

**Living Waters Association Annual Meeting
Minutes
February 26, 2023**

1. Introduction: The Living Waters Association Annual Meeting was held at the First Baptist Church of Corning, NY, on Sunday afternoon, February 26, 2023. The meeting began at 3:04 PM. The Rev. Steve Dygert, Moderator of the Association, called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Worship Time: The Rev. Michael Dickinson, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Corning, led the delegates in a time of worship. Mrs. Debbie Seeley and Mr. Richard Herrick led the congregation in three praise songs: “I Sing Praises To Your Name,” “Here I Am, Lord,” and “Holy Ground.” The Rev. Dickinson then led the group in devotional reflections, beginning with the question, “Who is your favorite child in the Bible?” There were various answers to this question. Then the Rev. Dickinson asked, “What can the children of the Bible teach adults?” He spoke on the example of Joseph, who got himself in a lot of trouble annoying his older brothers, but when God reached him, he was able to use his gifts and abilities to deliver the land of Egypt and his own family from famine. He also spoke of Miriam, who rescued Moses and found a nursemaid for him. At the Red Sea, later, she spoke as a prophetess. She may not get credit, but she was significant. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel were four young men who found themselves in slavery in Babylon but who stood up for what they considered to be right, and because of this they were able to show their captors who God was. The Rev. Dickinson quoted Prov. 22:6: “Train up a child....” We are people of faith, and we look to the next generation, the Rev. Dickinson said.

3. Business Meeting: The business meeting of the Association began at 3:29 PM.

a. Roll Call of Churches: The Secretary of the Association, the Rev. Jeremy Spencer, conducted a roll call of the churches of the Association.

Nr.	Place	Church	Pastor/Leader	Number of Delegates	Number of Visitors
1	Addison	First Baptist Church	Scott Greene	2	
2	Bath	Bath Baptist Church	Dale Kee		
3	Big Flats	American Baptist Community Church	Michael Dickinson	3*	
4	Canisteo	First Baptist Church	James Patton	2	
5	Coopers Plains	Coopers Plains Community Church	Robert Hayes		
6	Corning	First Baptist Church	Michael Dickinson	3*	3

7	Elmira	Monumental Baptist Church	Corey Cameron Cooke, Sr.		
8	Elmira	United Baptist Church	Jim Horton, Interim	2	
9	Elmira Heights	Elmwood Avenue Baptist Church	David Fife	1	
10	Enfield (Ithaca)	First Baptist Church of Enfield Center	Jean Owens		
11	Hornell	Hartsville Community Baptist Church			
12	Hornell	First Baptist Church	Cedric Cooper		
13	Hornell	Howard Union Church			
14	Montour Falls	First Baptist Church	George Norton, Jr.	1	
15	Odessa	Odessa Baptist Church	Jeremy Spencer	3	1
16	Pine City	Pine City Baptist Church	Carol Patterson, Interim Pastor	2	
17	Reading Center	Reading Community Church	David Daniels	2	
18	Savona	Savona Federated Church	Scott Melott	2	
19	Trumansburg	Searsburg Community Church		2	
20	Trumansburg	First Baptist Church	Dennis Christiansen	1	
21	Watkins Glen	First Baptist Church	Jeff Miller		
22	Waverly	First Baptist Church	Steve Dygert	1	
23	Woodhull	Community Church of Woodhull	Brian Diffenbacher		
Visitors Outside the Association		Mrs. Colleen Charsky, Mrs. Grace Horton, and the Rev. Dr. Jim Kelsey			3
Total Delegates				26	
Total Visitors					7
Total Attendance				33	
Total Churches Represented				14	
Percentage of Churches Represented				56.52%	

Number of Persons Staying for Supper	27	
--------------------------------------	----	--

Note: Since the Rev. Michael Dickinson serves two churches (at Big Flats and Corning) he is counted only once in the attendance figures above. Each church is allowed three delegates according to our *Constitution and By-Laws*. Therefore, any persons who attend in addition to those three delegates are counted as visitors.

Since Article VI of the Association’s *Constitution and By-Laws* provides that 50% of the member churches must be present in order to vote on amendments, and we had more than 56.5% of our churches present at this meeting, it was noted by the Secretary that we had enough churches present to transact this item of business.

b. Minutes of the September 25, 2022, Delegates Meeting: *Minutes* of this meeting of the Association were summarized verbally by the Secretary. Each person attending the meeting had received a copy of the *Minutes* at the Registration Table; moreover, each church had received a copy in the mail; and the *Minutes* had been posted on the Association’s web site prior to the meeting. Mrs. Juanita Dickinson moved that the *Minutes* be accepted; the motion was seconded by the Rev. David Daniels, and the motion carried.

c. Treasurer’s Report and Association Budget: Mr. Paul Miller, the Association Treasurer, presented a written Treasurer’s Report. He went through the report line by line. The Report showed Receipts of \$4,524.00 and disbursements of \$4,548.35, for a net loss of \$24.35 for the period between March 1, 2022 and February 28, 2023. At present, our checking account has a balance of \$463.18, and our savings account a balance of \$7,383.12 (divided between \$1,772.04 in the Carmer Fund and \$5,612.03 in undesignated funds). We have five ABEC notes in the Carmer Fund, for a total of \$11,192.47. The total of all funds was \$19,038.77. Donations from churches totaled \$2,937.00 for the previous year.

In terms of the proposed budget, we proposed a budget of receipts of \$5,950.00 and disbursements of \$5,950.00, as follows:

<u>Receipts</u>	
Church Donations	\$3,000.00
Offerings	700.00
Laity Banquet Receipts	1,700.00
Transfer from the Carmer Fund	250.00
Transfer from Savings	<u>300.00</u>
Total	\$5,950.00

<u>Disbursements</u>	
Laity Banquet	\$2,400.00
Postage	50.00
Carmer Scholarship	250.00
Programs	300.00
Together In Ministry (TIM) Group	1,200.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
Vick and Pathfinder Camp and Conf. Ministries	1,500.00
Mileage Allowance	<u>150.00</u>
Total	\$5,950.00

The Rev. George Norton, Jr. moved that the Treasurer's Report and the Budget Proposal be accepted; the Rev. David Fife seconded the motion, which carried.

d. Old Business: Proposed Amendments to the Association's *Constitution and By-Laws*:

This matter came before the Association once again, because at our last Annual Meeting at Trumansburg on February 27, 2022, the Association had not had a proper quorum. The Rev. Jeremy Spencer presented three proposals to amend the Association's *Constitution and By-Laws*, and he briefly reviewed and explained the reasoning for each of the proposals. The proposals appear below:

Proposed Changes to the Living Waters Association's *Constitution and By-Laws*

The following provisions are suggestions by the Association Secretary. If these proposed Articles were adopted, the current ARTICLE V on the Dissolution of the Association, and ARTICLE VI on Amendments would be renumbered as Articles VII and VIII respectively.

Proposal 1

ARTICLE V — Meetings of the Association

Section 1

Inasmuch as conditions allow, the Living Waters Association shall have an Annual Meeting as well as a Delegates Meeting and such other meetings as the Executive Committee of the Association shall consider necessary to carry on the business of the Association.

Section 2

Meetings of the Association shall be announced at least one month in advance.

Section 3

Any meeting of the Association may be conducted virtually, providing that proper notice has been given to churches at least one month in advance (Section 2) and that provisions have been made to allow for the full participation of Delegates in the meeting and to record motions made and votes taken.

Section 4

The Association may provide for virtual participation in any in-person meetings it may hold, provided that proper announcements have been provided concerning such arrangements and that provisions have been made to allow virtual participants to participate in the meeting and to vote on any issues that arise.

Section 5

The Executive Committee of the Association shall be responsible to set the date, time, and location of any in-person meeting of the Association, as well as to provide for virtual meetings and participation.

Section 6

Any Association meeting may be cancelled by the Moderator of the Association, the Vice-Moderator, or the Executive Committee if current conditions seem to warrant the cancellation. The Moderator shall then communicate the cancellation and the reason for it to each church in the Association.

Proposal 2

ARTICLE VI — Quorums for Association Meetings

Section 1

For the conduct of routine business during any meeting of the Association, the Association shall have a minimum of seven churches represented. For the purpose of a quorum, routine business shall be defined to include the adoption of an Association budget, the transfer or expenditure of Association monies, the election of officers, and other business the Executive Committee shall deem routine. Routine business shall not include the dissolution of the Association or the amendment of the Association's governing documents.

Section 2

For the purposes of transacting routine business, the quorum for a virtual meeting shall be the same as that for in-person meetings.

Section 3

For the purpose of establishing a quorum, virtual participants who represent the Association's churches shall be counted as being "present" at the meeting, provided that arrangements for their full participation have been made.

Proposal 3

The Secretary of the Association proposes that the language of the *Constitution* be changed so that all references to the body that transacts business at Association meetings match the language used in the Association's *By-Laws*. The terminology we have used in the *By-Laws* is "Assembly of Delegates" rather than "Program Board." Specific instances where changes would be made include the following Articles:

Article II, Section 1b
Article II, Section 2a (two instances)
Article II, Section 2b (two instances)
Article II, Section 2c
Article II, Section 3a
Article II, Section 4f
Article III (Introduction)
Article IV (Introduction)
Article IV, Section 2
Article IV, Section 3

At the conclusion of the Rev. Spencer's presentation, Moderator Dygert called for a motion to accept the proposed changes. The motion was made by the Rev. George Norton, Jr.; it was seconded by the Rev. Scott Greene, and carried. The Rev. Spencer was thanked by the delegates and visitors for keeping this matter before the Association.

e. New Business: Nominations for Moderator and Vice-Moderator: The Rev. Dygert explained that the Executive Committee of the Association had contacted several individuals about serving either as Moderator or as Vice-Moderator, but all of the persons contacted had declined to serve. Therefore, the Executive Committee had no one to propose for election at this meeting. We would normally have an election of officers at this meeting.

- 1). The Rev. Dygert asked for nominations from the floor. There were no responses.
- 2). The Executive Committee will meet on March 1, 2023, at Big Flats, at 1:00 PM.
- 3). There was no other new business to come before the Association.

f. Adjournment of the Business Meeting: The Rev. David Daniels moved that we adjourn the meeting, and the motion was accepted by the Moderator. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

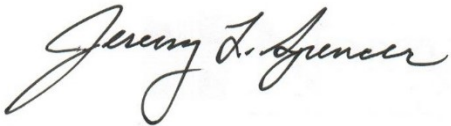
4. Presentation on Christian Camping at Camp Vick and Camp Pathfinder. Moderator Dygert turned the meeting over to Mrs. Colleen Charsky, who made a power point presentation to us on the subject of camping at Camp Vick and Camp Pathfinder. She is a pastor's wife, she said, and she had just completed a six-year term on the Board of Vick and Pathfinder Camp and Conference Ministries. What follows is an abbreviated summary of Mrs. Charsky's presentation:

- a. The Board desires that both camps be utilized. Local churches can use Camp Vick or Camp Pathfinder for worship services, baptisms, church retreats, or other gatherings. These camps have served New York State Baptists for 75 years.
- b. The Board takes safety provisions and background screening very seriously. Finding staff members for both camps in a post-COVID environment has been very difficult; she described COVID as a "perfect storm" for American Baptist Camping in New York State. Nevertheless, the camps do find that staff members grow in leadership abilities, and many young adult leaders choose to return as staff members year after year.
- c. Mrs. Charsky spoke of numerous volunteer opportunities at both camps.
- d. The theme for 2023 is "Love Your Selfie." Also, in 2023, there will be an off-site "Wilderness Adventure" for young adults who are 18–35 years of age. That experience will take place in the Adirondack Mountains.
- e. Both camps have developed lists of tangible needs that they have, and delegates had the opportunity to pick up those lists on the registration table. It is possible for interested individuals and churches to donate to specific projects at either camp.

f. Camp Vick has a serious water issue, and there can be no camping at that facility until the problem is resolved. The Board is trying to renegotiate an expensive contract to fix the problem at Camp Vick, because the estimate includes projects such as clearing brush that volunteers could do. Mrs. Charsky stated that the Board is fully committed to reopening Camp Vick and resuming a camping season there as soon as possible.

5. Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 4:37 PM. Moderator Steve Dygert led the delegates in prayer. The First Baptist Church of Corning served the delegates a delicious evening meal of ham, potatoes, salad, rolls, desserts, and beverages.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeremy L. Spencer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

The Rev. Jeremy L. Spencer
Secretary

File: Living Waters Association Annual Meeting Minutes 2023.02.26