

**Board of General Ministries Reports:
ABCUSA/OGS and
Associated Ministry Organizations**

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Highlights of Treasurer's Office, Accounting, American Baptist Churches Information System, Building Management, Traffic, AMOs -- June 2014 – November 2014

ABCUSA

- Prepared 2015 Budget for Board approval at November meeting
- Preparing for 2014 yearend closing and Audit
- Annual insurance reviews/renewals
- Prepared and presented Analyses and Financial Statements to BGM/ABCUSA Finance Committees, BGM and BGM EC; staffed meetings
- Conferred with Regions and churches on financial and administrative issues
- Oversaw work of legal counsel in several areas
- Personnel supervision for Accounting, ABCIS, Building Management and Warehousing
- Ongoing ABCIS functions
- Staffed Common Budget Covenant Review Committee
- Ongoing collecting agency responsibilities for 13 regions

AMOs (AB Historical Society, AB Women's Ministries, Ministers Council, AB Computer Center)

- Completed 2013 Audits
- Accounting functions, ongoing consultations, insurance reviews, renewals, Quarterly meetings with AMO executives re: financial and operational matters
- Represented NEC at ABHS's Board Meeting

588 ASSOCIATES

- Preparing for 2014 Audits
- 2014 Tax Returns; accounting functions; leasing and building management; insurance reviews/renewals
- 588 Associates Annual Meeting with 588 Board, NEC and real estate consultants/advisors
- Joint Staff Council Meeting to review plans for move to new location.
- Participated in planning and hosting of Real Estate Council face to face meeting.
- Hired property management company, Newmark Grubb Knight Frank, to manage building operations
- Supervision of maintenance staff and day-to-day operations
- Coordinated renovations and relocation from section C2 to B2 in Mission Center
- Led process to switch phone systems to voice over Internet

-- Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary for Finance/CFO/Treasurer

OFFICE OF REGIONAL MINISTRIES (Activity from June - November of 2014)

2014 continues to be a good year for regional ministry. Marilyn Tyson and I have been busy during the last half of 2014 with new projects as well as continuing assignments.

Transformed by the Spirit and the Mission Table: We are beginning to see the initial signs of a distributed system surfacing related to the TbyS principles. God's Spirit is surfacing new stories of engagement apart from the areas of orchestrated leadership, including...

- ABCUSA sponsored a conversation with the ABC seminary presidents and deans, focusing on adaptive change, one of the core components to TbyS
- Several regions have held their own version of a Mission Summit including – Indpls, Conn, Maine, West Virginia, VT/NH and Central Pacific Coast
- The Asian Alliance held a series of Intergenerational Conversations, a Mission Table topic
- Women in Ministry have made several strides in identifying barriers and gaining access for women in ministry
- Jay Kennedy has been called as the “Congregational Life Facilitator” for ABCGI
- The Ministers Council has launched a nation-wide survey studying pastoral attrition
- The Native American Indian gathering focused on TbyS style conversations at their annual assembly this summer

Search Committee Work: Using newly revised material, I have provided on site orientations for our newest executive ministers and have been facilitating the work of three other regions currently involved in searches, namely in ABC of the South, Metro New York, and TABCOM. I will also begin work with two additional regional search committees beginning in 2015.

Other Region Consultations: My recent regional consultation work has focused upon trying to enhance the capacity of regions to add a distributive network of ministry connections to their existing networking groups of congregations and pastors. I have recently led pastor conferences in Indiana and for the Central Pacific Coast focusing upon the leadership implications embedded in varying types of networks and I am in dialogue with several regional boards regarding their shifting assumptions of the premises upon which their ministry activity is based. The Central Sectional Regional Staff also met in August and had a great meeting focusing on a shared leadership model and the REMC also recently held a conference on the future of regional ministry.

ABC Nominating Committee: As staff to the ABC Nominating Committee, I have been working with regions to receive names for the Nominating Committee's work in selecting nominees for ABC Officers in the next biennium (2016-2017), preparing the BGM Election Slate which will come to the Biennial Mission Summit delegates for vote in June of 2015, and receiving names from which a local church representative will be chosen from each region to serve on the Mission Table. The Nominating Committee has also been working to fill current BGM vacancies created by the resignations of directors. (MTyson)

--C. Jeff Woods, Associate General Secretary for Regional Ministries and Marilyn K. Tyson,
Administrative Assistant

The Office of Travel & Conference Planning (OTCP) plans and executes approximately 90+ meetings per year. The goal of the Office is to save the denomination money through our combined years of negotiating. This Office receives meeting requests, researches and obtains proposals, negotiates and signs contracts, works with our travel agent, Travel Leaders, reviews your meeting registrations, submits rooming lists to hotels, coordinates airport to hotel shuttles, requests audio visual, orders food & beverage and reconciles the billing (both with the hotels and the meeting attendee).

OTCP plans meetings for ABCUSA. Some examples are, Baptist Muslim Dialogue, General Secretary Search Committee, Transformed by the Spirit, Journey Team, 588 Group, General Secretary's day-to-day travel. OTCP also plans meetings for ABHMS, International Ministries, MMBB, Board of General Ministries, McKee Consultation, AB Foundation, OTABL/Ministers Council and the Mission Summit/Biennial. We have also begun assisting Regions and Board Members with registrations for their meetings and negotiating contracts on their behalf.

Our work for the Mission Summit/Biennial includes site inspections for future meetings, working with the Executive Minister and a Local Arrangements Committee in the chosen city. This process also includes working with numerous hotels, AV companies and a Convention Center.

--Annie Marcucci, CTC, CMP; Director of Travel & Conference Planning

MISSION RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (MRD)

United Mission, Communication, Stewardship, Representation on Boards and Representing the General Secretary, Visiting Regions and Local Congregations, Attendance at Various National and International Meetings and Ecumenical Gatherings are some of the ministry areas that engaged MRD. ABCUSA's new 7-minute Film, *Inspired, Transformed ... American Baptist Churches*, went from pre-production to finished product. We obtained the services of a number of key communicators, we had the film shown in several regional Annual Sessions, we distributed denomination-wide attractive promotional material, and the film will be shown nationally in our ABC churches in November. The purpose of creating this film is to help us celebrate God's gift of ABC to us and to remind us we should be proud of who we are as American Baptists. A copy of the film was sent to Baptists in England, on request, and it was also shown at the BWA Annual Gathering in Izmir, Turkey. MRD is providing staff support for the BGM's decision to engage the adaptive process to address our UM challenge. The **UM/ACT** has been given an historic opportunity to make a five-hour presentation to the BGM at its November meeting. MRD's **Stewardship** ministry is growing stronger under the capable leadership of our deployed stewardship facilitator. Rev. Emerson has conducted two-well attended stewardship webinars, facilitated stewardship roundtables, and keeps adding fresh content to the stewardship page on the **ABCUSA Website**. A Stewardship Adaptive Challenge Team is being formed to address the challenging issue of generous

discipleship in a changing economic climate. MRD's **communication ministry** continues to provide valuable team support for the ongoing work of the *Transformed by the Spirit* initiative,

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and our Connections Newsletter and E-Newsletter continue to grow in circulation. The **Biennial Mission Summit** continues to be coordinated by MRD as we return to Kansas City in June 2015 for the second consecutive event at this location. The Associate General Secretary continues to **represent ABCUSA at the U.S. State Department** on the Working Group of International Religious Freedom; and **on several boards**, including Baptists Today, the Green Lake Conference Center, and Bacone College. In July in Izmir, Turkey, he attended the Baptist World Alliance Annual Gathering, where he serves on a commission and on a committee.

--Leo S. Thorne, Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development

AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Major projects have included managing the *American Baptist Quarterly* (ABQ), administration, communication, and (most of all) working with ABHS board members to begin a major gifts campaign, *At Your Fingertips*. Issues of the ABQ mailed this summer and fall include issues on the Holy Spirit (including papers from the Emerging Theologians Conference), Baptist-Muslim Dialogue (Part II), Baptist Identity, and the special issue on the Judson bicentennial. Archivist Jan Ballard's exhibit, "Mission for Life: The Judson Family and the Mission to Burma," continues to attract visitors who appreciate how the actual exhibit has been translated into on-line access through **Judson200.org**. More mages from Burma have been added to the website. Plans are underway for similar outreach using a different part of our collection, the Personal Papers of the Walter Rauschenbusch Family.

The new major gifts campaign, "At Your Fingertips: Archives for the 21st Century," is designed to support a digital archives program, largely through the hiring of a full-time archivist with special skills in this area. We are currently in the silent phase of this campaign, with 100% of the board and staff having pledged more than \$55,000 toward the goal of \$550,000. The silent phase will be over in June 2015, with the public launch of the campaign planned for the ABC Biennial Convention.

In July I provided three workshops for the Board of International Ministries conference at Green Lake and in October spoke at the West Virginia Baptists Annual Meeting. As guest professor, I also taught two classes at McAfee School of Theology. In addition to these personal appearances, communication continues to happen through our quarterly newsletter, *Primary Source*, through exhibits circulating at regional meetings and through board members serving as ambassadors for ABHS in their ABC regions. Similarly a new class of work study students from McAfee School of Theology has begun working at ABHS, assisting with research projects and serving as ambassadors from ABHS to the larger university.

--Deborah Van Broekhoven, Executive Director

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY & TRANSITION MINISTRIES ABCUSA

ABWIM – American Baptist Women in Ministry

Vision: ABWIM seeks the full participation and full partnership of men and women in ministry in which both women and men are able to fully utilize their God-given gifts and fully live out their God-given call

Mission: ACCESS!

- Advocating for equal access in placement and opportunities for ministry
- Cultivating women's call to ministry
- Celebrating the gifts women bring to ministry
- Educating congregations about the biblical basis for women in ministry
- Shining the Spotlight on American Baptist Women in Ministry!

Some of the activities that ABWIM has been involved with are:

- **Trip to Republic of Georgia** – connecting with women in ministry serving our international partner Baptist congregations as well as developing interfaith relationships with Muslims born out of a Baptist witness
- **Palmer Grant** – awarded a grant for the project, “Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges”
- **“Hear the Call” retreat** – partnered with Ministers Council in leading the pastoral track for people discerning the call to pastoral ministry
- **“Our Stories, God's Good”** – Women from Metro Chicago gathered for the first ever event of its kind bringing together lay and professional, ordained and non-ordained women to listen to and learn from each other
- **Installation of Rev. Marie Onwubuariri** - celebrated and participated in the installation of the first woman called to serve ABC of WI, the first Filipino Executive Minister , a momentous occasion
- **“Women of Color in Ministry” launch event** – ecumenical effort to focus on challenges faced by women of color in ministry
- **“Caring for You and Your Ministry”** - Partnered with AB Women's Ministries in producing a resource addressing burnout and providing resources for holistic and healthy ministry. Available at: <http://www.abwministries.org/store/product.aspx/productId/10/Caring-for-You-and-Your-Ministry/>

Transition Ministries

The goal of Transition Ministries ABCUSA is to partner with regions in resourcing churches during times of transition in a way which enhances their ministry and empowers them to journey into the future as vibrant missional congregations.

Our mission is to provide intentional interim ministers who are adept and experienced in leading churches through transitions. These interim pastors guide the congregation on a journey which involves celebrating their history, clarifying their identity, articulating their mission, and moving into a fruitful future.

Important components of the program include:

Ministers-At-Large – Retired and experienced ABC clergy who live and work with a church 4 1/2 days a week during the interim time between pastors.

Appointed Interim Pastors – Active and experienced ABC pastors who desire a transitional position as they search for their next call.

Interim Ministry Specialists – Active or retired ABC pastors with special training and skills to lead an intentional interim assignment.

We have had 4 new assignments since our June meeting and a 5th which will begin Nov. 9, 2014. These assignments include such churches as FBC Redlands, First Baptist Church in American and Calvary Baptist in Newark, Delaware. Given the vicissitudes of interim ministry and the concluding of some assignments, that brings to 20 our current slate of interim ministers.

Transition Ministries was born out of a movement of the Spirit and is still a developing part of the valuable resources offered through ABCUSA. Feedback from churches which have been served by TM ABCUSA interims as well as from regional staff who have seen this ministry in action indicates a need to be filled and a future for this ministry. As part of the ongoing partnership of clergy, churches and regions, plans are underway for an interim ministry training event to be hosted by ABC of Ohio in 2015.

Transition Ministries ABCUSA serves as the hands and feet of Christ, connecting with regions and congregations in ways that move mission and ministry forward during a critical time in the life of the church. In both of these ministry resource areas –ABWIM and Transition Ministries—I am thankful for the Rev. Dr. Roy A. Medley, the ABCUSA Leadership Team, the ABWIM Advisory Team and the Board of General Ministries—without whom none of this could happen. Thank-you!

--Patricia P. Hernandez, National Director ABWIM and Transition Ministries

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

American Baptist

Women's
MINISTRIES

Accomplishments:

- New AB Women's Ministries logo and website (www.abwministries.org) for Christ-centered ministries that encourage and empower women and girls to serve God.
- Welcomed Palmer Seminary student Chanta Barrett to be ABWM Intern for two semesters.
- Invited AB Women In Ministry to partner in AB women's retreat event on a cruise ship to Bahamas in September. Registration goal--54; actual--68. Conferees say "Do it again!"
- Published two new print resources for women: *Finding Hope in the Midst of Depression* and *Caring for Yourself and Your Ministry*. Latter resource done in partnership with AB Women In Ministry, splitting net proceeds. www.abwministries.org/store
- Provided \$1,000 Leadership Development grants to 18 region/states in 2014.

Major projects:

- Formed a Transformed by the Spirit Adaptive Challenge Team to address challenge of leading and managing change.
- Working with Dr. Trinette McCray, consultant, on a multicultural initiative to close the gaps for participation and leadership and to live into our cultural reality as God intends.
- Planning a first-time national event devoted to leadership training for middle school/senior high school girls: Girls Leadership Academy, June 25-29, 2015, Overland Park, Kansas.
- “Crisis on the Border: What Could We Do?” mission focus and resources are empowering women and girls to address the plight of unaccompanied and separated children entering U.S. from Central America.

Don't miss out! Get involved today. info@abwministries.org

--Virginia R. Holmstrom, Executive Director

MINISTERS COUNCIL

November 2014

Initiatives

1) Governance / Organization

- a) The Ministers Council Senate endorsed a new governance structure for the organization.

Highlights are as follows:

- i) The nine-person Board of Governors is responsible for the governance and carrying out the mission and purpose of the body.
- ii) Ministries Team created to focus on programmatic efforts and local chapter engagement.
- iii) Creation of a Development Team to focus on fund development and marketing efforts
- iv) New national dues structure based on income.
- v) Eliminates over 5 years the national organization's responsibility of defraying the cost of chapter representatives to attend the gathering.

b) Benefits

- i) Creates a more nimble organization that provides support for fund development, marketing and programming while helping to generate significant cost savings for the Ministers Council.

c) Joyce Moon hired in July as full time Executive Assistant.

d) Membership

- i) Launching membership renewal and sign-up campaign with special promotions in November and December.
- ii) Providing membership cards and brochures in Spanish for our Spanish speaking constituency.

2) Fund and Program Development

- a) New Giving Options
 - i) The Ministers Council, working with ABF, has launched new programs - gift annuity and stock grants - to expand the ways of contributing to the Ministers Council.
 - b) Together in Ministry Capital Campaign
 - i) Completing the campaign in 2014.
 - ii) We have raised \$290,238.05 in cash and pledges; \$71,519.20 in in-kind donations for a total of \$361,757.25.
 - c) Clergy Health Initiative
 - i) The Ministers Council was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Pastoral Excellence Network to implement a Clergy Health Initiative, which encourages clergy peer groups to intentionally incorporate issues of health and wellness in their monthly gatherings.
 - ii) The Ministers Council is partnering with ABHMS, ABF, and MMBB for implementation.
 - iii) Targeted outreach to ensure follow through on pledges.
 - d) Invited to submit a proposal for the Leadership Effectiveness – 7R’s of Sanctuary to the Imago Dei fund. The program will offer retreats and follow up workshops for cohorts of clergy who seek to realize increased leadership effectiveness through the application of spiritual practices.
 - e) Working with a consultant to increase fund development capacity and develop the specification for a part-time resource for 2015.
- 3) Partnerships
- a) Presenter and collaborator with Pastoral Excellence Network to present Leadership Effectiveness workshops for *Peer Power* retreat program.
 - b) Initiated talks with Lincoln University regarding opportunities to conduct clergy retreats at Lincoln.
 - c) Will participate in the Women’s Symposium 2015 for the Graduate Theological Union and American Baptist Seminary of the West in January 2015, which is the launch of a new DMin program in Womanist Studies.
- 4) Transformed by the Spirit
- a) Women in Ministry Action Learning Team
 - i) Launching the second phase of the survey process for retiring pastors and how they might help to prepare their congregations to consider women candidates for pastor.
 - b) Pastoral Attrition Action Learning Team
 - i) Launching a survey to help understand the experiences and processes that can cause American Baptist clergy to consider leaving pastoral ministry (attrition).
 - c) Clergy Health Action Learning Team
 - i) Will be engaged with the Clergy Health Initiative to survey pilot groups regarding whether intentional focus on health and wellness in peer groups enables participants

to better realize wellness goals.

5) Cutting Edge

- a) Have begun a Strategic Research project with a four-person team of Entrepreneurial MBA from Babson College.
- b) Team will research new operational models for the organization recognizing that membership-based organizations are in decline.
- c) Findings will be presented to the Ministers Council Executive Committee in December.

6) Upcoming Events

- a) Womanist Symposium 2015, ABSW – Send-off keynote speaker, January 10, 2015
- b) Evergreen Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day Speaker, January 18, 2015
- c) New England Assembly of American Baptists, Workshop speaker, January 23-24, 2015

--Debra Jackson, Executive Director

CHIN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA [CBCUSA]

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The Report of the CBCUSA after becoming an Associated Ministry Organization [AMO] of ABCUSA

October 28, 2014

We praise our Lord that the CBCUSA has 86 Chin Baptist and Christian churches in the USA, including a Chin church founded by the people who came from our mission fields in the Southern Chin State.

There are Four Departments such as (1) International Chin Baptist Mission [ICBM], (2) Christian Education and Literature, (3) CBCUSA Youth Fellowship (4) CBCUSA Women Fellowship. There is an independent organization called CBCUSA Ministers Council [CBCUSA MC) funded by the CBCUSA.

1. International Chin Baptist Mission [ICBM]

This mission aims at preaching the good news of Jesus Christ to the Chins in four townships Gankaw, Mindat, Kanpalet and Plewa in the Southern Chin State. Most of the southern Chins are Buddhists. Some are converted from Christians by the Burmese Buddhist Hilly Mission, that is financially supported by the Myanmar military government. Currently over 60 local missionaries are sent by the CBCUSA and her

partners of the Chin churches in other countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Europe. They are working holistic mission to our fellow Chins who never understand Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world. This mission is being carried not by what we have, but by faith. We are encouraging the Chin families of the CBCUSA to donate \$25 per year per person including infant/kids to the ICBM. Besides this contribution, the local churches and single families are involved in sending missionaries.

Any organization like the International Ministry of the ABCUSA is welcome to partner with the CBCUSA in sending local missionaries to the mission fields in Myanmar. It is much cheaper than sending foreign missionaries to the country. Myanmar is not ready to accept foreign missionaries to work among the people in Myanmar, the strategies of our mission are relevant to the current situation in Myanmar.

2. The CBCUSA churches someday will become more missional by praying for our foreign mission to our fellow people in the Chin State. This mission will empower our local churches of the CBCUSA. When the Holy Spirit transforms our churches, our tithing will grow and we will carry better mission works.
3. Someday we may be able to start the joint urban ministries in the USA with other ethnic churches or organizations. This will be our future dream of the CBCUSA.
4. CBCUSA funds the projects of other departments such as Women Fellowship, Youth Fellowship and Ministers Council. There is a full time Director of Christian Education and Literature Mr. Thlasui Tluangneh (hehchet@yahoo.com) working with other staffs Executive Minister and Treasurer Mr. Kepling Khengmual (kepling58@gmail.com).
5. We are encouraging the member churches of the CBCUSA to join the ABCUSA with financial contribution.
6. Since the CBCUSA is the AMO of the ABCUSA and the member of the Baptist World Alliance, we are very thankful being able to involve in the ministry of the Baptist body nationally and internationally.

--C. Duh Kam, Executive Minister

The Karen Baptist Churches in the USA.

The Karen People are originally from Burma. The ethnic people from Burma, including the Karen people were arriving in the United States as the immigrants and refugees since over forty years ago. There are over ninety Karen Baptist Churches and fellowships in over ninety cities of the whole United States. The Karen Baptists has their valuable identity, heritage, and doctrine originally from Karen Baptist Convention form Burma.

By the guidance of the living God and by the support of American Baptist Churches, USA, we have organized the Karen Baptist Churches in the USA 2009. The KBC USA was officially founded in 2010. The KBCUSA has eighty nine member churches.

1. Seven Regions

There are seven regions (Areas) and heads of the regions in the Karen Baptist Churches in the USA.

1. West CoastRev. Htee Set

2. East Coast North..... Rev. Htee Hgay
3. East Coast South..... Rev. Gentle Crown
4. Centre South..... Rev. Has Thwel
5. Centre North..... Rev. Lermu Martin
6. Mid-West North..... Rev. Kyaw Hoe
7. Mid-West South..... Rev. Roger Nyunt

2. The Executives Members of the KBCUSA are as follows:

1. Rev. Has Moo (Chairperson)
2. Rev. Htee Hgay (Vice Chairperson)
3. Rev. Saw Ler Htoo (Executive Secretary)
4. Rev. Lermu Martin (Joint Secretary)
5. Saw Winner (Treasurer)
6. Rev. Living Stone Zan (Director of Minister' Department)
7. Naw Malay Htoo (Director of Women's Department)
8. Saw Plaw Hsoe Thaw (Director of Youth and Young Adult's Department)
9. Rev. Deborah Di (Director of Cristian Education Department }
10. Rev. Saw Lincoln (Director of Evangelism and Mission Department)
11. Saw Laueh Roland Office Superintendent

3. The Conferences and training in 2014

- (1) KBCUSA' Annual Meeting on July 24-27, 2014 in San Diego, CA
- (2) Youth and Young Adult's Conference on July 18-20, 2014 in Denver, CO
- (3) Women's Leadership Training on June 26-29, 2014 in Fort Wayne, IN
- (4) Church School Teacher Training on August 1-3, 2014 in Omaha, NE
- (5) Minister's Conference on September 25-18, 2014 in Buffalo, NY

4. Associated Ministry Organizations of American Baptist Churches

The Karen Baptist Churches has been accepted as one of the Associated Ministry Organization in June, 2014.

--Saw Ler Htoo, General Secretary