

October 22, 2020

To Rev Dr. Woods and the Executive Committee of the Board of General Ministries,

In my position as liaison to the Board of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, I have participated in two meetings since my appointment in November 2019. The first was an orientation to the Board for new members in mid-May, facilitated by Dr. Laura Miraz, the Board liaison, and Vice President Lacey Alford. The second was the June meeting of the Board, held on June 9. Both meetings were virtual.

At the Board meeting, we received reports from the President, Executive Director, and Treasurer. Through its ministry, the ABHMS is working to respond to the pressing threats of both the COVID-19 pandemic and the pervasive systemic racism that continue to threaten the physical and spiritual health of people in the United States and Puerto Rico. Since the pandemic began, use of MinistreLife has increased by 400%.

An audit was conducted in 2019, and received a clean report. ABHMS finances remain robust, even in the wake of the pandemic.

One area of concern brought to my attention was that funding for the American Baptist Personnel Services from United Mission was reduced by about 50%. Based on my understanding, this reduction was unanticipated and came as a surprise to ABHMS leadership.

The other inquiry brought to me as the BGM special Board member was whether there would be a possibility of reciprocal representation between the Board of General Ministries and the ABHMS Board, in which the ABHMS could appoint its own representative to sit on the Board of General Ministries.

It is a privilege to serve the ministry of American Baptist Churches in collaboration with both the Board of General Ministries and the American Baptist Home Mission Societies.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kathryn Ray
Pastor of Discipleship
North Shore Baptist Church
Chicago, IL