



SECRETARY-TREASURER OF MISSIONS

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OF MISSIONS EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY 19, 2020

On Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at 2:00 PM, in the facilities of Northern Hills Missionary Baptist Church in Texarkana, Arkansas, the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Association was called to order by Missionary Committee Chairman, Edwin Button [NOTE: *Articles of Agreement, Article IX, Section 2 and Article XIV*]. In addition to the Standing Missionary Committee of the American Baptist Association most of the associational officers, including President Terry Parrish and Parliamentarian David Butimore, along with many pastors from churches fellowshipping in the American Baptist Association, were present.

Brother Button shared with the brethren that this meeting was called due to the fact that the Messenger Meeting of the American Baptist Association scheduled for June 23-25, 2020, in Springfield, Missouri, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. With no Messenger Meeting for 2020, there remained a few items which required the attention of the brethren in order to continue the work of the association and to be prepared for the 2021 Messenger Meeting scheduled to convene in Charleston, West Virginia, on June 22-24, 2021. What follows is a summary of those proceedings and decisions.

A motion was made, received and seconded, that the Executive Committee accept the 2019-2020 list of recommended missionaries as the list for 2020-2021 and that no new recommendations be included. [Cited with this motion was the 1945 precedent, noted in the 1946 Yearbook on page 39, which states "*that the same missionaries, both inter-state and foreign, as elected by the messengers at Seminole in 1944, be recognized by this committee in the continuation of their services in their respective fields of labor.*"] This motion was followed by a motion to amend to include all sixteen newly recommended missionaries on the 2020-2021 list. The amendment failed. This was followed by a substitute amendment to consider the 2020-2021 newly recommended missionaries according to the three categories identified by the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions: (1) Change in Sponsorship, (2) Formerly Recommended, and (3) Truly New Missionaries. The substitute amendment failed. The original motion was then passed.

Those missionaries left off the 2020-2021 list of recommended missionaries by this decision are as follows: **Change in Sponsorship** – Fred Ando (Hubbard MBC, Mt. Calm, TX), Lucretio Booc (Mt. Pisgah MBC, Searcy, AR) and Yolito de Gracia (Abiko BC, Abiko, Japan and Unity MBC, Richwood, TX); **Formerly Recommended** – Carlos Angulo (Sweet Home MBC, Prattsville, AR), Percy Hernandez (Landmark MBC, Bedford, IN), David Manary (Cedar Creek, Palestine, TX) and Jesse Mercardo (White Oaks MBC, Greenville, SC); **Truly New Missionaries** – John Boone (Friendship MBC, Flint, MI), Daniel Branscum (Mohawk MBC, Rome, NY), Alfonso Cristobol (Landmark MBC, Pine Mountain, GA), Jose Leos (El Olam MBC, Tenaha, TX), Ruben Marquez (Getsamani MBC, Center, TX), David Rohr (St. Helens MBC, St. Helens, OR), Wesley Webber (Bethel MBC, Iuka, MS) and Devin Wood (Sunbreak MBC, Olympia, WA).

Please note that George Dever (Nevills Chapel MBC, Mt. Pleasant, TX) is considered a newly recommended missionary for 2020-2021 due to the fact that he is changing designations from Interstate on Salary to Interstate on Designated Funds, which, otherwise, could be done at the request of his sending church via a letter to the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions' Office.

In addition to the above lists, please be aware that the following previously-recommended missionaries were intentionally not re-recommended by their Sponsoring Churches for the 2020-2021 associational year: Gheorge Cormos (Romania), William Davenport (USA), Gene Gabrielson (Mexico), Brandon Jones (USA), Alwin Malaza (Philippines), Sergio Rodriguez (Mexico), John Strader (Kenya), Dan Watkins (USA), Jeremy Valladares (Mexico) and Michael Weiler (Indiana).

Further business introduced by the Standing Missionary Committee was that no raises be granted the full-salaried missionaries for 2020-2021 and that no salary raises be granted to the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions' Office. The Standing Missionary Committee clerk's report was given by Jim Nixon. It included the agreed-upon acknowledgement that it was time for the Missions' Office vehicle to be replaced and that the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions begin that process. The clerk's report was approved.

The Moderator then recognized the Baptist Sunday School Committee for their report. Chairman David Butimore called on Clerk Dennis Richey to present an abbreviated report of the BSSC. He noted that there were two line items to be considered from the BSSC report: (1) to request a 5% increase in literature prices beginning with the Winter Quarter (2020-2021) and (2) that no raises be granted for the Business Manager's Office or the Editor in Chief's Office. Dean Grigsby, Business Manager, was recognized to speak to the matter of price increases in literature. He explained that this request had largely to do with the effects of COVID-19 on the sales of literature. Separate motions were made, received, seconded and passed to accept both line items from the Baptist Sunday School Committee.

At the advice of the Parliamentarian, the Moderator ruled that all elected officers and speakers for the 2019-2020 associational year and the 2020 Messenger Meeting maintain their respective roles until for the 2020-2021 associational year and the 2021 Messenger Meeting. The Moderator also ruled that all salaries accommodated by the American Baptist Association be paid until the messengers can meet in 2021.

A motion was made, received and seconded, that a printed copy of the minutes, church directory, memorials and other reports required by the Articles of Agreement be provided to the churches in booklet form. All reports to be included in this booklet should be provided to the clerks no later than August 1, 2020.

The vote of the Executive Committee insures that the missionaries currently receiving salary funds from the Office of Secretary-Treasurer of Missions can continue to receive those funds; however, there remains a list of newly recommended missionaries who will not be eligible to receive funding from the Missions' Office until after the 2021 Messenger Meeting. If your church can help those missionaries between now and the 2021 Messenger Meeting please send offerings to their Sponsoring Churches.

Finally, can your church help with the Standing Missionary Committee travel expenses? This year the committeemen were asked to perform additional duties which required many of them to stay extra nights in Texarkana and change their travel plans more than once. If so, please send offerings to the Missions' Office.

Respectfully,
Roger Stewart
Secretary-Treasurer of Missions
American Baptist Association