

ABCUSA 2019 Biennial Plenary Sessions / Main Speakers

Biennial Text: 1Chr. 16:32 Let the **sea** resound, and all that is in it;
let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them!

FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 21 (7:00 – 9:00 PM)

Theme: “From Sea to Sea”

Host: American Baptist Home Mission Societies



Plenary Guest Speakers: Professor Howard Stevenson.
The following Bio was sent to ABCUSA upon confirmation.

BIO:

Dr. Howard Stevenson is the Constance Clayton Professor of Urban Education, Professor of Africana Studies, in the Human Development & Quantitative Methods Division of the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the Executive Director of the Racial Empowerment Collaborative at Penn, designed to promote racial literacy in education, health, community and justice institutions. Backed by a 12 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and based at REC, Howard also directs Forward Promise, a national philanthropic office that promotes a culture of health for boys and young men of color, to help them heal from the trauma of historical and present-day dehumanization, discrimination and colonization.

He is a nationally recognized clinical psychologist and researcher on negotiating racial conflicts using racial literacy for independent and public K-12 schooling, community mental health centers, teachers, police and parents. Two mental health research projects funded by National Institutes of Health examine the benefits of racial literacy. The PLAAY (Preventing Long-term Anger and Aggression in Youth) Project uses basketball and racial socialization to help youth and parents cope with stress from violence and social rejection. Dr. Stevenson also co-leads the SHAPE-UP: Barbers Building Better Brothers Project which trains Black barbers as health educators to teach Black 18-24 year old males to reduce their risk of -- HIV/STDS and retaliation violence -- while they are cutting hair.

His recent best-seller book, *Promoting Racial Literacy in Schools: Differences that Make a Difference*, is designed to reduce racial threat reactions in face-to-face encounters. Howard's research and clinical work have been funded by W.T. Grant Foundation, Annenberg Foundation, and the National Institutes of Mental Health and Child Health and Human Development. He is the father of two sons, Bryan and Julian.

SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 22 (7:00 – 9:00 PM)

Theme: "Across the Seas"

Host: International Ministries



Plenary Guest Speaker: Rev. Elijah Brown, BWA General Secretary. The following Bio was sent to ABCUSA upon confirmation.

BIO:

Elijah Brown, originally from the state of Texas in the United States, assumed the position of general secretary on January 1, 2018.

The general secretary is the CEO of the BWA and has overall responsibilities for the administration and operations of the organization, and is its chief representative to global organizations and institutions, ecclesial and secular, and to governments.

Brown had more than a decade long involvement in the international umbrella organization for Baptists before joining its staff, starting in 2005. In 2007 he was named one of 35 global emerging leaders by the BWA. He is past BWA regional secretary for North America and general secretary for the North American Baptist Fellowship.

Brown was executive vice president of the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative, a Christian human rights organization based in Virginia, in the United States, and was previously associate professor of Religion at East Texas Baptist University where he was founding director of the Freedom Center.

Brown's specialties lie in human rights and religious liberty. His dissertation focused on issues related to world Christianity, including mission and church growth, peacebuilding and conflict resolution and the interaction of religion and politics.

SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE ON THE BEACH, JUNE 23 (6:30 am – 7:15 am)

Theme:

Host: Local Arrangements Committee

Worship Team (acoustic instruments)

SUNDAY MORNING SUNDAY SCHOOL, JUNE 23 (9:00 – 10:15 AM)

Theme: “Navigating Choppy Seas”

Host: ABWM



The following Bio was sent to ABCUSA upon confirmation.

BIO:

Dr. Jolene Erlacher founded Leading Tomorrow in 2013 with the aim of equipping churches, businesses, schools, missions agencies and other organizations for effective inter-generational leadership in an evolving culture. Her passion for equipping a new generation of leaders emerged from various leadership experiences in education and ministry.

Jolene worked for eight years at North Central University, specializing in leadership training, student development and personnel management. During that time, she identified the need for building awareness of generational differences as young leaders entered the workplace, especially in ministry contexts. This began an extended journey of researching the experiences and needs of Millennials in ministry positions. Her book, *Millennials in Ministry* (Judson Press) documents her findings. Jolene's new book, *Daniel Generation: Godly Leadership in an Ungodly Culture*, was released in August 2018. Jolene specializes in providing training and consulting on team effectiveness and inter-generational leadership. She works with community organizations, government agencies, churches, missions agencies, and small businesses. Jolene teaches continuing education courses for Eduspire(www.eduspire.org). She is also an adjunct faculty member and teaches graduate courses on Organizational Leadership at North Central University (www.northcentral.edu), and serves on the Board of Directors for GoCorps (www.gocorps.org).

Jolene's education background includes degrees in Education and English, and a graduate certificate in International Leadership. Her doctorate is in Leadership from the University of St. Thomas in St.

Paul, MN. She has also completed training on the StrengthsFinder assessment through Gallup Consulting and studied freelance writing at the Loft Literary Center.

Jolene is fluent in Spanish and has volunteered and studied in various countries including Mexico, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Kenya, and South Africa. She is actively involved in her local church and community. Jolene lives in central NC with her husband, twin daughters and their dog Rex. She enjoys reading, writing and drinking coffee.

SUNDAY MORNING COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE, JUNE 23 (10:30 – 11:45 AM)

Theme: “Worship by the Sea”

Host: OGS/MMBB



Plenary Guest Preacher: Rev. Ngwedla Paul Msiza, BWA President. The following Bio was sent to ABCUSA upon confirmation.

BIO:

Ngwedla Paul Msiza is a native of South Africa born in Mamelodi one of the townships of Pretoria the capital city. He is the fifth child in the family of six. He was raised in a nominal Christian family. His dad owned a football team. As a little boy he spent most of the weekend with his dad at the soccer matches. He still follows the game of soccer even today. He grew up during the difficult times of the Apartheid in South Africa.

Even though he was not connected to the church as a child he started attending church on his own as teenager. It was during his years at High school when he heard the gospel message and he accepted Christ as his Lord and Saviour and joined a local Baptist Church in a rural village called Winterveld. He was part of a group of young people who were founding members of the church.

After high school he went to a Teachers' College of Education, where he qualified as a High School teacher. During his first year of working as a school teacher he heard a divine call to ministry. He resigned from teaching and went for ministerial training. After completing his training as a minister of the gospel he went into pastoral ministry as a bi-vocational minister while working as a teacher. He later became the founding Principal of the Baptist Convention College in 1995, from where he left to become General Secretary, of the Baptist Convention of South Africa in 2001. He served as

the General Secretary of the BCSA until June 2011. He is the first General Secretary of the BCSA to serve two full terms and six months.

In 1986 he got married to Sanna Mapula Msiza and God has blessed them with three handsome sons (Siphiwe – 29, Dumisani -25 and Otshepegile Paul Junior – 22).

Msiza has been actively involved in the BWA since 1998. In 2010 he was elected one the 12 Vice-Presidents of BWA. As BWA Vice President; he sat on the General Council, the Executive Committee, the Nominations Committee, the Congress Committee, the Mission, Evangelism and Theological Reflection Advisory Committee and the Promotion and Development Advisory Committee.

Previously, he had served on the BWA Membership Committee, the Commission on Doctrine and Interchurch Cooperation and the Academic and Theological Education Workgroup. He was president of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship, one of six regional fellowships of the BWA, from 2006-2011. He was the chairperson on the Local Arrangement Committee for the hosting of the 21st Baptist World Congress in 2015, which was hosted in Durban, South Africa.

He studied at the Baptist Bible Institute, University of South Africa, University of Witwatersrand and Baptist Theological College (BTC). He is currently registered with the University of Pretoria for a Post-graduate program. On November 22, 2016 he was honored with an Honorary Doctorate in Ministry by the Theological University of Andhra Pradesh, India.

He is the senior pastor of Peniel Salem Baptist Church in Pretoria. Msiza is second African to be elected the President of the BWA.

SUNDAY EVENING 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, JUNE 23 (7:00 – 9:00 PM)

Theme: “A Sea of Witnesses”

Host: REMC and ABC of the South

Plenary Guest Preacher or Testimonies: To be selected by ABC South Executive Minister and General Secretary