

# Minutes of the National Association of Brethren Church Elders

July 20, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Scott Soden, who led us in prayer.

The minutes and financial report of 2009 were presented and approved as printed.

Victor Hayworth was presented for membership in the association; it was moved and seconded to receive him, and the motion passed.

Emery Hurd submitted the report of the Research and Study Commission. He distributed a report on the discipline of active elders who divorce. It was moved and seconded to incorporate the report in the Brethren Elders Manual. The motion was tabled until the next session. Changes to the Manual of Procedure related to the national certification and oversight of elders was distributed. It was moved to accept the report, the motion was seconded and passed

The Retirement Board distributed a report booklet and informed us on attempts to reduce costs and provide better services. We were advised that all participants will be receiving calls from the administrator. It was moved and seconded to accept the report and the motion passed.

The Benevolence Commission reported that two elders were helped this year. They requested permission to rewrite the guidelines for assistance. It was moved to rewrite the guidelines, and the motion was seconded and carried. The commission offered help to any elder who needs it.

Tim Garner presented the report of the Nurture and Support Commission. The 2010 Pastors' Conference was a success with about forth attending. They announced that the Indiana prayer conference would be held October 18-20. The 2011 Pastors' Conference will be in Bellville March 1-3, and the 2012 Pastors' Conference will be held in Phoenix, AZ. More information will be provided nearer to the dates. It was moved and seconded to receive the report and the motion passed.

Phil Lersch reported on the Peace Initiative, emphasizing:

1. The Biblical directive to be peacemakers
2. The Brethren history of peacemaking
3. The needs of the world
4. The need to educate Brethren on peace

There is a hunger for peace in the lives of young people; and there is a need for peacemaking for all ages—peace within ourselves, marriages, churches, communities, nation, and world. He also discussed available resources—email, links on the Brethren Church website, the Brethren Evangelist, a report book available at conference, the display table. He also stated that he would be meeting with the BYIC during their convention. He also requested pastors to provide email addresses for the peace initiative mailing list, and encouraged them to preach on peace. It was moved and seconded to receive the report and the motion passed.

Bill Ludwig reported on church planting and missiochurch. He reviewed missiochurch and introduced the missiochurch team. Everyone was encouraged to participate in workshops during conference. We were also urged to be on the lookout for people called to plant churches.

The Ashland Theological Seminary report was presented by seminary president John Shultz. The seminary is in transition—the same old same old no longer works. There are a great variety of programs for “nontraditional” students. All issues related to the seminary accreditation have been resolved.

It was moved and seconded to receive the report and the motion passed.

Emery Hurd presented the report of the National Ordination Council. He passed out a report on ordination and commissioning of pastors. There was discussion on commissioning—the requirements and limits of commissioning. With classes now online those seeking commissioning can train online. High standards are needed.

It was moved and seconded to receive the report, and the motion carried.

The session was closed in prayer by Lynn Mercer.

## July 21, 2010

The meeting was called order by President Soden who led us in prayer.

Memorials to Robert Keplinger were presented.

Lynn Mercer presented the report of the Nurture and Support Commission. He reported on the international relationships (written report attached). He encouraged us to continue to build new relationships and improve old ones, to make licensed and commissioned people available to churches, and to “close the cracks” in the system. He then passed around a sheet to update the relationship list.

The ballot was presented and nominations were opened for all offices. Diana Teusch was nominated to the Nurture Commission. It was moved to close nominations and declare elected all uncontested positions, the motion was seconded and carried. One position on the Study and Research Commission was left unfilled.

Pam McQuade was then nominated for the position on the Study and Research Commission, and it was moved to elect her. The motion was seconded and passed.

Gary Diehl introduced Jonathan Reitz, president of CoachNet who spoke about the vision of raising up people to come alongside the people of God to help them determine their next steps in life. As leaders, he asked us, can we see in ourselves the desire to focus on our goals and see them come to life? How do we become faithful first and measure the results second? There was a question and answer session following Reitz’s presentation.

New members were received into the association: Jonathan Dowdy, Tim Craver, and Pam McQuade. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive them.

The 2011 budget was then presented, and it was adopted.

Changes to the policies regarding divorce were presented. It was moved and seconded to adopt the changes. Discussion followed. It was moved to refer the changes back to the committee, that motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

July 22, 2010

The meeting was opened with prayer by Vicky Taylor.

Emery Hurd presented proposed changes to the Manual of Pastoral-Congregational Procedures. It was moved and seconded to adopt the changes. Discussion followed, and the motion failed. The consensus was to set up a dropbox on the NABCE website for further discussion. It was also the consensus to discuss the proposal on divorce there.

Changes for the National Certification of Elders were presented by Emery Hurd. It was moved and seconded to adopt the changes, the motion failed. It was moved to refer the proposal to the Benevolence Commission for revision, the motion seconded and was passed.

William Johnston was presented for membership in the association. It was moved and seconded to receive him, and the motion passed.

Ken Hunn reported that the pastors are the contact point between the national office and the congregations. He requested that we pray for the national office and keep in touch. He also requested that churches send in their tithes each month rather than holding them to help with the cash flow for the national office.

Nate Bebout was nominated for the 2011 scholarship, it was moved and seconded to accept the nomination, and the motion passed.

Tim Garner reported that Jim Thomas was not doing well and would be bedfast by the end of the summer. Richard Morris has a blood infection, and Pat Velanzon is having problems recovering from his surgery and related health issues.

The meeting was closed with prayer by President Scott Soden.

## 2011 NABCE Officers

President Scott Soden  
Vice President T. J. McLaughlin  
Secretary-Treasurer Gerald Barr  
Asst. Sec-Treas Richard Craver

## Commissions

### Study and Research

Vicky Taylor (2011)  
Emery Hurd (2012)  
Lynn Mercer (2013)

### Benevolence

Ron Spyker (2011)  
Rich Hagopian (2012)  
Billy Hesketh (2013)

### Nurture and Support

Jim Koontz (2010)  
Tim Garner (2011)  
Pam McQuade (2013)

## 2010 Ledger

<b>Balance on hand, 1/1/2010</b>		<b>8713.16</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Dues	2950.00	
Interest	60.00	
<u>MMA Contributions</u>	<u>1800.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>4810.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Secretary's Salary	100.00	
Postage	28.00	
James Thomas memorial	1000.00	
James Naff Memorial	1000.00	
<u>Benefits</u>	<u>2552.46</u>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>4680.46</b>
<b>Balance on Hand, 12/31/2010</b>		<b>8842.70</b>

## 2011 Budget

### ANTICIPATED INCOME

Dues	5,200.00
Interest	40.00

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**Total Anticipated Income** **\$ 5,240.00**

### ANTICIPATED EXPENSES

Scholarship	1,250.00
Benevolences	3,000.00
Pastors' Conference	100.00
General Conference expenses	100.00
Postage	100.00
Telephone	20.00
Office supplies	100.00
N O C expenses	250.00
Secretary's fee	100.00
<u>Executive Committee expenses</u>	<u>50.00</u>

**Total Anticipated Expenses** **\$ 5,070.00**

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald A. Barr, Secretary-Treasurer  
N.A.B.C.E.

## 2010 Report for NABCE on Intentional Relationships

Thank you so much for your participation in our first attempt at Intentional Relationships between Brethren Pastors, Elders, Commissioned & Licensed Persons, & Seminary students!

(Send the clip board around as I speak; explain the sheet on the clip board)

Some of the feedback I have received:

“The most helpful part of your Intentional Relationship ministry was getting people together for mutual support. We had great heart and life sharing opportunities. The more we met, the closer we grew in trust and heart-sharing. We’ve become dear friends as pastors. We’ve shared struggles openly and prayed for each other. We’ve seen the Holy Spirit at work transforming lives in the church and we’re thankful to be a part of the Spirit-led experiences.”

“This has been an awesome experience. Thank you for encouraging us to do this. What a blessing!”

“Just a note to thank you for your leadership in this venture.”

“This is a great idea and its implementation to come out of the elders group. I have felt for a long time that things like this SHOULD be what elders are to focus on at their meetings and during the year. PTL & kudos to those who thought of it.”

“Relational” – it’s who we are as Brethren; it’s one of our core values!

If “relational” is who we are as Brethren pastors, elders, etc., this has been a year in which we have nurtured relationships among us!

The vision is for every Brethren elder to be in a one-to-one relationship with another Brethren elder.

The goal is NOT to solve one another’s problems. The goal is to listen to each other & to pray for each other. We want to care for one another!

Questions are sent out each month by email. You don’t have to answer the questions. They are just there to help the time to be intentional.

How can this be improved in the coming year?

What needs to change?

Thank you!

Lynn Mercer, Nurture & Support