

Minutes of the National Association of Brethren Church Elders

August 6, 2002

The meeting was called to order by President David Stone. Announcements were made. Emery Hurd advised us on his doctoral study and updated us on the documents he was working on. Membership procedures for the association were reviewed.

President Stone encouraged us to love one another. We should, he said, love each other deeply, submit to one another, and lead the church. Following his encouragement we spent time in prayer in small groups.

Guests were then introduced: Dave and Terry Rose, Sam Schultz, Vicky Taylor, Andrea Gifford, and Eric Sandburg.

The minutes and financial report of last year's meetings were approved as printed, and the 2003 budget identical to the 2002 budget was presented and approved.

Ballots were distributed and the slate of new officers was presented:

President—David Stone
Vice President—Richard Morris, Jim Miller
Secretary-Treasurer—Gerald Barr
Ass. Sec-Treas.—Richard Craver
Study & Research Commission—Jerry Flora
Benevolence Commission—Jerry Radcliff
Nurture and Support Commission—Gregg Moser.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations and declare elected the unopposed candidates. The motion passed, and ballots were cast and collected by the tellers.

Bob Keplinger presented the report of the Ministerial Student Aid Committee, referring us to the report in the conference report booklet. It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive this report.

Fred Finks presented the Ashland Theological Seminary report. Scholarships were down to \$189,000 this year and to \$58,000 next year because of the stock market decline. The administration is looking for ways to make up the shortfall, but they need our help for scholarships. He presented Ted Schwenger from Falls City as the candidate for the NABCE scholarship. It was moved and seconded to receive the report and award the scholarship. The motion carried.

The paper previously presented to the association on women's ordination was distributed prior to discussion.

The report of the 2002 Pastors' Conference Committee was presented by Lynn Mercer. It was an good conference and all who attended enjoyed it.

The 2003 conference will be in Florida on April 30-May 2. It will be held at the Christian Retreat Center and the price will be \$250 per couple and \$150 per single. The program will be announced later.

David Cooksey presented the report of the National Ordination Council. Fred Helsley and Anthony Keim were approved for ordination, and the council is meeting with two other candidates on August 9th. The council works with struggling and declining churches, but no matter what the process it gets to a certain point and stops. Change is the problem. What is needed is either a revival in current leadership in the churches or permission for new leadership to come into the churches. Churches admit they don't want to change. There are good things happening, however, and we should be encouraged by positive changes in many places.

It was announced that memorials would be presented on Thursday. The Director of Pastoral Ministries' statement on the ordination of women will be discussed on Thursday, as will be the issue of national certification and oversight.

President Stone yielded the chair to Vice President Morrison to present the following motion: Resolved that the Study and Research Commission study the issue of whether accepting members by believer's immersion is biblical and that they communicate the results of their study in ways that would foster further discussion. The motion was seconded. It was stressed that this is to relate to believers already baptized by believer's baptism other than immersion, and not to new converts. There was discussion on the motion, and the motion carried.

President Stone resumed the chair. The subject of Pastors' Conference rotation was discussed. It was moved that the Nurture and Support commission study the rotation subsidy, and procedure of Pastors and Wives Conference, and report to the 2003 NABCE meeting at General Conference. The motion was seconded and carried.

General Conference asked if NABCE would administer the Pastoral Care Fund. It was moved and seconded to refer this question to the Benevolence Commission. Discussion followed, and it was stressed that this should be administered in confidence. The motion was carried.

President Stone closed the meeting with prayer.

Thursday, August 8, 2002

The meeting was called to order by President Stone. He talked about scars—that scars from ministry are good scars. In heaven we'll compare scars, and then Jesus will show us his scars. Then we will celebrate. He then led us in prayer.

New members were presented for acceptance: Peter Roussakis, Chris Bowman, Terry Rose, Andrea Gifford, Eric Sandberg, Bob Grover, Tim Solomon, and Anthony Keim. Fred Helsley moved from Licensee to Regular member. It was moved and seconded to receive these new members, and the motion passed.

It was announced that the NOC had approved Clair Knappenberger and Scott Meadows for ordination. It was moved, seconded, and approved to receive this report.

Guests were introduced.

Results of the election were announced: Jim Miller was elected Vice President.

The paper on the ordination of women was presented for discussion. Dale Stoffer moved the adoption of the 1984 addendum; it was seconded, discussed, and carried.

Memorials were presented for the following elders: Art Tinkel, Clarence Kindley, Bill Cole, and Bob Holsinger. *[Written memorials are attached to these minutes.]*

David Cooksey praised Dave Stone for his leadership of the association. He then installed the new officers, challenging all of us with Psalm 133.

We were dismissed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

[Gerald A. Barr, Secretary-Treasurer N.A.B.C.E.](#)