

*"We Can Do More Together"*

**SAREPTA**  
Baptist Association



# 2020 Annual Report







## *"We Can Do More Together"*

Dr. Lex Bowen  
Director of Missions

I am in my 15th year as Director of Missions for Sarepta and I thought I had seen it all until **2020!!!** Can I get an AMEN? I would have never imagined any circumstance that would have led to a canceling of the Annual Meeting. Such has been the case this year. So, instead of the annual meeting, you are receiving this Annual Report, which was suggested by the Meetings and Matters Committee, which handles the details of the Annual Meeting.

***"We Can Do More Together"*** is a phrase that I have used repeatedly throughout my time as Sarepta's DOM. It is not a phrase that is original with me, for sure, but it captures what we need to be reminded of in a day of ever more independence. For many, if not most of our churches, some of the things we are able to do together, they could never do alone.

I want to highlight in this report the things we are able to do to ***"TOGETHER"*** that makes your involvement in Sarepta of value.





# *"We Can Do More Together"* **Through International Friends**

Mrs. Amy Wheeler-Sullivan  
Director of International Friends

Consider trying, on your own, as a church, to conduct a weekly English as a Second Language class for 200 internationals. I am not sure any of our churches could pull that one off. For over 35 years, the churches of Sarepta have invested their people and their resources to make that happen. Over the course of the past two decades, Beech Haven has been the host church for conducting this type of Ministry.

Mrs. Amy Wheeler-Sullivan is the Director of International Friends. Throughout the school year, she coordinates 40+ volunteers from our Sarepta churches. We have volunteers that provide breakfast for the students as they come. We have volunteers who watch the children while their parents participate in class. We have volunteers who drive the busses and vans to pick up the students and their children.

As you observe those volunteers in action, you discover very quickly that this is much more than an ESL class. Our volunteers engage with the students in life. The love of Jesus is expressed through their sacrificial involvement in their students' lives.

This is made possible by your support of Sarepta and by you sending volunteers to teach the students. No one church could do all of this.





# *"We Can Do More Together"*

## ***Through Mission Partnerships***

With 48 of our 75 churches being led by "bi-vocational" or "part-time" pastors, it is difficult to take on a Partnership by yourself. For that reason, we embarked on a partnership with Pittsburgh two years ago. In 2019 we had 20 churches participate in the partnership. Some gave money, some sent people, Pleasant Grove send over 900 pairs of socks for the homeless and many prayed for the effort.



Because of your support we provided **300 winter coats** for needy kids in Pittsburgh. Brett Mask, Bryan Hawkins and I assisted in this task.

Churches sent hundreds of **backpacks** for back-to-school and a team from Blacks Creek went to help distribute them.



Teams from two of our churches (Salem & Winterville FBC) joined forces to help with a day camp and other missions activities.



All of this was made possible because "We Did This **Together**." Some gave, some went, some prayed as we accomplished this **TOGETHER**.





*"We Can Do More Together"*

***Through***  
***NEW Mission***  
***Partnerships***

Earlier in 2020, because of a change in the church planter we were working with in Pittsburgh, we decided to wrap up our partnership there. Our Missions Partnership Team decided to join with the efforts of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, as they encouraged the associations and churches of northeast region of our state to partner with **New England**. If your church already has a partnership in the US, continue to do that ministry. This is for those churches that do not currently have a partnership.

Because of Covid 19, all such efforts to explore possibilities have been limited to ZOOM Calls. We are exploring options for the Six States that comprise the New England Baptist Convention. We anticipate mission opportunities in 2021 for New England.

Additionally, our Mission Partnership Team recommended that we establish an International Partnership with **Peru**. This also is being suggested by the GBMB for the associations and churches for the northeast region of the state.



**Keith Ivey** is the Missions Consultant for Northeast Georgia. We will be working with Keith to explore specific Partnership opportunities.

Because we are doing this **TOGETHER**, your church can send as few or as many volunteers as you would like in order to participate in this partnership.





*"We Can Do More Together"*

## ***Through Disaster Relief***

Consider trying to do "Disaster Relief" by yourself as a church. What does it require? Typically it requires resources like a disaster relief trailer equipped with chainsaws, ladders, hard hats, and many other items. Just the trailer itself will run \$12,000 or more. We have two such trailers. It requires a coordinator and volunteers. Jim Patton is the DR Coordinator for Sarepta and we currently have about 150 volunteers. Volunteers must be trained. Volunteers rotate in and out of disaster situations about every three days. Working together with other units in the Georgia Baptist Network, showers are provided and meals are served. When you support Sarepta, you make that possible. Nationally, depending on the month in which a disaster happens, there is a rotation schedule that determines which state takes the lead. That state then requests other states to respond with their teams. We receive our request for Unit 19R from the Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief at the GBMB. We can do this **"TOGETHER"** as you provide **volunteers** and **give** to Sarepta.

*If you would like to become a  
Disaster Relief Volunteer, go to  
[gabaptist.org/disasterrelief/](http://gabaptist.org/disasterrelief/)  
for information on how you can be  
certified.*







# *"We Can Do More Together"*

## ***Through Equipping Pastors and Staff***

**Once a month**, from January to May and in the fall from August to November, we host a "Lunch and Learn" primarily for our pastors and staff. Like many of our ministries this year, because of Covid 19, it has been derailed. The focus of our Lunch and Learn ministry is to try and equip our pastors and staff to be more effective in various aspects of ministry. It also provides a time of fellowship for those in ministry.

The format is pretty simple. **We start at 11:30 and conclude at 1:00 p.m.** A guest speaker or one of our own pastors provides the program for the day. Those who wish to participate in this are asked to make a reservation and pay \$7 to cover the cost of their lunch.

### **Topics for 2020**

- August - Follow Up To Reach Online Viewers
- September - Mission Partnerships in New England and Peru
- October - No Sweat Evangelism
- November - Watershed Principle for Discipleship

### **Topics for 2021**

- How To Rebuild After Covid
- How To Sustain an Online Presence
- How To Develop an Online Strategy
- How To Deal with the Emotional Scars of Covid
- Dealing with the New Normal





# *"We Can Do More Together"*

## ***Through Senior Adult Ministry***

The Senior Adult Ministry had a luncheon for many years, primarily for our seniors to come together for fellowship, food, inspiration and entertainment. We typically would have between 125 to 150 attend these luncheons twice a year. Dozens of our Sarepta churches hosted this event and it was a great time together.



About six years ago, our Senior Adult Team decided that they wanted this group to add some kind of ministry element to their work. It was then that we established a partnership through the Appalachian Regional Ministry to take backpacks every Christmas. Over **5000 backpacks** have been delivered. Volunteers have taken the backpacks to Briceville, TN and other volunteers have helped distribute the backpacks. This has been made possible because we are doing it **TOGETHER**.



**As for 2020 the Senior Adult Ministry has been grounded because of Covid 19. However, we are still planning to take 300 backpacks to Briceville, TN. Here is what we are asking our churches to do:**

- **Provide us with no more than 25 backpacks**
- **Inform us know if they are planning to participate**
- **Bring the backpacks to Sarepta by November 1st**





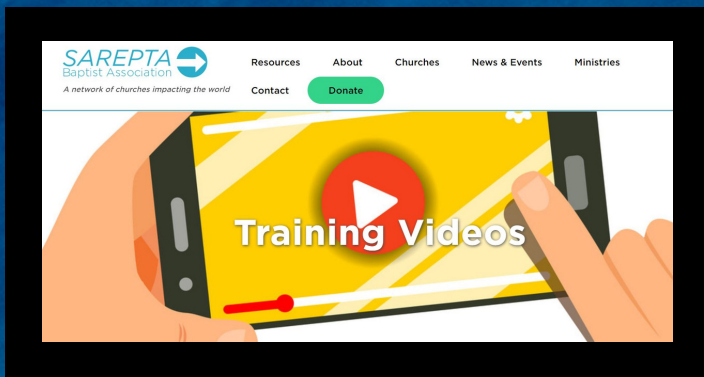
# *"We Can Do More Together"* **Through The Evangelistic Block Party Trailer Ministry**

Would your church ever consider the possibility of investing \$17,000 in the purchase of a block party trailer along with all the contents? I would venture to say that is not going to be possible for 98% of our churches. However, four years ago, we made the decision to invest in a trailer that our churches could rent for \$100 per use. The estimated rental price of the contents of the trailer is about \$1200. The rental fee is placed in a fund to help replenish the equipment as it becomes damaged or worn out. Because we did this **TOGETHER**, dozens of our churches every year rush to reserve the trailer. A garage was built for the trailer, in order to protect it from the elements. This ministry has already helped reach many people with the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This was made possible because we chose to do it **TOGETHER**. The only stipulation we have is that the churches that use the trailer must be financially supporting the overall ministry of Sarepta.

When you support Sarepta, you make this ministry possible.

We have been blessed to have **Leon Nicolosi**, a layman from Forest Heights Baptist in Athens, to be our coordinator. Leon has done an exceptional job of working with our churches to check the trailer in and out. He will no longer be able to do this, so we are looking for a volunteer to fill this role. **If you know of someone or have an interest yourself in helping, please contact us at the Sarepta office.**





# *"We Can Do More Together"* **Through Website Resources**

Long before we ever heard of Covid 19, the attendance for live training events had started to decline, regardless of the quality of the program. In addition to that, so many bi-vocational pastors and staff simply don't have the time to attend live events. In response to that, about three years ago, we invested in a major upgrade to our Sarepta website with the idea of providing online training for our pastors, staff and lay leaders.

To locate these resources, you can go to **Sareptabaptist.com** and look under the tab "**Resources**" to find "**Training Videos**." We have the following topics:

- Strategic Planning
- Interviews with leaders
- Social Media
- Pastor Tools
- Evangelism
- Revitalization
- Guest Follow Up
- Pastor Search Committee
- Conference Speakers
- Sunday School

***These resources are regularly updated and new training materials are added. This has all been made possible because of your support for Sarepta.***





# *"We Can Do More Together"*

## ***Through Virtual Training***

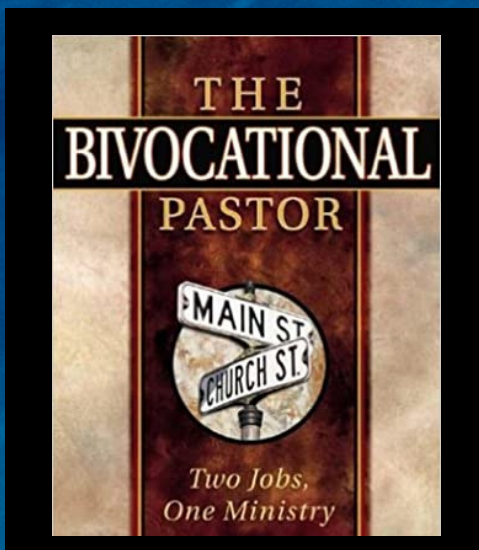
The GBMB provided a training conference for Georgia Baptists in September. They made it possible for Associations to purchase access to the VAULT of resources for the next 12 months. We in turn can share the association password to provide access to this VAULT at no cost. Yes, we can do more together.

Included in the VAULT are three keynote speakers and fifty breakout sessions. Because you support Sarepta, we had the resources to purchase access to these virtual training tools. Here are some of the topics covered:

- Next Gen
- Next Gen Students
- Pastor Wellness
- Public Affairs and Child Protection
- Senior Adults
- Singles
- Small Groups
- Sunday School
- Women's Ministry
- Worship
- Collegiate
- Facilities
- Families
- Evangelism
- Hispanic
- International Mission Board
- Men's Ministry
- Missions
- Robby Gallaty, Keynote Speaker
- Paul Chitwood, Keynote Speaker
- Tyrone Barnette, Keynote Speaker

**In order to gain access to these resources, contact Sarepta to get the password.**  
**We can do more TOGETHER.**

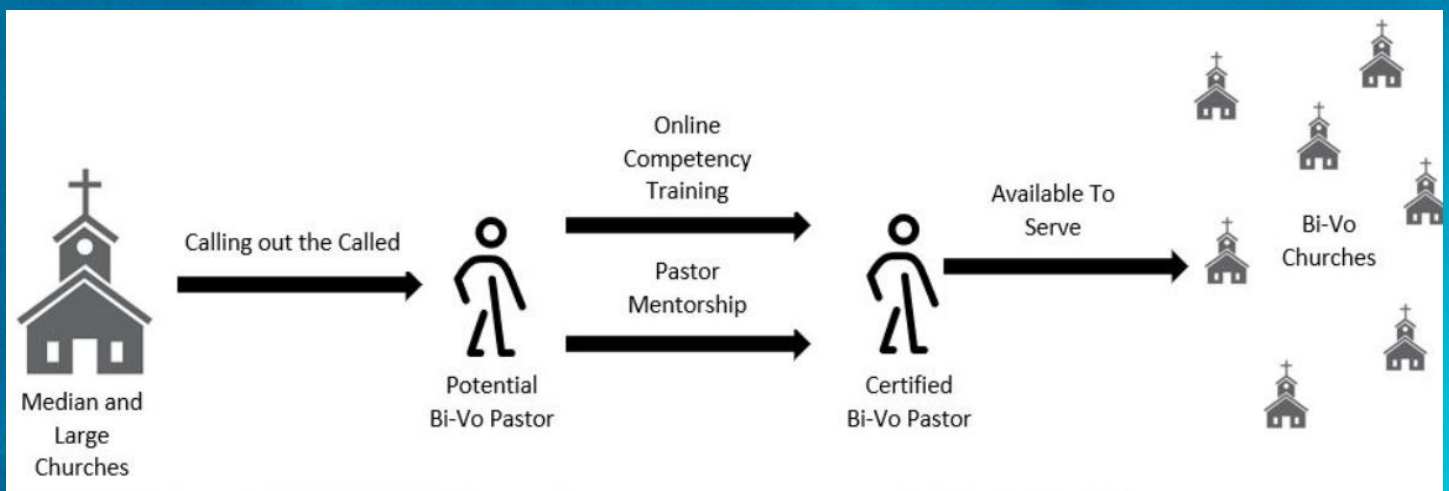




# *"We Can Do More Together"*

## ***Through Training Pastors For Bi-Vocational Churches***

At the present time, 48 of our 75 churches are considered bi-vocational or co-vocational. We have 5 more churches in that category now than we did 8 years ago. That is to say, **the need is growing and the number of bi-vocational pastors is shrinking**. Sarepta and Chattahoochee Associations are teaming up to design a plan to equip potential bi-vocational pastors with the competencies needed to fulfill that role.



Our current pastors would be challenged to "call out the called" in their churches. Those responding would be teamed up with a "pastor mentor" and led through an online competency training curriculum. Upon completion, the association would "certify" that the bi-vocational pastor completed the training. The goal is to have men ready when bi-vocational churches become pastorless.





# *"We Can Do More Together"*

## ***Through Transitional Interim Pastor Training***

One of the most vulnerable times for most churches is during the "interim" between pastors. This is especially true when there have been unresolved issues that need to be dealt with before the next pastor arrives. Thus Sarepta, along with Chattahoochee, Tugalo and Appalachian Associations are teaming up together to train men to serve as Transitional Interim Pastors.

**What is a TIP (Transitional Interim Pastor)?** He is a pastor who has been through the two-day training course to equip him with skills needed to assist the pastorless church. He will enter into a 12 to 18 month contract with the church to work through the designed process. He will enlist the help of a transition team made up of church members. He will work with the Search Committee. He will conduct a thorough analysis of the church and its current context. He will help the church deal with issues that need to be addressed before the next pastor is called.

Not every church needs a TIP, but when they do, we would like to have men in the "bull pen" ready to go. **Because you support Sarepta, it makes it possible for us to train men to have those responsibilities. We can do more TOGETHER!**





*"We Can Do More Together"*

## ***Through Baptist Collegiate Ministry***

Can you grasp 35,000 plus students? That is how many students there are at UGA. Most of our Sarepta churches have very few UGA students and no ongoing presence on the UGA campus. In partnership with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, we can work **together** with those who are **on campus every day** through the Baptist Collegiate Ministry.



**Dr. Jerry Johnson** is the Senior Campus Minister for the UGA BCM. He and his staff work to reach the thousands of students who come from all over the world. Jerry would be the first to tell you that the BCM cannot be successful without the support of our churches.

Certainly this represents the concept of "We Can Do More Together" as good as any. **None of the BCM's operating budget is provided by the GBMB.** Those funds come from use of parking spaces during football season and the gifts of churches. When you give to Sarepta, a portion of that goes to BCM, but it is not enough. **I would encourage you to consider putting a line item in your budget for the BCM.** We can do more **TOGETHER.**





# SAREPTA

Baptist Association

*"We Can Do More Together"*

## ***Through The Association***

So many of the areas of involvement by the Association are ***"behind the scenes"*** work that will go unnoticed by most. Because our churches band **TOGETHER** to provide the position of the Director of Missions it makes this possible. Here are a few of the examples:

- Training and consulting with Pastor Search Committees
- Developing trained Interim Pastors
- Helping with crisis management in the local church
- Assisting churches with Strategic planning
- Counseling with pastors and staff and lay leaders
- Providing assistance to churches looking for someone to fill the pulpit on any given Sunday
- Assisting with personal crisis for pastors and staff
- Assisting with issues related to their church constitutions and bylaws
- Assisting with church planters as they consider planting churches in our area
- Assisting Hispanic Churches as they organize
- Assisting Hispanic Churches to find a place to meet
- Mentoring younger pastors
- Helping churches look for options as they decline
- Providing consultation with strategic planning
- Providing church trends profile for the churches
- Providing demographic information for the churches
- Providing consultation with our pastors
- Providing assistance to new church starts
- Preaching during transition times for pastorless churches





**SAREPTA**

Baptist Association

# *"We Can Do More Together"*

## ***Through Ministry Teams***

TEAMS in Sarepta have targeted objectives. These are made up of people from various churches. Here are the Ministry Teams that are currently in existence and their focus. Two of these teams have already been mentioned: The

**Missions Partnership Team** and the **Senior Adult Team**.

In addition to those we have the following:

- **New Work Team:** The focus of this team is to work with churches that start new in Sarepta or are petitioning to join Sarepta. This team will also work with church planters as they attempt to initiate their work in our association.
- **Church Growth Resource Team:** The focus of this team is Partnering with local churches:
  - To assess their culture
  - To improve their health
  - To fulfill their mission

In addition to this, they are currently tackling one of the greatest challenges in our association which is the need for equipped bi-vocational pastors. They are in the formative stage of trying to develop a "Pipeline" for bi-vocational pastors.

We can do more **TOGETHER** when our TEAMS Contribute.





*"We Can Do More Together"*

## ***Through Serving***

Each year our Nominating Committee recommends committee members for our four standing committees. Every other year, they are tasked with recommending our Moderator and Vice Moderator. **The following recommendations were approved by the Executive Committee.**

### **Meetings and Matters Committee**

- o Rev. Parker Moore (Cleveland Road)
- o Chris Orr (Beech Haven)

### **Nominating Committee**

- o Rev. Tracey Deavers (Moons Grove)
- o Kenneth Failyer (Edwards Chapel)

### **Personnel Committee**

- o Dr. Brett Mask (Salem)
- o Rev. James Dumas (Montgomery Hts.)

### **Finance Committee**

- o Paula Drake (Comer)
- o Dr. Cameron Ford (Green Acres)

### **Moderator (two year term)**

Dr. Shane Roberson (Maysville)

### **Vice Moderator**

Dr. David Mills (Beech Haven)





# *"We Can Do More Together"*

## ***Through Financial Support***

Each year our Sarepta churches give approximately \$200,000 for our operational budget. We receive no funds from any source other than our churches. We get no financial help from the Cooperative Program or from the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. We are grateful for the faithfulness of our churches.

Part of the commitment a church makes when it joins Sarepta is to support us financially. We have about 82% of our Sarepta churches who support us faithfully. We are grateful for their commitment.



Beginning in January of this year, Mrs. Chris Harper took over the responsibilities of our Financial Secretary. Chris has an extensive background as a financial secretary and is a member of the Blacks Creek Baptist Church in Commerce. We welcome Chris to our Sarepta Staff.

***Our Budget was recommended by our Finance Committee and approved by our Executive Committee. See the next pages.***



# "We Can Do More Together"

	Recommended 2021 Budget	2020	2021
<b>100</b>	<b>Funding External Ministries</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
101	Korean Mission	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
102	Missions Partnership (formerly Pittsburgh Partnership)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
103	Baptists4haiti	\$ -	\$ -
104	Baptist Collegiate Ministry	\$ 3,336.00	\$ 3,336.00
105	Penfield Home/Heart	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
107	ARK	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,136.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,136.00</b>
<b>200</b>	<b>Funding Sarepta Ministries</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
201	Senior Adult	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
202	Minister's Conference	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
203	Bible Drill	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
204	International Friends	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
205	Disaster Relief		Use Designated
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,050.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,050.00</b>
<b>300</b>	<b>Leadership Team Ministries</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>301</b>	<b>Worship</b>		
301-a	Preaching		
301-b	Music		
301-c	Prayer	\$ 250.00	\$ -
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 250.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>302</b>	<b>Missions</b>		
<b>303</b>	<b>New Work</b>		
<b>304</b>	<b>Discipleship</b>		
304-a	Leadership Training		
304-b	Discipleship		
304-c	Evangelism		
304 - d	Disciple Now Weekend		
304-e	Media/Library	\$ 250.00	\$ -
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 250.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>305</b>	<b>Revitalization</b>		
305-a	Training for Team	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
<b>1000</b>	<b>Building &amp; Grounds Expenses</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
1000.1	Cleaning Services	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
1000.2	Cleaning Supplies	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
1000.3	Grounds Maint	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
1000.5	Repairs & Maint	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
1000.6	Building & Grounds Improvement	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
1000.7	Utilities - Electric	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
1000.8	Utilities - Gas	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
1000.9	Utilities - Water Sewer	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
1000.10	Storm Water Utility	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
1000.11	Utilities - Sanitation	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
1000.12	Utilities - Telephone	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
1000.13	Internet	\$ 720.00	\$ 720.00
1000.14	Pest Control	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
1000.15	Property Ins	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00
1000.16	Furnishings		
<b>1000.17</b>	<b>Sanitizer / Masks</b>		<b>\$ 300.00</b>
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 17,820.00</b>	<b>\$ 18,120.00</b>
<b>1100</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
1100.1	Fall Sessions Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00



# "We Can Do More Together"

1100.2	Keynote Speaker snsnipAnnual Honorarium	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>
<b>1200 -</b>	<b>Office Supplies</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
1200.1	Copier Contract	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 1,680.00
1200.2	Copier Supplies	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
1200.3	Other Maint Repairs	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
1200.4	Office Supplies	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
1200.5	Postage	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
1200.6	Professional Printing	\$ -	\$ -
1200.8	Computer New Equip/Software	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
1200.11	ACS Software	\$ 2,448.00	\$ 2,448.00
1200.12	Web Server	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
<b>1200.13</b>	<b>ZOOM Subscription</b>		<b>\$ 180.00</b>
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,278.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,458.00</b>
<b>1300 -</b>		<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
1300.1	Contingency Fund	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
1300.2	Hospitality	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>
<b>1400</b>	<b>Admin Min - Conventions / Conferences</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
1400.16	DOM Convention Expenses**	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
1400.17	International Friends	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
1400.18	Secretarial Conf	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,200.00</b>
<b>1400</b>	<b>Admin Min - Reimbursement Prof Expense</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
1400.20	DOM - Travel**	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
1400.21	International Fr - Travel	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
1400.22	Administrative Assistant / Financial Sec- Travel	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
1400.23	DOM - Business Expense**	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
1400.24	International Fr - Business Exp	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,600.00</b>
<b>1500</b>	<b>Employee Support Expenses</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
1500.1	DOM - Soc. Sec. Offset	\$ 5,465.00	\$ 5,465.00
1500.2	Staff Soc. Sec. Taxes	\$ 3,131.00	\$ 3,131.00
1500.3	Christmas Bonuses	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 1,875.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,471.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,471.00</b>
	<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>\$ 204,953.00</b>	<b>\$ 204,933.00</b>