



**BGM Executive Committee
MINUTES
June 15, 2016**

Meeting Site: Green Lake Conference Center
W2511 State Rd. 23
Green Lake, WI 54941
Ph: (920) 294-3323

Officers: Judy Fackenthal, President
Josue Gómez-Menendez, Vice President
Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer
Don Ng, Past President
Susan Gillies, Interim General Secretary

Committee: Felipe Candelaria, Puerto Rico
Zina Jacque, Metro Chicago
Tasha Wilson, Rochester/Genesee

Chaplain: Kay Farley, Rocky Mountains

Parliamentarian: Dennis Johnson, West Virginia

Staff: Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary/Treasurer/CFO
Cathy Brubaker, Administrator

Wednesday, June 15, 2016; 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

The Executive Committee gathered in the Tower Dining Room to enjoy dinner together.

ABC president Judy Fackenthal welcomed members of the Executive Committee and introduced Rev. Dr. Zina Jacque, new BGM director and member of the Executive Committee (officially to be confirmed by BGM vote at its meeting on Friday morning, June 17).

BGM chaplain, Kay Farley, shared a blessing for the meal.

**BGM EC 382 CALL TO ORDER
DEVOTIONAL**

President Fackenthal called the business meeting to order. Chaplain Kay Farley lit the Christ Candle and led in a brief devotional.

BGM EC 383**CONSENT AGENDA/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Fackenthal presented the consent agenda. A motion was made by Tasha Wilson, seconded by Felipe Candelaria, and it was

VOTED: To adopt the proposed agenda dated June 15, 2016 and to approve the March 9-12, 2016 minutes of the BGM Executive Committee (held at Camp Verde, AZ)

BGM EC 384**UPDATES SINCE THE MARCH 2016 MEETING****Acting Associate General Secretary for MRD**

Rev. Dr. Al Fletcher will join ABCUSA-Office of the General Secretary staff on July 25, 2016 in preparation for becoming Acting Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development on September 1, 2016. He will be meeting with Associate General Secretary Leo Thorne that week for a time of orientation. Interim General Secretary Susan Gillies reported that on August 17-18, 2016, a group from the ABCUSA Leadership Team will meet for a retreat at Estes Park, CO, to provide further orientation and to strengthen working relationships/teamwork. Wayne and Ingrid Dvirnak, American Baptist leaders who are now retired and living in Colorado, have agreed to serve by providing devotionals and meals during this time.

General Secretary Search

The newly formed Search Committee will be conducting its first meeting on August 8 in Chicago. Members of the committee include: Judy Fackenthal (ABC president); Don Ng (Past ABC President); Robin Crouch, Shirley Fair, Kelly Legg, Charity Matic, Wesley Roberts, Tom Ross, Jr. (all members of the ABCUSA Nominating Committee); Doris Rivera Garcia (representative named by ABHMS, IM, and MMBB); Donald Robinson (Vice President of the ABC Intercaucus); Marcia Patton, Charles Revis, and John Williams (Region Executives). At this meeting the Search Committee will meet with representatives from three search firms to determine which to contract with for consulting purposes.

Judy reported that the Intercaucus president (currently Kenneth Kho) is named in the bylaws as part of the search committee, however, she received an email from Kenneth requesting that Donald Robinson, Intercaucus Vice President, serve in his place. ABCUSA legal counsel David Knipel was consulted and did not see an issue with that. Don is the president of the Native American Indian Caucus and Judy noted that his presence would further diversify the search committee.

Human Resource

As of January 1, 2017, International Ministries will discontinue using HR services through ABCUSA-Office of the General Secretary in order to contract with a company which holds global certification in HR work. Susan reported that ABCUSA-Office of the General Secretary will purchase HR services through the ABHMS. Laura Miraz, ABHMS Human Resource Director, will meet informally with staff on Tuesday, June 21. Work is being done to make this transition as seamless as possible. Currently, negotiation of benefits is the big issue.

Staff Sabbaticals

There are two staff sabbaticals which have been approved: Annie Marcucci has been granted (by Interim General Secretary Susan Gillies) a sabbatical from June through August and Jeff Woods was granted (while former General Secretary Roy Medley was in office) a sabbatical from July through September. Susan noted in researching the procedures related to staff sabbaticals, that it is the Executive Committee, functioning as the Personnel Committee, which is tasked with approving sabbaticals. So, any future requests will need to be included on the Executive Committee's agenda.

Susan noted that Annie will be learning Cvent, an event planning and management software, which will be shared by ABHMS, IM, MMBB and ABCUSA-Office of the General Secretary. Annie will be conducting future tutorials.

Annie continues to work on the site for the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit. Susan cautioned the Executive Committee that when it chooses a particular date for a future meeting (without offering another other possible option), that leaves Annie with little negotiating power. Because of this, and due to the fact that Cleveland is an “up and coming” site for event planners right now and prices are escalating, she will need to consider other cities as well.

BGM EC 385 ELECTION OF NATIONAL SECRETARIES

ABC Bylaws, Article XV, Section 1 states: *The Executive Director of the corporation managed by each National Board, elected or appointed by such National Board in accordance with Article XIII, Section 2 of these Bylaws, shall be elected by the Board of General Ministries as a National Secretary of ABCUSA to serve for a term which is concurrent with such person's term as such Executive Director; provided that the General Secretary serves as a member of the advisory search committee of such corporation which recommends the appointment of such Executive Director and the corporation remains a party to the Covenant of Relationships.*

Election of Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director of ABHMS as a National Secretary

A motion was made by Don Ng, seconded by Felipe Candelaria, and it was

VOTED: To recommend to the Board of General Ministries the election of Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director of ABHMS, as a National Secretary of ABCUSA to serve for a term which is concurrent with his term as Executive Director

Election of Rev. Sharon Koh, Executive Director of IM as a National Secretary

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

VOTED: To recommend to the Board of General Ministries the election of Rev. Sharon Koh, Executive Secretary of IM, as a National Secretary of ABCUSA to serve for a term which is concurrent with her term as Executive Director

BGM EC 386 KACHIN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

President Fackenthal shared an update on the Kachin Baptist Churches USA and its desire to come into an Associated Ministry Organization (AMO) covenant relationship with ABC.

A motion was made by Tasha Wilson, seconded by Don Ng, and it was

VOTED: To recommend that the Board of General Ministries invite the Kachin Baptist Churches USA to become an Associated Ministry Organization of ABCUSA, through ABCUSA-Office of the General Secretary

BGM EC 387 RECESS OF THE BGM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONVENING OF THE CREDENTIALS & CAUCUS COMMITTEE

Judy Fackenthal recessed the meeting of the BGM Executive Committee and in the absence of Josue Gómez-Menendez, Chair (arriving late due to his daughter’s graduation from the University of Puerto Rico), she convened the Credentials and Caucus Committee.

The Executive Committee reviewed the Report of Changed Relationships of Local Churches. Judy explained that the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii have been in the process of catching up on the reporting process and due to that, this report reflects a significant number of changes related to the ABCOFLASH region. There was discussion also related to BGM discontinuing the Renewing Congregations Action Group in the midst of the number of declining churches being reported. It was agreed that there is a need to clarify how BGM will be instead focusing on one of the 7 Mission Table priorities, "Gospel in a Rapidly Changing Society," to bring focus to this issue.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Tasha Wilson, seconded by Felipe Candelaria, and it was

VOTED: To receive the Report of Changed Relationships of Local Churches (1205.1:6/16) dated November 5, 2015 to June 3, 2016 and to forward it to the Board of General Ministries.

BGM EC 388 CAUCUS FUNDING

Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer, reminded the Executive Committee that new Caucus Funding Guidelines were issued in November 2014. The guidelines require that each caucus receiving funding during a calendar year submit an annual report to the Credentials and Caucus Committee and to the Finance Committee by May 15 of that year. Annual reports are required to include an outline the activities of the preceding year, along with a line item financial report showing the use of funds and the balance on hand.

Also, each caucus seeking continuing funding for administrative purposes is to submit a request to the Credentials and Caucus Committee, also by May 15 each year, for the approval of funding for the upcoming calendar year. The request for continuing funding is required to include a line item budget of all proposed expenditures, differentiating between program and administration. During this meeting, and each June meeting, the Credentials and Caucus Committee is tasked with reviewing reports submitted and taking action on funding for the following calendar year.

To date, the Executive Committee has received annual reports from 4 of the 7 ABC caucuses. These reports were posted on the Executive Committee document page prior to the meeting for review. Paul noted that none of the 4 submitted used the proposed format; the reports did not differentiate between program and administration expenses.

Discussion ensued related to the guidelines and what actions might need to be taken to ensure compliance. The question was asked as to whether the caucuses might need a review of history and process, although it was noted that Kenneth Kho's recent communication with the caucuses did clearly outline the process and the issue of compliance.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Tasha Wilson, seconded by Don Ng, and it was

VOTED: To grant \$8,000 in 2017 funding to: The Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches, the Black Caucus, the Haitian Caucus and the Hispanic Caucus; and, to extend the deadline for grant reporting for the remaining 3 caucuses with a deadline of August 15, 2016, with the stipulation that each receive no more than 75% of the level granted in 2016.

It was agreed that Judy Fackenthal and Paul Higgins will communicate the Executive Committee's discussion and resulting action with Kenneth Kho and with Josue Gómez-Menendez. A letter will be written by Paul Higgins, cosigned by Josue, and sent to all caucuses explaining the action taken by the Executive Committee.

The meeting of the Credentials & Caucus Committee was adjourned. President Fackenthal reconvened the meeting of the BGM Executive Committee.

Mission Initiative Fund- The ABCUSA Finance Committee voted in early June to provide first-year funding, a grant of \$20,000 for 2016-2017 (September-August), to the Creation Justice Network (CJN). The Committee will hear a report from CJN before considering additional funding.

ABCUSA-Office of the General Secretary Audit- ABCUSA-Office of the General Secretary received the following opinion from Independent Certified Public Accountants, Tait, Weller & Baker LLP: "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above presented a clean audit of ABCUSA, comprised of the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

Paul reported that the BGM Finance Committee will be taking action on the audit at its morning meeting on Friday, June 17. Upon motion by Paul Higgins, seconded by Don Ng, it was

VOTED: To receive the 2016 ABCUSA Audited Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 for presentation to the Board of General Ministries

Financial Statements-YTD April 30, 2016

Alan Musoke, Treasurer/CFO, reviewed the Financial Report as of April 30, 2016. Overall the Year-to-Date financials show a gain of \$20,000 between revenue and expenses. Net revenue has increased by \$86,000 from last year. Total United Mission at \$2,565,011 is a decrease of \$109,028 in funding from the prior year, a reduction of 4.08%. It was noted that most UM money comes through church budgets and that we need a longer period of time to recognize increases.

Mission Center Property Tax Update

Alan Musoke reported that the Upper Merion School District Board of Education and the Upper Merion Township agreed in March to the settlement of 588's tax appeal. They accepted a 58.7% obligation for the 2015 tax bill, which represents a 41.26% tax-exempt status. This tax exemption rate, retroactive to 2013 (adjustment for overpayments made by ABC in 2013 and 2014), will continue moving forward without reassessment of space for non-exempt status year after year.

The stipulation to settle is pending final approval of the judge, hopefully within a month or two. Once final approval is received, the title to the Mission Center property shall be reconveyed from 588 Associates, L.P., to the partners as tenants in common.

Transfer of Mission Center/Graphic Arts Property

The following documents—Tenants in Common Agreement, Assignment & Assumption, Special Warranty Deed, Realty Transfer Tax Statement—were brought to the Executive Committee for review at this meeting per the June 2015 BGM vote: "To adopt the following resolutions with the final documents coming back to the BGM Executive Committee for final approval." The Executive Committee will report to BGM that it has reviewed and approved the documents as requested in June 2015.

Building Issues

Of the 15 potential developers contacted during the Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) process, 588 Associates met with 9 who prepared and presented in person their plans on how they would develop the Mission Center property in a Joint Venture. Three of nine were selected to submit Best and Final Offers (BAFO) to the NEC and Treasurers Council and will do that on August 29.

Since 588 Associates' contract with CSG Consultants will end as of August 31, 2016, 588 Associates is currently in the process of engaging a new firm to act as project managers for the Mission Center development (requiring 35,000-50,000 square feet of space). The NEC and Treasurers Council met recently with one firm and were impressed with their presentation.

Palmer Theological Seminary will vacate their leased space (20,268 sq. ft.) in the Mission Center, and an additional 5,000 sq. ft. in the Graphic Arts Building, by the end of July 2016, resulting in the loss of over \$26,800 in monthly rents.

Mortgage Loan

When the Mission Center building was purchased by the internal partners in 2009, each organization purchased a percentage of ownership. Some paid cash, but ABCUSA issued mortgages for others. MMBB recently contacted ABCUSA to express their interest in reducing the interest rate they've been paying since 2009, due to the fact that 7% interest seems high in the economy. An agreement has been made with MMBB to reduce their interest on the mortgage loan to 4% over the remaining calendar year. ABCUSA-Office of the General Secretary will need to approach ABHMS about this agreement, offering them a reduction in their interest rate as well. A resolution has been prepared by ABCUSA Legal Counsel David Knipel for BGM approval.

It was noted that an alternative counter proposal would be to offer resources to refinance through a third party. This proposal would provide prepayment of everything, with ABCUSA-Office of the General Secretary receiving 4% interest, but through this process freeing money to invest (which was the intended purpose of the sale).

The Executive Committee empowered Paul Higgins and Alan Musoke to continue conversations with MMBB and with ABHMS.

BGM EC 390 BGM OFFERING

A motion was made, seconded and it was

VOTED: To designate the offering, collected at the BGM plenary session on Saturday, June 18, 2016, for persons ministering to the families of victims of the June 12, 2016 mass murder shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, FL.

BGM EC 391 REQUEST FOR BIENNIAL EXHIBIT SPACE

In March an email was received from The Committee on Welcome and Affirmation, First Baptist Church of Rochester, NY, referencing an earlier letter of request that the committee had sent to leadership of the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team (BMSPT). The committee was requesting that the BMSPT consider "acknowledging the growing number of Welcoming and Affirming (100+) churches who are part of the vibrant diversity of American Baptist life" by including the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists (AWAB) within the exhibit hall for the 2017 BMS.

President Fackenthal reported that she had responded to the initial request noting that it would be a matter for the Executive Committee to address, not the BMSPT. The Executive Committee agreed that the decision must be made in light of whether this fits into the bylaw requirements, but also that it cannot consider the request since it is coming to the Executive Committee from a church committee, not AWAB itself. It was agreed that Judy will communicate this to the church committee.

BGM EC 392**BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT PLANNING TEAM**

The Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team met on March 29-31, 2016 in Portland, OR. During this meeting the BMSPT toured the Oregon Convention Center and narrowed down the space needed by ABC. The next meeting will be the “Stage 4” meeting on July 28 at the Mission Center. It is hoped that this Biennial will provide times of contemplation and in this time of denominational transition, that all will feel a calling to work and minister together in harmony.

BGM EC 393**BGM FOCUS ON MISSION TABLE PRIORITY**

The November 2016 BGM meeting will focus on “The Gospel in a Rapidly Changing Society,” one of the 7 Mission Table priorities. BGM’s Macro Speaker, Rev. Duh Kam, will address the refugee situation. Jeff Woods will work with Duh on his presentation, with the goal of designing an interactive experience. Duh will be asked to provide a narrative of his report prior to November.

BGM EC 394**NORTH EAST CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

Past President Don Ng shared an update on plans for North East Christian University (NECU) in Nagaland. A group, “Friends of NE Christian University of Nagaland,” has been officially formed. During a recent conference call, Jerry Cain was elected as Chair, Don Ng as Vice-Chair, Fred Downs as Secretary, and Peter Armacost as “Consultant to Friends of NE Christian University of Nagaland.” Ben Chan will serve as staff.

The first face-to-face meeting of the Friends of NECU group will be held at the World Mission Conference at Green Lake, WI in July. Although Don will not be able to be there, he hopes that Judy will be able to sit in on the meeting. Chancellor of NECU, Rev. Dr. L. Anjo Keikung, will attend.

BGM EC 395**CLOSING DEVOTIONAL**

Kay Farley lit the Christ Candle as a reminder of God’s presence at this meeting. She shared a story of a little girl and the digging of a well that illustrated the need to recognize that there are often things imbedded in ourselves that need to be uncovered to eliminate anger.

BGM EC 396**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Committee met in Executive Session, without staff present. The main focus during this session was on the General Secretary Search Process. No actions were taken during this time.

Next meeting of the BGM Executive Committee:

September 8-10, 2016 —Rochester, NY

Submitted by

Dr. Susan E. Gillies
Interim General Secretary

SEG/cb

Documents attached

BGM Schedule June 2016

BGM Proposed Agenda: June 16-18, 2016

BGM EC Roster

BGM Minutes: November 12-14, 2015

BGM EC Minutes: March 9-12, 2016

ABC President's Report

Report of the Interim General Secretary

ABCUSA-Office of the General Secretary & AMO Staff Ministry Reports

Confidential: General Secretary Job Description

Report of Changed Relationships of Local Churches

Reports from American Baptist Caucuses

YTD Financials Through April 30, 2016

ABCUSA-Office of the General Secretary Audit, Dec. 31, 2015 and 2014

Building Issues Update

Reports from AB Caucuses

588 Associates—Property Management –Assignment & Assumption

588 Associates Deed

588 Associates Tenants in Common Agreement (3 documents)

OTABL 2017 Progress Report for BGM

ABCUSA-Office of the General Secretary Communication Standards – 2014