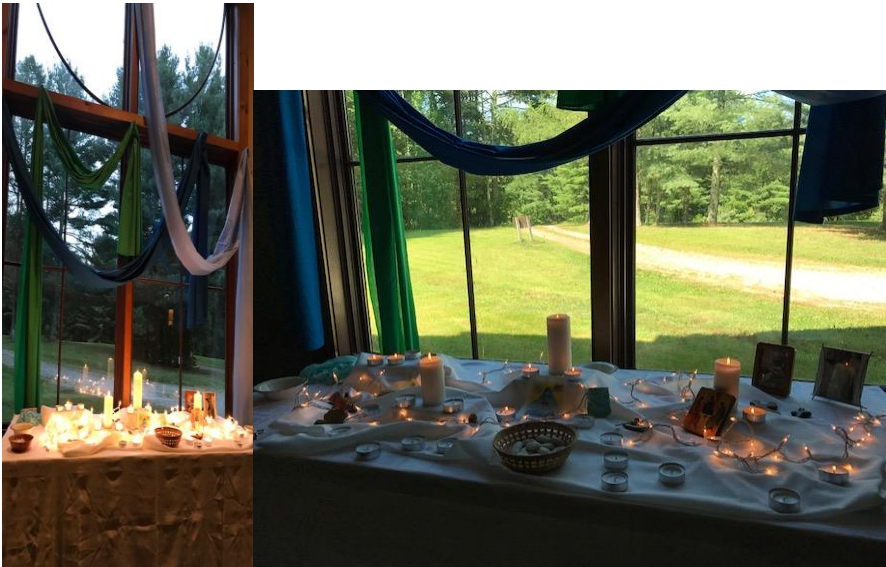


President's Report-September 2017

These past few months since the Mission Summit have been relatively quiet. From observation of social media, it appeared many American Baptists took advantage of the biennial's locale and vacationed into July. Similarly, most of our staff has taken well deserved time off. They are to be commended for all the work and effort they put into the Mission Summit. I'm grateful many of us took time for sabbath rest following the joyous blessing of the Mission Summit.

Since the Summit, I have worked with Kathy Jachowski, our President-Elect Josue Gomez-Menendez, and Felipe Candelaria to prepare for this meeting in San Juan. I appreciate all the work Josue and Felipe have done to coordinate meals, visits with local American Baptists, and the fun extras of this meeting. I've also been in contact with Lee. He seems to be fully acclimated to the position of General Secretary and I ask that we all continue to offer him our support and prayers. We look forward to Lee's thoughts and suggestions during this meeting.

This year's Rhythms of the Spirit event occurred August 14-17 at Camp Canonicus in Rhode Island. I attended the event for multiple reasons. First, I benefit greatly from the quiet rhythm of prayer and reflection. Second, I was there to represent ABCUSA and encourage the continuation of this valued ministry. Third, I provided spiritual direction with participants of the event. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Rhythms convener, Brad Berglund, for the vision to provide quiet places for American Baptists to connect deeply with Jesus and listen to his voice in their lives. I pray we can keep this ministry alive despite our declining UM dollars. Brad and I are thinking creatively about ways to link with other ABC events so the cost of providing this resource is minimal to OGS. For example, Rhythms of the Spirit might coincide with a region event that would make it accessible to more people.



As we move into this last quarter of the year, I turn to Josue as President-elect. We will seek his wisdom and leadership for all new decisions will impact his term as President of ABCUSA. I'm grateful for his powerful presence and depth of knowledge and skill!

Serving Christ alongside you,

Judy Fackenthal, President 2016-2017