



**BGM Executive Committee  
November 8-9, 2018  
King of Prussia, PA**

**MINUTES**

- Meeting Location:** Crowne Plaza  
260 Mall Boulevard  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
Ph: 610-265-7500
- Officers:** Josué Gómez-Menéndez, President  
Dean Parker, Vice President  
Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer  
Judy Fackenthal, Past President  
Jeff Woods, Acting General Secretary
- Committee:** Cedric Jones, PBA  
Jose Manuel Magana, CPC  
Annie Svitavsky, VNH
- Chaplain:** Zina Jacque, CHI
- Parliamentarian:** Dennis Johnson, WV
- Staff:** Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary/Treasurer/CFO  
Kathy Jachowski, Administrator

**Thursday, November 8, 2018, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.: Devon Room**

The BGM Executive Committee gathered for dinner in the Devon Room of the Crowne Plaza.

**Friday, November 9, 2018, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Devon Room**

*Lunch was served during the meeting.*

## **BGMEC578            DEVOTIONS**

Chaplain Zina Jacque lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and shared a meditation.

## **BGM EC 579            CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **BGM EC 580            CONSENT AGENDA**

The general consent agenda items dated November 8-9, 2018 and the minutes of the September 13 - 15, 2018 meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Burlington, VT were approved with no objections.

## **BGM EC 581            2019 BUDGET**

Budget Review Officer Paul Higgins shared the proposed budget for 2019. The BGM Finance Committee recommended for approval by the board the proposed 2019 budget. The budget includes the new IT Department and new initiatives of the General Secretary.

The ABC Finance Committee recommended for approval by the board the proposed 2019 Distribution of the National Portion of United Mission.

## **BGM EC 582            YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS**

### **Overall**

Overall the year-to-date financials show a net loss of (\$238K) primarily due to the Development Office and ABCUSA departments which had losses of (\$182K) and (\$73K) respectively.

Net revenue compared to last year is down (\$149K). Expenses as compared to last year are lower by \$169K. Net revenue and expenses are determined by subtracting the Biennial from this year and last year since there is no Biennial in 2018.

### **Development Office**

The Development Office had a loss of (\$182K). Revenues realized by this department flow through other departments.

### **United Mission**

Total UM is \$5,140,140. This is a decrease of (\$248,762) from the prior year. This represents a reduction of 4.62%. These figures include the "Love Gift." Without the "Love Gift," UM would be down by 4.54% for the year.

## **BGM EC 583            588 PROPERTY UPDATE**

The due diligence period of 90 days has begun and then we will have contract with the buyer. Studies are being done by the buyer on the grounds and we should know by the end of December if the contract will be definite.

OGS owns 35% of the property and OGS gets 35% of the proceeds of the sale.

There are still two tenants remaining on the property. Agora will be relocating December 15 as their lease expires at end of year. Negotiations continue with Presser regarding relocation costs and date.

ABHMS moved two weeks ago; as well as, ABEC and ABWM. ABF plans to relocate by the end of month.

The Executive Committee expressed their sadness for ABWM deciding not to move with OGS. It was mentioned that there needs to be an intentional reaching out to the boards and partners in continuing to build the relationships and communication.

#### **BGM EC 584                    1015 W. 9<sup>th</sup> AVENUE PROPERTY UPDATE**

The current tenant in the property is expected to move out by December 14. Alan Musoke has been working with the architect in making the plans for the new building and to begin construction in the coming months. The current plan is to move by March 2019.

#### **BGM EC 585                    CAMP LAKE LOUISE AMO STATUS REQUEST**

On September 15, 2018 the BGM Executive Committee considered the request for AMO status and spoke by telephone with Michael Williams, ABC of Michigan Region Executive Minister. When asked about the "unique need" mentioned in his letter, Williams stated that there was a concern about potential loss of the property if control was turned over to the new Camp Lake Louise organization.

Some of the BGM Executive Committee were uncomfortable with the concept of granting AMO status to a camp, wondering about the precedent that might be set. There was also a desire to learn more about the land situation. Paul Higgins was asked to work with David Knipel to prepare a report for the Executive Committee for consideration at the November 2018 meeting. When Knipel's mother died, Higgins chose to contact Williams instead. Paul's report is attached.

After reviewing the requirements to become an Associated Ministry Organization (AMO), Camp Lake Louise does not comply with the requirements for AMO status. Please refer to Appendix 1 regarding the requirements to become an Associated Ministry Organization. Paul Higgins will relay the response to Michael Williams regarding their request and ask when they want to re-apply once they meet the AMO requirements.

#### **BGM EC 586                    2019 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT UPDATE**

Annie Marcucci and Philip James finalized the speakers that Lee had worked on previously and the Bios can be found in the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit Report submitted by Annie Marcucci.

The Biennial scripture Text is taken from 1 Chronicles 16:32, "Let the sea resound, and all that

is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them!"

American Baptist Home Mission Societies will host Friday evening, June 21 "From Sea to Sea" with plenary guest speaker Dr. Howard Stevenson to be confirmed. International Ministries will host Saturday evening, June 22 with plenary guest speaker Rev. Elijah Brown, Baptist World Alliance (BWA) General Secretary. There are plans to have a Sunday Sunrise Service on the beach on Sunday morning June 23 for those who can attend. American Baptist Women's Ministries will host "Sunday Morning Sunday School" with a lesson on "Navigating Choppy Seas" presented by plenary guest teacher Dr. Jolene Erlacher, followed by Sunday Morning Communion Worship Service "Worship by the Sea" which will be hosted by the Office of the General Secretary and MMBB with plenary guest preacher Rev. Ngwedla Paul Msiza, BWA President. The Biennial will close that evening with an American Baptist Churches of the South (ABC of the South) 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration hosted by the Regional Executive Ministers (REMC) and ABC of the South. The theme will be "A Sea of Witnesses." The plenary guest preacher and individuals sharing testimonies will be selected by the ABC of the South Executive Minister and the General Secretary for the closing celebration.

There are those on the Executive Committee who have expressed their concern that there are no women preachers and women are not equally represented in terms of numbers of male speakers.

#### **BGM EC 587            REPORT OF THE ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY**

Acting General Secretary Jeff Woods shared that it has been an honor to serve as Acting General Secretary this fall as Dr. Lee Spitzer recovers from his recent heart surgery. As Acting General Secretary Jeff continues to emphasize Lee's five priorities. In addition to these priorities, three organizational values were also resurrected from a previous OGS retreat for emphasis: Treating one another with dignity and respect; communicating openly and honestly; and taking responsibility for doing the right thing.

Jeff's report highlighted his work from September to November 2018. Some of the highlights include ...

1. OGS Staff
  - a. Interview process for the new intern position
  - b. Working to model the organizational values through staff gatherings and meals together
  - c. Meeting with teams to plan the staff Christmas party and the distribution of ABCUSA Christmas cards
  - d. Leadership and staff issues
  - e. Meeting with the United Mission Task Force
2. Fulfilling the ABCUSA Priority of Unity and Relationships
  - a. Ken Marsenburg attended the AB Foundation Board Meetings
  - b. Professional Ministries Team met focusing on innovative models for ministry

- c. Mission Summit Conversations and Baptist Talk survey distributed and analyzed
- 3. Fulfilling the ABCUSA Priority of Promoting the Work of Our National Boards
  - a. Participated in the consecration service for the new ABHMS property with Dr. Jeffrey Haggray
  - b. Had several face to face conversations with ABC staff from our national boards
  - c. Reviewed the new set of proposed bylaws for the ABCUSA Ministers Council
- 4. Fulfilling the ABCUSA Priority of Emphasizing Regional Ministries  
*Please see the Regional Ministries Report for a listing of these activities.*
- 5. Fulfilling the ABCUSA Priority of Growth
  - a. Progress continues with Core online networking project
  - b. Kevin Walden continues the Fresh Expressions partnership with the regions
  - c. ABWIM and ABWM are partnering for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary June 16-19, 2020
- 6. Fulfilling the ABCUSA Priority of Creative Partnerships
  - a. Marsha Scipio continues to work with NICD and Blessed Tomorrow

For additional highlights and details, please refer to the "Report of the Acting General Secretary."

#### **BGM EC 588                      REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

President Gómez-Menéndez reported that the Committee met yesterday afternoon and the At Large Directors for 2019-2020 consists of 23 males and 21 females. Of those men and women are 23 are clergy and 21 are lay people.

Nominations for ABCUSA Officers for the 2020-2021 Biennium include:

ABCUSA President: Karen Podsiadly  
 ABCUSA Vice President: James Wolfe  
 Budget Review Officer: Paul Higgins

For a listing of the nominated At Large Directors please see Appendix 2. There are still three open positions that will be decided on at the January 10, 2019 "Go to Meeting."

#### **BGM EC 589                      PRESIDENT'S NOMINATIONS**

President Gómez-Menéndez recommended Noemi Nunez Sanchez as the BGM director to the Board of MMBB for 2019.

President Gómez-Menéndez recommended James Wolfe as the BGM director to the Board of ABHMS for rest of the Biennium.

#### **BGM EC 590                      BGM OFFERING**

A motion was made by Judy Fackenthal and all agreed that the BGM offering collected

Saturday, November 10, 2018 be designated for First Baptist Church, Wakefield, MA which was destroyed by fire recently when the steeple was struck by lightning.

**BGM EC 591                    CREDENTIALS & CAUCUS COMMITTEE**

Jose Manual Magana, chair, called to order the meeting of the Credentials & Caucus Committee.

*Judy Fackenthal made a motion to receive the Report of Changed Relationships of Local Churches (1205.1:11/18) dated June 13, 2018 to November 8, 2018 and to forward the report to the Board of General Ministries.*

**VOTED: Motion Approved**

*Judy Fackenthal made a motion to approve a budget of \$2500 for the Young Adult Caucus for 2019.*

**VOTED: Motion Approved**

**BGM EC 592                    2019 BIENIAL MISSION SUMMIT INCENTIVE**

As an incentive to encourage the BGM Directors to stay after the June board meetings and attend the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit, the Representative Process budget will cover the BGM Directors' costs for the ABHMS and the IM luncheons.

**BGM EC 593                    EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Committee met in Executive Session with Human Resources Director Laura Miraz, to convene the Human Resources Compensation Committee, to take action on the 2019 annual staff salary pool. Laura also presented for action 2019 housing allowances for ABCUSA ordained staff and for interim ministers.

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 594                    ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting of BGM Executive Committee: March 14-16, 2019 in Orlando, FL.

Submitted by,



Rev. Dr. C. Jeff Woods  
Acting General Secretary

CJW/kj

*Documents attached*

*BGM EC Integrated Schedule (1008:11/18) BGM EC Proposed Agenda (1101:11/18)*

*BGM EC Roster November 2018*

*BGM Executive Committee Minutes: September 2018 (1002:09/18)*

*ABCUSA Financial Report, September 2018*

*Report of the Acting General Secretary*

*ABC President's Report (1201:11/18)*

*2019 Biennial Plenary Session Speaker Update (as of Nov 6)*

*2019 Budget Highlights*

*Update on Sale of Mission Center*

*I015 Layout by Staff Name (Updated)*

*Report of Changed Relationships (1205:1:11/18)*

*Camp Lake Louise Report*

## APPENDIX 1

### Requirements to become an Associated Ministry Organization

From Standing Rule 17.1:

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Current status</b>
"Must be a national or sectional American Baptist or other religious organization"	Camp Lake Louise's operations have historically been at the regional level, not national or sectional
"Indicates its willingness: to support the statement of purpose in the Bylaws of ABCUSA, to cooperate wholeheartedly in such relationships and projects at all levels of denominational life which seem advisable, and to be identified as an organization related to and participating in the life of ABCUSA by use of name and/or logo"	By applying for AMO status, Camp Lake Louise can be presumed to have indicated its willingness to fulfill these requirements. As with all AMOs, performance will need to be reviewed every five years..

From Standing Rule 17.3:

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Current status</b>
"Shall be incorporated"	Camp Lake Louise is not yet a separate corporation. It is expected that it will be incorporated by the end of 2018.
"Must have its own governing board,..."	An Advisory Committee of three members was formed to act as a governing body until incorporation is completed and a board of directors is seated.



<p>"...a substantial portion of whose members are active members of American Baptist Cooperating Churches"</p>	<p>One of the three members of the board is Dr. Michael Williams, ABC of Michigan's executive minister. One is a member of an ABC church and son of a former General Board member. The third is historically ABC but is not currently a member of an ABC congregation. According to Williams, "The new Board will be compelled to have strong ABC-MI representation in their governing documents and I have every expectation that will happen."</p>
<p>"Define its own ministry"</p>	<p>Camp Lake Louise clearly defines a ministry distinct and separate from that of others.</p>
<p>"Engage staff persons who are accountable to its governing board"</p>	<p>Camp Lake Louise has a chief operating officer and has unfilled openings for an executive director, resident manager, and a resident program manager.</p>
<p>"Insure its own financial solvency"</p>	<p>The annual report requested by the BGM Executive Committee did not include financial details. The most recently received audit from ABC of Michigan combined financial results for the two camps, making it impossible to discern if either are financially solvent. Williams stated "Camp Lake Louise is financially stable and has remained in the black each year since granted 'greater managerial independence' in 2008." Further financial details are included later in this document.</p>

## **APPENDIX 2**

ABCUSA Nominating Committee Meeting

November 8, 2018

At-Large Directors (2020-2023):

Cleveland:	Thomas Gilmore
Rocky Mtn:	Bryan Roberts
Michigan	Nancy Lewis
Massachusetts	No names rec'd
Rochester/Genesee	Clifford Matthews

At-Large Directors (2021-2024):

Connecticut	Laura Austin
Dakotas	Lizette Hunt
Maine	Pam Morse
PA & DE	Christopher Hamilton
Central Pacific Coast	no names rec'd
Great Rivers Region	no names rec'd

At-Large Directors for 2<sup>nd</sup> term (Class 2024)

Rhode Island	Janice Fletcher
Nebraska	Mark Harvey
Philadelphia	Cedric Jones
Vermont/NH	Annie Svitavsky

General Directors for 2<sup>nd</sup> term

Raimundo Barreto  
Zina Jacque  
Thomas Ross

General Director for 1<sup>st</sup> term (Class 2023)

Marilyn Malone