

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

### BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES

MINUTES: January 20-23, 2012



Doubletree by Hilton at SeaWorld  
10100 International Drive  
Orlando FL 32821  
407.352.1100

Ruth Clark, President  
Donald Ng, Vice President  
James Ratliff, Budget Review Officer  
Frank Christine, Jr., Past President

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

**Scripture Focus:** “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.” **Colossians 3:12-16**

**Those present:** A roster of members of the Board of General Ministries is attached to the minutes.  
Members not able to attend this meeting: Julia Bebeau, Alan Rudnick, June Totten

### BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES ORIENTATION

**January 20, 2012; 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Pensacola**

**BGM 1**

**BGM DINNER**

**ADDRESS BY EVERETT GOODWIN: BAPTIST IDENTITY**

ABC President Ruth Clark welcomed members of the newly formed Board of General Ministries. The Board and staff shared dinner together in the Pensacola Room of the Doubletree by Hilton.

Following dinner, General Secretary Roy Medley introduced guest speaker Dr. Everett C. Goodwin, noted American Baptist historian and author of “Down by the Riverside: A Brief History of Baptist Faith.” Dr. Goodwin’s address to the Board presented a historical prospective of American Baptist Identity. In his remarks, he noted that this new Board rests between known traditions and certainties, tested and defined, and the unknown future. He admonished members to be aware of ongoing tension in American Baptist life and institutional structures, to hold fast to ABC’s historic doctrinal principles, to internalize ABC’s experimental DNA (its effectiveness at being a mass movement and organizing around specific concerns but with multiple ministries), and to remember that this Board has been “granted permission to celebrate past and future successes and to ignore past errors, mistakes and defeats.”

Copies of Dr. Goodwin’s book were presented to the board as a gift from ABCUSA. Two booklets, “To Think That it Happened on Mulberry Street” and “American Baptist Home Mission Roots 1824-2012”, written by David Laubach and published by Judson Press (ABHMS), as well as “In One Sacred Effort”, written by Reid Trulson (IM), were also made available to members of the Board.

### **January 21, 2012; 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Florida Bay 3**

#### **BGM 2                      BGM WORSHIP**

The Board of General Ministries met at 9:00 a.m. in Florida Bay 3 for Worship, led by Rev. Jeffery Savage, BGM chaplain and pastor of First Baptist Church of Springfield, OR. Jeff lit the Christ Candle as sign and symbol of Christ’s presence “in this place of sacred worship and work.” The Board responded to the lighting of the Christ Candle by singing together, “Welcome Into This Place.”

At each table, members read Scripture passages, Luke 1:38 and Colossians 3:12-15, three times aloud, with a different person reading each time. After 3-5 minutes of silent meditation on the Scripture texts, members engaged together in conversation as they responded to the questions: What word or phrase speaks to you in these texts? What are the action words in these verses? What sparks hope? What challenges you? How do we apply this instruction to our life together as the Board of General Ministries? Following table group sharing, members prayed one for another and for the Board’s corporate life together.

#### **BGM 3                      BOARD LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT**

*(The Board met in two sessions, morning and afternoon, to focus on board leadership and development. At 12:00 p.m. lunch was served in the Pensacola Room.)*

General Secretary Roy Medley introduced Dr. Nancy James, senior director of learning experiences and constituency development at Duke Divinity School, and facilitator for this orientation session on board leadership and development.

Prior to this meeting members of the board were asked to complete an on-line survey which included the following questions: 1) How long have you been a member of a congregation affiliated with ABCUSA? 2) On what ABCUSA boards have you served? 3) On what congregational and community boards have you served? 4) If you have had the opportunity to serve on a board, what has been most satisfying? Most frustrating? 5) If the BGM is your first board service, what skills, talents and gifts do you hope your experience on the board will utilize? Which duties and responsibilities of the board are the most interesting to you personally? Which are the least interesting to you personally? 6) What questions do you hope to have answered at the meeting of BGM in January? and 7) When the board meets in January, what

accomplishments of the General Board should we acknowledge and celebrate before beginning the work of the newly formed board?

Dr. James reviewed with the board the collated summary of responses (a copy of which is attached to the official set of minutes in the ABCUSA/OGS offices), as she progressed through the day's agenda, encouraging continued discussion in each area of response.

As Dr. Goodwin focused on Friday evening on the history of ABC identity, Dr. James led the board in several activities around the tables which focused on board identity—history, function, member skill sets (as well as gaps in skill sets) and gifts. Emphasizing the importance of the role of stories in keeping alive and relevant the history of the denomination, Dr. James led the board in a story-writing exercise to identify 10 factual statements embodying the story of ABCUSA life, core values and mission. The Board then worked to distill these 10 statements into the following five:

- 1—We are a Jesus People with the Bible as our guide.
- 2—The local church is autonomous and inter-dependent and the place where ministry happens.
- 3—While we recognize the limitations and challenges concerning our young adults, we celebrate our rich diversity.
- 4—We embrace social justice and uphold human dignity.
- 5—We are a part of a mission movement locally, nationally and globally.

Dr. James noted the importance of working through a decision-making process which examines together what the group agrees upon and how crucial it is for members of the board to possess a meaningful and factual story to tell, to be on the same page. "The process, and resulting work, is never perfect, but it is representative."

At the end of the session, time was provided to contemplate what commitment each person would be willing personally to make in relationship to the Board of General Ministries, and each was asked to share this commitment with members around their tables.

General Secretary Medley expressed appreciation to Dr. James and led in prayer, thanking God for her gifts used so wondrously and so graciously in this orientation session. Appreciation was expressed by the Board with a generous round of applause.

### **Celebration: Work and Ministry of the General Board**

During this orientation session the Board took time to acknowledge and to celebrate the work and ministry of the former General Board. BGM Chaplain Jeff Savage invited members to share descriptive words of appreciation, after which he led in a prayer of thanksgiving for those who have so freely bestowed upon the ABC their gifts and passions. Acknowledging that "we have been surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses," he admonished the Board to move forward with gratitude, empowerment and a deep understanding of courage, and to step into this new role humbly but boldly, as servants.

### **Special Prayer**

Also during this session, BGM Chaplain Jeff Savage led the Board in prayer for the situation in Kano, Nigeria, where on Friday evening, January 20, more than 150 people were killed in a series of attacks on eight government security buildings by members of a radical Islamic sect.

### **Dinner/Sharing of "Creative Self"**

The Board of General Ministries, spouses and staff enjoyed dinner together in Florida Bay 1. Following dinner, several members of the Board, at the invitation of the ABC officers, shared various talents. This time concluded with a dessert buffet.

**January 22, 2012; 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Florida Bay 3**

**BGM 4                      BGM WORSHIP**

The Board met for Morning Worship from 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m., led by General Board Chaplain Jeff Savage.

**BGM 5                      TRANSFORMED BY THE SPIRIT**

President Clark provided an overview of the day's schedule.

Reading ABC's aspirational statement—"American Baptist Churches are healthy missional churches that nurture devoted disciples of Jesus Christ who live their lives in mission and ministry for the healing of the world through the love of God"—General Secretary Medley noted that one way we are trying to live into this statement is through the process of Transformed by the Spirit, opening ourselves afresh to how we might live as the light of the world in becoming the hands and feet of Christ.

Roy introduced consultant Dr. Alan Roxburgh, president of The Missional Network, and shared appreciation for his, and for Dr. Craig Van Gelder's work and ministry with the ABC in its journey of transformation. Dr. Roxburgh provided the framework for ABC's engaging in the process of Transformed by the Spirit and an update on where ABC currently is in this journey. Members of the Board received a written report ("Transformed by the Spirit: A Journey of Discernment and Discovery into God's Future) at this meeting detailing the step-by-step process of the initiative from July 2011 through June 2013. He noted that there are three primary characteristics of this process: 1) This initiative is genuinely about a journey of discernment, of questioning what God is up to in our corporate life and seeing God as the active agent in what we're doing; 2) There is a deep conviction about starting where people are, not where you want them to be; and 3) This is a process to determine what you need to address that you don't know how to address.

There are presently 23 regions participating in Transformed by the Spirit. There are a number of reasons why some regions have chosen not to participate. Several regions are currently without a regional executive and have elected to wait until they have an executive fully on board. Other regions are currently engaged in a process similar to Transformed by the Spirit. ABC will be hosting a May 2012 national gathering to bring all regions together, participating and non-participating, with the goal of sharing insights and learning from one another. Information regarding Transformed by the Spirit has been sent to all ABC churches.

Roy reported that there are two ministry challenges that ABCUSA/OGS is currently focusing upon with the consultants: Identity and Function and Becoming the Beloved Community.

***Identity and Function:*** In SCODS, ABCUSA/OGS was stripped of its identity and its program functions that it held as "the convention," – the we – and was reduced to primarily an administrative unit. With a return to a quasi-society new structure, ABCUSA/BGM is the only organization that has a board that is intentionally representative of the whole. How does ABCUSA/BGM provide the "we" function with a focus that is bigger than any one aspect of ABC structure and life? What are our unique contributions to the life of ABC as we embody a concern for the welfare of our churches and those in ministry and offer the possibility for a richer imagination of our life together?

***Becoming the Beloved Community:*** In the Sixties and beyond, ABC out of biblical convictions became a major voice for racial justice and intentionally sought to become a body that reflected the rich diversity of humankind. In the Seventies and beyond, ABC out of biblical convictions reaffirmed its belief that the gifts for ministry are bestowed equally by the Spirit upon both men and women and began to advocate for women in ministry. How does ABCUSA/OGS assist the denomination (churches and denominational entities) to more effectively live into its new reality of being a multi-cultural/multi-ethnic denomination that affirms the giftedness of both men and women in ministry?"

Roy also noted two celebrations that will lead into the Transformed by the Spirit journey: the 200<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration of the Judson landing in Burma and the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First Baptist Church in America.

## **BGM 6            BAPTIST-MUSLIM DIALOGUE**

The Board viewed the DVD, *Different Books, Common Word: Baptists and Muslims*. The General Secretary reported that three ABC-related theological schools will be hosting upcoming regional dialogues: American Baptist Seminary of the West, Samuel Proctor DeWitt School of Theology, VUU and Central Baptist Theological Seminary, the first being held at ABSW on February 4.

## **BGM 7            BURMA – BURMESE IMMIGRATION**

Through a PowerPoint Presentation, General Secretary Medley reported on his July 2011 Mission Trip to Burma. Speaking of a religious dimension to the persecution in Burma, with the pre-eminence of Buddhism in the culture ("Burmanization"), he noted that the problem is not between Christians and Buddhists, but is due to government intervention. In 2007 the General Secretary formed the Burmese Refugee Task Force, in response to the U.S. Government's decision to settle 20,000 Burmese refugees. This Task Force has been funded through a grant from the World Relief Committee as well as through congregational support, with some of the funding allocated for seminaries to be used in the area of pastoral leadership. ABHMS staff members Rothang Chhange and Florence Li have also developed curriculum to assist with the ordination process for Burmese pastors.

Rev. Dr. Duh Kam, member of the Board and pastor of Chin Baptist Mission Church, Frederick, MD, reported on the situation of the Burmese immigrants in the U.S. by providing both a history and the current status of resettlement issues. He reviewed a map (copies provided to members of the board) showing the location of Burmese churches in the States and areas of resettlement. Expressing appreciation to those who have been active in the refugee resettlement, he asked for continued support for "these fellow Baptists whose only hope is that their children become good citizens and embrace their heritage of Christianity." Duh also expressed appreciation for Roy's visit recent to Burma and for the September 2011 visit of ABC leaders to the U.S State Department and to the office of Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, Suzan Johnson Cook.

Roy noted that part of BGM's responsibility will be developing ways to cultivate strong relationships and continued connections with the Burmese in the future.

At this time, the Board enjoyed lunch together in the Pensacola Room, with a short break following.

## **BGM 8            MINISTRY OF ABCUSA/OGS**

The Board, dividing into three groups and using a facsimile of a passport, journeyed through ABCUSA/OGS, by participating in six sessions to orient them to the work of 1) Administrative Services 2) Stewardship/Fundraising, 3) Regional Ministries/ABCIS 4) Women in Ministry 5) Communication, and 6) the work of the General Secretary, including Ecumenical Relations. For each session they completed, they earned a stamp on their “orientation passport”, qualifying them to participate in a BGM Ice Cream Social.

The Board enjoyed ice cream and fellowship together before dismissing for dinner.

## **BGM 9                      DINNER AT DISNEY MARKET PLACE**

The Board of General Ministries shared dinner together, in groups of eight at various restaurants, at Disney Market Place. Buses transported members of the Board to and from the various locations.

## **BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES BUSINESS SESSION**

**January 23, 2012; 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; Biscayne Bay**

## **BGM 10                      CALL TO ORDER/PRESENTATION OF GAVEL**

ABC President Ruth Clark called the first official business session of the Board of General Ministries to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Biscayne Bay Room, and lit the Christ Candle as a reminder of God’s presence. Past ABC President Frank Christine, Jr. presented President Ruth Clark with her official gavel and bestowed a blessing upon her. Prayer was led by ABC Vice-president Don Ng. In his prayer Don asked a blessing upon the past ABC officers, for their work and ministry among us during the 2010-2011 biennium.

## **BGM 11                      REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Election of At-Large Directors of the Board of General Ministries.

The Board of General Ministries is composed of At-large Directors, Special Directors and Ex Officio Directors. There are 33 At-large Directors, one from each ABCUSA Region, elected by the Biennial Delegates. Any vacancy for an At-large Director “may be filled by a majority vote of the Board of General Ministries on nomination of the ABCUSA Nominating Committee.”

It was

**VOTED:              To elect the following At-Large Directors as presented by the ABCUSA  
Nominating Committee to the Board of General Ministries:**

**Wesley Sun – 2014 - Metro Chicago  
Elisai Echevarria – 2012/2016 - Connecticut  
Charity Matic – 2013 - Los Angeles  
Wesley Roberts – 2015 - Massachusetts  
Dean Parker – 2012/2016 - Philadelphia  
Felipe Candelaria – 2014 – Puerto Rico**

## **Kay Farley – 2015 - Rocky Mountains**

### Election of General Directors of the Board of General Ministries.

The Board of General Ministries shall have the “exclusive right to elect up to five General Directors to the Board of General Ministries.” The ABCUSA Nominating Committee presented names for election as General Directors, and it was

**VOTED: To elect the following as General Directors as presented by the ABCUSA Nominating Committee to the Board of General Ministries**

**Paul Higgins – 2012/2016  
June Totten – 2015**

## **BGM 12      STANDING RULES**

Steve Case, chair of the Standing Rules Committee, reported that the Committee met through two conference calls and one face-to-face meeting (October 2011) to work on the draft of the proposed standing rules that are being presented at this meeting. He expressed appreciation to committee members John Duckworth and Scotty Robinson, to ABC Legal Counsel David Knipel and staff member Marilyn Tyson, for her work in assisting with the meetings.

Steve Case noted that although the Board could choose to adopt the entire document at this meeting, it is in essence only Standing Rule 11 (Board Committees) and Standing Rule 14 (Committees and Groups of the ABCUSA) that are especially critical to adopt at this meeting. Legal Counsel David Knipel noted that although Standing Rule 15 (Officers) was initially on the agenda for review and possible adoption, it has been withdrawn since there is no critical need to address this standing rule prior to the June 2012 meeting. The postponement will also provide additional time to refine the document prior to adoption in June. He also noted that the bylaws require a 30-day notice, which was met, and the vote at this meeting was to be an “up or down” vote.

Responding to a question about sections in the Standing Rules document marked “Reserved”, he explained that when no Standing Rules exist for a bylaw article, space is held and marked “Reserved” for possible future use.

### Standing Rule 11 (Board Committees)

Following discussion, a motion was made by ABC Vice President Don Ng, and it was

**VOTED: At the recommendation of the Standing Rules Committee to adopt Standing Rule 11 (Board Committees) as submitted**

### Standing Rule 14 (Committees and Groups of the ABCUSA)

During a time of discussion, it was noted that:

- Under the New York statutes, there are two kinds of corporations: Committees of the Board (Standing Rule 11 corporation)--composed entirely of members of the board, and Committees of the Corporation (Standing Rule 14 corporation)—may also be composed of non-board members, functions not as individual members but as a committee which carries the powers of officers, and thus with needed oversight exercised by the Board of General Ministries.
- The Women’s Caucus and Young Adult Caucus are not included in this Standing Rule because they are caucuses of the Board, not of the denomination.
- A seventh member, a representative from AB Women’s Ministries, has been added to the World Relief Committee, moving from two observers to one voting representative. Also added is a staff member from ABCUSA/OGS.

Upon motion by Vice-President Don Ng, it was

**VOTED:        At the recommendation of the Standing Rules Committee to adopt Standing Rule 14 (Committees and Groups of the ABCUSA) as submitted**

### **BGM 13                    PRESIDENT’S NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

#### President’s Nominations

The ABCUSA President, in consultation with the General Secretary, shall nominate not more than three members of the Board of General Ministries for election by the BGM to serve as members of the BGM Executive Committee. President Clark presented nominations for service on the BGM Executive Committee:

A motion was made by Andy Arndt, seconded, and it was

**VOTED:        To elect the following as members of the BGM Executive Committee**

**Beryl Hornberger  
Jonathan Malone  
Wesley Roberts**

The ABCUSA President shall nominate a Parliamentarian to serve during sessions of the Board of General Ministries, to be elected by the BGM. President Clark presented her nomination.

A motion was made by Mo Khan, seconded and it was

**VOTED:        To elect Dennis Johnson as BGM Parliamentarian**

The ABCUSA President, in consultation with the General Secretary, shall nominate two (2) Directors of the BGM for service on the World Relief Committee, with election by the Board of General Ministries.

Upon motion by Charity Matic, and second, it was



**VOTED: To elect the following as Directors of the BGM for service on the World Relief Committee**

**Shirley Fair  
Ray Jepson**

The ABCUSA President shall nominate for election by the BGM, six (6) persons for service on the Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations.

Upon motion by Amaury Tanon-Sanatos, and second, it was

**VOTED: To elect the president's nominations to the Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations.**

**June Totten  
Mo Khan  
Jonathan Malone  
Ernest Jones  
Ruth Clark  
Hopeton Scott**

*(Hopeton is not a member of BGM; his inclusion, in order to provide consistency in service, was adopted in accordance with the rules of corporation)*

The ABCUSA President, in consultation with the General Secretary, shall nominate one member of the Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations to serve as Chair of the Committee, with election by the BGM.

Upon motion and second, it was

**VOTED: To elect June Totten to serve as Chair of the Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations.**

The ABCUSA President, in consultation with the General Secretary, shall nominate three or four Directors to serve as members of the Standing Rules Committee, to be elected by the Board of General Ministries.

Upon motion, and second, it was

**VOTED: To elect the following to the Standing Rules Committee:**

**Steve Case  
John Duckworth  
Alan Rudnick**

President's Appointments

The ABCUSA President, in consultation with the General Secretary, shall appoint 7 persons for service on the Biennial Program Committee, to be confirmed by the Board of General Ministries.

Upon motion by Mo Kahn, and second, it was

**VOTED: To confirm the appointments to the Biennial Program Committee, as presented:**

**Reg Mills, Springfield, IL (4 year term), Chair**  
**Susan Gillies, Omaha, NE (6 year term), Vice-chair**  
**C. Duh Kam, Frederick, MD (2 year term)**  
**Saw Ler Htoo, Washington, DC (2 year term)**  
**Leslie Braxton, Kent, WA (2 year term)**  
**Wallace R. Smith, Shawnee, KS (4 year term)**  
**Audrey Davidson, Rochester, NY (4 year term)**

President Clark noted that terms of service are varied to assure continuity of service/experience and that both Karen and Chin representation is included, as well as local church pastor representation.

The ABCUSA President, in consultation with the General Secretary, shall appoint one of the BGM members of the World Relief Committee as chair of the Committee.

The ABCUSA President, in consultation with the General Secretary, shall appoint a Chair for the Standing Rules Committee, from the membership of the Committee, who shall serve until the expiration of the term of the appointment President.

Upon motion, and second, it was

**VOTED: To recognize the appointment of Shirley Fair as Chair of the World Relief Committee and the appointment of Steve Case as the Chair of the Standing Rules Committee**

#### **BGM 14 OTHER NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

##### BGM Finance Committee

*The BGM Finance Committee shall be composed of the Budget Review Officer and five other Directors. The BGM Executive Committee shall nominate the Directors to be elected by the BGM.*

Upon motion, it was

**VOTED: At the recommendation of the BGM Executive Committee, to elect the following members of the BGM Finance Committee: Paul Higgins, Beryl Hornberger, Charity Matic, Wesley Roberts**

Special Director to MMBB

*One of the functions of the BGM is to elect or appoint certain members of certain committees and commissions of the ABCUSA and other bodies.*

Upon motion by Amaury Tanon-Santos, and second, it was

**VOTED: To elect Steven Case as Special Director to MMBB**

NCC – ABC Representation

*The Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations, in consultation with the General Secretary shall submit nominees for the governing bodies of ecumenical organizations of which the ABCUSA is a member*

Upon motion by Bill Fredrickson, it was

**VOTED: At the recommendation of the Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations, to elect Cheryl Wade as an ABCUSA Representative to the NCC Governing Board.**

**BGM 15 ABCUSA Budget**

The proposed 2012 ABCUSA Budget was considered by the Budget Review Committee in conference calls in October and November 2011, and was subsequently forwarded to the General Board Executive Committee for action at its November 2011 conference call meeting. At its January 20 meeting, the BGM Executive Committee affirmed the budget and forwarded it with recommendation to the Board of General Ministries for final action.

Jim Ratliff, chair of the Budget Review Committee, presented the budget highlights. UM continues to decline, with a projected decrease of 6.36% in 2012. The 2012 budget includes \$537,774 of income from the Building Proceeds Endowment, representing a drawdown of 4% from the Endowment for operations. Salaries in 2012 reflect a 1.70% increase in the salary pool, the recommendation of the Human Resources Subcommittee of the General Board Executive Committee. Medical costs are budgeted with a 15% increase over 2011. The Representative Process Budget is calculated with one orientation and two BGM meetings in 2012. The Transformed by the Spirit budget for 2012 is reflected in the Denominational Emphasis category.

Upon motion, it was

**VOTED: To approve the 2012 ABCUSA Budget, as presented.**

Jim noted that the function of the Budget Review Committee will now be handled by the ABCUSA Finance Committee. The ABCUSA Finance Committee, which will include members of the BGM Finance Committee, will allocate money for UM and will oversee Mission Initiative Grants.

**BGM 16 RECESS/RECONVENE --BGM  
CALL TO ORDER OF THE CORPORATE MEETING OF ABHS**

The Board of General Ministries was recessed.

Trinette McCray, President of ABHS, called to order two corporate meetings of the American Baptist Historical Society in order to present bylaws changes and to elect members of the ABHS Board of Managers.

The minutes of the corporate meeting of ABHS are attached to the official copy of the BGM minutes. The meeting of the Board of General Ministries was reconvened.

**BGM 17                      APPOINTMENT OF   BGM DIRECTORS TO ABHMS AND IM**

Upon motion, and second, it was

**VOTED:              To confirm Perla Belo and Mercy Johnson as BGM Directors to the Boards of ABHMS and IM, respectively.**

**BGM 18                      2015 BIENNIAL SITE**

Upon motion and second, it was:

**VOTED:              To approve the June 26-28, 2015 Biennial meeting site as the Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center in Overland Park, KS.**

**BGM 19                      BGM MEETING DATES**

Upon motion by Charity Matic, and second, it was

**VOTED:              To reaffirm the following 2012 meeting dates currently being held for the Board of General Ministries:**

**June 15-17 in Green Lake, WI  
(beginning at 2:00pm on 6/15, ending at 12:00pm on 6/17) and**

**November 8-10 in Valley Forge, PA  
(beginning at 2:00pm on 11/8, ending at 12:00pm on 11/10)**

The Executive committee will be working to refine the parameters for the meetings noted above, as well as for committee meeting dates/times.

2012 meeting dates for the BGM Executive Committee are March 16-17 in Chicago and September 14-15 in the Bay area. Prior to the March meeting, the ABC Officers will meet with the Intercaucus, American Baptist Association of Seminary Administrators (ABASA) and the American Baptist Association of Colleges and Universities (ABACU).

**BGM 20                      OTHER**

External Relationships

Jim Thomason (Sioux Falls, SD), noted that although our Standing Rules have always done an excellent job of setting and affirming appointments related to internal groups/relationships, ABCs recognition of external groups/relationships has not been as clearly defined. He suggested that we might address this issue fairly

easily through the structure of the Standing Rules. He referred, in particular, to the way Standing Rules 14.4 (pertaining to recognized caucuses), 14.4.5 (defining representation) and 14.9 (listing rules procedure for committees, commissions and caucuses) clearly denote internal relationships.

He suggested that the Executive Committee work with the General Secretary to identify ABC external relationships and that this work come to the Board of General Ministries for action in the form of Standing Rules in order for 1) the Board to bless and provide affirmation, structure and definition to our external relationships and 2) to define the scope of our relationship so that no representative of the ABC could ever adopt a position that would be in conflict with ABC intent.

#### Call for Prayer

President Clark asked that the Board covenant together in prayer for the following celebrations and concerns:

- 1) The 200<sup>th</sup> Judson Anniversary Celebration, to be held February 18-20, 2012 in Salem, MA. There will be a historic bus tour on Saturday, February 18, meals together and times of worship, concluding with a reenactment of the Judson sailing of the Caravel on Monday, February 20.
- 2) The Biennial Program Committee for its work and discernment in planning the 2013 Biennial in Overland Park, KS.
- 3) Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford as she transitions in mid-March as the new executive minister of ABC of Indiana/Kentucky
- 4) Family needs and health concerns expressed by one another during these meetings, and
- 5) General Secretary Roy Medley's new role as president-elect of the National Council of Churches, and especially in light of the extra responsibilities at hand due to the recent resignation of NCC General Secretary Michael Kinnamon.

#### Ignite (Extreme Team Program)

Tasha Wilson (Rochester, NY), president of the Young Adult Caucus, shared information about the IM-sponsored mission trip "Ignite", being held June 23-28 in Haiti (just prior to the July "Immerse" Youth Conference). She encouraged members of the Board to submit names of youth (18-29 yr. olds) from congregations/regions who might be interested in participating. This is the next generation Xtreme Team, a program which ran from 1998-2010 to connect young adults with global mission.

Registration can be completed from the IM Web site ([www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org)) or by calling Angela Sudermann, Coordinator for Volunteers in Global Mission for ABC International Ministries.

#### **BGM 21**

#### **ADJOURNMENT/BGM WORSHIP**

The business session of the Board of General Ministries was adjourned with prayer.

The Board of General Ministries shared in a time of concluding worship at 11:00 a.m. The Rev. Donald Ng, ABC Vice President and Senior Pastor of First Chinese Baptist Church, San Francisco, CA, brought the message, "By Christ's Side", focusing on Mark 14-20.

Submitted by,



Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley  
General Secretary

ARM./cb

*Filed with the official minutes*

*BGM Meeting Schedule*

*BGM Business Agenda*

*BGM Roster*

*Minutes of the General Board: June 27-29, 2011, San Juan, PR*

*Worship Programs*

*Everett C. Goodwin Address: “Your American Baptist DNA”*

*“In One Sacred Effort” by Reid S. Trulson*

*Booklets by David C. Laubach: “ABHMS Roots 1824-2010” and “To Think That It Happened on Mulberry Street”*

*Nancy James: Leadership Development Board Survey*

*Transformed by the Spirit: A Journey of Discernment and Discovery into God’s Future*

*Medley Report: Burma (PowerPt.)*

*Map of Burmese Refugee Resettlement*

*Facsimile of Passport for Orientation to work of ABCUSA*

*Standing Rules of the American Baptist Churches USA: Draft dated 12/19/11*

*ABCUSA Budget Packet*

*ABHS Call to Meeting*

*ABHS Meeting Minutes: June 29, 2011, San Juan, PR*

*T.J. Litwiler Memo: ABHS Counsel*