



BGM Executive Committee
November 12, 2020

MINUTES

Officers:	Karen Podsiadly, President Jim Wolfe, Vice President Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer Josué Gómez-Menéndez, Past President Jeff Woods, Interim General Secretary
Committee:	Cedric Jones, PBA Raimundo Barreto, NJ Judith Christiansen, NYS
Chaplain:	Zina Jacque, CHI
Parliamentarian:	Bill Frederickson, NJ
Staff:	Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary/Treasurer/CFO Kathy Jachowski, Administrator

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, precautions were taken to hold the November meeting of the Board of General Ministries Executive Committee via virtual platform instead of in person,

Thursday, November 12, 2020; 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

BGM EC 689 DEVOTIONS

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

BGM EC 690 CALL TO ORDER

ABCUSA President Karen Podsiadly called the meeting to order.

BGM EC 691 CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Judith Christiansen made a motion and seconded by Cedric Jones to accept the agenda items dated, November 12, 2020 and to approve minutes of the September 10-11, 2020 meeting of the Executive Committee, held virtually.

Approved with no objections.

BGM EC 692 REPORT OF THE BUDGET REVIEW OFFICER

Paul Higgins referred to the financial report prepared by Alan Musoke, highlighted in the year-to-date through September 2020 a net gain of \$152,000 with the Biennial. There was little activity in the Biennial account so the difference with the Biennial is minor.

The following activity is based on the financials excluding the Biennial. There was a Biennial last year and there is no Biennial this year.

New revenue compared to last year is down \$574,000. Expenses as compared to last year are lower by \$1,277,000. Some of the factors for the decrease in expense and revenue are:

- Elimination of intercompany charges in 2020 of \$409,125 (YTD Sept.)
- Reduction of personnel expenses, including the following
 - Two Associate General Secretaries (Paid through April 2020)
 - Regional Ministries vacancy
 - Director of Development
 - Director of Office of Travel and Conference Planning (OTCP)
- Reduction of \$126,000 in expense for Representative Process due to the elimination of meeting expenses.
- There was \$208,000 of income and expense generated in Denominational Emphasis for a one-time transaction in 2019.
- ABCUSA received \$620,000 from the Payroll Protection Program shown as a liability. Once forgiven, it will be recognized as income.

Total United Mission (UM) is \$4,361,377. This is a decrease of \$592,620 from the prior year. This represents a reduction of 11.96%

ABCUSA 2021 Budget Highlights include:

On average UM has been declining annually by 5.41% over the last five years from 2015 to 2019. The 2021 UM shows a decline of 12%. This is a result of using the budgeted amounts instead of the actual UM numbers.

The Budget for 2021 is based on the 2021 UM distribution recommended by the ABCUSA Finance Committee. UM provides approximately 43% of the ABCUSA Budget. A 5% draw from the Building Proceeds Quasi-endowment provides another 33% of the budget.

The Budget for 2021:

- Includes payroll expense increases of 1%
- Increase in medical costs of 8.4%
- Budget is balanced by one-time use of \$319,000 in Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness.
- Assumes full meeting budget for BGM

MOTION: The BGM Finance Committee recommended the board adopt the proposed 2021 Estimated Income and ABCUSA Budget
Approved with no objections.

BGM EC 693 REPORT OF THE ABCUSA PRESIDENT

Karen Podsiadly will be participating in the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team meeting next week. Karen announced that the Anti-Racism Task Force is moving along. She is preparing to meet with the leadership of the caucuses to discuss caucus funding as recommended in a previous BGM Executive Committee meeting. Karen has been invited to the ABC of Rochester/Genesee and ABC of New Jersey Annual Gatherings being held virtually. A previously planned trip to Ghana in March has been postponed due to the pandemic. Karen closed her report by thanking everyone for their prayers and encouragement in her work as President.

BGM EC 694 REPORT OF THE ABCUSA INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY

Jeff Woods shared that his focus over the last five months has been the continuing impact of COVID-19 and the ABCUSA response to the need for racial justice. Jeff highlighted these and other activities in his report.

Jeff continues to hold regular calls with the Executive Ministers and the group continues to engage as a learning community during these calls. Several Executive Ministers invited Jeff to participate in their regular pastoral calls. ABCUSA Congregational surveys regarding the impact of COVID-19 on regional activity were distributed and discussed among the REMC; as well as, two ABCUSA congregational surveys were distributed and analyzed, and are included in the BGM documents.

Jeff and ABCUSA President Karen Podsiadly designed a “Call to Prayer” event that included over 145 online participants. The Anti-Racism Task Force is meeting and working on developing guidelines and definitions; along with, identifying resources.

Through ABCUSA’s partnership with the Sovereign Insurance Group and Church Mutual as the property and casualty provider, congregations who joined the ABCUSA National Insurance Program have received a total savings of \$824,883 (YTD) as of October 1, 2020.

Currently the staff are working in the office in pods on a limited basis, working a couple days a

week with temperature checks prior to entering and social distancing in the office. Days that staff are not in the office, the staff work remotely. Monthly staff and departmental meetings continue virtually. A virtual Christmas staff gathering is being planned.

At the beginning of 2020, the consulting services of Weidenhammer, Inc. assisted with a needs assessment of regional and national users to propose a software solution for the database needs of the ABCUSA family. The Office of the General Secretary has received a grant of \$118,000 from the Mission Initiative Fund to help offset the implementation costs of this project.

Jeff announced that Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri has been called to serve as the Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development. Her primary responsibilities include the promotion of giving to UM on behalf of the denomination and the oversight of Resource Development for the Office of the General Secretary.

Jeff also announced that Tina Kiernan is now serving as the Biennial Program Coordinator. The theme is “Imagine” and three of the six speakers are confirmed. The first night will include a presentation on “Unity” by the National Executive Council (NEC).

After becoming aware that several leaders and pastors associated with the Burmese Diaspora were confused over the status and meaning of the Associated Ministry Organizations (AMOs) that many are a part of as well as ordination procedures for clergy, Jeff drafted a clarification document that the Professional Ministries Team (PMT) approved. The document was then shared with the Burma Refugee Commission and the Regional Executive Ministers Council (REMC) to illuminate current practices and explore future adaptations that might benefit all persons involved.

Recent NEC meetings have focused upon the needs of congregations brought about by the global pandemic, working together to serve congregations, and providing a common message of unity to the ABCUSA family.

Zina gave an update on Orientation to American Baptist Life (OTABL). The plan is to have six ninety-minute sessions held virtually.

BGM EC 695 REPORT OF THE ABCUSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Karen Podsiadly announced the ABCUSA officers nominated for the 2022-2023 Biennium:

ABCUSA President, James (Jim) O. Wolfe, III

ABCUSA Vice President, Michelle Nickens

ABCUSA Budget Review Officer, Paul Higgins.

The Nominating Committee will meet again in January to fill a few director positions still open.

BGM EC 696 BGM OFFERING RECOMMENDATION

Jeff recommended designating the BGM Offering be given to the OGHS COVID response which is a two-part appeal: one part for relief across the United States and Puerto Rico; the second part for international relief. More information is available on the ABCUSA website <https://www.abc-usa.org/2020/04/an-american-baptist-plea-for-emergency-one-great-hour-of-sharing-support-covid-19-creates-great-need/>

MOTION: Cedric Jones made a motion and seconded by Paul Higgins to designate the BGM Offering to support the two principal channels for relief across the United States and Puerto Rico; the second part for international relief through the OGHS COVID-19 Relief Fund.
Approved with no objections.

BGM EC 697 RECESS/CREDENTIALS & CAUCUS/RECONVENE

Josué Gómez-Menéndez called to order the meeting of the Credentials & Caucus Committee.

Changed Relationships...

There are now 5003 ABCUSA Churches with a net loss of 26 churches.

Cedric Jones made a motion to receive the Report of Changed Relationships of Local Churches (1205.1:11/20) and to forward the report to the Board of General Ministries.

BGM EC 698 MEETING LOCATIONS/DATES

Due to the Pandemic the March 2021 BGM Executive Committee Meeting will be virtual. The September BGM Executive Committee Meeting will be in-person in Texas.

BGM EC 699 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Before adjourning the meeting, 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.

Submitted by,



Dr. C. Jeff Woods
Interim General Secretary

CJW/kj

Documents attached

BGM EC Proposed Agenda (1101:11/20)

BGM EC Roster November 2020

BGM Executive Committee Minutes: September 2020 (1002:09/20)

Congregations Response to COVID-19 Survey

ABCUSA Financial Report through September 2020
Report of the Interim General Secretary
Report of Changed Relationships (1205:1:11/20)
ABC President's Report (1201:11/20)
2021 Budget Highlights