

**ABCUSA Ecumenical Relationships**  
(Alphabetical Order)  
2010-2015

**BAPIST WORLD ALLIANCE**

A fellowship of 231 conventions and unions in 121 countries and territories comprising 42 million members in 177,000 churches. During the coming years, BWA is committed to 1) Promoting worship, fellowship and unity, 2) Nurturing the passion for mission and evangelism, 3) Responding to human need through relief and sustainable community development, 4) Defending human rights and justice, and 5) Promoting relevant theological reflection. ABC was a founding member.

ABC participants:

Executive/at Large – Roy Medley, Jeffrey Haggray

General Council – Roy Medley, Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Reid Trulson, Ruth Clark,  
Don Ng, Frank Christine, Jeffrey Johnson

Resolutions - Roy Medley (Chair), Yvonne Martinez Thorne

Baptist Heritage & Identity Commission – Hector Gonzalez, Rady Roldan, D. Van Broekhoven

Baptist World Aid – Lauran Bethell, Lisa Rothenberger

Christian Education – Cassandra Williams

Christian Ethics – Allen Reasons, Jerrod Huguenot, Yvonne Martinez Thorne

Commissions on Mission, Evangelism & Theological Education – Evangelism - Dave Laubach

Communications Advisory Committee – Leo Thorne

Congress Program Committee – Charles Jones

Doctrine & Christian Unity – Kent Berghuis, Mark Heim, Stan Slade, Leo Thorne, Reid Trulson

Evangelism – Jeffrey Johnson

Freedom and Justice Commission – Jeff Haggray, Adam Bond

Human Resources – Cora Sparrowk, Jeffrey Haggray

Human Rights Advocacy – Virginia Holmstrom, Ler Htoo, Clifford Jones

Membership – Roy Medley, John Sundquist

Men – Kenna Ray, Hector Gonzalez, David Edwards

METR (Mission, Evangelism & Theological Reflection) Advisory Committee –  
Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Yvonne Martinez Thorne

Ministry Commission – Aidsand Wright-Riggins

Peace - Daniel Buttry, Paul C. Hayes, Reid Trulson, Ruth Clark

Social & Environmental Justice – Lauren Bethel, Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Jeffrey Haggray

Women – Virginia Holmstrom

Worship & Spirituality – Jennifer Davidson

Youth – Nadine Hasenecz, Yvonne Carter

### **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST**

The historic ecumenical table in the United States. ABC founding member.

The NCC through its Faith and Order Commission is the primary locale for formal theological discussions about the unity of the church. It also publishes the graded Sunday School curriculum, and maintains responsibility for the translation of scripture (RSV, NRSV, TEV – and a new one in the works). It has long been active in social justice issues, including Civil Rights movement, Women's Rights, Peace Initiatives, Anti-apartheid efforts, Eco-justice, Poverty.

### **NOMINATIONS For NCCC - 2012-2015 QUADRENNIUM**

#### **General Assembly Delegates:**

Governing Board – Roy Medley, Chair; Frank Christine, Cheryl Wade

Aundreia Alexander (General Assembly; CWS Board and Committees)

Frank Christine (General Assembly, Governing Board)

Vickie Goff (General Assembly; CWS Board and Committees)

David Knipel (General Assembly)

Paul Martin (General Assembly)

Roy Medley (General Assembly and Governing Board)

Marcia Patton (General Assembly)

Ron Quay (deceased) (General Assembly, Local and Regional Ecumenism Committee –  
must be GA Delegate to be on Ecumenism Committee below)

Lisa Rothenberger (General Assembly, CWS Board and Committees)

June Totten (General Assembly)

Reid Trulson (General Assembly)

Cheryl Wade – (General Assembly, Executive Committee, Admin & Finance)

Aidsand Wright-Riggins (General Assembly)

**Committees And Commissions (Not General Assembly Delegates):**

1. David Bartlett (Bible Translation & Utilization Committee)
2. Paul Eppinger (Interfaith Relations Commission)
3. Mark Heim (Faith and Order Commission)
4. William Herzog (Bible Translation & Utilization Committee)
5. David Knipel (Bylaws Committee)
6. Marvin McMickle (Faith and Order Commission)
7. Ronald Quay (deceased) (Gen Assembly, Local and Regional Ecumenism Committee)  
(see 7 above)
8. Curtis Ramsey-Lucas (Justice and Advocacy)
9. Leo Thorne (Communication Commission)
10. Marilyn Turner (Education and Leadership Ministries Commission)

**NCC Convening Tables - 2014**

**Intergenerational Think Tank - June Totten**

**Theological Study and Dialogue and Matters of Faith and Order –**  
Loida Martell-Otero, Christian Collins Winn

**Christian Education, Formation and Leadership Development -**  
Laura Alden, Paul Martin

**Joint Action for Justice and Peace -**

Fela Barrueto, Christopher Bullock, Pat Hernandez

**Inter-religious Relations and Dialogue -**  
Ernest Jones, Cheryl Wade

### **WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

The historic world ecumenical forum. ABC is a founding member.

Assembly Delegates - Roy Medley, Ruth Clark, Rothang Chhangte, June Totten  
Central Committee – Roy Medley, Rothang Chhangte, June Totten

Decade to Overcome Violence – Rothang Chhangte

Many of its programs/emphases are cognates of the NCC programs. In recent years they have initiated the Global Forum (an international version of CCT).

**Global Forum** – Jonathan Malone

### **CHRISTIAN CHURCHES TOGETHER**

The newest and broadest ecumenical table in the United States. ABC is a founding member. The initiative for this larger ecumenical table came from the NCCC itself. Unlike the NCCC, CCT has parachurch groups like Sojourners and Bread for the World as members.

ABC Representatives - June Totten, Chair of Committee on Christian Unity  
Roy Medley, General Secretary

Two major emphases: Poverty and Evangelism

Meets annually. Is organized according to families of traditions: Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Historic Black Churches; Ethnic; Historic Protestant, Evangelical-Pentecostal.

Works through consensus. It does not see itself as a program or policy forum for the churches.

### **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**

The chief development, relief and refugee resettlement arm of the churches related to the National Council of Churches.

Cheryl Dudley - senior Advisor to the Executive Director & CEO (specializing in Mission and Theology)

ABC Representatives - Lisa Rothenberger, Aundrea Alexander, Victoria Goff

**CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE**

Ecumenical advocacy group that focuses on resolving the issues between Israel and Palestinians. It is one of the major voices of U.S. churches on this concern.

ABC Representative - Wes Brown

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS**

This group has not had public assemblies for a number of years. ABC is an observer because their bylaws exclude any denomination affiliated with the NCC/WCC. The General Board took action several years ago to say that ABCUSA would have observers present at their meetings. We have continued to make contact with them in other settings where we sit at the same table. Through conversations at Edinburgh 2010, we were issued an invitation to send an ABC observer to the Cape Town 2010 meeting of the Lausanne Movement.

Roy Medley – met with Leith Anderson, President, April 2012

Ruth Clark – was invited to briefing in DC, 2011

Lee Spitzer recommended a book to NLC (12/15/11) “Loving the Least of These: Addressing a Changing Environment” by Dr. Dorothy Boorse of Gordon College. Published by NAE.

## **OTHER EFFORTS**

### **Baptist-Muslim Dialogue**

The Baptist-Muslim dialogue is comprised of five Baptist denominations, including ABCUSA; and the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA). The goal is to achieve mutual respect and through national, regional and local dialogues between Baptists and Muslims, focusing on helping each community move beyond stereotypes toward greater understanding; developing resources that would be helpful to congregations and mosques; and creating a body of theological dialogue that would help further the ability of both communities to consider how we together might work for peace and justice.

ABC Representatives - Roy Medley, Martin Copenhaver, Nick Carter, Celene Ayat Lizzio, Hopeton Scott, Mark Heim, Erica Wimber Avena

### **The Consultation on Common Texts (CCT)**

An ecumenical consultation of liturgical scholars and denominational representatives from the United States and Canada, who produce liturgical texts for common use by North American Christian churches.

ABC Representative - Brad Berglund

### **Creation Justice Ministries**

Educates, equips and mobilizes Christian communions/denominations, congregations and individuals to protect, restore, and rightly share God's Creation. Based on the priorities of its members, with a particular concern for the vulnerable and marginalized, Creation Justice Ministries provides collaborative opportunities to build ecumenical community, guides people of faith and faith communities towards eco-justice transformations, and raises a collective witness in the public arena echoing Christ's call for just relationships among all of Creation.

Though its ministry is explicitly Christian, they are not exclusively Christian and welcome partnership and collaboration with those feel called to care of God's Creation regardless of religious affiliation.

ABC Representative - Ian Mevorach

### **The Lausanne Movement (Committee for World Evangelization)**

Global Movement that mobilizes evangelical leaders to collaborate for world evangelization. The stated vision is "the whole church taking the whole gospel to the whole world".

The Lausanne Movement grew out of the 1974 International Congress on World Evangelization (ICOWE) and promotes active worldwide evangelism. The Lausanne Covenant provides the theological basis for collaborative work in the area of mission and evangelism. The Cape Town Commitment defines the movement's goals.

ABC Representative - Ruth Clark

**NCC Delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women**

Church Women United, Inc. (CWU) and The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) engage in global women's issues through the ecumenical movement. It includes the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. In doing so, UN Member States took an historic step in accelerating the Organization's goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The creation of UN Women came about as part of the UN reform agenda, bringing together resources and mandates for greater impact. It merges and builds on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system, which focused exclusively on gender equality and women's empowerment.

ABC Representative - Pat Hernandez

**Shoulder-to-Shoulder Campaign**

Shoulder-to-Shoulder is an interfaith organization dedicated to ending anti-Muslim sentiment by strengthening the voice of freedom and peace. Founded in November 2010 by over 20 national religious groups, Shoulder-to-Shoulder works not only on a national level, but offers strategies and support to local and regional efforts to address anti-Muslim sentiment and seeks to spread the word abroad.

ABC Representatives - Ernest Jones, Mo Khan

FYI:

G. Elaine Smith – Human Resources Committee

Charles Wallace Smith – Audit Committee, Baptist Heritage & Identity Commission

Lisa Soares (UK) – Youth Executive Committee; Youth International Program Committee

Warren Stewart, Phoenix AZ – Congress Committee, 2014

William Brackney – BW Aid Committee, Christian Ethics, Doctrine & Christian Unity  
Commission, Human Rights Advocacy

Clifford Jones (Friendship Mission Baptist Church, Charlotte NC) – BW Aid, General Council

C. Duh Kam (CBCUSA) – General Council

Robert Parham (Baptist Center for Ethics, Nashville) – Christian Ethics Commission, Religious  
Freedom Commission, Social & Environment Justice Commission