

OFFICIAL NOTICE #1 OF FUTURE PROPOSAL TO 2018 CHURCH DELEGATES TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNANCE CHANGES

“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.”

Mark 2:22

As many of our own churches have experienced, ABC Wisconsin has faced circumstances in which ***the formal ways we organize are no longer relevant and/or functional.*** [These formal ways are defined in our legally-binding and governing institutional documents: Articles of Incorporation & Bylaws].

Examples of irrelevance/dysfunction (this is not a full list):

1. Our Board of Managers must include representatives appointed by associations, yet most of our associations no longer communicate or meet due to varying reasons.
2. Our commissions (or small groups that take lead in some of our region’s ministry and missional efforts) require a defined number of elected people. Few people respond to the invitation to participate in the region-wide nomination process, and it is becoming harder to find people interested in and available for these service opportunities.

Giving energy to maintain a structure that no longer looks like our reality or matches our mission efforts has resulted in low morale, poor stewardship of people’s time and talents, and missed opportunities for dynamic gospel work.

Region leadership has already been trying to understand and address this reality using varying approaches. Some changes are already in place, and ***now is the time for “new wineskins” to hold the “new wine”*** – a new organizational structure that supports the way we are pursuing mission today and for the foreseeable future. [reference to Mark 2:22]

The following pages outline ONE of the ways we are addressing the challenges. The Governance Task Force has taken on the work to ***redefine our formal ways of organizing through revisions to our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.***

Included in this packet:

- Rationale for governance re-structure and goals for the new design
- Proper process to make changes to our official governance documents
- Overview of proposed changes
- Revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, pending approval of proposed changes

Members of the Governance Task Force:

Elected: Eric Lundquist, David Perkins, Karen Sundland, Chakravarthy Zadda

Ex-officio: Delight Antos; *Staffed by:* Marie Onwubuariri, Carolyn Dugan, John Jones IV

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF WISCONSIN, INC.
BOARD OF MANAGERS PROPOSAL TO THE
DELEGATES AT THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING
INFORMED BY THE WORK OF THE GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

*Rationale for Governance Re-structure and
Overview of the Proposed Changes to the ABC/WI
Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws*

The Governance Task Force (GTF), by election at the 2017 Annual Meeting and appointment of the Board President, is fulfilling its duty under the ABC/WI Strategic Plan of 2017-2020 of providing a proposal for a revised regional structure because of discerned stagnancy and/or stunted functionality in the Board of Managers (the Board), associations, commissions, and committees.

Following are two categories of goals that the GTF distilled from the various input sources to this process and highlights of proposals toward these goals:

- Goal set #1: A dynamic organization made up of people who are eager to engage regional ministry and able to contribute value-added through their talents, expertise, and energy, and that functions as a multi-directional training model for shared leadership for employed and volunteer personnel.
 - An intentional approach to recruitment, development, and accountability of diverse volunteers
 - A move away from one-year term representative seats on the Board and nominating committee
 - A move away from formal definition of Associations and their related responsibilities
 - Increased expectations, accountability, and opportunity for leadership of the Board across region ministries and mission
- Goal set #2: A leaner Board and more flexible framework that enables the Region to nimbly serve our member churches and related ministers, to better collaborate with mission partners and stakeholders, and to responsibly adjust with new or changing circumstances and opportunities
 - All-elected Board of 15 members down streamlining from a board of 21 members.
 - Representation from Affiliated Bodies (ABWM, ABMen, Ministers Council) more appropriately placed in commissions
 - Personnel on regional committees and commissions need not be elected at annual gatherings
 - Addition of “Collaboratives,” allowing input from stakeholders beyond local members churches
 - Built in expectations of forward-thinking and generative engagement of the Board

While building on the solid foundation laid and nurtured by former Board members, region staff, and volunteers, these proposed changes to the organizational framework is a good-faith first step, knowing the actuality of these goals will require implementation and grace-filled refinement as we continue “together living faithfully through Christ today.”