



American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**June 18, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Linden Room**

**Sheraton Overland Park Hotel
6100 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66211
913-234-2100**

MINUTES

Present for all or part of the meeting: Voting members (quorum established)—Ruth M. Clark; Don T. Ng, James R. Ratliff; Frank Christine, Jr.; Jonathan A. Malone; A. Roy Medley; Wesley A. Roberts; Non-Voting members—Dennis L. Johnson (parliamentarian); Alan Musoke (treasurer/CFO); Jeffery L. Savage (chaplain); Guests attending part of the meeting—Leo S. Thorne, Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development; Johnson Eapen, Director of Human Resources; Recorder—Cathy Brubaker

Unable to attend: Beryl F. Hornberger

BGM EC 104 WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

ABC President Ruth Clark called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Linden Room of the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel.

BGM EC 105 DEVOTION

Jeffery L. Savage, BGM Chaplain, lit the Christ Candle and led the Executive Committee in a time of devotion focusing on the account of Barnabas as recorded in Acts 11:19-30. During this time, the Executive Committee also met in smaller groups, to address the questions: What spoke to you in this narrative? What is God calling you/us to see, to be, and to do in response? Where do we see the grace of God at work in ABC, in places where things don't always happen as we might anticipate?

BGM EC 106 CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

The Executive Committee shared concerns and celebrations, bringing all before the Lord in prayer.

BGM EC 107 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Wesley Roberts, seconded by Jim Ratliff and it was

VOTED: To approve the March 5, 2013 conference call minutes of the BGM Executive Committee and the March 13-14, 2013 minutes of the BGM Executive Committee (meeting held in Chicago, IL).

BGM EC 108 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Clark reported that since the Executive Committee met last March it has “been my privilege to represent ABC in some exceptional situations.” Included in her report were updates on several meetings/ministry visits: National Leadership Council, held in Green Lake on April 2-5; the Symposium on Racism and the Christian Churches Together meeting in Birmingham, AL on April 14-15; a Baptist-Muslim Dialogue hosted by Central Baptist Theological Seminary and held at Prairie Baptist Church in Kansas City, KS on April 20; World Council of Churches Training Event at the Lutheran Center in Chicago on April 22; a visit to First Baptist Church in Bar Harbor, ME in May, where former General Board and ABHMS member Scott Records pastors; and Bacone College’s May 4 graduation, where Ruth as president of ABC was privileged to receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, replete with hood and a beautifully framed diploma, which she brought to the meeting to share with the Executive Committee. Ruth’s full report was sent to BGM following the meeting and is filed with the official minutes in the General Secretary’s office.

BGM EC 109 REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary also reported on his work since the March meeting of the Executive Committee. He thanked Mission Summit/Biennial Program Committee chair Reg Mills, the Biennial Program Planning Team and staff who worked so diligently to plan the 2013 Mission Summit/Biennial, noting that it was a “herculean effort by a small group of people.” He also noted the challenge faced as a new registration process was initiated for this Mission Summit/Biennial.

The General Secretary shared updates related to: *Transformed by the Spirit*; planning for the first Mission Table, to be held in Green Lake, WI in November 2013; ABC initiatives related to human rights/religious liberty issues in Burma; the Baptist-Muslim dialogue hosted by Central Baptist Theological Seminary, as well as other ecumenical work; Professional Ministry; ABCUSA’s new Director of Development, Ken Marsenburg; ABCUSA communication, stewardship, and ministry partnerships with ABC-related seminaries and theological schools. He ended his report by providing an extensive list of ministry visits/speaking engagements both completed and scheduled through the end of the summer.

The General Secretary’s written report was distributed at the end of the meeting and is attached to the official copy of the minutes filed in the General Secretary’s office.

BGM EC 110 EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Committee met in Executive Session. Johnson Eapen, Director of Human Resources, was present during the executive session for discussion related to:

- The General Secretary’s Appraisal

During Executive Session the BGM Executive Committee received the report of the appraisal of General Secretary A. Roy Medley. The Executive Committee advised the ABC Nominating Committee of the appraisal results.

- A draft revision of ABCUSA's Affirmative Action Policy
This revision was submitted for discernment, with anticipated action in September 2013
- Cost of Living Adjustment for ABCUSA Staff for 2014

Any minutes recorded will be sealed in an envelope and attached to the official copy of the BGM minutes filed in the General Secretary's office.

BGM EC 111 FINANCIAL REPORTS

James R. Ratliff, Budget Review Officer, presented the following reports:

- **YTD Financials through April 2013**

Overall the year-to-date financials show a net loss of \$167,000, primarily due to the Denominational Emphasis which has a loss of \$105,000 and ABCUSA departments that have a combined loss of \$50,000.

Net revenue compared to last year is up \$386,000. This is primarily a result of Biennial revenues of \$146,000 and the addition of Transition Ministries' (formerly an Associated Ministry Organization known as Interim Ministries-ABC) revenue of \$195,000 to ABC/USA. A reserve balance of \$77,000 will help offset any losses incurred in the current year for Denominational Emphasis.

Transition Ministries has a negative balance of \$6,000 due mostly to legal fees. Women In Ministry has a net loss of \$24,000. This loss will be offset by additional quarterly contributions from the endowment. There are no anticipated fiscal problems to report at this time.

- **2012 ABCUSA Audited Financial Statements**

Jim presented the Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants--Tait, Weller & Baker, LLP--whose opinion indicated that the financial statements "...present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ABCUSA as of December 31, 2012, 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."

In his review, Jim noted the change in the unrestricted funds balance. Last year the funds showed a loss of more than \$630,000 in fair market value while this year's balance has increased more than \$935,000. Although a positive gain, he cautioned that this highlights the problem with the lack of revenue from sources other than United Mission. The net change of assets was \$1,335,000. Jim encouraged the Executive Committee to pay close attention to the auditor's notes when reviewing the audited statements.

Upon recommendation of the BGM Finance Committee, it was

VOTED: To receive the 2012 ABCUSA Audited Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011 for presentation to the Board of General Ministries

- **Revisions to the Mission Initiative Fund Guidelines**

The Mission Initiative Fund provides resources for launching new ministries and denomination-wide mission activities that are beyond normal operating budgets. Under the newly adopted ABC Bylaws, the ABCUSA Finance Committee now oversees the Mission Initiative Fund Guidelines. A revision of the document “Guidelines for the Use of the Mission Initiative Fund” was presented to the Executive Committee.

A motion was made by Jim Ratliff on behalf of the ABC Finance Committee, and it was

VOTED: **To recommend to the Board of General Ministries, as presented, the revised “Guidelines for Use of the Mission Initiative Fund.”**

BGM EC 112 CORA AND JOHN SPARROWK PRESIDENT’S AWARD

In March the Executive Committee discussed funding concerns related to the John & Cora Sparrowk President’s Award, which was established by the Sparrowks in 1979 to be presented to “an exceptional Christian leader who has over a period of years made an exceptional and outstanding contribution to the life of Christ’s Church and who in life and service manifests richly the fruits and gifts of the Spirit.” The award provides a \$500 monetary gift to the recipient(s) as well as hotel and travel expenses to attend the Mission Summit/Biennial.

The fund currently stands at \$11,159 and generates approximately \$550 yearly. The Executive Committee agreed that the fund needs to be augmented in order to present a more worthy monetary gift. Following discussion, it was

AGREED: **That the General Secretary approach Dr. Cora Sparrowk about the possibility of increasing the base of the fund to \$20,000.**

BGM EC 113 TRANSFORMED BY THE SPIRIT

General Secretary Roy Medley reported that twenty-eight ABC regional and national organizations partnered over the past two years to engage in Spirit-led discernment through the initiative we know as *Transformed by the Spirit*. In order to move this initiative forward and to help ABC become a distributed network of collaborative partnerships which emphasize local initiatives around shared ministry priorities, ABC staff with region partners and The Missional Network consultants are designing the second phase of *Transformed by the Spirit*. There have been 3 planning meetings addressing next steps and out of those sessions three very important components which were identified as elements needing to continue during this second stage: 1) a “reconstituted” Journey Team to serve as a management group to ensure that this process is grounded in the life of the churches and to provide feedback for moving forward, 2) continued work with consultants, although at a reduced capacity of 3-4 days per month, and 3) use of the guidelines for *Transformed by the Spirit* that have been developed, but with an eye for refinement as needed.

There are 6 proposed design components:

- 1—**ABCUSA Leadership Development:** Work with designated ABCUSA staff and the Journey Team in liaison with Sumner Grant to strengthen understanding, build support and develop leadership capacity
- 2—**Current ACT and ALT Processes:** Continue to support the current ACT and ALT work taking place across the ABC, bringing this learning into the rhythm of the new bylaws structure
- 3—**New ACTs and ALTs:** Invite existing and new partners to initiate new adaptive change processes,

especially as ministry priorities are established by the new structure

- 4—**Moving *Transformed by the Spirit* Deeply into Congregations across the Regions:** Focus on cultivating local initiative for ministry by congregations in their local context through three approaches:
 - a. Partner with regions to invite congregations aware of TbyS to draw on learnings to date to implement their own ACT/ALT processes around key ministry challenges
 - b. Utilize *Moving Back into the Neighborhood* (MBiN) workshops within sponsoring regions to invite congregations not aware into the *TbyS* process
 - c. Develop series of congregation cohorts in sponsoring regions to engage in shared journey of 12-15 months for mutual learning around dealing with adaptive change
- 5—**Connecting Organizational Structures with Adaptive, Distributive Systems:** Host series of regionally-based events to deepen understanding of action/learning in relation to adaptive change in helping to address how the ABC becomes a distributed network of collaborative partnerships engaging in adaptive work in relation to the new structure.
- 6—**Identifying Resources and Providing Training for Internalizing *Transformed by the Spirit*:** Update and finalize various supporting workbooks for ACTs/ALTs; and provide continued training across system for coaches as well as team leaders.

Region-based events will be partially supported by the regions/churches involved. The formula for a blended cost will be part of a more detailed design and will be presented to the Executive Committee at its September 2013 meeting. A grant proposal for \$25,000 to underwrite the cost of the Journey Team has been submitted to the AB Foundation for a Palmer Grant. A grant of \$10,000 has been already received from The First Baptist Church of Phoenix Foundation.

Two documents, which provide additional detail, were distributed to the Executive Committee: An “Executive Summary—Proposal for Services from TMN”, as well as “Estimated Annual Costs 7/2013-6/2014.” Both documents are attached to the set of minutes filed in the General Secretary’s office.

Following this report, the Executive Committee engaged in a time of questions and responses during which several members of the Executive Committee shared testimonials related to how the *Transformed by the Spirit* initiative is bringing about transformation in their own respective regions. It was noted that there are guidelines available which outline a process for how a person/church might connect to the initiative both through their respective region and nationally. The planning committee is updating the process.

The task of the consultants in this next stage will be to work with the Journey Team, General Secretary Roy Medley, Sumner Grant, and Jeff Woods in planning and in assisting the resourcing of individuals to conduct workshops within regions. Consultant Alan Roxburgh will continue in the very important role of “cheerleader”, helping to share success stories and testimonials, and encouraging others to come on board. Video website stories, written pieces, and celebrations of how American Baptists have faced challenges, responded, and brought energy to the process will be used. While we are in the experimentation stage, finding ways to connect with others and learning how to reach out to the unchurched, and while we don’t have the answers, we are all part of the process.

Roy emphasized that context for ministry has shifted so dramatically, that “doing church” as it was done in the past is not going to be successful; just adding praise teams to worship services will not provide the dramatic shift which is so important in ministry today. The hard work is at the local level. It’s the people of God in our congregations having a sense of the call of God and how to lift up that call. It is not about having an answer but a methodology, a framework, for working on ministry challenges together. Roy encouraged all to “keep moving on, keep promoting, keep calling churches to walk this journey with us.”

BGM EC 114 MISSION TABLE

General Secretary Roy Medley reported that the Nominating Committee selected the local church representatives from the 29 regions who submitted names to serve on the Mission Table. These 29, the 33 region executive ministers, and 44 additional people (106 in total), will be invited to serve.

BGM EC 115 BGM OFFERING

A motion was made, seconded and it was

VOTED: To designate the offering, collected at the BGM plenary session on Thursday, June 20, 2013 to Arab Baptist Theological Seminary for assistance to refugees fleeing Syria.

BGM EC 116 ABCUSA MINISTRIES INTERPRETIVE POWERPT

Leo S. Thorne, Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development, presented a new ABCUSA graphic being developed in consultation with designer Mary Roach Bailey for use as both a printed piece and as a PowerPt. This graphic will be used to clearly identify ABCUSA's many ministries.

**BGM EC 117 ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MMBB AS
A NATIONAL SECRETARY**

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.*

Upon motion, and second it was

VOTED: To recommend to the Board of General Ministries the election of Mr. Louis P. Barbarin, Executive Director of MMBB, as a National Secretary of ABCUSA to serve for a term which is concurrent with his term as Executive Director.

**BGM EC 118 ADJOURN/RECONVENE
CREDENTIALS AND CAUCUS COMMITTEE**

President Ruth Clark recessed the meeting of the BGM Executive Committee and Wesley Roberts (Chair) convened the meeting of the Credentials & Caucus Committee.

During the review of this document there was a question as to whether it might be possible to receive information about why a church would choose to disband.

At the recommendation of the Credentials and Caucus Committee, it was

VOTED: To receive the Report of Changed Relationships of Local Churches (1205.1:6/13)

dated November 5, 2012 to June 7, 2013 and to forward it to the Board of General Ministries.

BGM EC 119 FUTURE MEETING DATES

The following future meeting dates were confirmed.

- September 12-14, 2013--BGM Executive Committee Meeting in San Francisco
- November 14-16, 2013--BGM & BGM Executive Committee Meeting in Valley Forge
- June 11-14, 2014--BGM & BGM Executive Committee Meeting in Green Lake, WI

Vice President Don Ng encouraged the Executive Committee to consider what they might like to experience at the September meeting, hosted by Don's home church--First Chinese Baptist Church in San Francisco. He encouraged as many as possible to stay over Saturday night in order to visit a local church on Sunday.

Registration will be on line immediately after the June meeting and all were encouraged to register and to work on their flight reservations.

BGM EC 120 PRAYER/ADJOURNMENT

Parliamentarian Dennis Johnson led in a closing prayer and President Ruth Clark adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Next meeting:

Thursday, September 12, 2013 (beginning at 5:00pm, First Chinese Baptist Church, San Francisco, CA)

Friday, September 13, 2013 (all day)

Saturday, September 14, 2013 (ending at 10:30 a.m.)

Submitted by,

Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley
General Secretary

ARM/cb

Documents attached:

Agenda (1102:6/13)

BGM EC Roster

Worship Program

Minutes of the Executive Committee, Conference Call on March 5, 2013

Minutes of the Executive Committee, March 13-14, 2013 (Chicago, IL)

Report of the General Secretary

Mission Initiative Fund Guidelines

YTD Financials Through April 2013

2012 ABCUSA Audited Financial Statements

Transformed by the Spirit: Executive Summary—Proposal for Services from TMN & Estimated Annual Costs 7/2013-6/2014
ABCUSA Ministries (Communications Graphic)
Report of Changed Relationships (11/5/12-6/7/13)