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BGM EC 305 – BGM EC 333



BGM Executive Committee
September 10-12, 2015

MINUTES

Meeting Site:	Baptist Temple 209 Morris Street Charleston, WV 25301	Housing:	Four Points by Sheraton 600 Kanawha Blvd. E. Charleston, WV
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, Recorder Ken Marsenburg, Guest		

Thursday, September 10, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**BGM EC 305 WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER
WORSHIP**

President Don Ng called the meeting of the BGM Executive Committee to order, opening with prayer. On behalf of the Executive Committee, he thanked Dennis Johnson (BGM parliamentarian and host for this meeting) for the welcome bags received by the Executive Committee from Baptist Temple upon arrival at the

Sheraton. As a means of update, President Ng shared a wonderful summer memory, and invited each member of the Executive Committee to do the same.

Judy Fackenthal, BGM vice president and chaplain lit the Christ Candle as a sign of God's presence. She led a call to worship through Ecclesiastes 3:11 ("God has made everything beautiful in its time...") and through Scripture reading from Psalm 27: 1-4, 13-14 she posed the question, "How have you beheld the beauty of the Lord?" The Executive Committee shared in groups of two or three specific items intentionally brought to share at this meeting representing special ways God calls us into the divine presence of God's love and hope.

BGM EC 306 REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

The Executive Committee considered Big Issues and Parking Lot Issues to be addressed on the agenda. President Ng noted that there will be an Executive Session at 11:30 a.m. today, followed by lunch and a walking tour of the Baptist Temple facility, led by Dennis Johnson. An "Order of the day" Skype session will be held on Friday, September 11 at 9:45 a.m. with Human Resource director Johnson Eapen regarding a proposed HR policy revision. There will also be a review of a resolution drafted by General Secretary Roy Medley and President Ng to honor ABHMS executive director Aidsand Wright-Riggins III, who will be retiring after having served 24 years as executive director of ABHMS.

BGM EC 307 REVIEW OF BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

The Executive Committee reviewed the June 26-28, 2015 Biennial Mission Summit, held in Overland Park, KS. Discussion included:

- General feedback received from participants and how some issues have been, and continue to be, addressed;
- The importance of people understanding that what is spoken at the Biennial is not scripted by the General Secretary's office;
- The need for Biennial materials to be specific about the diversity of the denomination on theological issues and possible opening remarks being made at the Biennial related to what is heard/presented during the proceedings;
- Appreciation for the general quality and content of sermons presented;
- Possible ways to improve business session proceedings, including the need for establishing "rules of order" related to issues being presented at the business session (so there is no surprise factor);
- The importance of having Native Americans as an integral part of the event;
- The impact of the Mission Summit conversations;
- The value of various workshops, such as Creation Justice Network and Immigration;
- The success of another Theologians Conference, bringing this event to a new level and setting a model for future birthings of other new groups;
- The presence of Affirming and Welcoming American Baptists (AWAB) and its desire for space within the conference center. It was noted that the policy related to the Exhibit Hall is under BGM jurisdiction and that the policy needs to be reviewed.

Although 2015 Biennial Mission Summit attendance was slightly down from 2013, the past Biennial included the Judson celebration which, of course, brought an additional number of guests. Although the general layout of the Exhibit Hall worked well, sufficient coverage for ABCUSA's exhibit booth and the town square was somewhat problematic. Planning for future Biennials needs to be more intentional to include BGM directors serving as volunteers in the Exhibit Hall. The initiatives of using passports and conducting drawings were well received and created anticipation and excitement. Energy was also created by the Festival of Young

Preachers, an event that needs to continue to be highlighted so as to assist in envisioning and mentoring the next generation of American Baptist leaders.

General Secretary Medley expressed gratitude related to hospitality extended to his family during the Biennial Mission Summit.

Ken Marsenburg, ABCUSA Director of Development and guest of the Executive Committee at this meeting, reported that the number of participants for the ABCUSA Biennial Breakfast (held in Roy Medley's honor) doubled in comparison to the ABCUSA Breakfast held in 2013.

Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary for Finance/CFO/Treasurer, reported that the deficit is currently at approximately \$39,000 (half of what was originally anticipated) and that it should be easily covered by the end of the year.

Jeff Woods is working to accommodate electronic access to the results of the 2015 Mission Summit Conversations. It was noted that the work of the Creation Justice Network, as well as other programs, was initiated as a result of past Mission Table conversations and interest was expressed in having Bridget Lipin write an article on the outgrowth of the Mission Summit conversations.

2017 Biennial Mission Summit (BMS)

Vice President Judy Fackenthal reported that the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team met in August to review the 2015 BMS, to celebrate its success and to consider future changes/improvements as planning begins for 2017. She noted that conversation continues related to the possibility of the Orientation to American Baptist Life (OTABL) being scheduled in tandem with the BMS, for budgetary reasons, but also because this might be the best place to introduce and expose seminarians and pastors to the ABC family.

Executive Committee discussion related to planning the 2017 BMS included the following topics: future pursuits of funding; church registration; clarifying the roles of delegate/participant; moving the business session away from worship on Sunday; consideration of 2019 Biennial meeting dates and venue, with the range of dates taking into account the schedules of dually-aligned churches; the pace of the Biennial, having an adequate variety of events to choose from, but yet not creating such a hectic pace.

BGM EC 308 EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Committee met in executive session, including discussion related to naming an interim General Secretary.

(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.)

LUNCH (12:00 p.m.)

The Executive Committee enjoyed lunch together at Baptist Temple. Following lunch Dennis Johnson provided a tour of the Baptist Temple facility.

BGM EC 309 APPROVAL OF JUNE 2015 MINUTES

Following lunch the Executive Committee reviewed the minutes of its June BGM meeting. A motion was made by Wesley Roberts, seconded by Tasha Wilson and it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of June 23, 2015 (meeting held in Overland Park, KS).

BGM EC 310 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Don Ng reported on his work on behalf of ABC, as well as his personal journey, since the June 2015 meeting. He reported on the Biennial Mission Summit, on his transition having officially retired as senior pastor of First Chinese Baptist Church of San Francisco in June, and on several upcoming meetings and church visits. President Ng’s report was posted on the BGM document page prior to the meeting for review and is attached to the minutes filed in the General Secretary’s office.

BGM EC 311 REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

General Secretary Roy Medley reviewed highlights of his written report, also posted on the BGM document page for review prior to this meeting.

A week ago, he met with representatives of the Kachin Baptist Convention of Burma and pastors and leaders of a small Kachin refugee community in the U.S. As a result of this visit ABC anticipates a future request from the Kachin Baptist Churches in America to become an AMO of ABCUSA, with the possibility of future interest by other Kachin organizations as well.

On September 4 Roy received the Interfaith Leadership Award from the Islamic Society of North America. The award was presented to him as a recognition of his passion for building bridges of understanding in the U.S. and abroad. Roy noted that this award honored not only him, but the ABC who “instilled within me my passion for religious liberty and peacemaking.”

As part of his report Roy also focused on the future of the ABC Ministers Conference. The first such conference, part of a series, was “Strong in the Lord,” held in 2004 and co-sponsored by ABCUSA and the Ministers Council. This conference was well attended and because funding became available (through the Virginia Palmer Grant, awarded jointly to ABCUSA and the Ministers Council through the AB Foundation), this conference became part of ABC life during non-Biennial years. However, due to financial constraints that affected the Ministers Conference as well as Orientation to AB Life, the NEC agreed several years ago to combine the two events with shared plenaries and separate workshop tracks. Again, due to financial constraints, both events are now being re-examined.

Following discussion about the importance of ABC sponsoring a national pastors’ event, especially during off-Biennial years, a motion was made and it was by consensus

AGREED: That ABC president Don Ng and ABC vice president Judy Fackenthal contact Rev. Doug Harris, president of the Ministers Council and Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson, executive director of the Ministers Council, about the possibility of a conference call conversation to explore next steps related to the Palmer funding for the ABC Ministers Conference.

In October, Roy will participate, as BWA’s fraternal delegate, in the 14th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church at the Vatican in Rome focusing on “The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and the Contemporary World.”

ABHMS’ “Space for Grace” event will be held in Los Angeles November 4-7, 2015. ABCUSA has purchased a table for 10 for the Saturday evening gala in honor of Rev. Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins’

retirement, having served for 24 years as executive director of ABHMS. Roy invited BGM directors who will attend to sit at this table; should there be empty seats remaining, ABCUSA will extend an invitation to a local AB pastor/s.

Roy ended his report by emphasizing the importance of being good stewards of ABC history and the need to possibly commission future archival work. This is a conversation he hopes to bring to the American Baptist Historical Society. In light of this discussion it was decided that photos of the Board of General Ministries and ABC officers will be taken at the November 2015 meeting and should be taken in future years to preserve pictorial history.

BGM EC 312 ORIENTATION TO AMERICAN BAPTIST LIFE (OTABL)

President Ng reported conversations around the venue for the next OTABL conference and asked that the Executive Committee present its recommendation. Roy submitted a proposal from the NEC to conduct OTABL in conjunction with the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit.

Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer, and Alan Musoke, ABCUSA's chief financial officer, reviewed with the Executive Committee financial details/history related to OTABL and General Secretary Medley recounted the history of MMBB's funding of the event in previous years, along with reasons for their scaling back those funds within the last couple of years. It was noted that if OTABL was held congruent with the Biennial, current funding would be subsidized in that travel expenses would be saved due to staff already being together on location. Churches might also be approached to contribute towards some of the expense related to meals, etc.

Discussion continued about how OTABL might be integrated into the BMS. The exhibit hall could serve as part of the orientation experience and participants would have the opportunity to hear Biennial speakers and to participate in Mission Summit conversations; breakfast gatherings each morning with various organizational leaders would provide additional interaction and feedback; and, ABC organizations could invite seminarians to their luncheons. The REMC might also contribute by orienting participants as they become new ministers in their regions. Each of these experiences would assist in providing a true feel for ABC life in a variety of ways.

Following discussion it was by consensus:

AGREED: To affirm NEC's recommendation to make the Orientation to American Baptist Life (OTABL) an integral part of the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit.

ABCUSA, ABHMS, IM and MMBB have all named representatives to the OTABL planning team. President Ng and president-elect Fackenthal requested that the OTABL planning team meeting overlap in part with the Biennial Mission Summit planning team meeting which is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 in the Los Angeles area, where staff will be already gathered for "Space for Grace." Roy will make this proposal to the NEC so each organization's representatives can plan travel.

BGM EC 313 UNITED MISSION (UM) ADAPTIVE CHALLENGE

Tasha Wilson, chair of the Communicating ABC Identity Action Group, reported that the Executive Committee's feedback at its March 2015 meeting on the communication piece called "Connecting: Communicating ABC Identity" was incorporated in the final product and that BGM directors should have

received their packets of materials, including flash drives (with talking point about UM) to share with their respective congregations/organizations.

The United Mission (UM) Adaptive Challenge Team met recently in Portland, OR. At that meeting an animated short film was approved. The UM website has been designed and is ready to “go live.” The theme/graphic used for the printed piece will be retro. There will be opportunities provided for Google Hangout sessions with pastors and regional executives. The UM promotional project will be piloted through three regions: ABC of Rhode Island, ABC of the Central Pacific Coast and ABC of Wisconsin, with the goal of helping American Baptists better understand UM, its importance and what it impacts. Following the field testing of the targeted strategy, the three region executives involved in the field testing (Tom Wiles, Steve Bills and Marie Onwubuariri) will share the results with their REMC colleagues. Each of these three piloted regions will be approaching this promotion in a different way. Tasha noted that the Adaptive Challenge Team does not anticipate knowing how successful the promotion will be until the end of the year. The UM Adaptive Team will meet again in January 2016.

BGM EC 314 UM ALLOCATION – NATIONAL PORTION OF DISTRIBUTION

Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer, reported that the ABCUSA Finance Committee has been wrestling with the issue of how to allocate the national portion of United Mission. This task has been assigned to the ABCUSA Finance Committee on behalf of BGM and in turn, Paul noted that the ABCUSA Finance Committee has asked him to approach the Executive Committee to receive feedback related to allocations.

Prior to the meeting Paul sent to the Executive Committee for review a link to a Sway (online) presentation (“This Little Website”) related to the distribution of United Mission dollars. Paul addressed questions related to “what puzzled you?” “what didn’t you understand?” or “what didn’t make sense?” After reviewing the Sway presentation, discussing priorities and brainstorming solutions, the Executive Committee requested that Paul go back to the ABCUSA Finance Committee letting them know that although the Executive Committee is well aware of the issue of a decrease in UM resulting in a deeper cut for ABCUSA, it requests more time to process this through discussion with presidents and vice presidents of the AB organizations and the NEC in order to determine what might be best for the ABC family.

It was suggested that the finance chairs, Paul Higgins (ABCUSA), Paul Vick (IM) and Brazilian Thurman (ABHMS) should have a seat at the table with presidents, vice presidents and the NEC for this discussion to move forward.

It was noted that UM is not the primary means for funding IM & ABHMS. When UM began, there were no other streams of income as there are now. Clarity about their streams of income in addition to UM is needed.

BGM EC 315 UPDATES

Immigration Taskforce

The Immigration Taskforce met by conference call on September 3. Since there are no major legislative issues coming forth at this time, the taskforce is concentrating its efforts on continuing rhetoric around immigration issues. Ray Schellinger is currently organizing mission trips which ABC will promote, with the possibility that ABHMS may co-sponsor these mission trips with IM. The taskforce is scheduled to meet again by conference call on October 1 to see how this is developing. Dr. Warren Stewart, pastor of First Institutional Baptist Church and a member of the taskforce, is part of a group that receives information from DC regarding current legislation issues and he keeps the Immigration Taskforce updated.

Anyone interested in the work of the taskforce, should be encouraged to contact Ray Schellinger.

Creation Justice Care Network

Rev. Tom Carr and Rev. Dr. Ian Mevorach are co-leaders of the newly established Creation Justice Network, the “patriarch” on issues of creation care. Rev. Lauren Ng also provides leadership and direction. Tom and Ian are working with ABCUSA webmaster Bridget Lipin to generate information to be posted on the ABCUSA website. They will also be facilitating workshops around creative justice care issues, and hope to soon identify a small (6-7 member) advisory group.

Rhythms of the Spirit – Journey Team

The Rhythms of the Spirit conference (held August 3-7, 2015 in Exeter, RI) went extremely well, with many people participating online.

The Journey Team will be meeting October 26-30 in Green Lake, WI. Journey Team transitions include the retirement of Dwight Stinnett and the conclusion of Jeff Savage’s participation. Jeff was involved with the latest experiment, “going into the neighborhood” with Judy Allbee and ABC of Connecticut. Sumner Grant will be leading a first meeting of a senior group of executives.

President Ng noted that this may be the opportune time to get news releases out about these new initiatives (Immigration Taskforce, Creation Justice Care Network, Rhythms of the Spirit and Journey Team), as well as follow-up related to meetings with Kachin leaders and the UM pilot project with the three regions. It is important to “fill the airwaves” with good plans, noting “brought to you by UM!”

BGM EC 316

ABC PRESIDENT’S TRAVEL TO INDIA; RECESS OF THE MEETING

President Ng noted that he will be traveling to India the second weekend of February 2016 to speak at the Nagaland Baptist Churches Council’s annual convention in Dimapur. His wife Joy will be the women’s speaker. He invited other members of the Executive Committee to join the trip, which will include a stop at the Taj Mahal.

The meeting of the Executive Committee was recessed at 5:00 p.m.

DINNER

At 6:00 p.m. the Executive Committee enjoyed dinner together at Soho’s Italian Restaurant, West Virginia Market Place, with invited guests: Dr. David Carrico, executive minister of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, and two other region leaders, Rev. Rob Ely and Rev. John Simmons. During dinner, each guest shared a brief update regarding ministry in the region.

Friday, September 11, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Prior to the call to order, General Secretary Medley shared a recent email he received from Ambassador Derek Mitchell regarding his travel to Myanmar.

BGM EC 317

RECONVENE/CALL TO ORDER

President Ng called the meeting to order.

Judy Fackenthal lit the Christ Candle and led in the Call to Worship. Ruth Clark accompanied the Executive Committee as they sang together the hymn “For the Beauty of the Earth.” Each person shared with a different person than at yesterday’s session their personal vision of seeing God’s beauty in nature, in a story or poem, in art, etc.

The Executive Committee shared concerns and celebrations and ended with a time of prayer together.

BGM EC 318 BAPTIST WORLD CONGRESS; DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

Past President Ruth Clark reported on Baptist World Congress, held July 22-26, 2015 in Durban, South Africa. The expense of traveling to South Africa and the concern relative to the Ebola outbreak (although Liberia is in a far different part of Africa) led many to decide not to attend the meeting, resulting in disappointing attendance. The Congress was heavily attended by Americans, but it was also refreshing to see the large attendance of African churches and the shifting of dynamics that came with that. Ruth reported that the first night Reid Trulson, executive director of IM, served as the emcee and Ruth had the opportunity to share a litany. Ruth reported that one of the highlights of the Congress was an excellent sermon delivered by the associate pastor of a church in Sophia, Bulgaria. There were many worship opportunities with much joy and dancing! Ruth noted that to stand in a place which has experienced so much pain and suffering in its past, and to be able to celebrate, was a wonderful opportunity. She also reported that the incoming Baptist World Alliance president, Rev. Paul Msiza, is from South Africa.

Commission and Committee membership was instated for a period of 5 years, at which time the Baptist Congress will be held in 2020 in Rio de Janeiro.

BGM EC 319 HR POLICY CHANGE

General Secretary Roy Medley provided background on revisions needed for ABCUSA’s Human Resources Employment Classification policy for Non-Exempt and Exempt staff.

The Executive Committee met via Skype with Johnson Eapen, ABCUSA’s director of Human Resources. Johnson summarized the proposed revisions.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Ruth Clark, seconded by Tasha Wilson and it was

VOTED: To revise the HR policy related to Employment Classification for Non-Exempt and Exempt employees to read as follows:

EMPLOYMENT CLASSIFICATION (201) Non Exempt

The federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) requires employers to pay its employees minimum established wages and overtime pay for any time worked over 40 hours per week. Staffs whose job responsibilities fall within this law’s minimum wage and overtime pay requirements are labeled “nonexempt.”

ABC positions are screened using established government tests to determine whether a position is nonexempt or exempt from FLSA minimum wage and overtime provisions.

Any staff whose position is classified as “nonexempt” under Federal Wage and Hour guidelines is subject to the terms and conditions of these policies.

EMPLOYMENT CLASSIFICATION (201) Exempt

The federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) requires employers to pay its employees minimum established wages and overtime pay for any time worked over 40 hours per week. The FLSA also provides for some employees to be “exempted” from the minimum wage and overtime provisions of this law when those employees perform certain types of work for the employer. When an employee is “exempt” from the FLSA, it means the employer does not need to pay a minimum hourly wage or overtime pay, provided it pays the employee a salary that meets or exceeds the amount prescribed by law.

In order to be “exempt” from the FLSA, job responsibilities must fall within the Department of Labor’s definition of executive, professional, administrative or highly skilled computer systems-related work. Exempt staff are paid a salary, rather than hourly wages, and are paid for the work performed rather than for hours worked.

ABC positions are screened using established government tests to determine whether a position meets the specific criteria required for exempt status

(The edited policy, with changes clearly noted, was provided to Executive Committee members and is attached to the minutes filed in the General Secretary’s office.)

BGM EC 320 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial statements:

Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer, reviewed the ABCUSA Financial Report as of July 31, 2015. This report was posted on the BGM Executive Committee document page prior to the meeting for review and the full written report is attached to the minutes filed in the General Secretary’s office.

Bonded Life Capital: A Multi-Life Benefit Plan

In an effort to increase endowment for ABC, Ken Marsenburg, ABCUSA development director, shared information related to the potential value of multi-life benefit plans for the purpose of employee benefits and potential donations. Documentation related to such plans was shared prior to the meeting for review. The Bonded Life Capital: A Multi-Life Benefit Plan was introduced to the BGM Finance Committee this past June through three presentations. Such plans have been in existence for 50 years in the private sector. Ken noted that these plans are complex and although no religious organizations are yet offering them, they are used by other nonprofits. The process of implementing such plans would be slow and would require due diligence. Ken went on to explain details of the plan, including Corporate Life Ownership, which would assist in generating long-term revenues with an individual benefit going to a trust set up by ABC.

It was decided that the Executive Committee would continue deliberations on whether or not to consider such plans during its upcoming executive session.

Building Issues Update:

Alan Musoke reported that 30 companies submitted a “Request for Expression of Interest” (RFEI) on the ABC property and that ABC is currently awaiting a final report from CGS Consulting LTD (588 Associates’ real estate consultants), due before the end of September. The next step in the process is to secure additional information from the top 5-6 companies.

Alan also reported on the current status related to 588 Associates L.P. (2013-2014) tax appeal with Montgomery County, especially as related to the board of education. Although the taxes for 2013-2014 were paid, the board claims that they did not receive the letter protesting the taxes which accompanied the payment. Attorneys are in the process of preparing final documentation.

He concluded his report by noting that Judson Press will be fully outsourced by ABHMS by the end of 2016. 40% of the work our Traffic Department does relates to Judson Press work, and outsourcing means that Traffic will incur a 70% decrease in used space. Alan noted that he is in negotiation with other ABC organizations regarding the issue of unused space at the Mission Center facility. Although Judson Press will warehouse books at another site, ABHMS' hope is to eliminate warehousing over the long term and to fully engage in online sales.

BGM EC 321 EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Committee convened in Executive Session to further discuss the issue of the Multi-Life Benefit Plan, as well as discussion related to the process of selecting an interim General Secretary. The meeting was recessed for lunch.

LUNCH

At 12:00 p.m., the Executive Committee enjoyed lunch together at a restaurant in walking distance of Baptist Temple.

BGM EC 322 RESOLUTION TO HONOR REV. DR. AIDSAND WRIGHT-RIGGINS III

President Ng called the meeting to order.

Rev. Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins III has served as the executive director of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (formerly Board of National Ministries) for 24 years. A special gala dinner celebration will be held in his honor at ABHMS' Space for Grace Conference, to be held in Los Angeles November 4-7, 2015.

A motion was made by Tasha Wilson, seconded by Judy Fackenthal and it was

VOTED: To adopt the following resolution in honor of the Rev. Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins III who will be retiring as executive director of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies on October 31, 2015:

BGM Resolution Honoring the Rev. Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins III

The Executive Committee of the Board of General Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA adopts this resolution to honor the Rev. Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins III for his faithful years of ministry as a New Church Planter who spread the Good News, a Pastor who cared for his people, a Preacher who proclaimed the truth of the Gospel, a Prophetic Voice who spoke for justice, an Envisioning Leader in the New Baptist Covenant and the Executive Director of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies who empowered life-transforming ministries in the United States and Puerto Rico for twenty-four years.

We acknowledge him as a “Passionary,” a word Dr. Wright-Riggins introduced to capture the significance that one needs to have passion to be a missionary for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Dr. Wright-Riggins who grew up in Los Angeles has devoted his life and ministry to “bring Good News to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, let the oppressed go free, and proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18).

Therefore, on behalf of the American Baptist family, we express our deepest affection and honorable respect and we offer our fervent prayers for God's continued blessing upon this faithful servant, his family, and his future service in the yoke of Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior. We have been blessed by the courageous service of the Rev. Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins III.

A copy of the resolution will be formerly presented to him by President Don Ng and General Secretary Roy Medley at the November 7 dinner celebration.

BGM EC 323 MULTI LIFE BENEFIT PLANS

President Ng reported to staff at this meeting that after additional conversation the BGM Executive Committee voted not to approve the proposal for Multi Life Benefit Plans based on “ethical, biblical and social consciousness issues.” President Ng thanked staff for bringing the proposal to the agenda for consideration and for their concern for strengthening the endowment, one of the blessings this plan might have offered.

BGM EC 324 BGM BECOMING A BELOVED COMMUNITY FOLLOW-UP AND PLANNING AHEAD

After BGM suspended the work of the General Secretary Search Committee, it strongly recommended that significant time be allocated to focus on some of the underlying issues that affected the search process, issues such as understanding racial and cultural contexts, communicating effectively across cultures, and facing personal prejudices and institutional racism. With this in mind, the Executive Committee spent a significant amount of time discussing how it might work to bring about a process that upholds and honors BGM recommendations.

BGM EC 325 FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Executive Committee determined that the following dates be held for upcoming meetings of the Board of General Ministries and BGM Executive Committee:

MARCH 9-12, 2016 – Camp Verde, AZ (Rainbow Acres; dates include a retreat with guests present)

Meeting (which includes dates for the retreat) to begin the morning of March 9 and end at 12:00 Noon on March 12 President elect Judy Fackenthal will contact a consultant to facilitate the retreat and, depending on the consultant’s availability, some or all participants will need to arrive on March 8. The Executive Committee will invite 4 members of the Beloved Community Action Group to attend the retreat.

JUNE 15-18, 2016 – Green Lake, WI

The Executive Committee will arrive on June 15, with the meeting beginning late that afternoon.

If the Nominating Committee needs to meet, it will meet after dinner on June 15.

The BGM meeting will begin the morning of June 16 and end on Saturday, June 18 at 12:00 Noon.

SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2016 – Atlanta, GA

The Executive Committee will arrive on September 7, with the meeting beginning the morning of September 8 and ending at 12 Noon on September 10. Consideration will be given to 1) possibly meeting with Burmese pastors in the area 2) inviting Dr. Al Brinson to a part of the meeting, which would include a visit to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Museum and 3) extending an invitation to also meet with new ABCOTS executive director Dr. James Harrison.

NOVEMBER 15-19, 2016 – Crowne Plaza, King of Prussia, PA

The Nominating Committee will meet on November 15.

The Board of General Ministries and BGM Executive Committee meetings will begin on November 16 and end on November 19 at 12 Noon.

MARCH 9-11, 2017 – Puerto Rico

Roy will contact Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico regarding dates set for that region's 2017 annual meeting, with the hope that the Executive Committee might coordinate its March meeting around those dates. For now, the Executive Committee will hold March 9-11, 2017.

JUNE 26-28, 2017 – Portland, OR

The Nominating Committee will meet on June 26. The BGM Executive Committee will begin meeting the morning of June 27, with the Board of General Ministries meeting June 27-28, ending with the American Baptist Gathering of Members of National Boards dinner and plenary in the evening.

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2017 – Rochester, NY

The Executive Committee will begin meeting the morning of September 14 (travel on September 13) and end on September 16 at 12 Noon.

NOVEMBER 13-18, 2017 – Crowne Plaza, King of Prussia, PA

Mission Table will be held November 13-15. The Board of General Ministries and BGM Executive Committee meetings will begin on November 16 and end on November 18 at 12 Noon.

BGM EC 326**2019 MISSION SUMMIT BIENNIAL**

At the Executive Committee's meeting in June 2014, President Ng reported that Susan Gillies, chair of the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team, provided a list of possible 2019 Biennial sites, including Cleveland, Columbus and Pittsburgh, as well as several eastern cities. At that time the Executive Committee agreed that it was interested in securing a site in the Northeast/Midwest for the 2019 Biennial and President Ng requested that members of the Executive Committee from these areas of the country begin to speak with their respective region executive minister about possible interest in hosting this family event.

It was noted that Annie Marcucci, director of Travel and Conference Planning, reported in the past that the top three things she considers in choosing a venue include: 1) response from the city (does the city want us?) 2) transportation and 3) space & meal prices.

Following discussion, it was by consensus:

AGREED: To authorize Annie Marcucci, director of the Office of Travel and Conference Planning, to begin considering cities in the Midwest and Northeast as venues for the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit, in the following order of priority: 1) Cleveland, 2) Providence 3) Detroit

The Board of General Ministries and related meetings will be held June 24 –27, 2019 and the Biennial Mission Summit will be held June 28-30, 2019.

BGM EC 327 EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Ng adjourned the full meeting of the Executive Committee for an executive session.

DINNER

The Executive Committee was transported by trolley from the Four Points by Sheraton to the home of Dennis and Holly Johnson, hosts for the evening, for a lovely catered meal and fellowship.

Saturday, September 12, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

BGM EC 328 CALL TO ORDER WORSHIP

President Ng called the meeting to order. Judy Fackenthal lit the Christ Candle and led in a meditation of Revelation 22:1-2. Through sacred music, “Gathering Words-Leaves Don’t Drop” by singer and song writer Carrie Newcomer, Judy called the Executive Committee to listen to God’s voice. Worship concluded with the Executive Committee praying in unison a prayer from “The Circle of Life: The Heart’s Journey Through the Seasons” by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr.

BGM EC 329 PROPOSED ADDITION TO STANDING RULE 15.5.3

The following proposed addition to Standing Rule 15.5.3 (noted in red) was suggested by ABCUSA Legal Counsel, David Knipel, Esq. This proposed change requires a 30-day notice to BGM in order for that body to take action at its November meeting.

Proposed change to Standing Rule 15.5.3: In the event of the extended absence of the General Secretary, whether by disability, sabbatical, voluntary or involuntary termination of service, or otherwise, **the Board of General Ministries shall have the authority and responsibility to name an Interim General Secretary to serve at the pleasure of the Board of General Ministries. If, due to time constraints or otherwise, the Board does not initially name an Interim General Secretary, then** the Executive Committee shall have the authority and responsibility to name an Acting General Secretary to serve for a period not to exceed 90 days. Thereafter, the Board of General Ministries shall have the authority and responsibility either to extend the term of the Acting General Secretary or to name an Interim General Secretary to serve at the pleasure of the Board of General Ministries.

A Motion was made by Judy Fackenthal, seconded by Paul Higgins and it was

VOTED: To approve the addition to Standing Rule 15.5.3, as noted above, notifying BGM that this will come for action at its November meeting.

BGM EC 330**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Ng reported that the Executive Committee, during executive session, identified the names of three possible candidates to approach to serve as interim General Secretary. The final candidate will be presented to BGM for action at its November meeting (majority vote required for approval). Following BGM approval, President Ng and Vice President Fackenthal will meet with General Secretary Roy Medley regarding the process of transitions.

BGM EC 331**WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE POLICY**

In 2014 Shirley Fair, chair of the World Relief Committee and Lisa Rothenberger, World Relief Officer, forwarded to the Executive Committee a draft of a proposed update of the World Relief Policy Manual for review and feedback. Following the Executive Committee's September 2014 meeting, General Secretary Roy Medley forwarded written documentation on behalf of the Executive Committee to Shirley and Lisa, noting areas of concern and suggesting changes/corrections where needed for clarification. (See documentation attached to the official copy of the minutes filed in the General Secretary's office.)

A revised draft of the World Relief Policy will be brought to the Executive Committee at its November meeting for possible recommendation to the Board of General Ministries.

BGM EC 332**COALITION TO TRANSFORM ADVANCED CARE (C-TAC)**

The invitation to join The Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC), which is made up primarily of non-profits and church groups to address issues of healthcare for the elderly (including ways to involve congregations), came to General Secretary Roy Medley through Dr. Tyrone Pitts, former head of the Progressive National Baptist Convention. Former ABCUSA treasurer Cheryl Wade, who also worked with C-TAC through her then current position representing the Quakers, wholeheartedly endorsed this organization as well.

At General Secretary Medley's invitation, Rev. Garth Brokaw, executive director of American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries, attended a C-TAC conference (National Summit on Advanced Illness Care: Driving Change through Leadership, Evidence and Action") held March 2-5, 2015 in Washington DC.

In the report that was received from Rev. Brokaw following the summit, he noted: "It might be appropriate for ABC to be represented by someone from American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries (ABHCM). Many of our members are deeply engaged in community-based delivery of care to elders. In some cases in similar communities they are the primary elder care source and have used that to leverage new community based programs. I also think that the Parish Nurse program is a good fit with the delivery of care many of our members now offer. Having reported to our Board following the conference, they agreed that we would be willing to take on that assignment. However, the Association is not in a very comfortable financial position so we would need some assistance with costs of attending meetings, etc...."

Roy noted that ABCUSA does not currently have staff that carry competency in this area and that the funding estimate annually for this representation would be approximately \$1500.

A motion was made by Judy Fackenthal, seconded by Paul Higgins and it was

VOTED: To ask American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries to represent ABC, if ABC can find sufficient funding to assist. It was also agreed that if sufficient funding cannot be found, that this will need to come off the table.

BGM EC 333 PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

President Ng adjourned the meeting of the Executive Committee.

Next Meeting: November 11-12, 2015; Doubletree, King of Prussia, PA
(Nov. 9-11, Mission Table; Nov. 12-14, BGM)

Submitted by,

Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley
General Secretary

ARM/cb

Documents attached:

Agenda (1102: 9/15)

BGM EC Roster

Worship Programs

2015 Biennial Mission Summit Program Book

BGM EC Minutes, June 23, 2015 (Overland Park)

President's Report

ABCUSA Financial Report as of July 31, 2015

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures: OTABL

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures: Ministers Conference

Letter from First Baptist Church, Rochester, NY: Biennial Request for 2017

Bonded Life Capital: A Multi-Life Benefit Plan for Colleges & Universities

Bonded Life Capital: A High Value Life Insurance Program

Sample COLI Multi-Life Benefit Plans as of September 2015

HR Policy Manual: Employment Classification Non-Exempt and Employment Classification Exempt

Sealed Envelope: Confidential, minutes from September 11, 2015 Executive Session

World Relief Policy Manual: Recommended Changes

Coalition to Transform Advanced Care: C-TAC At-A-Glance

Letter from Rev. Garth Brokaw re C-TAC Summit in Washington DC

Bacone College: Thank you from President Willis for Biennial Offering