

**Baptist Talk Task Force**

9.8.2016

At the June 2016 BGM meetings at Green Lake, the board approved the creation of a task force to explore the place of engaging conversations on any subject to be appropriate and acceptable in our Baptist life together. The objectives of the task force are:

1. Learning from the developing skill capacity of Mission Summit Conversations, identify guidelines necessary to have Baptist Talk on any topic without the fear of divisiveness.
2. Review the history and value of denominational public statements for today's times.
3. Present any recommendations to BGM to consider in the planning of future Biennial Mission Summits or other gatherings of American Baptists.

See the "Baptist Talk" document dated June 18, 2016 for more background.

President Judy Fackenthal and Interim General Secretary Susan Gillies appointed Don Ng as chair and Jeff Woods as staff to the task force. The TF would be comprised of BGM members and would meet when the BGM board meets twice a year. Work would be done in-between meetings via the internet and on conference calls. Since the TF has yet to meet, there is no timeline of projected completed work.

The confirmed members are:

1. Raimundo Barreto, Princeton, NJ
2. Cecelia Dachler, DAK
3. Wesley Sun, Chicago
  
4. Don Ng, Chair
5. Jeff Woods, Staff

Pending members are:

1. Vivan Martindale, VT/NH
- 2.

The first meeting will be in November 2016. Date and time would need to be determined.

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