

BGM Executive Committee
March 10-13, 2015

MINUTES

Meeting Site: Crowne Plaza
2270 Hotel Circle North
San Diego, CA
619-297-1101

Officers: Don Ng, President
Judy Fackenthal, Vice President/BGM Chaplain
Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer
Ruth Clark, Past President
A. Roy Medley, General Secretary

Committee: Camille Brown, Cleveland
Wesley Roberts, Massachusetts
Tasha Wilson, Rochester/Genesee

Parliamentarian: Dennis Johnson

Staff: Alan Musoke, Treasurer and CFO
Cathy Brubaker, Assistant to the General Secretary (Recorder)

Tuesday, March 10, 2015; 9:00 a.m.; Executive Boardroom

BGM EC 259 CALL TO ORDER
WORSHIP

President Don Ng shared a warm welcome and called the meeting of the BGM Executive Committee to order.

Judy Fackenthal, BGM chaplain, led in worship, with a focus on four Old and New Testament accounts of displaced persons. She challenged the Executive Committee to contemplate theologically, socially and biblically the experiences that will be shared together during Wednesday's trip to Tijuana and she invited all to share feedback related to those experiences during Thursday morning worship.

Concerns and celebrations were shared and agreed upon together in prayer, including prayer for Dennis Johnson, who was not able to be at this meeting due to an ice-related injury.

During this time, the Executive Committee also recognized the February 18 passing of Rev. John (Bud) Carroll. Bud served ABC's former Board of Educational Ministries for 30 years. President Ng, who

participated in Bud's memorial service, mentioned that in his travels across the regions, he continues to hear interest in a possible re-establishment of educational ministries and wonders if the time might be ripe for that decision and if there is a level of support to make it financially feasible. The Executive Committee agreed that youth and children's ministries, leadership development and training are suffering immeasurably from benign neglect.

BGM EC 260 REVIEW OF AGENDA

The Executive Committee reviewed the agenda, considering Big Issues and Parking Lot Issues to determine together its focus during this meeting. President Ng expressed the importance of addressing UM funding, reviewing the proposal received last November from the Adaptive Challenge Team on UM ("Three-Pronged Strategy for BGM Consideration") and considering how to move forward with next steps in anticipation of reporting back to BGM in June 2015. He also noted the importance of the Executive Committee's role in these conversations during this time of leadership transition—new General Secretary and Executive Directors of ABHMS, IM and several regions. He posed this question for consideration: Are there steps we can specifically take for the next 3-5 years while important/significant positions are being filled, something forward thinking so that new connections might be made?

BGM EC 261 COMMUNICATING ABC IDENTITY MARKETING PROPOSAL ACT ON UM -- STRATEGY FOR MOVING FORWARD


Tasha Wilson, chair of the Communicating ABC Identity Action Group, presented to the Executive Committee a proposed special edition communication piece called *Connecting: Communicating ABC Identity*. *Connecting* was designed by the Communicating ABC Identity Action Group with the goal of emphasizing connectivity between ABC-USA and the local church (depicting the local church as the center of ministry) and with the goal of serving as a resource to inform, involve and inspire congregations for ministry.

It is the goal of the Action Group 1) to encourage BGM directors to be advocates for getting churches in their regions involved; 2) to have *Connecting* included in Biennial Mission Summit delegate packets; 3) to provide BGM directors with information and "talking points" about UM, possibly in the form of a PowerPoint, CD or flash drive which could also be mailed to region executives and to churches; and 4) to ask BGM directors to set up a booth at their respective annual meetings, to get time on the agenda, and/or share in region communication newsletters. Mission Resource Development is also considering the use of cell phone videos, which would be available for the Mission Summit in June. Following the Executive Committee's review, final wording for this communication piece, including graphics and fonts, will be determined.

The Executive Committee affirmed the piece as a whole, and its focus on the local church as the center for ministry. The Committee also noted that the piece, which focuses on interdependence, fits well with what the Adaptive Challenge Team on UM was envisioning. Further feedback included the following:

- Information related to *Transformed by the Spirit* needs to be moved from the first page so the initial emphasis is on "who we are";
- In the focus statement, "Missional churches" should be changed to read "local churches" (this should also be changed on the ABCUSA website);
- The ministries of BGM/ABCUSA need to be depicted as clearly flowing from ABCUSA directly rather than from the local church;

- It is important to clearly indicate that BGM is a part of several of these ministries;
- *Transformed by the Spirit*, World Relief Committee and Leadership to the Denomination need to be added as BGM/ABCUSA ministries;
- May be good to delete one of the two references to Baptist-Muslim Dialogue and instead add a reference to AB Women's Ministries;
- Additional information might be added about the national boards and each board should be asked to review copy prior to finalizing;
- The 4 national offerings should be identified as part of ABC life;
- The length of document is of concern (too long);
- In order to effectively share the information, the following might be provided as helpful resources: a master for bulletin inserts or a one-slide screen projection for churches who do not use bulletins, pamphlets, CDs or flash drives (and, there should be another means of distribution besides just sending information directly to pastors);
- BGM directors might serve as a pilot for what is provided to churches;
- Show ABCUSA as resourceful, a place for one-stop shopping from which they can find all the parts of the family ("abc-usa.org connects you to God's mission to the world")

During this discussion it was noted that while the Hands & Feet logo is effective, the former ABC logo () spells out "American Baptist Churches" and continues to be used by churches and organizations, and in international settings, as a more recognizable symbol. Concern was also expressed that "ABCUSA" continues to be a confusing term for many. [This discussion is being forwarded to the Communicating ABC Identity Action Group for its June 2015 agenda.]

The Executive Committee interrupted its discussion to enjoy lunch together in Peacock 2 of the Crowne Plaza. Following lunch, discussion continued related to the proposed ABC identity piece and UM.

General Secretary Roy Medley noted that UM needs to be reframed/reinterpreted to help others better understand the ministries BGM and regions carry. The focus of mission support should be redefined and consideration given as to whether a percentage of mission money should be spent to strengthen communication in regard to the ministries we carry. This will be an agenda item at the NLC's April meeting. Roy stated that anything ABC does in relationship to UM is a technical fix until we address the future of local churches and that it is imperative to communicate that funds were raised for *Transformed by the Spirit* because of our desire to have healthy local churches.

The following next steps were identified:

- Roy will meet with Leo Thorne, Bridget Holmstrom and the REMC in April to share this discussion and the Executive Committee's commitment to move forward with marketing assistance to generate a product that will go to regions this fall.
- A small work group comprised of members of BGM, ACT on UM, 3-4 region executives who are committed to UM, and staff members of ABCUSA, will engage a marketing specialist (possibly Wesley Roberts' son and/or Don Ng's son) to help sharpen the focus prior to engaging a consultant.
- A long-term plan for reframing UM needs to await the arrival of the new general secretary and the new ABHMS executive director (and new IM executive director, after August 2016).
- Regions will be encouraged to re-imagine ministry aside from a "hub-spoke model" to a "distributive communities of learning model."
- A BGM planning retreat will be postponed until more of the pieces are in place.
- Local churches will be encouraged at the Mission Summit to motivate their congregations to put UM in its budget.

- Regions will be asked to identify those churches not currently giving and ABC will assist in providing strategies for action.

BGM EC 262 GENERAL SECRETARY SEARCH – EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Committee met in executive session to receive an update on the General Secretary's search, also providing a time for open discussion and questions.

(No minutes of this session were recorded. When minutes are recorded for executive sessions, that document is sealed in an envelope and attached to the official copy of the BGM minutes filed in the General Secretary's office.)

BGM EC 263 JOINT MEETING OF NATIONAL BOARD PRESIDENTS AND VICE PRESIDENTS

The national board presidents and vice presidents met together in Valley Forge on January 7 for dinner and an evening meeting, and again on January 8 with the NEC. These meetings were called by President Ng in an effort to 1) encourage renewed collaboration between the organizations during this transitional state of the denomination, 2) speak about the issues of fiduciary responsibility (since it is largely board directors who approve and evaluate the financial state of its organization), and 3) plan the dinner/plenary gathering of members of the American Baptist National Boards, to be held June 24, 2015 in Overland Park.

Don reported that the presidents and vice presidents decided that the June 24 meeting would include a "swap night" with board directors of each organization presenting a memento representative of their own board to directors of other boards. ABCUSA will be providing a small magnet or bookmark with individually-wrapped chocolate chip cookies, tagged with the hands and feet logo. Seating around each table will include representation from all boards and all directors will wear name badges. Presidents will introduce one another, with each president being responsible for a 5-minute "TED" talk.

President Ng reported that national board presidents and vice presidents agreed to meet again in August 2015, with plans for additional meetings on a regular basis.

BGM EC 264 TRANSFORMED BY THE SPIRIT

General Secretary Roy Medley shared an update on *Transformed by the Spirit* (TbyS), noting the initiative's emphases: forming of Adaptive Challenge Teams; reaching out to neighborhoods asking the question, "What are the issues in your community where the church could be a blessing?" and reaching beyond by moving across diversities.

TbyS resources will be available at the Biennial Mission Summit in conjunction with the Mission Table conversations. There will be a TbyS booth in the Exhibit Hall which will carry resources for churches and share stories of how churches are involved. As a part of the TbyS initiative, and through the website, ABCUSA has invited American Baptists from across the country to share their ministry stories. Written and video entries from individuals and congregations are welcomed; there is a May 1, 2015 submission deadline. Readers can tag stories by clicking on "like", with the story with the most "likes" receiving an iPad. Brad Berglund is working with a team to launch a major TbyS presentation on Saturday evening at

the Biennial Mission Summit, with the goal of launching new resources. There will also be Biennial workshops that will include an opportunity for individuals to meet with a spiritual director, as well as a time for spiritual directors to gather.

Alan Roxburgh's (The Mission Network consultant) contract will end in June 2015, at which time Jeff Woods will be taking on additional responsibility. His title will change to "Associate General Secretary for Regional and Congregational Life" to indicate his expanded role. Jeff has recently been working with David Cushman, director of the AB Computer Center, to enable online connection for churches.

The second pilgrimage to the Taizé Community (May 21-June 2, 2015) will be held in Burgundy, France. The next Rhythms of the Spirit Conference ("Nurturing a Transformed Life") will be held on August 3-7, 2015 in Exeter, RI.

BGM EC 265 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT UPDATE

Registration materials have been posted online as well as sent by ground mail. There will be a young preachers pavilion (coordinated by Rev. Heather Entekin) which will provide the opportunity for young people (ages 14-28) to preach 15 min. sermons. Sign-up for a 15-minute slot must be done pre-Biennial.

ABC will be introducing a newly-styled Exhibit Hall ("Hall of Ministries") this Biennial, highlighting various ministries and partners, along with other exhibitors. The theme will be, "Share the Journey," and will lead people along a meandering pathway as they visit the various exhibitors/ministries. In a central location there will be a Town Center (Ministry Square) where attendees may gather, network and connect with one another. When attendees check in at the registration booth, they will be issued a passport that will help them navigate their way through the Hall of Ministries. Exhibitors who wish to have their names appear in the passport will pay a little higher fee. For those delegates who obtain stamps on each page of their passport, their names will be entered in a drawing making them eligible to win various prizes (iPads, Judson Press books, etc.) Drawings will be held at 4:30 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday.

BGM 266 REVIEW OF 2015 BGM/BMS INTEGRATED SCHEDULE

The Executive Committee reviewed a draft of the Board of General Ministries/Biennial Mission Summit Integrated Schedule. The draft was approved with minor changes, which will be conveyed to Annie Marcucci, Director of the Office of Travel and Conference Planning, for the final draft.

BGM 267 PRAYER

The Executive Committee prayed together for Ruth Clark's husband, Rev. John Clark, pastor of Judson Baptist Church, Kansas City, KS, as he and several others were invited to be a part of a ministry team in a local Kansas City middle school this afternoon.

BGM EC 268 IMMIGRATION TASKFORCE

General Secretary Medley reported on his recent formation of an Immigration Taskforce. Members of the taskforce include: Jose Norat-Rodriguez (IM), Salvador Orellana (ABHMS), Sandy Hasenauer (AB Women's Ministries), and Ray Schellinger (IM). The taskforce is currently working on an education

piece for churches which will be downloadable. The taskforce will continue to meet to review legislative issues as they arise to evaluate where it might be appropriate to initiate statements.

ABHMS is planning to hold conferences in areas where there are large Hispanic populations. Since many immigration issues have a common thread which includes national, international and domestic issues, Roy noted that this has been a great way for ABC organizations to work together.

BGM EC 269 CORA & JOHN SPARROWK PRESIDENT’S AWARD

At each Biennial meeting, the Cora and John Sparrowk President’s Award is presented on behalf of the Board of General Ministries to an exceptional Christian leader. The recipient must be an American Baptist who has over a period of years made an exceptional and outstanding contribution to the life of Christ’s Church and who in life and service manifests richly the fruits and gifts of the Spirit.

A motion was made by Paul Higgins, seconded by Tasha Wilson and it was

VOTED: To confirm David Gnirk as the 2015 recipient of the Cora and John Sparrowk President’s Award, to be presented at the 2015 Mission Summit Biennial in Overland Park, KS.

President Ng will notify David Gnirk of this honor.

BGM EC 270 ABCUSA STANDING RULES/ABCUSA BYLAWS

At its telephonic meeting on March 6, the Standing Rules Committee (Alan Rudnick, Chair) approved proposed amendments to the ABCUSA Bylaws and to the ABCUSA Standing Rules and directed that drafts of each document be forwarded to the Executive Committee for recommendation to the BGM. These draft amendments included recommendations from ABCUSA’s New York counsel (Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP) based on last year’s amendments to the New York nonprofit corporation statute (summary sent to Executive Committee last September). Drafts of each of these documents are attached to the minutes filed in the General Secretary’s office.

Following discussion regarding proposed changes, including a question related to the meaning of the word “independent/affiliate” director on the Finance Committee (which was later resolved), a motion was made by Ruth Clark, seconded by Tasha Wilson and it was:

VOTED: At the recommendation of the Standing Rules Committee, to forward to the Board of General Ministries the proposed amendments to the Standing Rules, as presented for action at its June 2015 meeting.

A motion was made by Tasha Wilson, seconded by Wesley Roberts and it was

VOTED: At the recommendation of the Standing Rules Committee, to forward to the Board of General Ministries at its June 2015 meeting the proposed amendments to the ABCUSA Bylaws as presented for recommendation to the ABC delegates at the 2017 Biennial.

BGM EC 271 APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

A motion was made by Wesley Roberts, seconded by Tasha Wilson and it was

**VOTED: To approve the November 12-14, 2014 BGM Executive Committee minutes
(meeting held in King of Prussia, PA).**

BGM EC 272 BOARD MEMBER TRANSITIONS

President Ng reported the following transitions of BGM directors: Nancy Adkins (West Virginia Baptist Convention) resigned for personal reasons; Marc Williams (ABC of the Rocky Mountains) declined the invitation to serve as Special Director.

BGM EC 273 PRAYER/DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP

ABC past president Ruth Clark led in prayer for the day's work and shared a blessing for the food. The Executive Committee enjoyed dinner and fellowship together in Peacock 2 of the Crowne Plaza.

Wednesday, March 11, 2015; 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Mission Learnings in Tijuana

BGM EC 274 MISSION TRIP TO TIJUANA

ABC missionaries Ray and Adalia Schellinger hosted a mission trip in Tijuana for the Executive Committee. This was a day of learning about immigration issues as experienced on the Mexican side of the border. The day began with an educational experience and a time of prayer at Friendship Park, the border fence in Playas, Mexico. From there the committee visited Deborah's House, a ministry to women and children affected by domestic violence where crisis intervention, healthcare, counseling and educational services are provided to victims and to abusers. The Executive Committee heard the stories of two amazing women who shared personal testimonies of how their lives were changed as a result of their time at Deborah's House. Lunch was hosted by Deborah's House and time was provided to get to know new friends (resident families and volunteers from ABC of the Rocky Mountain Region) and to tour the grounds.

The Executive Committee ended the day with a visit to Case de Migrante in Tijuana, a faith-based non-profit Catholic mission founded in 1987. This mission shelters male migrants who are on their way to the U.S. or those who have been deported, offering them housing and counseling services for up to 12 days. The committee shared a meal at the mission, each sitting on long benches across the table from one of the men so as to hear their personal stories.

Thursday, March 12, 2015; 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Executive Board Room

**BGM EC 275 RECOVERING
DEBRIEFING TIJUANA TRIP – PRAYER/DEVOTIONS**

President Ng reconvened the meeting of the Executive Committee.

Judy lit the Christ Candle and led in a time of devotion based on I Samuel 25:2-38, the story of Abigail, a biblical account of a woman abused, and the actions she took in response to her situation. Executive Committee members shared personal reflections regarding how Abigail's story parallels some of the refugee stories they heard from the previous day. Judy guided the group to contemplate the question, "How do we respond?"

The Executive Committee discussed what its response might be in regard to its visit to Tijuana and the needs that are so apparent there. It was decided that one response might be through already-established ABC funding resources (i.e., World Relief Committee grants or the Mission Initiative Fund, etc.). Roy will connect with the Schellingers about these possibilities. It was also by consensus

AGREED: That the June 2015 BGM Offering be collected to assist the ministry of Deborah's House in honor of the work of ABC missionaries Ray and Adalia Schellinger.

Roy also reported on recent conversations with the President of the Association of Baptist churches that covers Tijuana regarding the work of ABC's Immigration Taskforce and the desire to partner with a similar taskforce they have in place. Following this discussion the Executive Committee by consensus

AGREED: To form a bi-national Immigration Taskforce with the Association of Baptist Churches of Tijuana, should their governing body also desire this partnership in ministry.

This conversation will be brought to the association of Baptist churches of Tijuana for vote in the near future. Should their vote be positive, this would be the first ever bi-national taskforce established by the denomination with a sister Baptist body, transcending borders and bringing together voices of the church to address common concerns and to enrich efforts for just and compassionate responses to complex issues.

The Executive Committee agreed together in prayer for Ray and Adalia and for the ministry at Deborah's House and for other requests, including Tasha and her family as they mourn the passing yesterday of her beloved grandfather.

BGM EC 276 FINANCIAL REPORT

Overall the year-to-date financials show a net loss of \$145,000. Although revenue compared to last year is up by \$500,000 (due to an increase from investments, an increase of \$240,000 in revenue from Transition Ministries and the nature of this being a Biennial year), expenses are higher this year, by \$282,000, as compared to the previous year. Expenses for Transition Ministries increased by \$165,000 and expenses for the Development Office increased by \$90,000. (The Development Office, which was formed in 2013, only reflected six months of activity in that fiscal year.) Women in Ministry had a net loss of \$7,000, although the loss in 2014 is significantly lower than the previous year.

Total United Mission (UM) is down 7.5% from the previous year. The World Mission Offering (WMO) is up 12.2%, the Retired Ministers and Missionaries (RMMO) is down 1.1%, and Region Offering (RO) is up 5.6% from the previous year. All offerings, with the exception of targeted giving and regional offerings, have declined significantly over the past four years. At the same time, targeted giving during that period

has increased by 31% and region offerings by 47%. The majority of funds realized through targeted giving are distributed to IM missionaries through their Missionary Partner Teams (MPTs).

The Executive Committee was reminded that with the new budget covenant, ABC gave up the largest amount of funding to allow more to be retained by the regions. 100% of specifics go to the designees, with no share to the regions or to the national organizations. It was also reported that American Baptist Women's Ministries is requesting that future giving be focused in areas other than "Love Gift", since they retain only 15% of those proceeds. The following information was also provided for clarity:

- ABHMS/IM/ABCUSA Specifics- Gifts used toward the support of both general and specific projects for all the National Boards, including missionary projects and missionaries to provide monies beyond the fund dollars for these projects.
- ABHMS/IM/ABCUSA Targeted Giving- Gifts used to fund missionaries' salaries and the National Boards, often the result of an appeal for support (begun for Missionary Partnership Team support).
- All other giving Specifics- Gifts are used toward the support of both general and specific projects for regional and institutional items to provide monies beyond the funded dollars for these projects.
- All other Giving- Gifts are used to fund the regions and institutions, often the result of an appeal for support.

The full financial report is attached to the minutes filed in the General Secretary's office.

BGM EC 277 GENERAL SECRETARY'S COMPENSATION EXECUTIVE SESSION

Under the new bylaws, adopted in 2011, the BGM Executive Committee acts as the compensation committee. Johnson Eapen, Director of Human Resources, met with the Executive Committee at 2:00 p.m. by Skype to discuss the establishment of a compensation structure for the position of General Secretary. (The confidential document reviewed at this meeting, which will go to the General Secretary Search Committee following Executive Committee review, is attached to the official minutes in the General Secretary's office.)

The Executive Committee continued to meet in Executive Session for further discussion/questions.

BGM EC 278 DINNER/CELEBRATION OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

At 6:00 p.m. the Executive Committee shared dinner together in the Peacock Rm. of the Crowne Plaza. Following dinner, the Committee celebrated with a cake presented in honor of President Don Ng's 40th year of ordained ministry (January 1975-January 2015) and General Secretary Roy Medley's 40th year of ordination (April 1975-April 2015). The Executive Committee joined in a circle as chaplain Judy Fackenthal gave thanks to God for two leaders who are fulfilling their call to ministry with integrity and grace.

BGM EC 279 FINANCIALS (CONTINUED DISCUSSION)

Building Issues

In March 2014 it was reported to the Executive Committee that 588 Associates, L.P. received notification of change in the exempt status of its real property from the local township. Currently ABC pays a tax, a percentage on the funds received through renting portions of the building. 588 Associates appealed the ruling, knowing that if this was not resolved in 588 Associates' favor, it would be assessed an approximate \$250,000 in additional taxes. 588 Associates appealed the decision to the Montgomery County Board of Assessment Appeals, but its appeal was rejected. 588 Associates then instituted an action in the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, which is still pending while the parties attempt to negotiate an amicable settlement.

Alan Musoke provided an update to the Executive Committee at this meeting. He shared for the Committee's review a letter submitted to the township by ABC legal counsel Glen Stuart (Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP) on 588 Associates' behalf which proposed terms (noted below) as part of a settlement agreement: (See full copy of letter attached to minutes filed in the General Secretary's office.)

Following a time for questions and discussion, Tasha Wilson made a motion, seconded by Judy Fackenthal, and the Executive Committee:

VOTED: To affirm the following proposed terms of a settlement agreement:

- Transfer Property (588 N. Gulph Road) from 588 Associates, L.P. to each limited partner based upon each limited partner's pro rata interest in a tenancy in common arrangement. Under this proposal, the limited partners would receive the following designated percentages in the Property: (a) American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. (35%); (b) American Baptist Home Mission Society (35%); (c) Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board of American Baptist Churches (25%); and (d) the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (5%). We spoke informally with the Department of Revenue regarding transfer tax issues, and the Department of Revenue's counsel concurred that transferring property from the partnership to the limited partners in a tenancy in common relationship falls squarely within the exemption from realty transfer taxes under 72 P.S. 8101-C.3 (13)
- The parties will agree to the percentage of the Property that will be exempt retroactive to January 1, 2013. As presented in our August 9, 2013 letter to the Montgomery County Board of Assessment Appeals, we believe that the exempt percentage should be based upon the charitable use of the total occupied square footage (now 145,080 sq. ft.); in other words, 66.73% is the square footage of space used for exempt purposes (96,809 sq. ft.) divided by the total occupied square footage (not including unoccupied space).
- 588 Associates will request a credit for past taxes paid in 2013 and 2014 as an offset to future taxes owed. Under this proposal, 588 Associates would not be responsible for future real estate taxes until the credit for overpayment of taxes during 2013 and 2014 is used in full. Using the 66.73% figure, there was a total overpayment during 2013 and 2014 of \$472,857.25.
- As we have discussed during our meeting, there are at least two alternative figures: 79.43% = Square footage of total space (234,635 sq. ft.) minus space that is actively used for non-exempt purposes (48,271 sq. ft.) divided by total square footage. Using the 79.43% figure, there was a total overpayment and future credit of \$562,848.26; 41.26% = Square footage of space used for exempt purposes (96,809 sq. ft.) divided by total square footage (234,635 sq. ft.). Using the 42.26% figure, there was a total overpayment and future credit of \$292,377.75.
- Future taxes on the Property will be calculated based on the exempt percentage to which the parties agree (i.e., one of the three listed above or an alternative compromise figure).

Investment Policy Update

At the Executive Committee's meeting in September 2014, Paul Higgins reported that the BGM Finance Committee was in the process of updating ABCUSA's Investment Policy (last updated in 1997). At that meeting, he reviewed the policy with the Executive Committee for feedback on key issues to inform the Committee's work.

Paul reported that he is currently reviewing the revised document. Robin Crouch, a member of the BGM Finance Committee, and Alan Musoke are also assisting with the review, after which it will come back to the Executive Committee for feedback.

Review of UM Allocations

In 2013 less than 1% of total ABMS giving was in the UM Designated category and, in fact, it was determined that many churches which give UM Designated funds have other options for designating their gifts and are unaware that the UM Designated category does not usually result in the designee receiving additional funds other than what is set forth as their traditional share by the Covenant.

At a meeting of the Covenanting Partners of the Common Budget Covenant held in April 2014, a decision was reached by consensus to eliminate the category of "Designated Giving" from the Covenant, effective January 1, 2015. As of December 31, 2014 over 90% of the Covenanting Partners approved the change. The ABCUSA Finance Committee has been working since then to revise the Report of Mission Support form, including instructions for completing the form and definitions. At this meeting Alan Musoke presented the revised documents, which after review with the BGM and NLC, will be beta tested with a group of forty churches over a period of three months in order to receive feedback related to the clarity of the process.

The Executive Committee spent a significant amount of time reviewing the documents and providing feedback to Alan with the intent of Alan taking these recommendations into consideration and presenting to the ABCUSA Finance Committee those areas where he thinks changes might be made.

Friday, March 13, 2015; 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Executive Board Room

BGM EC 280 MORNING DEVOTIONS

Chaplain Judy Fackenthal lit the Christ Candle and led in a time of devotions, based on Matthew 2:13-23. Following shared prayer requests, the Executive Committee participated in "mass prayer" as is done in Nagaland, with everyone audibly bringing their requests before the Lord simultaneously.

BGM EC 281 REPORT ON NAGALAND

ABC Vice President Judy Fackenthal was invited by President Ng to travel to Nagaland, India on his behalf to meet with the Nagaland Baptist Council of Churches (NBCC) for their Triennial Convention. At the formal invitation of Rev. Dr. L. Anjo Keikung, General Secretary of NBCC, Judy and her husband Fred traveled to India (along with IM Executive Director Reid Trulson and his daughter Emma), for the February 4-8 event in Mon, Nagaland. Judy reported that the Nagaland Baptist Council is strong and hopes to have 1200 missionaries within the next few years. One of the highlights of the trip was a ride up

the mountain to look over the valley at the location of the future North East India Baptist University. The Council of Baptist Churches of North East India is working to see this dream come to fruition. Many NE India Baptist students face persecution and mistreatment when they attend other universities. By building this university the Baptists will take the lead in preparing the next generation of leaders for North East India as well as protecting the lives of their young people. Dr. Keikung will be stepping down as General Secretary of NBCC to take on the role of chancellor and fund raiser for this endeavor.

Judy also reported that there is interest in honoring the Naga trail through the jungle as a Heritage Trail. Roy mentioned the possibility that it could be a future site for Brad Berglund to lead a pilgrimage. Judy's full written report was submitted to the Executive Committee and is attached to the minutes.

**BGM EC 282 REPORT ON TRIP TO MALAYSIA, THAILAND AND
BURMA/MYANMAR**

Reporting on the ABC delegations' February 2015 trip to Malaysia, Thailand and Burma, General Secretary Roy Medley noted:

"...I cannot begin to recount the privilege it was to be the embodiment of such a wonderful family of God and respected tradition as the American Baptist Churches. The fact that leaders such as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Minister U Aung Min, US government and UN officials, and the Chief Minister of the Kachin State (who is one of the few non-Baptist Kachins) would gladly give an hour or more of their time to meet with our delegation speaks so highly of our international reputation resulting from our advocacy for human rights and religious liberty in Burma and our active work on behalf of refugees from Burma. When we entered the meeting room of the US Embassy in Yangon, Ambassador Mitchell remarked, "I have so many staff here with you because we know how important Baptists are to Burma."

"Along the way, I was told that our visit as General Secretary of ABC and team members was being reported through a wide range of video and radio media both inside and outside the country. The presence of the General Secretary of American Baptist Churches carried great symbolic significance of our commitment to the country of Myanmar both to those within and without the church..."

Following the delegation's visit, the General Secretary traveled on to the Chin Hills, the first American Baptist visit to the Chin Hills in half a century or more. He reported that he was received with an overwhelming expression of love for American Baptists and that everywhere the team traveled, he was asked to pray blessings upon the people and older men and women would also pronounce benedictions on him as well. Roy noted that to him, this trip was a "powerful affirmation of the promise of Philippians 1:6 - *"He who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."*

The General Secretary's full written report is attached to the minutes filed in the General Secretary's office.

BGM EC 283 REPORT OF THE ABC PRESIDENT

President Ng shared highlights of his work on behalf of ABC since the November 2014 meeting. He participated in table conversations in ABC/Maine, exploring ways to create sacred space for millennials and next generations. These conversations engaged older and younger pastors together. Acknowledging

the reality of the times, he reported that some of these pastors are currently shepherding 3 congregations simultaneously due to the inability of many churches to pay a full-time salary.

In early February, Don preached at Watts Street Baptist Church in Durham, NC and there addressed the sometimes difficult issue of inclusiveness and ABC's journey of becoming the beloved community. In early January he met with presidents and vice presidents of the 5 national organizations to address mutual concerns facing the vitality and future of American Baptists. Don also provided a brief update on the work of the Search Committee for the next General Secretary and spoke of several upcoming commitments, including an April invitation to speak at the Council of Baptist Churches of North East India's annual convention. While in India he will also visit the site for the proposed North East India University.

With great anticipation for what God has for his future, Don announced his official completion of 17 years of ministry as senior pastor at First Chinese Baptist Church in San Francisco on June 30.

BGM EC 284 RECESS/RECOVENE: CREDENTIALS & CAUCUS COMMITTEE

President Ng recessed the meeting of the BGM Executive Committee, and Wesley Roberts (chair) called the Credentials and Caucus Committee (CCC) to order.

Budget Review Officer Paul Higgins reviewed the 2014 funding allocations for American Baptist caucuses (with a budget of \$50,000) approved by the Credentials and Caucus Committee at its meeting last March. Approval of 2015 allocations was deferred to this meeting due to the 2015 budget process.

Following discussion, it was

VOTED: To approve the following funding (with a budget of \$52,000) for 2015 for American Baptist Caucuses:

- AB African American Caucus - \$8,000
- AB Asian Caucus - \$8,000
- AB Haitian Caucus - \$8,000
- AB Hispanic Caucus - \$8,000
- AB Native American Caucus - \$8,000
- AB National Portuguese Speaking Caucus - \$6,100
- AB Women's Caucus - \$4,950
- AB Young Adult Caucus - \$950

The 2015 allocation provides an increase of \$2,000 over what was allocated for the AB Women's Caucus in 2014.

Under the revised Caucus Funding Guidelines, each caucus is tasked with submitting, by May 15, 2015, a detailed annual financial report to the CCC and to the Finance Committee denoting its use of 2014 funding and any remaining balance, as well as its request for 2016 funding.

Wesley Robert adjourned the meeting of the Credentials and Caucus Committee. President Ng reconvened the meeting of the Executive Committee.

BGM EC 285 BGM REGISTRATION – BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

Executive Committee discussion during this time included the following information for clarification:

- Registration fees for the Mission Summit Biennial will be covered for BGM directors.
- Room/board and shuttle expenses for Directors attending the BGM meeting will be covered through Wednesday night, June 24.
- Room and board for BGM directors from Thursday, June 25, through Sunday, June 28, is “on your own.”
- The ABCUSA Emerging Theologians Conference is being held on Thursday, June 25.
- The Mission Summit Biennial begins on Friday, June 26.
- Members of the Committee on Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations will receive a complimentary ticket to the CCUIR dinner, to be held on Friday, June 26.
- If a director is an ABC donor, s/he will receive an invitation to the ABCUSA Circle of Friends Breakfast on Saturday morning, June 27.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Ruth Clark, seconded by Judy Fackenthal and it was:

VOTED: That BGM authorize a subsidy of \$150 for BGM directors, should they stay at least two nights of the Mission Summit Biennial.

During further discussion the Executive Committee also requested that:

- An email be sent as soon as possible to BGM directors asking that they register for the June BGM meeting, encouraging directors to stay for the Mission Summit Biennial and specifying details as noted above related to costs covered on their behalf.
- The name badges for BGM directors who are remaining in Overland Park for the Mission Summit Biennial be tagged with a ribbon.
- That ABCUSA provide a Biennial shirt for BGM directors (a notice will need to be sent to directors inquiring about size).

It was also noted in discussion that BGM directors will not qualify to win drawings that are sponsored by BGM in the Hall of Ministries/Ministry Square.

BGM EC 286 ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

The Committee on Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations is tasked with presenting names of ABC representatives for its ecumenical work to the Executive Committee for approval. CCUIR is working hard to identify younger people to nominate to serve in this capacity.

The Executive Committee will make ecumenical representation an item on the June agenda and will invite Dr. June Totten, in her role as chair of the CCUIR, to be present for this discussion in June.

BGM EC 287 JUNE 2015 BGM/BGM EC MEETINGS

The following dates were confirmed for meetings of the BGM and BGM Executive Committee in 2015:

June 23-24, 2015 in Overland, KS

BGM Executive Committee: Arriving Monday, June 22 (ABC officers meet for dinner at 6:45 p.m.); Executive Committee begins on Tuesday morning, June 23; meeting ends with lunch that day.

BGM: Meeting begins on Tuesday, June 23 at 2:00 p.m.; meeting ends on Wednesday, June 24 at 4:30 p.m., just prior to the Gathering of Members of ABC National Boards Dinner (5:00 p.m.) & Plenary (7:00 p.m.).

September 9-12, 2015 in Charleston, WV (Baptist Temple, Charleston, WV)

Arriving Wednesday, Sept. 9; meeting begins on Thursday morning, Sept. 10; meeting ends Saturday Sept. 12, lunch on own.

November 11-14, 2015 in King of Prussia, PA (Doubletree by Hilton, Valley Forge)

BGM Executive Committee: Arriving Wednesday, Nov. 11 (ABC officers meet for dinner at 6:00pm); Executive Committee begins on Thursday morning, Nov. 12; meeting ends with lunch that day.

BGM: Meeting begins on Thursday, Nov. 12 at 2:00 p.m.; meeting ends on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 12:30 p.m.; Buffet lunch provided for those who do not need to rush off to the airport.

(The 2015 Mission Table meets Nov. 9-11, 2015, also at the Doubletree.)

**BGM EC 288 CELEBRATION OF ROLE OF AMERICAN BAPTISTS IN THE
CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the 1965 march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama by voting rights activists in an effort to prevent widespread minority voter suppression. American Baptists were active and vocal in the civil right movement and have continued to work for justice and equality for all.

At this meeting a motion was made by Tasha Wilson, seconded by Judy Fackenthal and it was

VOTED: To approve the following statement:

We celebrate the role of American Baptists in the Civil Rights Movement. The recent commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL, reminds us that this moral movement for justice and equality was birthed in the church from a faith that believes that all are created in the image of God and are worthy of love, justice and respect. Ferguson and other incidents are vivid reminders that our journey as a nation to a society free of racism has not yet ended.

We affirm today that Black lives matter. Every life matters. And we call again upon our churches to bring forth from the wells of our faith a renewed moral movement to end the scourge of racism. Justice is never abstract; it is the concrete steps we take to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. *“Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.”* (I John 3:18 NRSV)

BGM EC 289 LUNCH WITH AREA PASTORS/CHURCH LEADERS

The Executive Committee, with the help of Dr. Bob Wallace (former Area Minister), hosted a luncheon at Coco's Bakery Restaurant in Encinitas, CA for local pastors and church leaders, several of whom meet on a monthly basis and call themselves "The Recyclers." The Executive Committee also extended invitations to two special guests who live in the area, Jeremy Fackenthal (Judy's son) and Eva Emmons (long-time New Jersey friend of Roy's). This was a wonderful time of fellowship, including learnings about ABC ministry in the area. General Secretary Roy Medley also shared updates on the work and ministry of the American Baptist Churches.

BGM EC 290 MEETING VENUES FOR 2016

The following dates/venues were selected for meetings of the BGM and BGM Executive Committee in 2016:

March 7-12, 2016 at Camp Verde, AZ (Rainbow Acres; Executive Committee Meeting & Retreat)

Executive Committee arrives on Mar. 7 and meets on Mar. 8 & 9.

Overnight accommodations at hotel in area.

Retreat with invited guests (possible 10 guests) on Mar. 10-12; Departures on Mar. 12

(Retreat would involve focused work on review of ACT report and determination of recommendations/next steps)

June 22-25, 2016 at Green Lake, WI

(The Executive Committee will extend an invitation to Marie Onwubuariri, Executive Minister of ABC/Wisconsin, to join this meeting.)

Most arrivals on Wednesday, June 22, but some, depending on other scheduled meetings or responsibilities, may need to arrive on Tuesday evening, June 21; departures on Saturday, June 25.

September 8-10, 2016 (The Executive Committee hopes to meet somewhere in the ABC/South region, possibly Atlanta. When the decision is made, the new region executive will need to be contacted.)

Arrivals will be on Sept. 7, departures Sept. 10.)

November 10-12 2016 (King of Prussia, PA)

Most arrivals on Wednesday, Nov. 9, but some, depending on other scheduled meetings/responsibilities, may need to arrive on Tuesday evening, Nov. 8; departures on Saturday, Nov. 12.

BGM EC 291 PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Committee gathered in Peacock 1 of the Crowne Plaza for dinner prior to departures that evening and the following morning.

Submitted by



Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley
General Secretary
ARM/cb

Documents attached

BGM EC Proposed Agenda: March 10-13, 2015

Worship Programs

BGM EC Roster

BGM EC Minutes: November 12-14, 2014 (1002:11/14)

Connecting: Communicating ABC Identity (Communicating ABC Identity Marketing Proposal)

Cora and John Sparrowk President's Award

Proposed Amendments to ABCUSA Bylaws and ABCUSA Standing Rules

ABCUSA Financial Report as of December 31, 2014

*Report of Mission Support: AB Mission Support Defined; Mission Support Form; Church Instruction on
Completing the Report of Mission Support*

Settlement Communication (Pa.R.E. 408)-Glen R. Stuart, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Fackenthal Report on Nagaland

ABC President's Report

Report of the General Secretary to BGM, IM and ABHMS

Medley Report of the World Relief Committee

General Secretary Compensation Committee (Confidential document)

ABCUSA Transformed by the Spirit Progress Report