

The Board of Managers of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board held their Spring meeting/retreat on May 1-3, 2018 at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Kissimmee, Florida.

All committees of MMBB held brief meetings to cover necessary issues. I continue to serve on the Governance and Benefits Committees. All Committees reported to the full board in an abbreviated fashion so we could move promptly into the retreat portion of our time together.

The retreat portion began with an historical perspective of MMBB given by Everett Goodwin and Louis Barbarin.

CEO Louis Barbarin proposed the following objectives for our retreat discussion:

1. Establish the historical context for MMBB's current business planning.
2. Inform board members on the challenges and new realities facing MMBB.
3. Leverage the board's expertise and participation in developing and executing successful strategies.
4. Propose strategic objectives and initiatives for the next five years.
5. Determine next steps.

We also reviewed the following:

1. The mechanics of MMBB finances and which key measures are important for the board to know.
2. We also discussed how will risks such as cyber threats affect the way MMBB conducts its ministry.
3. What impact have changes (budget constraints, reduced staff, etc.) in ABCUSA organizations affected MMBB's mission of "promoting interest in the better maintenance of the ministry" and how are we addressing them?

We also discussed what the impact of the loss of the clergy housing allowance might have on the board. MMBB and its legal department continues to monitor this situation.

As you can see by all the above discussion points it was a very busy time for the board in Florida.

Questions can be e-mailed to me or addressed personally at the June BGM meeting in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

William Frederickson