



**Resolution to Confer the Recognition
of
General Secretary Emeritus
to the
Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley on November 13, 2015**

Conferring the Recognition:

Recognizing your denominational leadership of the American Baptist Churches USA for the past 14 years since January 2002, we bestow upon you the honor of being known to the American Baptist family and to all others in Christian and interfaith communities as General Secretary Emeritus of the American Baptist Churches USA.

We remember with deep regard your faithful commitment to bring people with different faith convictions to the table for reconciliation, evident in the Baptist/Muslim dialogues; your prophetic courage to represent the oppressed people, particularly in Burma, in the halls of national governments; your loving compassion to travel and meet people around the world to embody being the hands and feet of Christ; your lifelong commitment to the National Council of Churches of Christ and to the Baptist World Alliance that such world-wide Baptist communion has appointed you as their representative at the 14th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October 2015.

In conferring this honor, the Board of General Ministries of ABCUSA joins with you in continued appreciation for the Office of the General Secretary. And though you will no longer actively serve as General Secretary, your commitment to peace and justice around the world helps us to regard you and the Office of the General Secretary you held in our midst with great respect and honor.

In conferring this honor, we pledge ourselves to continued concern for your health and well-being. We hold you in our prayers and cherish the contributions you have made and will continue to make as our first "General Secretary Emeritus!"

For reference:

BGM Understanding on Granting General Secretary Emeritus/a Status

The word, "Emeritus/a" has to do with being retired from active service while retaining one's title as an honor. The retaining of the title is offered because of merit earned during the time of active service. The honor is never an automatic one but rather recognition of exceptional service over a long period of time, usually a minimum of 10 years.

The title of General Secretary Emeritus/a is an honorary one rather than a functional one and therefore there are no specific roles and responsibilities unless determined by the presiding General Secretary and/or the Board of General Ministries, ABCUSA. The website and printed communication pieces will include the name of the General Secretary Emeritus/a and stationary and business cards will be provided. The BGM may allocate travel funds for the General Secretary Emeritus/a to represent the denomination for specific purposes.

The presiding General Secretary may initiate active participation of the General Secretary Emeritus/a at special celebrations in the life of the denomination. The General Secretary Emeritus/a will firmly refer well-intended invitations for denominational work to the presiding General Secretary. The General Secretary Emeritus/a and BGM are to hold in regard the health and vitality of the General Secretary's office by treating the presiding General Secretary as the head of the denomination.

To be adopted by the Board of General Ministries, November 12-14, 2015, King of Prussia, PA.