



**American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.**

**BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes: March 13-15, 2014**

**Meeting Site:** Garfield Park Baptist Church  
1061 E. Southern Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46203

**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, West Virginia

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

**“American Baptists Serving as the Hands and Feet of Christ”**

**Thursday, March 13, 2014**

**BGM EC 165                      CALL TO ORDER/ICE BREAKER**

ABC President Don Ng called the meeting to order. Through a get-to-know you exercise of tracking the geographical journey each member of the Executive Committee has taken in their lifetime, President Ng noted that each person is a product of the places they have been and the upbringing they have experienced and that each sees the world from their particular vantage points. Our collective work causes us to need to see from the whole, where actions are taken and beliefs are held from other than just our own particular

vantage point. Each person is unique but it is only when we see the bigger picture that we can speak on behalf of the entire family.

During this time it was acknowledged that President Ng was chosen as this year's recipient of Andover Newton Theological School's Spirit of the Hill Award. This award will be presented during ANTS' Spring Convocation on May 15. In honor of Don, the Board of General Ministries has purchased a brick on ANTS' historic honorary walkway in the Quad which will be inscribed with his name and title, ABC President 2014-2015. This walkway serves as a constant reminder of the commitment and generosity that help create a path for future leaders.

#### **BGM EC 166                      WORSHIP/TOUR OF GARFIELD PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Judy Fackenthal, ABC Vice President and BGM Chaplain, invited the Executive Committee to move from the meeting room to the sanctuary for a time of worship. She noted that some worship well in silence where no imagery is appealing; others come to God in experiential ways; this time incorporated both. Focusing on the beauty of lava lamps with the slow coalescing and dispersing of the wax, praying "The Settling Prayer" (from Carmina Gadelica), and focusing on Scripture passages from James 4 and Acts 4, the Executive Committee looked for analogies that came to mind, while considering the questions: In what ways will our holy work these three days serve to facilitate the coalescing and dispersing of our local churches and our broader denominational family? How do we seek to come together and be both heated up and cooled by the Spirit's leading?

Following worship, Judy led a tour of Garfield Park Baptist Church, sharing the history of the congregation and the church facility, which was built in 1926 (with a 1950 addition) and which continues to be used extensively for ministry to the community.

#### **BGM EC 167                      INTRODUCTION TO/REVIEW OF AGENDA**

President Ng presented the agenda, which incorporates for the Executive Committee a new way of working by using the concepts of "parking lot" (routine business needing to be addressed) and "big issue" (major issues needing focus) items. He explained that this is an experimental agenda and that its effectiveness will be evaluated by the group as the meeting progresses. President Ng called for discussion related to other items the committee might want to add to the agenda. Several items were added and some items expanded to include more in-depth discussion. It was also noted that the Executive Committee will need to be intentional in addressing all parking lot issues which are critical prior to the close of the meeting.

During this discussion Wesley Roberts shared concern related to the accuracy of ABCIS denominational statistics and whether this might be a topic to add to the agenda for further discussion/action. General Secretary Medley and Alan Musoke will confer with Geri Blier, who has responsibility for the congregational profile system, as to how ABCUSA currently collects data for congregational profile stats and how that process might be changed/tweaked to more accurately determine church membership.

#### **BGM EC 168                      APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Wesley Roberts, seconded by Ruth Clark and it was

**VOTED:** To approve the November 14, 2013 minutes of the BGM Executive Committee (held in King of Prussia, PA) as written.

**BGM EC 169                      RECESS/ADJOURN   CREDENTIALS & CAUCUS**

President Ng recessed the meeting of the BGM Executive Committee, and Wesley Roberts (chair) called the Credentials and Caucus Committee to order.

Alan Musoke reviewed with the Executive Committee the current caucus budget allocations and presented two funding options (A&B, which both included the Women's Caucus) for the Executive Committee to consider for 2014 and 2015, with a total budget of \$50,000. Alan added that a determination will need to be made at this meeting as to whether funding for the Women's Caucus will be added to the budget line for caucuses or deducted from the amounts received by the other caucuses, which was the case when the Haitian and Portuguese speaking caucuses were added.

President Ng reported that each of the original four caucuses initially received \$12,000 annually. With the addition of the Haitian and the Portuguese speaking caucuses, the funding was divided further. The Young Adult Caucus petitioned the Credentials & Caucus Committee to receive enough funding to permit them to gather during Biennials. This funding was provided for both the Young Adult Caucus and the Women's Caucus and was used by each for a breakfast gathering at the Biennial.

Concern was shared about the lack of reporting by the caucuses on how their funding is used and it was agreed that ABCUSA needs to more intentional in assuring that the funds are accounted for.

Wesley Roberts suggested that it would be wise if the chair of the Credentials & Caucus Committee attend the Intercaucus meetings, as a non-voting member, so as to be able to answer questions and become more knowledgeable about the caucuses' funding needs. It was clarified that the Intercaucus was organized to discuss caucus issues, things which need to be dealt with by the denomination. A distinction between the Intercaucus and the separate caucuses is that the Intercaucus is programmatically related and should not be burdened with financial accounting.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Vice President Judy Fackenthal, seconded by Past President Ruth Clark and it was

**VOTED:** To approve Funding Option A (as noted below) for 2014 funding for American Baptist Caucuses, reserving the vote on 2015 allocations for next year.

AB African American Caucus - \$8,000  
AB Asian Caucus – \$8,000  
AB Haitian Caucus – \$8,000  
AB Hispanic Caucus – \$8,000  
AB Native American Caucus – \$8,000  
AB National Portuguese Speaking Caucus – \$6,100  
AB Women's Caucus - \$2,950

AB Young Adult Caucus - \$950

It was also by consensus

**AGREED:** That President Ng meet with the Young Adult Caucus to get a sense of their funding needs as well as how current funding is being utilized.

That President Ng notify caucus chairs that newly-instituted allocation guidelines are being written, and invite them to meet face-to-face with the Executive Committee in Seattle at its September 2014 meeting to speak about concerns of the caucuses and the larger picture.

That the Executive Committee make available 2-3 time slots for meetings/conference calls in order for caucuses to report financial accountability (also submitted in writing).

That the Executive Committee request that the Intercaucus consider planning their meetings on dates/times which would make it easier to coordinate funding reporting sessions.

That General Secretary Roy Medley notify the Women's Caucus that the Executive Committee, convening as the Credentials and Caucus Committee, approved the allocation of \$2,950 for the work of the ABC Women's Caucus in 2014; and that he request a list of their officers (with contact information), as well as pertinent information on the (non-personal) bank account to which the funds are to be sent, or that they confirm whether they wish ABCUSA to hold and disburse funds on their behalf.

Wesley Robert adjourned the meeting of the Credentials & Caucus Committee. President Ng reconvened the meeting of the Executive Committee.

## **BGM EC 170                      REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

General Secretary Roy Medley's report was transmitted for Executive Committee review prior to this meeting. He highlighted two areas of his report:

*Transformed by the Spirit:* As plans develop for the General Secretary's transition, Roy reported that he has asked Dr. Jeff Woods to become the staff point person for *Transformed by the Spirit*. When Alan Roxburgh's contract ends in July 2015, Jeff will become the primary resource person for the ongoing initiative. Jeff is the best ABC expert on congregational life. This arrangement provides the opportunity for continuity, but is not binding and Jeff's role can change as needed. There is also consideration toward a possible title change for Jeff to more accurately describe his portfolio.

Baptist-Muslim dialogue: Roy shared confidential information with the Executive Committee regarding an invitation he recently received to become part of an interfaith group to build bridges.

Following the General Secretary's report, there was time for discussion. Roy also responded to questions regarding ongoing development work. Ken Marsenburg, ABCUSA's director of development, is currently in Arizona calling on donors and cultivating others. David Gnirk continues to work closely with Ken on donor visitations as well. ABCUSA just received a foundation gift of \$3,000, and from renewed

commitments has averaged another \$10,000. Cultivation events were recently held with several groups in Florida. Roy emphasized that establishing relationships takes time.

**BGM EC 171                      MEETING ADJOURNMENT  
DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP**

President Ng adjourned the meeting of the Executive Committee for the evening.

At 6:00 p.m., the Executive Committee shared dinner and fellowship together at the Milano Inn (231 S. College Ave., Indianapolis, IN) with guests: Rev. Joan Friesen (executive minister, ABC of Greater Indianapolis) and her spouse Jay Nordgaard, Rev. Soozi Ford (executive minister, ABC of Indiana & Kentucky) and her spouse Homer, and Mrs. Marie Gleason (former administrative assistant to the General Secretary) and her spouse Jack.

**Friday, March 14, 2014**

**BGM EC 172                      WELCOME AND REVIEW**

The Executive Committee welcomed Tasha Wilson, who arrived late to the meeting due to weather related flight cancellations and delays. She shared with the Executive Committee, at President Ng's request, her "mapped journey", where life has taken her.

President Ng briefly summarized the Executive Committee's work on Thursday.

**BGM EC 173                      LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE/DEVOTIONAL**

Judy lit the Christ Candle as a sign of God's presence and of Worshipful Work. She led in a time of silent reflection, providing play dough as a symbol of how letting go of things in our mind and occupying our hands, the Spirit has space to lead and guide us in new and creative ways. Scripture focus was provided through New Testament passages: Ephesians 4:15-16 and II Corinthians 5:17-18. The Executive Committee shared in pairs responses to the questions: In what ways have you been made new in Christ? What does that look like in you? In what ways is ABC-USA being made new? What does it have to do with reconciliation?

Following a time of shared concerns and joys, the Executive Committee concluded this time with prayer and with song, "Called as Partners in Christ's Service."

**BEM EC 174                      CALL TO ORDER/REVIEW OF AGENDA FOR THE DAY**

President Ng called the official meeting to order and the Executive Committee discussed the agenda for the day, together consenting to make UM the big issue for morning discussion.

**BEM EC 175                      UM/ACT ON UM**

**United Mission**

Alan Musoke explained that UM is tracked through the financial statements. ABCUSA budgeted a 6% decline in UM in 2013, but there is some good news in that the decline was only 3%.

For new members, Alan provided a review of UM issues discussed by the Executive Committee at its November meeting. For the first time, as of September 2013, UM designations to IM exceeded the UM distribution to IM as outlined in the Common Budget Covenant. In October, on behalf of the board of IM, Rev. Hopeton Scott (IM's president) sent a letter to General Secretary Medley sharing their board's concern about donor intent being honored and reporting its vote to propose, as an interim measure: "That a request be made to the ABC Mission Initiative Fund for a grant that is at least equal to the 2013 undistributed UM designations to IM." IM doesn't, however, qualify for a Mission Initiative grant. The IM board's long-term hope is that changes be made to the covenant to take into account these abnormalities.

As a temporary measure, Alan reported that a letter was drafted under Roy's name to be sent to churches informing them of the situation and requesting clarity as to whether they would want to shift their funds to either UM Basics, which will support all of ABC ministry, or to Specifics, which will go 100% to IM.

A proposal to eliminate the UM designations category will be coming to the National Leadership Council (NLC) in April from a subcommittee (Common Budget Covenant Review Committee) charged with reviewing issues of the covenant. It will be proposed that UM designations be removed as a mission giving category, that there only be a Specifics category where people can give to an entity. A draft of the "Rationale for Eliminating the UM Designated Category" was shared with the Executive Committee. It was also noted that the IM issue was just a coincidence. The proposed changes were already being drafted by the subcommittee before the IM issue arose. In the past ABC had a cadre of WMS staff who networked with churches; no one is currently promoting UM. Many of the categories for UM giving came about due to the political climate between regions and national organizations.

President Ng noted that the Monthly Report of Mission Support form needs to be revised (under "H") to clarify ABCUSA as an organization, along with IM and ABHMS. It is unclear as the form is currently printed.

It was suggested that the "UM Process" be placed on the June agenda, to provide directors more knowledge of the process. The NLC will do a straw poll on the proposal to eliminate the UM designated category at its April meeting and if it goes forward from there, NLC will submit it to covenanting organizations for vote.

Roy explained that most people are not aware of many of the areas of ABC life that are funded by UM; an example is the OTABL/Ministers Conference. MMBB has lowered the amount of funding it provides for this event and the Ministers Council has ceased its funding. IM and ABHMS will have no shares in UM by 2016 if no changes are made. Other entities have been working on alternate forms of funding.

When regions had their UM share increased by 10%, ABCUSA took the largest hit and staff had to be reduced drastically. ABCUSA has no offering to benefit it and every proposal that was suggested to the Budget Covenant group for alternate forms of funding was vetoed. ABCUSA was left with UM and raising donor gifts as income sources, with no other source of income to underwrite its work. ABCUSA now has the added expenses of Biennial and the Mission Table, with the expectation of doing more but through one stream of income.

The flaw of the new system is that no other partner has the interest of ABCUSA, but only of their own entities. This leaves ABC with a lack of contribution from the whole, which is short-changing the whole. The question remains on how to best educate the denominational family about the issues.

We have the responsibility of raising money for the whole and yet other entities do not have a charge to have concern for the whole.

### **ACT on UM**

President Ng recalled the formation of Mission Resource Development (MRD) as a department within ABCUSA. MRD was charged with working intentionally on UM issues with a focus on how the General Secretary's office might be funded. He noted that this work continues. In January, just prior to EMERGE, the ABC officers met with Alan Roxburgh in Florida to discuss UM. It was from this meeting that the Adaptive Challenge Team on United Mission (ACT on UM) was formed.

The following participants have been invited to serve on the Adaptive Challenge Team and have confirmed their acceptance: Rev. Judy Fackenthal, Rev. Alan Rudnick, Rev. Kevin Doi, Rev. Chris Roush, Rev. Miriam Mendez, Rev. Dr. Jeff Haggray, and Rev. Ashley Whitaker. The group will meet face-to-face on May 21-22, 2014 in Chicago and by 5-6 conference calls and will hope to finish its work in approximately 6 months. They will be focusing on the areas of ministry that we value and don't want to disappear if UM disappears.

Following discussion it was by consensus

**AGREED:** That "ACT on UM" be placed on the June BGM agenda as a focused session designed by Paul Higgins, Alan Musoke and Leo Thorne and that the session be interactive, to include a general sense of UM and a broad breakdown of UM life.

That an annual pledge opportunity will be presented to BGM at the June meeting.

A copy of the Common Budget Covenant and Operating Guidelines will be provided to BGM for the June meeting. A link to these two documents, as well as the UM division of funding, will be sent by Cathy Brubaker to the Executive Committee immediately following this meeting.

### **BEM EC 176                      RESPONSE GROUPS**

The Executive Committee evaluated the effectiveness of Response Groups with the goal of asking whether there might be a more effective way of doing its work.

During this discussion it was noted that subcommittees need to remain organic/growing/changing/being renewed, every two years in order to get the most impact from the Mission Table. It was also noted that the Finance Committee and the Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations need to be maintained since both are committees of the denomination.

Also, there was extensive discussion related to the number of ABC groups currently in existence around congregational renewal and which of these groups might "jell together" and which have enough distinctives to need to remain separate. BGM needs to be in dialogue with the various groups around this issue. How these small groups connect with *Transformed by the Spirit* should remain an **ongoing Big Issue** for BGM so this emphasis is not lost.

It was by consensus

**AGREED:** That BGM will work in the following Committees/Action Groups for the 2014-2015 biennium:



Finance Committee (Paul Higgins & Alan Musoke, leaders)  
Committee on Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations (June Totten, Ruth Clark & Roy Medley, leaders)  
Renewing Congregations (Wesley Roberts & Jeff Woods, leaders; with possibility of this becoming a commission)  
Becoming a Beloved Community (Camille Brown & Pat Hernandez, leaders)  
Communicating ABC Identity (Tasha Wilson & Leo Thorne, leaders)  
(Judy Fackenthal will move between committees)

Roy will speak with staff leaders upon returning to the office on Monday, March 17.  
Each Executive Committee member co-leading an Action Group, will contact their staff co-leader after March 17 to discuss “what we hope to achieve” and “the process we want to use.”  
Ruth and Roy will speak with June Totten.

Don will send BGM directors a letter regarding the change from Response Groups to Action Groups. This letter will include descriptives for each group and the opportunity for directors to choose their preferred group (with a deadline to do so) prior to the June meeting. Officers will need to meet by conference call to confirm final Action Group assignments. (Membership to the Finance Committee and Committee on Christian Unity has been pre-set, voted upon by BGM.)

## **BEM EC 177                      PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Ng shared his own personal testimony of growing up at First Baptist Church/ Boston, a church which assisted his father in sponsoring his mother’s journey to America after WWII, and he expressed his commitment to welcome all who desire to be a part of this American Baptist family. In light of that, he reported on his work in several areas to welcome/nurture relationships, including co-hosting on Roy’s behalf with Florence Li (ABHMS), a Burmese discernment session at the Mission Center on April 30-May 2 to foster a possible coalition or council in North America.

At the beginning of the year, Don and David Laubach (former staff of ABHMS) co-directed EMERGE in Orlando with over 300 people in attendance. An Adaptive Challenge Team on United Mission has just been formed and that work will begin with a face-to-face meeting on May 21-22 in Chicago. Also, with General Secretary Roy Medley retiring in December 2015 after 14 faithful years of service, President Ng reported on the convening of the General Secretary’s Search Committee, with the first meeting being held on March 19-20 in Chicago.

On July 7-11 Don will attend the BWA Annual Gathering/General Council in Izmir, Turkey and the IM World Mission Conference on July 21-26 at Green Lake. He ended his report by noting that the new biennium has been both busy and full of opportunity.

The president’s full report was distributed at the meeting and is attached to the official minutes filed in the General Secretary’s office.

## **BEM EC 178                      BURMA SLIDES**

While the Executive Committee enjoyed a catered lunch together, Roy presented a report, with slides, of his December 2013 journey with other Baptist leaders to Burma for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of



the Judson Landing. Past president Ruth Clark and president Don Ng were also in Burma for this celebration and contributed to the report.

**BEM EC 179                      DRAFTS OF JUNE & NOVEMBER BGM INTEGRATED SCHEDULES/  
FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The Executive Committee reviewed the Integrated Schedules for the June 2014 and November 2014 BGM meetings. Significant changes were made to both schedules and Cathy Brubaker will communicate those changes to Annie Marcucci.

The Executive Committee confirmed the following dates/venues for 2014-2015:

**Sept. 11-13, 2014 in Seattle, WA**

Plan to arrive on Wed. evening, Sept. 10 to begin on Thurs. morning, Sept. 11.  
ABC officers will meet at 9:00am on Sept. 11; the full BGM will begin at 2:00pm that day.  
The meeting will end at 12:00noon on Sept. 13.  
The Sat. morning session (Sept. 13) can be abbreviated for those who need to be back by Sunday.

**Nov. 12-15, 2014 in King of Prussia, PA**

ABC Officers will meet the evening of Nov. 12.  
The BGM Executive Committee and BGM will meet on Nov. 13

**March 11-14, 2015 in Southern CA (LA area)**

Plan to arrive the eve. of Mar. 10.  
ABC Officers meet the morning of Mar. 11; the Executive Committee begins on Mar. 11  
Executive Committee ends on Sat., Mar. 14; Stay for Sunday church visit if possible  
This venue will assist to connect with ABC/LA & the AB Congregations of the Southwest & Hawaii  
Schedule a Mar. 14 (Sat.) Lunch with pastors; invite Phoenix area pastors & AB faculty at Fuller  
We will ask Sam Chetti for suggested meeting locations with pastors  
We will confer with Annie Marcucci regarding which airport might be best, LA or Burbank?

**June 22-25, 2015, Overland Park, KS**

Biennial Mission Summit, June 26-28, 2015

**September 10-12, 2015, In the Region of the South (NC, VA, or ATL)**

**November 11-14, 2015—King of Prussia, PA**

Mission Table meets prior to BGM EC/BGM, Nov. 9-11 (same venue)

**BGM EC 180                      ABCUSA 501(c)(3) Group Exemption**

At 4:00 p.m., the Executive Committee met by conference call with ABCUSA legal counsel David Knipel, Esq. concerning issues related to ABCUSA's 501(c)(3) group tax exemption.

American Baptist Churches U.S.A. (ABCUSA) first received exemption status in 1955. In 1979 ABC submitted application for 501(c)(3) group exemption and that application was granted in June of that year.

Over the last year and a half, ABCUSA has been working with Morgan Lewis & Bockius (MLB) to clarify the rules applicable to organizations seeking to qualify as a Section 501(c)(3) organization under ABCUSA's group exemption. This process has been complicated by the fact that the IRS is in the middle of a long-term review of its existing standards for group exemptions.

The Executive Committee was advised by legal counsel to take action to clarify continued sponsorship of other organizations and to determine what limits, if any, it might want to set. Following extended discussion, a motion was made by Wesley Roberts, seconded by Tasha Wilson and it was:

**VOTED:** To approve the resolutions as noted below

*Resolved that ABCUSA agrees to continue to include on its group exemption churches, regions, and associations of churches and their integrated auxiliaries, but ABCUSA will no longer accept applications for inclusion in its group exemption from other types of organizations.*

*Resolve that organizations currently on ABCUSA's exemption that do not come within the foregoing parameters will be offered the opportunity to be included as Type 1 supporting organizations and...*

*Further resolved that organizations currently on ABCUSA's group exemption unable to qualify under either of these options will be offered the opportunity to be fiscally sponsored by ABCUSA while they apply for their own 501(c)(3) status.*

#### **BEM EC 181                      EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Committee met in executive session. (No minutes of this session were recorded. 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.)

#### **BEM EC 182                      ADJOURNMENT DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP**

President Ng adjourned the meeting of the Executive Committee for the evening.

At 6:00 p.m., the Executive Committee shared dinner together at the Legend Classic Irvington Café (5614 E. Washington St., Indianapolis). Fred Fackenthal, spouse of Vice President Judy Fackenthal, was the Executive Committee's guest for dinner. Following the meal, the Fackenthals graciously hosted a time of dessert and continued fellowship in their home.

#### **Saturday, March 15, 2014**

#### **BEM EC 183                      CALL TO ORDER/REVIEW OF AGENDA**

President Ng called the meeting to order and reviewed the morning agenda.

#### **BEM EC 184                      WORSHIP**

Chaplain Judy Fackenthal lit the Christ Candle as sign and symbol of God's presence. She led the Executive Committee in worship through prayer, through the words of Isaiah 55:12 and through reflection on the joy that resides in our hearts and on the Executive Committee's time together.

## **BEM EC 185                      FINANCIALS**

Overall the year-to-date financials for the year ended December 31, 2013 show a net loss of \$218,000 primarily due to the new Development Office which had a loss of \$164,000, and Transition Ministries which had a loss of \$52,000.

Net revenue compared to 2012 is down \$138,000. The primary reason for the decrease in revenue is the denominational emphasis. The \$138,000 decrease was determined by removing the Biennial and Transition Ministries from the revenue for 2013 and 2012 and any unrealized gains and losses from investments. This is required since there was no Biennial in 2012 and Transition Ministries had just been converted to an ABCUSA department in July 2012.

United Mission revenue for the year came in above budget. The decrease in UM was only 3% for 2013 which was an improvement from an average of 6% in prior years. (MRD has increased promotion and visits to churches; Ruth Clark, past ABC president, sent a letter of encouragement to churches; and the economy is up with churches having a little more breathing room).

Women in Ministry had a net loss of \$27,000.

Transition Ministries is showing a loss of approximately \$52,000. This loss is primarily due to \$31,000 in legal fees.

The Biennial budget currently had a net loss of \$21,000. Roy noted that the Biennial is a gift to the ABC family, and needs to be seen as such, but that he would like to see additional money put up front for Biennial expenses in the future, eliminating such a large deficit to cover later. He has also encouraged the Finance Committee to review ABCUSA investments and how funds are managed to develop a policy of expectation that ABCUSA sets for itself. Currently, most of ABCUSA's investments are through the Common Investment Fund of ABHMS and the AB Foundation. Their policies have been ABCUSA's, but we are legally required to have our own investment policies in place. A written policy needs to come to the board.

A motion was made by Wesley Roberts, seconded by Tasha Wilson and it was

**VOTED:**            To receive the financial report

## **BGM EC 186                      REPORT OF 588 ASSOCIATES, L.P.**

Alan Musoke, ABCUSA Treasurer/CFO reported the hiring of a new internal director of building management, James Cocker, who began on December 16, 2013. CB Richard Ellis has managed the Mission Center building for the last several years. This is a return to internal management and he reported that it is going well.

Alan also reported that 588 Associates, L.P. received notification of change in its exempt status from the township. Normally ABC would pay a tax, a percentage on the funds received through renting portions

of the building. 588 Associates has appealed the ruling. If this is not resolved in 588 Associates' favor, there will be an approximate \$250,000 in additional taxes. Should the Board of Education not hear the appeal, the next step would be to handle this in court.

Alan reported that they are operating at a loss due to one major tenant, Lorel, which holds a lease through 2025 on 28,000 sq. feet, and is facing financial difficulty. Rent has not been paid in over 5 months. The tenant has subleased some of its space to another tenant, who would like to remain. Each 588 Associates partner is being asked to contribute proportionally toward the \$250,000 needed right away, with additional contributions toward the balance of \$300,000 due in September.

Following this discussion, a motion was made by Wesley Roberts, seconded by Tasha Wilson and it was

**VOTED:** To provide the ABCUSA treasurer with authorization to contribute additional capital to 588 Associates if needed to cover expenses incurred, not to exceed \$200,000.

It was noted that Paul Higgins and Don Ng both serve as members of the 588 Real Estate Council by virtue of their roles as Budget Review Officer and ABC President, respectively. However, President Ng has asked Ruth Clark, who has been serving on the council as ABC president since its inception, to serve as his proxy since he has the additional responsibility of the General Secretary's Search Committee.

#### **BGM EC 187                      FUNDING FOR OTABL/MINISTERS CONFERENCE**

Roy reported that the Orientation to AB Life/Ministers Conference has generally been funded through a percentage of UM (\$25,000/year, \$50,000 every other year) and through financial investment by MMBB. Over the years there have sometimes been significant reserves which allowed ABCUSA to make contributions back to MMBB, but UM has declined and those reserves have been depleted. Some time back, MMBB needed to cut back its contribution to protect reserves for honoring their commitment to retirees. The Ministers Council chose not to sponsor the event in 2014, and ABCUSA needed to contribute additional funding.

Alan Musoke reviewed a report of the account, which previously totaled \$300,000 but which is now down to approximately \$100,000. Currently the budget is overspent by \$20,000-\$30,000.

Roy noted that the NEC will be grappling with this situation and a report will be brought back to the Executive Committee. The Orientation is the most highly-rated event of anything ABC sponsors and appreciation has been shared over and over for the welcome and integration this event brings to the denomination. Several actions have already been taken over the years to make this event possible: Seminararians have been asked for the last two events to make a modest contribution of \$75 and pastors new to ABC, \$100. Room and board continue to be complimentary for both groups and the most inexpensive venue possible has been used. OTABL and the Ministers Conference are also held in tandem to create a cost savings.

The evaluations are very high. The results of the pastors' survey is not yet back but it is expected that an initial report will come to ABCUSA Leadership Team at its meeting on Monday. For 2016, a new staff person will need to be recruited to take David Laubach's place in the planning process, and planning will need to begin as soon as possible this year.

#### **BGM EC 188                      BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES**

The Executive Committee reviewed regional and general (at large) vacancies. During this time concern was raised for the need to increase young lay professionals on the board, people who bring strong giftings and commitment to the church and how we might best identify these persons.

Cathy Brubaker will send a copy of the updated Leadership Pool document to the Executive Committee, with each director being asked to submit names to Don Ng for the Nominating Committee to consider at its June meeting. If we have names that don't qualify for categories which we need to fill, we will provide these names to other organizations.

## **BGM EC 189                      DEVOTIONAL/ADOURNMENT**

Chaplain Fackenthal led in an ending devotional, and the Executive Committee sang a departing song together, "Peace I give."

President Ng adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by



Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley  
General Secretary

ARM/cb

### *Documents attached*

*BGM Proposed Agenda: March 13-15, 2014*

*Worship Programs:*

*BGM EC Roster*

*BGM EC Minutes: November 14, 2013*

*Proposals, Caucus Funding Options A&B*

*Report of the General Secretary*

*Report of the ABC President*

*Financial Notes for the Year Ended December 31, 2013*

*Report from Ernest Jones & Dean Parker: NABF Future Baptist Convocation: March 6-7, 2014*

*Medley Letter (12/6/13) to Region Executive Ministers regarding UM designations for IM*

*Medley Letter to Mission Treasurer regarding ABC Mission Support Form and UM Designation for IM*

*AB Mission Support Defined*

*Monthly Report of Mission Support*

*Rationale for Eliminating the UM Designated Category (Proposal to NLC -April 2014 meeting)*

*Effect of Eliminating UM Designations based on 2013*

*Knipel Memo (dated 3/10/14) to Executive Committee re ABCUSA 501(c )(3) Group Exemption*

*ABCUSA Connections: Winter 2014*

*CD: ABCUSA Ministries*

