

President's Report

November 2018

This is my report as your president of the American Baptists Churches - Board of General Ministries, as of November 2018.

Dr. Lee Spitzer unexpected Health Condition:

Last September we received notice that our General Secretary, Dr. Spitzer, has to be out of office due to a major heart condition that required surgery. Our prayers and support went to Lee and his family.

On the last meeting in September, our Executive Committee of the Board of General Ministries proceeded according to our Standing Rules. We named Rev. Jeff Woods as our interim General Secretary until Lee's condition allows him to return.

We also appointed Alan Musoke to be in charge of all the issues around our current building (Mission Center) and/or our new offices. We are still working on some protocol-legal issues, so the legal counselor of our denomination, David Knipel, has taken a leading role over this matter. For the relocation, we are still making progress with the current tenants, and looking forward to making a site tour in this meeting.

Finally, we empowered Annie Marcucci as the staff with a leading role in biennial issues. The Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team (BMSPT) had a face to face meeting in Valley Forge, on August 8, 2018. All the speakers are set. We are going to include a more detailed report along with our other reports. Working ahead with the venue of 2021, San Juan, PR, we have already signed the contract with the convention center for our future celebration.

In other matters, I responded on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Board of General Ministries to some regions, which have concerns regarding their search process for their respective Executive Minister.

To deal with the whole situation I ask for more time, in order to be proactive, but to act with the due diligence, prudence and the mutual care that it requires.

We are going to be one of the panelists in the November event hosted by ABHMS, Space for Grace.

(ABCUSA Hispanic Caucus) - In accordance with the Caucus, we are preparing a learning experience for next February for future Hispanic leaders in the New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania area.

We are still in conversations with AWAB new leaders, so we can continue to find open spaces for dialogue and future understandings of how we can be effective in our common ministries.

Finally, on the administrative side of this board, I appreciate the efforts of the Task Force led by our VP Dean Parker, working in the process of conducting the first year appraisal of our General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer. For obvious reasons, we put the progress of the evaluation on hold until Lee's return to

the office. In other instances, during this meeting we are going to perform an exit interview for our retiring board members, so we can have their inputs for future improvements for our scope.

Thank you all for your prayers, texts, emails and good thoughts.

In Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josué D. Gómez-Menéndez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Josué D. Gómez-Menéndez
President