

**Alabama Baptist Conference of the Deaf**  
**The Grove Church, Madison, AL**  
**May 3, 2025**

**Those in attendance:**

Executive Board:

Eden Westside Baptist Church – Jeff Farmer

The Grove Church – Teresa Sheppard

New Deaf Church – Jenny Hutto

First Baptist Church Prattville – Jin Mayer

Meadow Brook Baptist Church – Paul Pitts

Eden Westside Baptist Church – Crystal Huffman (replaced Jeff Farmer)

Birmingham Community Deaf Church – Michele Tiano (replaced Wes Justice)

Others:

SBOM – Steve Dye

SBOM – Joshua Huffman

Steve Dye hosts ABCD meeting at The Grove Church. We toured with Steve showing where ABCD can be used in the Children’s Building. The worship center can be used if large number of attendees. The leader teams from Grove Church will help ABCD for technical, etc.

**Prayer and open**

Jeff Farmer called the meeting to order with prayer at 10:43 a.m.

**Secretary’s Report – Jin Mayer**

We reviewed the minutes from February 15, 2025.

- ILC 2025 changes from August 9, 2025 to November 1, 2025 for Thanksgiving gatherings.

**Chairperson – Jeff Farmer**

The new ABCD Board, Michele Tiano replaced Wes Justice. Jeff Farmer resigned from the Board, but he stays as an overseer with the Board.

**ABCD positions, May 3, 2025:**

Crystal Huffman is chairperson, and Michele Tiano, Assistant Chairperson.

Jin Mayer – Secretary, Paul Pitts – Treasurer, Teresa Sheppard – Host team representation for Grove Church and Jeff Farmer – Overseer.

**New Business – upcoming for ILC 2025 and ABCD 2026**

**ILC 2025** - The Birmingham Community Deaf Church will host November 1, 2025 for Thanksgiving gatherings.

**ABCD 2026 - Discussion**

**Registration Cost/Foods for Saturday lunch and dinner**

For Grove Church, Steve Dye recommended with registration cost for Individual and family are separated. And Friday night they will eat on their own, and we can have donuts for both Saturday and Sunday morning. We all agreed.

### Fund raising for ABCD and ILC

ABCD doesn't have enough extra budget for Guest pastor with long distance for ABCD 2026. Jeff Farmer wanted to add ABCD t-shirts because most Deaf want ABCD t-shirts for their memories. He asked to add T-shirts and other options for fund raising. Crystal asked for Silent Auction. Vote passed for T-shirts and Silent Auction.

### T-shirt Costs -Save Discussion

ABCD Board needs to see about shirt costs. After finding out about shirt cost, we need to decide how much registration will be. Once the costs for registrations and shirts are decided, the Board needs to decide on a budget for meals. Once the budget is decided, then we will gather info on meals for catering in the area.

Hotels – Steve Dye will email the list of hotels to Board.

### JrABCD

Jeff Farmer was not sure Alabama School for the Deaf's rules allowed long distance travel for Saturday. Steve Dye mentioned that there were over 100 deaf/hard of hearing mainstream schools in Madison/Huntsville area. Steve will find out and will try to reach out to schools for JrABCD this fall. We think of Liz Webb or Connie Caine as voice interpreters for JrABCD hard of hearing. Save discussion for next meeting.

Joshua Huffman and Jeff Farmer as JrABCD directors are temporary. Joshua recommended Mia Teague to be JrABCD Director. Vote passed. We all agreed. Mia accepted to be JrABCD Director via Crystal Huffman. Joshua and Jeff will mentor her.

### Daycare

Steve Dye will take care of it. Save discussion for next meeting.

### ABCD 2026 Theme

“Unrooted” Romans 12:2 ESV

*“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect”.*

### Guest Speaker and Worship Leader

Crystal Huffman asked for Tony Tiano from Birmingham Community Deaf Church as a guest speaker. Vote passed. Tony Tiano accepted via Michele Tiano. Crystal and Michele will look for a worship leader.

### **2026 and 2027 Save Discussion and planning.**

ILC 2026 – Prattville

ABCD 2027 – Fairhope. Joshua and Crystal Huffman suggested for Pastor James Parker from California as a Guest Speaker and his wife, Ann Lynn as Worship leader. We agreed but saved more discussion about budget.

ILC 2027 – Mobile/Fairhope area

**Jeff Farmer closed at 12:35 pm**

**Crystal Huffman closed in prayer.**