



BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES

June 27-29, 2017

MINUTES

Meeting Site: DoubleTree by Hilton
1000 NE Multnomah Street
Portland, OR 97232
Ph: 503-281-6111

Officers: Judy Fackenthal, President
Josue Gómez-Menendez, Vice President
Don Ng, Past President
Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer
Lee B. Spitzer, General Secretary

Parliamentarian: Dennis Johnson **BGM Chaplain:** Kay Farley

Tuesday, June 27, 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.; BGM Plenary; Holladay

BGM 348 CALL TO ORDER

Judy Fackenthal, ABC President, called the meeting to order and gave words of welcome. Judy thanked Andrew Arndt, ABC of Indiana and Kentucky and Joyce Blandon, ABC of Connecticut for agreeing to serve as tellers for this meeting. She also thanked Nancy O'Neill for sharing her gift of music during our times of worship.

BGM 349 WORSHIP

BGM Chaplain Kay Farley lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and led worship.

BGM 350 ABCUSA FOCUS STATEMENT

The ABCUSA Focus statement was shared in unison.

American Baptist Churches are missional congregations that nurture devoted disciples of Jesus Christ who live their lives in mission and ministry for the healing of the world through the love of God.

BGM 351 CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Dianne Steelman and seconded by Bill Fredrickson to approve the General Consent Agenda: Written Reports posted prior to the meeting and the Proposed Agenda and Minutes of the BGM's November 17-19, 2016 Meeting held in King of Prussia, PA and Minutes of the BGM's May 8, 2017 Meeting held in Chicago, IL.

VOTED: to approve the General Consent Agenda: Written Reports posted prior to the meeting and the Proposed Agenda and Minutes of the BGM's November 17-19, 2016 Meeting held in King of Prussia, PA and Minutes of the BGM's May 8, 2017 Meeting held in Chicago, IL.

BGM 352 REPORT OF ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Josue Gómez-Menendez, ABC Vice President, reported the actions taken by the BGM Executive Committee at its March 9-11, 2017 meeting held in Atlanta, GA.

BGM 353 STARTING A NEW DAY: COLLECTIVE SHARING OF HOPES AND DREAMS WITH LEE SPITZER, ABCUSA GENERAL SECRETARY

Each table formed a group to prepare a list of "Hopes and Dreams" (see attached document).

BGM 354 REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Lee Spitzer shared his report (see attached document). Lee also stated that his Executive Assistant, Kathy Jachowski would contact the region BGM members when he plans to be in their region to invite them to join him at an event and to get introduced with him.

BGM 355 SHARING THE ROLE OF THE BGM

Felipe Candelaria and Zina Jacque shared a packet of information regarding the Role of the BGM in regards to Board Member Orientation, Exit Interview, and the Relationship with the New General Secretary. This packet was initiated at the November BGM Meeting and enhanced by the Executive Committee in March (see attached document).

BGM 356 STANDING RULES

David Knipel, legal counsel, gave details of recommended changes for acceptance, which are:

SR 14.4.5 to provide that (1) the inter-caucus president does not need to be an individual caucus president, and (2) if the inter-caucus president is unable or unwilling to perform one or more assigned functions, the vice president shall be deemed the acting president for such purposes.

SR 17.1 to add Kachin Baptist Churches USA as an AMO and to delete the American Baptist Computer Center.

SR 18.12.5 to amend the definition of "Independent director" to conform to the revised New York statute.

SR 18.12.7 - new section added - definition of "Affiliate" to conform to the revised NY statute and to list the American Baptist Historical Society as an affiliate.

Upon the motion brought by the Executive Committee to accept the Standing Rules as explained it was

VOTED: to approve

BGM 357 CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

(see attached report)

DINNER

At 6:00 p.m., the BGM directors, spouses, special guests, and staff gathered in the Broadway/Weidler Room to enjoy dinner and fellowship together. Susan Gillies was honored for her service and work as Interim General Secretary. Susan was presented with a picture of the “proposed vision of the Mission Center.”

BGM VESPERS

At 7:30-8:30 p.m., BGM Chaplain Kay Farley led in a time of evening prayer and meditation and sharing in the Lord’s Supper in the Holladay Room

BGM NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

At 8:30-9:30 p.m., new BGM Members remained in the Holladay Room for an orientation led by Zina Jacque and Felipe Candelaria.

Wednesday, June 28, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.; BGM Plenary; Holladay

At 7:00 a.m., the BGM Finance Committee met for a breakfast meeting in the Hawthorne Room and the Baptist Talk Commission met for a breakfast meeting in the Sellwood Room.

BGM 358 RECONVENING/ WORSHIP - OFFERING

BGM Chaplain Kay Farley led in a time of worship. Judy Fackenthal reported that the BGM Executive Committee voted to designate the BGM Offering collected June 28, 2017 to American Baptist Women in Ministry and given in memory of Whitney Shiner, husband of Pat Hernandez.

BGM 359 REPORT OF THE BUDGET REVIEW OFFICER

1. YTD Financial Report (see attached document).
2. United Mission
Paul Higgins shared a PowerPoint presentation showing a 25 year decline in United Mission. Lee Spitzer shared his plan for United Mission.
 - a. United Mission needs a new narrative as we tell our story in a new compelling way.
 - b. Clear compelling missional narrative that is helpful to partners to talk about United Mission and build up the family.
 - c. New clear ways to give to United Mission.
 - d. There needs to be a sense of accountability and responsibility for United Mission and raising money.

Lee shared that in order to make this happen, there would need to be staffing changes; as well as, website and social media changes to be on the cutting edge.

3. ABCUSA Audit

The report of the independent certified public accountants, Tait, Weller & Baker LLP (see attached document).

Based on the recommendation of the BGM Finance Committee, it was

VOTED: to accept, as recommended by the BGM Finance Committee, the Auditor's Report on the 2016 ABCUSA Audited Financial Statements for the years ended on December 31, 2016 and 2015.

Ryan Burge, Pastor and Political Science Professor at Eastern Illinois University, was invited to share a slide presentation based on a statistical study he performed on questions about denominations, clergy, and congregations.

BGM 360 REPORT OF THE ABCUSA PRESIDENT

Judy thanked the search committee for all their time given to the General Secretary search process. She went on to thank the staff at ABCUSA for the long hours worked getting ready for the Biennial Mission Summit and for their commitment and love of the American Baptist Churches (see attached document).

BGM 361 REPORT OF THE WORLD RELIEF OFFICER

Shirley Fair shared highlights of her trip to India to observe places which receives grants given to schools and hospitals through OGHS money.

BGM 362 MISSION RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (MRD)

(see attached document).

BGM 363 REPORT OF CHANGED RELATIONSHIPS

Josue Gómez-Menendez presented the Report of Changed Relationships.

VOTED: To recognize the Report of Changed Relationships of Local Churches (document 1205.1:11/16) November 9, 2016 through June 15, 2017.

LUNCH, 12:00 p.m., Broadway, Weidler Room

BGM Executive Committee met in the Holladay Room to discuss the lease agreement before going to lunch.

BGM 364 588 REAL ESTATE STATUS AND BUILDING ISSUES

Building Issues

The developer wants to enter a joint venture with us and there is a sense of urgency among the partners of a need to move. A "staff-driven" process for ABHMS brought to the NEC the possibility that they could purchase a building within walking distance of the mission center. Three options were presented: 1. ABCUSA organizations to buy jointly, 2. ABHMS to purchase the property to expedite and later entities to buy shares. 3. ABHMS to purchase property and other entities lease. A decision was made for ABHMS to buy the building and for the others to lease. IM felt it would not have enough space in size and limited windows; therefore, making this building space not feasible for them. Their board decided to look elsewhere and is leasing their own space a half mile away from the other building. ABF also decided to find space elsewhere. Two prior announcements went out regarding this decision. A Letter of Intent dated May 5 and signed May 16 stated that ABCUSA intended to lease this space from ABHMS. (See attached letter)

BGM 365 BGM EXECUTIVE SESSION (HOLLADAY ROOM)

Judy Fackenthal recessed the meeting of the Board of General Ministries to meet in Executive Session, with staff present to discuss the lease agreement.

BGM 366 RECESS OF MEETING FOR BGM ACTION GROUPS

From 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., the BGM convened in the following Action Groups to focus its work in various areas.

BGM Finance Committee - Ross Island
Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations – Hawthorne
Becoming a Beloved Community – Sellwood
Communicating ABC Identity – Morrison

AMERICAN BAPTIST GATHERING OF MEMBERS OF NATIONAL BOARDS (ABCUSA/ABHMS/ABWM/IM/MMBB)

Holladay, DoubleTree by Hilton

Members of the National Boards (ABCUSA, ABHMS, IM, MMBB) and the board of ABWomen's Ministries enjoyed dinner together at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this dinner was fellowship, connection, and sharing about each other's boards. Table cards were placed at each table to help facilitate discussion about their boards with each other. In order for this sharing to be most effective individuals were asked to sit with no more than four members of a board sitting at the same table. Place cards were on the table with recommendations of which table board members could be seated.

Thursday, June 29, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.; BGM Plenary; Holladay

BGM 367 RECONVENING/ WORSHIP

BGM Chaplain Kay Farley led in a time of worship.

BGM 368 BGM EXECUTIVE SESSION (HOLLADAY ROOM)

Judy Fackenthal recessed the meeting of the Board of General Ministries to meet in Executive Session, with staff present to discuss the lease agreement.

BGM 369 ACTION GROUP REPORTS

Finance Committee Action Group: Paul Higgins reported that the group reviewed in more detail the audit and financial reports. The group discussed United Mission and how the money is distributed. Also, the group discussed grant recipient requests.

Beloved Community Action Group: Kelly Legg reported that the group discussed the creation of a handout that would remind people that we are called to community in unity wherever God takes us. The group discussed ways the BGM can connect with their Regional Executive Ministers and to thank them for what they are doing and pray for them.

ABC Identity Action Group: Annie Svitavsky shared that the group discussed ways to collect stories to communicate ABCUSA mission. They also talked about United Mission as a vehicle and having Spanish materials available. The group discussed how to share in a tangible way what OGS does, ways to promote Baptist Identity; as well as, how to foster American Baptist identity in young children.

Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations: June Totten shared that their gathering at the Biennial Mission Summit will include a speaker with an emphasis on "Baptist Muslim Dialogue" to build interfaith co-operation. The committee is planning a retreat at Green Lake in April 2018 to work on projects together to help to localize their work and break divisions in diversity between Baptists and Muslims.

BGM 370 2019 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

A site has not yet been confirmed. Lee Spitzer stated that once there is a definitive course, it will be announced. Lee mentioned that he thinks “it is time to plan Biennials for the future that people really want to come to and that engage the heart and soul of the people.”

Judy Fackenthal clarified that Dean Parker was nominated to be the ABCUSA Vice President only for this biennium. Then for the next Biennium, a lay woman will be sought to be the nominee for president to honor the rotation system.

BGM 371 CLOSING WORSHIP AND ADJOURNMENT

Following worship, President Fackenthal adjourned the meeting of the Board of General Ministries.

LUNCH, 11:30 a.m., Broadway, Weidler Room

Future BGM Dates:

November 16-18, 2017 – King of Prussia, PA (Executive Committee dinner on Nov. 15)

November 16, 2017 – Celebration Service for the Mission Center 2:00 PM

June 13-15, 2018 - Green Lake, WI (Executive Committee dinner on June 12)

November 9-11, 2018 - King of Prussia, PA (Executive Committee dinner on Nov. 8)

Future BGM Exec. Comm. Dates:

November 15-16, 2017 – King of Prussia, PA

March 8-10, 2017 – TBD

June 12-13, 2018 – Green Lake, WI

September 13-16, 2018 – Omaha, NE

November 8-9, 2018 - King of Prussia, PA

March 14-16, 2019 – TBD

June 2019 (Biennial TBD)

September 12-14, 2019 – Denver, CO

Submitted by,



Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer
General Secretary

LBS/kj

Documents attached

BGM EC Proposed Agenda: June 26-27, 2017
BGM EC Roster: June 2017
BGM EC Minutes: March 9-11, 2017(1002:3/17)
BGM Minutes: Nov. 17-19, 2016 (1001:11/16)
BGM Minutes: May 8, 2017 (1001:0517)
Report of BGM Director to ABHMS
MMBB Report
Board of General Ministries Reports: ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary and Associated Ministry Organizations
Rhythms of the Spirit Report
Summary Report: Baptist Talk Commission, Creation Justice Network Task Force, FNECU
Transformed by the Spirit Updates
Burma Refugee Commission
General Secretary's Report
Board Role Document
Year to Date Financials
ABCUSA Financial Statements and Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants; December 31, 2016 and 2015
ABC President's Report
World Relief Officers Report
Report of Changed Relationships, November 9, 2016 – June 15, 2017 (1205.1:6/17)
Conflict of Interest Statement
Proposed Amendments to the ABCUSA Standing Rules
Letter of Intent dated May 5