

**Communicating American Baptist Churches Identity
Meeting Notes: June 23 and June 24, 2015**



Meeting Notes - Tuesday, June 23

1. The meeting opened in prayer.
2. The team reviewed Connecting, the PowerPoint, scripts, and discussed bulletin inserts. The team decided that Tasha and Bridget would make a presentation to the full board on Wednesday afternoon of all the materials being made available via flash drive in summer 2015.
3. Jonathan and Ashley will provide additional feedback for the PowerPoint. Jonathan Malone will develop a further script to be used for the PowerPoint.
4. Felipe will connect MRD office with individuals in Puerto Rico to translate the material into Spanish. The team plans to follow through with this project in the fall.

Meeting Notes - Wednesday, June 24

1. The meeting opened in prayer.
2. The team held a discussion as requested by President Don Ng about the corporate American Baptist symbol that many churches and regions still relate to. Also discussed was the newer "Serving as the hands and feet of Christ" symbol and its significance. The team noted that individuals can be confused by the 2 symbols and how to best utilize them in different contexts. Discussed the importance of keeping around the original symbol of ABCUSA and finding ways to make sure it stays incorporated into publications, the ABCUSA website, etc. It could be seen as the outward symbol of the denomination. Should the Hands and Feet symbol be more of a departmental symbol for ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary/Board of General Ministries?
3. Discussion also focused on the name of ABCUSA, the Office of the General Secretary and Board of General Ministries. The Office of the General Secretary should be seen by others as more than an administrative office, but rather a mission-oriented office providing for the denomination in multiple ways.
4. A decision was made for Jonathan Malone to lead a further discussion at the November board meeting in Tasha's (maternity) absence. The officers will be invited to join the Action Group in this discussion, looking at how to bring this topic back to the rest of the Board of General Ministries for further discernment.