

ABCD Annual Business Meeting
Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center
Talladega, AL
March 8-10, 2024

Present at meeting:

ABCD Board 2024

1. Jeff Farmer – Chairperson, Eden Westside Baptist Church
2. Wes Justice – Assistant Chairperson, Birmingham Community Deaf Church
3. Paul Pitts – Treasurer, Meadow Brook Baptist Church
4. Jin Mayer – Secretary, Dauphin Way Baptist Church
5. Daniel Lute – New Deaf Church

Prayer and Open

Jeff Farmer called the meeting to order with prayer at 2:09 p.m.

Committees at meeting:

Nate Bargatze – Parliamentarian

Roll Call: Wes Justice

48 ABCD

16 ABCD kids including 2 staffs

4 JrABCD including 2 staffs

Total: 68

Last Year, March 3-5, 2023

41 ABCD including 22 messengers

11 ABCD Kids

19 JrABCD including 4 staffs

Total: 71

New Business

Jeff Farmer, Wes Justice and Daniel Lute were at the Board Panel.

Daniel Lute:

Daniel reminded ABCD members that Joshua Huffman and Steve Dye explained the new structure last year. He paused the meeting because of confusion between the By-Laws and new structure. He stepped in to work on By-Laws (He was approved to represent Broad from New Deaf Church and agreed by ABCD members). During the last nine months, he and the ABCD Board analyzed and found what Steve and Joshua knew that the By-Laws mean nothing. We discussed what to do with the By-Laws and discontinued using By-Law and began to only use guidelines/manual. He worked on Guidelines/manual ahead of time for ABCD 2024 to let ABCD members know at the business meeting.

As a result, Daniel stated that ABCD is not an organization and is now under SBOM. The ABCD is a centralized conference held and operated by a selected and appointed Board through the Alabama

Baptist Deaf Churches and Deaf Ministries. The ABCD Event has a purpose of encouraging, learning and growing by following ABCD Mission and Goals on website.

Jeff Farmer:

Jeff explained the difference between the By-Laws and Guidelines. ABCD Board proceeded smoothly, but the By-Laws took a long time for agreement that caused wasted time at the business meeting. He had seen the hearing events with Joshua Huffman and Steve Dye. He really enjoyed it, and he wondered how it (hearing events) operates. He was told that the business meeting was a waste of time. He had his vision that ABCD members/visitors can enjoy and rebuild and grow again.

Wes Justice:

Wes explained that we can add workshops instead of business meetings whatever the ABCD Board provides for ABCD Event. He agreed with Jeff and wanted ABCD event to have workshops so we can motivate by learning, encouraging, and growing.

Break 2:56 p.m.

Reconvened at 3:09 p.m.

Board motion to transfer to new Guidelines under SBOM – Jeff Farmer

Open any discussion about By-Laws and Guidelines. No discussion from ABCD members.

Close discussion for anyone to agree for transferring from old By-Laws to new Guidelines/manual.

Kris Coursen closed all votes to support. All supported.

Jeff Farmer closed a business meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.