



**BGM Executive Committee  
March 8-10, 2018**

**MINUTES**

- Housing/Meeting:** DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Virginia Beach  
1900 Pavillion Drive  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451  
Ph: 757-422-8900
- Officers:** Josué Gómez-Menéndez, President  
Dean Parker, Vice President  
Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer  
Judy Fackenthal, Past President  
Lee Spitzer, General Secretary
- Committee:** Cedric Jones, PBA  
José Manuel Magana, Central Pacific  
Annie Svitavsky, VNH
- Chaplain:** Zina Jacque, Metro Chicago
- Parliamentarian:** Dennis Johnson, West Virginia
- Staff:** Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary/Treasurer/CFO  
Kathy Jachowski, Administrator

**Thursday, March 8, 11:30 AM**

The Board of General Ministries (BGM) Executive Committee joined the Biennial Planning Team to tour the Virginia Beach Convention Center, the location of the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit.

**Thursday, March 8, 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM; Sequoia Room**

**BGM EC 522            DEVOTIONS**

After a brief time of welcoming and catching up with one another, Zina Jacque led the Executive Committee in devotions. She passed around a tea bag to everyone saying, “Hot water is necessary,” as a symbol for her devotion on Daniel and the Hebrew boys from Daniel Chapter 1.

**BGM EC 523            CALL TO ORDER**

ABC President Josué Gómez-Menéndez called the meeting to order.

**BGM EC 524            CONSENT AGENDA**

*Judy Fackenthal made a motion to adopt the proposed agenda dated March 8-10, 2018 and to approve the minutes of the November 15-16, 2017 meeting of the Executive Committee, held in King of Prussia, PA.*

**VOTED: Motion Approved**

**BGM EC 525            2019 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT UPDATE**

American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) General Secretary Lee Spitzer gave an update on the meeting of the Biennial Planning Team that met prior to the Executive Committee meeting, stating that “The Biennial Planning Team had two very successful days of meetings. The city and the convention center are excited to host ABCUSA.” The Biennial Planning Team is working on creative ways to reach the 2000 people attendance goal; as well as, financing initiatives. There will be ten academic tracks offered for learning opportunities. Also, kids will be a part of a “VBS-style” day care program with the children participating in a presentation at the last night plenary. The 2019 Biennial is being called the “Summit by the Sea.”

**BGM EC 526            2020 GREEN LAKE BGM AND AB WOMEN IN MINISTRY**

In 2020 the Board of General Ministries will meet in June at Green Lake. BGM ends on June 17 and the AB Women in Ministry Celebration begins. BGM will be able to be there for the opening and is invited to be a part of this celebration.

**BGM EC 527            RECESS OF MEETING FOR DINNER**

The committee went to dinner at Isle of Capri Restaurant.

**Friday, March 9, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM; Sequoia Room**

Breakfast was available in the hotel restaurant and lunch was served in the Pine Room.

**BGM EC 528            RECONVENING/OPENING MEDITATION**

BGM Chaplain Zina Jacque lit the Christ Candle and shared a meditation on John chapter 20 the tomb was broken open to show beauty. Zina showed a Geode as a symbol for her message that out of brokenness there is beauty.

**BGM EC 529                    PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

ABCUSA President Josué Gómez Menéndez described the focus of his first two and a half months as ABCUSA President was primarily on the building issues and the future of the new offices. The last weekend in January Josué was with Lee in Puerto Rico, working alongside ABHMS in the initiative, “Rebuilding, Restoring, and Renewing Puerto Rico” in a relief effort to work with churches in Puerto Rico that were severely damaged by the path of the 2017 September hurricanes Irma and Maria. See the attached report for more information on Josué’s work as ABCUSA President.

**BGM EC 530                    JOINT PARTNERS VENTURE (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Due to the confidential nature of the information, actions taken during this meeting will be placed in a sealed envelope and filed with the official minutes in the General Secretary’s office.

**BGM EC 531                    BUILDING MOVE (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Due to the confidential nature of the information, actions taken during this meeting will be placed in a sealed envelope and filed with the official minutes in the General Secretary’s office.

**BGM EC 532                    CREDENTIALS & CAUCUS COMMITTEE**

José Manuel Magana, chair, called to order the meeting of the Credentials & Caucus Committee. May 15 is the deadline for caucuses to submit their annual report of activities and their budget requests for next year. A reminder letter is being sent.

**BGM EC 533                    FUTURE BGM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DATES AND PLACES**

June 12-13, 2018 Green Lake, WI  
September 13-15, 2018 Burlington, VT  
November 8-9, 2018 King of Prussia  
March 14-16, 2019 Orlando, FL  
June 17-18, 2019 Virginia Beach, VA (Biennial Mission Summit)  
September 12-14, 2019 Denver, CO

**BGM EC 534                    RECESS OF MEETING FOR DINNER**

Dinner was served in the Pine Room.

**BGM EC 535                    BGM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***BGM WEBINAR MEETING 7:00 PM, SEQUIA ROOM***

The Board of General Ministries met in Executive Session. Actions taken during this meeting will be placed in a sealed envelope and filed with the official minutes in the General Secretary’s office.

**Saturday, March 10, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM; Sequoia Room**

Breakfast was available in the hotel restaurant and lunch was served in the Pine Room.

**BGM EC 536                    RECONVENING/OPENING MEDITATION**

BGM Chaplain Zina Jacque lit the Christ Candle and shared a meditation “Come and See” – Jesus invited the curious one in John 1:35-39a to come and see. Zina described that “We set up our homes the way we want the world to know us based on what they see...How we deal with people and treat others shows in what others see... We are the architects of what they see.”

**BGM EC 537****YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS**Overall

Attached are the 2017 preliminary year-end financial statements. We did budget a small deficit of \$29K for 2017, but we ended the year with a \$220K deficit. The main reason for the deficit is due to the fact that we budgeted \$376K of contributions from the development department for the operating budget but realized \$118K. However the development department also kept expenses lower by \$60K which helped decrease the deficit. The second main reason for the deficit is the retirement benefits in the amount of \$40K paid to three long term employees who have worked over 25 years and retired in 2017.

Overall we will have a good surplus for the year due to our investments. The markets performed extremely well in 2017. The investments are not reflected in the operating statement of revenues and expenses.

Development Office

The Development office had a loss of (\$266K). Revenues realized by this department flow through other departments.

Women in Ministry

Women in Ministry had a slight loss of (\$9K). However \$29.1K was added to the W.I.M. endowment and \$15K was allocated for the W.I.M. 2020 anniversary celebration. These funds are not available for operational expenses and are not reflected in the operating statement of revenues and expenses.

United Mission

Total UM is \$7,627,711. This is a decrease of (\$591,239) from the prior year. This represents a reduction of 7.19%. Contributions to “One Great Hour of Sharing” have increased by 104.4% from last year in response to disaster relief.

**BGM EC 538****REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

Lee Spitzer highlighted the ministries of the Office of the General Secretary since welcoming Marsha Scipio and Kevin Walden to the team in January 2018; as well as, Pat Hernandez, Tina Turner and Bridget Lipin all of whom have begun serving in their new capacities. Please see the Report for more details.

Two areas of discussion included Lee’s Pastoral Letter and the Sacred Safe Spaces Initiative. . .

- 1.) On February 1 a Pastoral Letter on “A Higher Way: American Baptists and Our Neighbors,” was published as an American Baptist News Service press release and as an article on the abc-usa.org website. Lee asked the Region Executives to distribute the letter to their constituency, with a message encouraging their staff, team, churches, pastors, and members to read it and pass it on to their friends.
- 2.) In response to the heightened sensitivity to sexual harassment and “The Me Too Movement,” Pat Hernandez and Gina Jacobs-Strain have been involved in forming the Sacred Space Initiative.

**BGM EC 539                      BGM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Committee met in Executive Session. Actions taken during this meeting will be placed in a sealed envelope and filed with the official minutes in the General Secretary's office.

**BGM EC 540                      ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting of BGM Executive Committee: June 12-13, 2018 Green Lake, WI

Submitted by,



Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer  
General Secretary

LBS/kj

Documents attached

*BGM EC Integrated Schedule (1008:03/18)*

*BGM EC Proposed Agenda (1101:03/18)*

*BGM EC Roster March 2018*

*BGM Executive Committee Minutes: November 2017 (1002:11/17)*

*Financials YTD through December 2017*

*Report of the General Secretary*

*ABC President's Report (1201:03/18)*

*United Missions Report*

*DAT Report*