funds, are the accounts for Elder Ministries, Church and Society, and others. These accounts have stabilized and grown to the point that they can fund on and annual grant basis, ministries in keeping with the designations fo the funds. A portion had been used in 2017, with other applications to be exploited in 2018.

As a general observations, the Balance Sheet, that is the listing of resources and debts, is in a reasonably good condition. The invested funds, and the potential for additions to these from contributions, prudent management, and potential real estate sales, will become more and more critical. As annual support remains a challenge to either recover, or at least level off, these sources of support become essential to continuing the Core ministries of TABCOM.

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<th>TABCOM</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>227,830</td>
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Friends of Regional Ministries
Ed Guerard, coordinator

The “Friends” of Regional Ministries were “extra” generous in 2017, giving the largest amount for one year ($509,403) since the program was introduced in 2003. This brings their total support to almost $4,000,000!

Those donations in 2017 have helped to make several important improvements including the completion of Prescott Lodge, the development of the Ronny Lanier fireplace, the expansion of the horse ministry at Oceanwood, and the development of a memorial garden at Grotonwood. They also contributed over $60,000 for camperships, more than $144,000 for operational expenses, and $165,280 to the TransFORMation Fund (endowment).

While every gift was important and appreciated, one in particular needs further explanation. Mr. Robert Nelson Morley, a member of First Baptist Church of Waltham, made a generous donation of $150,000 to be invested and used for camperships and to maintain Prescott Lodge. He also matched the offering at the Annual Gathering of TABCOM and with that match, the offering totaled $21,000!

In keeping with the concept of “friend raising” as well as “fund raising,” FORM staff visited 116 donors and used those visits to show appreciation and share information on how donations were being used.

To the 700 individuals, churches, and organizations that continue to support TABCOM and Grotonwood/Oceanwood through the Friends of Regional Ministries, thank you, Thank You, and THANK YOU again for putting your faith into action and using your money for ministry!

Respectfully submitted,
Edmund A. Guerard
Coordinator, Friends of Regional Ministries
Area Ministry Services
Rev. Marlene Gil, associate executive minister for church relations

2017 was the second year of the theme “Building on the Rock” (Matthew 7:24-25) with the focus of the year being on the church. Throughout the eight associations of TABCOM churches are seeking to discern how to truly build their ministries on the Rock of Jesus Christ. This effort has not been an easy one, and there is not one size that fits every association or congregation. Association Resource Coordinators (ARCs) have needed to focus upon observing where and how the Holy Spirit might be leading as they seek to be of help to local congregations.

Working with churches who are searching for a new settled pastor has become an increasing portion of my and the other Coordinators’ ministry. In 2017, 33 of our churches were seeking new pastoral leadership. In other words 13% of all of TABCOM churches experienced major changes and transition, however when looking at our most active churches over 30% experienced a leadership change. This is significant and of equal significance is that 6 out of 7 active pastors are over 40 years old. “Building on the Rock” takes on a different meaning when so many churches in our region are experiencing their pastors putting plans in place to transition into retirement.

This rate of change affects every aspect of ministry in the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts. It makes all the more crucial relationships between churches and clergy within Associations. Church leaders have opened their pulpits so a committee can listen to a prospective candidate preach in a neutral setting. Churches that have already called a new settled pastor have been willing to candidly share their learnings with churches just beginning the process. The many meetings ARCs have with pastoral search committees during the eighteen months to two years they are prayerfully determining where God might be leading a local church is a privileged position from which we God at work in real time. ARCs provide support as search committees discern who might be the person God called to equip the church for the next phase of building on the Rock. Already established pastors are welcoming new colleagues and seeking to be helpful as the new pastor becomes established. Both clergy and church leaders are making the extra effort to show up at the installation services to celebrate the new chapter of ministry of pastor and people.

The ARC ministry is not limited to placement. ARCs are often the first contact for churches who are seeking counsel about anything from a church conflict to the beginning of a new ministry. No one expects ARCs to have all the answers, but in collaboration with TABCOM staff they link churches and pastor as to the resources they need. Very often those resources are already being developed by a pastor at a sister church. In this way ARCs put the Associational Principal to work regularly.

ARCs also work on leadership development with the Executive Committees of the eight associations of Tabcom. Associations have needed to be very attentive to the questions around vision and transition when considering topics of their Fall and Spring gatherings. It is an exciting and a challenging time to be
in ministry. To help meet these challenges the Association Resource Coordinators gathered this winter for a vision retreat. The focus of the retreat was not to determine a vision for the associations with whom they work but instead to consider how each coordinator’s particular gifts might help church leaders, pastors, and associations move forward in the purposes God has called them.

We also sought to find ways that coordinators might be able to help each other in their work. During the winter gathering we prayerfully considered how the priorities identified by the TABCOM Board of Directors might inform the work of the Associations and the ARCs who work with them.

The team of Association Coordinators, the Rev. Mary Miller and myself meet together three times a year. In addition to on-going discussions, strategizing, and prayer there have also been opportunities to invite a guest to present on a specific topic that the ARC Team would like to have some training. Last year we were blessed to have the Rev. Dr. Jeff Johnson from the American Baptist Home Mission Societies talk with us about approaches to church revitalization.

TABCOM’s Associations are working to put in place a structure that reflects the priorities of their particular Association. For example, The Berkshire Association has implemented a simplified set of by-laws. The Boston South West Association has a functioning Executive Committee, and Pioneer Valley has restarted their Associations Ministry Committee to help shepherd those who are seeking ordination.

It is a joy to be in ministry with such a gifted and committed team of Coordinators. While looking at the many ways they support churches, pastors and associations, you may get the impression that this alone is their ministry. For most ARCs this work is done alongside a pastoral ministry with a congregation, and in one case a full-time secular profession is an added to those responsibilities. Our goal is to be busy but to build a network of mutual support where churches and pastors are able to bless each other and build up the body of Christ. In 2017 that is not an easy task, however it is exciting to witness the many ways that churches are seeking to build upon the Rock.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Marlene Gil
Associate Executive Minister for Church Relations
The Commission On Ordained Ministry (COOM) is made up primarily of ordained pastors and some lay people from a cross section of our American Baptist ministries in Massachusetts. The two major functions of the commission deal with ordination issues through the work of the Ministerial Preparation Committee (MinPrep) and Ministerial Standing/Recognition issues through the work of the Ministerial Standing Committee (MinStanding). COOM and its committees meet quarterly in September, December, March and June. Currently we have appointed a working committee to develop a Baptist History, Theology & Polity Course for people seeking ordination/recognition within TABCOM. One such course has already been developed by Rev. Dr. Mar Imsong of the Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries program for immigrant/limited-English speaking pastors seeking ordination/recognition. This new course will fill the void left by the departure of Andover Newton to Yale Divinity School. We solicit your prayers in these discussions.

The following actions took place since our last annual gathering:

**Individuals ordained as American Baptist ministers in 2017**

- Daryn Stylianopoulos, January 21, 2017, Jamaica Plain, First Baptist
- Margaret Howard, May 28, 2017, Brockton, Messiah Baptist
- Amy Clark Feldman, June 25, 2017, Newton, First Baptist
- Karina Fontanez, July 16, 2017, Lynn, Zion Baptist
- Kathryn House, September 17, 2017, Jamaica Plain, First Baptist
- Loretta Saint-Louis, October 1, 2017, Cambridge, Union Baptist
- Catherine Miller, October 15, 2017, Boston, Lion of Judah

**Individuals granted Ministerial Standing as American Baptist ordained ministers in 2017**

- John Carter, September 14, 2017, Jamaica Plain, First Baptist
- Jephthet Roseme, September 14, 2017, Everett, Eglise Baptiste Haitienne de Siloe
- Ko Ko Lay, June 8, 2017, Lowell, Lowell International Church

**Colleagues who went home to the Lord in 2017**


Respectfully Submitted
Rev. Dr. Richard E. Haley, Chair
Mission & Stewardship
Kevin E. Porter, chair
Rev. Howard McLendon, TABCOM Mission & Stewardship Advocate

The Mission and Stewardship Ministry Team (MSMT) has been in a year of transition with the departure of our Associate Executive Minister for Mission and Stewardship Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil in April 2017 and no permanent replacement having been retained yet.

We are very happy with the participation and involvement of our adjacent region in Rhode Island as we teamed together for MissionWorks 2017. Our next MissionWorks 2018 (October 11-13, 2018) is being combined with the Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries Inc. to offer a more expanded offering over a three-day period. The title of this year’s Missionworks 2018 will be “Embracing Hospitality” and will continue to be held at DoubleTree by Hilton in Leominster, MA. The foundational scripture will be Hebrews 13:1, “Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it”.

The traditional support for our ABC offerings continues to be a foundation for American Baptists Churches in Massachusetts to support the portfolio of missions and crisis support in our Massachusetts region, the USA and internationally.

Accomplishments
1) MissionWorks 2017 – Attendees were rewarded with a dynamic portfolio of speakers and workshops this year. Theme: “Connect – Cultivate – Communicate; Go and Tell What You Have Seen and Heard” Some of our speakers included: Rev. Morris Stimage-Norwood; Rev. Dr. Reppa Cottrell; Andrew Oliveira; Rev. Lisa Harris Other venues at the conference included: Hands-on Workshops; Habitat For Humanity project in local area; White Cross bandage wrapping; Islam 101; and a Youth Program. Our focus areas were based off scripture from John 4:1-26; 42 to Connect, to Cultivate, and to Communicate as Jesus was the example for us to follow. The conference ended with a wonderful Celebration Banquet.


3) Mission Advocates –If your church has not identified the person in your church that will be the communicator between your church and TABCOM for mission, stewardship, and creation care then please contact Kevin E. Porter to become involved ASAP.

4) Creation Care Ministries –If you would like to learn more about this key ministry, please contact Kristina Keefe-Perry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin E. Porter
Mission & Stewardship, Chair
Creation Care Ministries
Kristina Keefe-Perry, coordinator

Creation Care Ministry provides education in reduction of carbon footprints and encourages all of us to be better caretakers of the Earth bestowed upon us. The ministry facilitates the development of strong community partnerships with local climate change faith-based and secular organizations. Creation Care Ministries seek to learn, teach and encourage environmental stewardship. TABCOM churches in our region will strive to make choices that lessen negative impact on our Earth, and be better disciples of God’s creation.

Highlights of 2017:

Educational Outreach:
- CCM Coordinator presented at TAG and MissionWorks, collaborated with FBC/Needham on the summer Vacation Bible School curriculum to integrate with the theme of Creation Care and the origins of the Universe in conjunction with a focus on the Solar Eclipse in August of 2017.
- CCM Coordinator was part of a planning team for Ecumenical Climate Retreat at Rolling Ridge Conference Center - which gathered forty for a day-long retreat.
- CCM Coordinator conducted an Earth Day Outreach campaign.
- CCM Coordinator continued outreach with contact with many churches in the Old Colony, Judson, Stillman and Pioneer Valley Associations: leading Bible Study, giving educational presentations, and preaching at nine different TABCOM churches.

Advocacy:
- CCM is part of the Massachusetts Interfaith Coalition for Climate Action (MAICCA).
- CCM was a core part of the planning team for the event “Exodus from Fossil Fuels” - which took

Church Energy Efficiency:
- Continued to collaborate with the Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light to promote their Sustainable House of Worship events.
- Provided monthly articles through TABCOM Notes on energy efficiency tools and environmental stewardship steps.
- CCM created Guidelines for Starting a “Green Team” at churches.

Note: This year, in an effort to conserve the program resources, the CCM Coordinator took a month without pay in the summer, and another month over Thanksgiving and Christmas -- periods when outreach is generally slow.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristina Keefe-Perry, Coordinator

Relationship Ministries

The George Wright Fund task force of Relationship Ministries met once in 2017 and distributed $19,000 to three churches to help pay down mortgage principle. Grant recipients were: First Baptist Church in Hanson, First Baptist Church in Fitchburg and First Baptist Church in North Attleboro. Churches with mortgage debt that meet the fund’s qualifications are encouraged to apply for this grant. Information about the George Wright Fund is at www.tabcom.org in the Resources section.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Moore, George Wright Fund Task Force, member and Wendy Maxfield, staff
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781-641-1095 • bfs35@hotmail.com
Joanne Brown, Treasurer
3 Walden Road, Wakefield, MA 01880
781-246-2340 • jojofam@juno.com

ABC of Rhode Island (ABCORI)
Rev. Tom Wiles, Executive Minister
54 Exeter Road, Exeter, RI 02822
800-294-6318 • twiles@abcori.org
Email: info@abcori.org • Web: www.abcori.org

Boston City Mission Society
14 Beacon Street, # 203, Boston, MA 02108
617-742-6830 • www.citymissionboston.org

Center for Career Development & Ministry
Rev. Margaret Lewis, Executive Director
exec@ccdm.org
121 Manchester Street, Nashua, MA 03064
603-943-7611 • info@ccdm.org • www.ccdm.org

Conference of Baptist Ministers in Massachusetts
Rev. Michael Harvey, Executive Director
15 Spring Valley Road, Worcester, MA 01609
508-868-3358 • cbmm@charter.net

Rev. Milton P. Ryder, Treasurer
3 Free Street (PO Box 7549)
Ocean Park, ME 04063
207-934-5354 • usryders@maine.rr.com
www.conferenceofbaptistministers.com

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Ministries
Anne Freeman, Director
101 Pleasantview Street, Roslindale, MA 02131
617-325-3809 • 617-447-5477
annefreeman14@gmail.com

MA Baptist Charitable Society
Doug Tatreau, Treasurer
781-664-4266 • dtatreau@comcast.net
www.massbaptistcharitable.org

MA Baptist Investment Trust
Rev. Brian Dixon, brian.dixon117@gmail.com

MA Baptist Multicultural Ministries
Rev. Mar Imsong, Executive Director
1580 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420
781-457-8058 • mbmmin@gmail.com

MA Council of Churches
Rev. Laura Everett, Executive Director
14 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108
617-523-2771 • council@masscouncilofchurches.org
www.masscouncilofchurches.org

MA Interfaith Power & Light
PO Box 590564
Newton Centre, MA 02459
617-244-0755 • www.mipandl.org

Ministers and Missionaries Benefits Board (MMBB)
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1700, NY, NY 10115
800-986-6222 • www.mmbb.org

Northern Baptist Education Society
Rev. Roger Spinn, Executive Secretary
PO Box 2787, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
508-693-2163 • rspin6477@aol.com

Doug Tatreau, Treasurer
781-664-4266 • dtatreau@comcast.net
northernbaptisteducation.org
# TABCOM Presidents

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