

Report to the Board of General Ministries Executive Committee, March 2021
Submitted by Tina M. Kiernan, United Mission Coordinator and Biennial Mission Summit Program Coordinator

Biennial Mission Summit – An Online Experience

Contracts for the 2023 event, which will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, are almost finalized. There have been changes in the city's tourism department which has added to the delay. All of the original space that we had under contract for 2021 is still available and being held pending final negotiations.

As planning the Online Experience evolved, I felt it was important to include many of the same elements we have at every Biennial Mission Summit. To celebrate the diversity of our denomination, every Caucus was offered a session time on Thursday evening and a complimentary exhibit booth. There will also be an exhibit hall and a prayer room.

Registration for the 2021 Biennial Mission Summit opened on Monday, March 1, 2021. The different registration categories available include:

Participant/Household of Two - \$125* registration fee; This allows one or two persons to participate in the event using a single connection at home. They can participate in one session at a time.

Delegate - \$125* registration fee; Church or Regional Delegate; Delegates must register individually in order to be counted as part of the quorum for the Business Session.

*\$25 discount offered through March 31, 2021

Watch Party of 6 or Less Persons - \$399; This provides an opportunity for a small group to gather, providing it is safe to do so, and participate in the event together. This may be ideal for those who do not have computers or are not comfortable with technology.

Post-Event Registration - \$40; This registration option will not be advertised until the event ends. It will allow people to view all of the recorded sessions, view the on-demand library, and examine the exhibits. There will not be any live content or persons in the exhibit booths at the conclusion of the event.

Visit www.americanbaptists2021.com to view the event website.

This year because of the virtual format, we are offering an Attendee Experience Box to these registration categories. For a \$10 fee, which helps offset the cost of shipping, a box containing giveaways from the partnering organizations will arrive about a week prior to the event. The Attendee Experience Box will also include communion elements which can be used during the Thursday evening worship service.

ABCUSA has signed a contract with Cvent to use their Virtual Attendee Hub (VAH) for the Biennial Mission Summit. This platform will provide seamless connectivity between the registration platform we use reducing some of the set up required by staff.

When each registered attendee logs into the VAH, their personalized agenda of sessions that they selected during the registration process will appear providing easy access to the daily activities. If on the day of the event they choose to attend a different session, they do have the option to do so providing there are "seats" available. Most of the workshop sessions will use a Zoom meeting room which limits the capacity at 500 persons. Our main live sessions will run through a streaming software which does not have a capacity limit. These include the Business Session, and each of the three evening Worship sessions.

The VAH platform also includes an area for virtual exhibits. An exhibitor can customize their exhibit page to include the logo and corporate links (web, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) as well as a description paragraph and featured video. Exhibitors also have the ability to post links to external videos, upload additional videos, presentations, PowerPoint presentations and resource documents. Within each exhibit is a Virtual Meeting Room, which can be utilized to chat with attendees, similar to what we would do in

our booth during an in-person event. Exhibitors can also use this room to schedule a variety of programming opportunities such as a virtual “breakfast meal event” replacing what is usually held during an in-person event, plan a meet & greet time with leadership, hold additional workshops, etc.

Included with my report is a copy of the confirmed schedule of events. All events listed except for the Caucus sessions and Mission Summit Conversations will be recorded during the event. These recordings will become available on-demand sessions within a few hours of the conclusion of the session. The Virtual Attendee Hub will open on Monday, June 21, a few days prior to the official start of the event. This allows attendees to view the on-demand library, and visit the exhibits. The VAH will be available to all registrants for 90 days after the event ends providing each attendee with the ability to view more programming than they have available at an in-person event.

Earlier I mentioned the on-demand library. This will include pre-recorded workshops and presentations, as well as moments of prayer and meditation for attendees to view whenever they like. I am hoping to have several recordings of prayer and praise from youth included in the library.

With so much programming to offer, it will be necessary to compile and provide a Detailed Schedule similar to what we include in the Program Book every event. This will be a shortened version of the Program Book that will be made available to attendees via download.

We have procured the use of a professional stage with a 24’ x 8’ LED wall and a 10’ x 8’ lightbox with custom graphics. This contract also includes a production management team who will assist Jeremy Fackenthal, Biennial Producer, for the live sessions. This set-up significantly adds to the quality of the event we are able to offer. I think attendees will be pleasantly surprised by the first-class experience we will be able to provide in June.

Also included with my report is a copy of the 2021 Biennial Mission Summit budget. Jeff Woods has had conversations with NEC partners American Baptist Home Mission Societies, American Baptist Women’s Ministries, International Ministries and MMBB Financial Services about becoming partnering organizations providing financial support towards the event. Marie Onwubuariri, in her Development role, will be working with exhibitors and securing additional sponsors for the event.

2021 Biennial Mission Summit Schedule of Events

*All times listed are Eastern Daylight Time

Thursday, June 24, 2021

4:00PM **Welcome Session**

[This session will be presented live. This time will be used to provide information about the platform, highlight sessions, stress the importance of Delegates attending the Business Session, etc.]

5:00PM **Five Concurrent Caucus Sessions** [Attendees may select one.]

Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches Caucus
American Baptist Hispanic Caucus
American Baptist Women's Caucus
National American Baptist Churches Portuguese Speaking Caucus
National Black Caucus of American Baptist Churches

7:00PM **Worship – Imagine Unity**

[This worship services includes Communion, NEC members will share “Silver Linings” messages, Jeff Woods will give a reflection.]

Friday, June 25, 2021

3:00PM **MMBB Member Address**

Please join us for the **MMBB Member Address** featuring remarks from our Chief Executive Officer, **Louis P. Barbarin, CPA** and an uplifting musical selection. Mr. Barbarin will speak to members about MMBB's commitment to being forward-thinking as we seek to ***Pivot, Plan, Purpose and Position*** our ministry to provide expert guidance and supportive resources to our members, even in the face of uncertainty.

4:00PM **Four Concurrent Workshop Options** [Attendees may select one.]

Living the Gospel in the United States and Puerto Rico

Connect with four American Baptist ministry leaders — a hospital chaplain, community ministry leader, church pastor and college president — who will share their experiences of leading through our current realities and how these realities are shaping their leadership for the future. Listen to the lessons they have learned about living and leading through change, as we continue to partner with one another promoting Christian faith, developing and strengthening Christ-centered leaders and disciples, and bringing God's transformative love to communities across the United States and Puerto Rico.

The American Baptist Home Mission Societies will provide three resources to support continuing skill strengthening beyond the workshop along with links connecting participants with mission opportunities across the United States and Puerto Rico.

MMBB: Financial Wellness in the New Normal

Times may change but the principles for building your family's financial security are timeless. Join us as we explore what it means to build a foundation for financial wellness in uncertain times. We will review the important areas of financial planning for each stage of life and how they work together to help you achieve your goals and provide security.

Presenter: James R. Cook, RICP®, CFP® professional

Radical. Redeemed. Ready: Imagining New Possibilities for Women in Ministry

Who would ever have imagined 2021 would be the year of the first woman Vice President? This has been a year of women moving into many new roles, including throughout ABCUSA. American Baptist churches have been ordaining women to ministry for over 100 years. While there have been many “firsts,” challenges continue to exist. Rather than being defeated by such challenges, women have continued to respond to God’s call, blazing new trails, exploring new pathways and imagining new possibilities for ministry and leadership. Come, see the innovative ways women are ministering! Join us in imagining the future! What do YOU imagine?

Rev. Dr. Patricia Hernandez will be joined by the American Baptist Women In Ministry (ABWIM) Advisory Team, which is composed of professional church leaders who represent diverse cultural, racial, ethnic and theological perspectives and who work together to carry out the mission and vision of ABWIM, and invited guests.

The Problem with Normal

Healing requires a recognized injury, pain, hurt. It also requires a safe space and competent loving care. But how could healing take place when the basis of our reality is designed to deny the existence of the injury? We will explore how our understanding of “normal” has been carefully designed to preserve and oppressive hierarchy, and how that oppression prevents healing.

Presenter: Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal

5:00PM Business Session

[Live event on the stage with participants joining via Zoom calls as needed for the ABCUSA Business Meeting.]

6:30PM Highlighting International Ministries

[International Ministries Board Report]

7:00PM Worship – Imagine Healing

Rev. Dr. Winterborne LaPucelle Harrison-Jones, Speaker

8:15PM Laugh Your Way to Grace

Laughter is one of God's most powerful, yet under-appreciated gifts. It can reduce stress, improve health, defuse conflict, empower creative thinking, build bridges, and inspire hope. Bottom line: If you can laugh at yourself, you can forgive yourself. And if you can forgive yourself, you can forgive others. Join us for this half-hour of laughter where you will lighten your perspective, focus your energies, and reclaim your innate sense of holy joy!

Presented by: Rev. Susan Sparks

[Saturday, June 26, 2021](#)

4:00PM Four Concurrent Workshop Options [Attendees may select one.]

Around the World in 45 minutes

Imagine visiting the Caribbean, Europe and the Philippines. No passport required. Experience God’s mission around the world through your IM global servants.

Presenter: Rev. Sharon Koh

Reset and Reimagine: Challenges, Triumphs, and New Possibilities

This workshop will use diverse case studies that will highlight challenges, triumphs and new possibilities in various ministry settings. Participants will have an opportunity to present ministry dilemmas and receive advice from peers.

Presenters: Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain and Rev. LaThelma Yenn-Batah

Rethinking Bi-vocational Ministry

Bi-vocational Ministry is often seen by both pastor and church as a last resort option. This workshop challenges us to see bi-vocational ministry as a model that God calls pastors and churches to and a model that offers multiple advantages besides the obvious economic benefit. The workshop will be a moderated panel discussion led.

Presenters: Rev. Gary Martin and Rev. Dr. James Mitchell Harrison, Moderated by: Rev. Dr. Steve Van Ostran

The Foolishness of God

The imaginative work of God often seems foolish to even the most committed disciple. We sing about God's reckless love, so let us now look at God's Holy work that we may often think is foolish. This "foolish" work accomplishes God's purposes and invites us to grow in faith and deepen our discipleship. In this workshop, we will look at some of the principles of God's imaginative work so that we may not miss the invitation to thrive in times of uncertainty.

Presenter: Rev. Mark Thompson

5:00PM **Mission Summit Conversations** [Attendees may select one of the three conversation topics.]

Mission Summit Conversations are an opportunity for anyone registered for the 2021 Biennial Mission Summit to engage in meaningful dialogue about a relevant ministry topic. Since 2013, these conversations have allowed our American Baptist family to listen to a variety of perspectives on timely topics as well as share their own thoughts with others. Previous participants have expressed deep gratitude for the insights received, camaraderie experienced, and respectful dialogue. As always, we encourage participants to practice the following behavioral guidelines:

- (1) Respect one another's views and perspectives
- (2) Share "air" or talk time among the participants
- (3) Seek to understand before responding.

Mission Summit Conversation on Anti-Racism

What examples of racism have you witnessed and how are you working to overcome those occurrences for all people?

Mission Summit Conversation on Congregational Life

What changes might be made to the ways that we worship, disciple, and engage in mission, in light of lessons learned from the global pandemic?

Mission Summit Conversation on Unity

How can we as Christians demonstrate our love to the world regardless of whether we live in "blue" or "red" state and regardless of which political candidates we might have voted for?

6:30PM **Highlighting American Baptist Home Mission Societies**

[American Baptist Home Mission Societies Board Report]

7:00PM **Worship – Imagine Hope**

Rev. Dr. Brianna Parker, Speaker

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES - USA
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures by Period
From 1/1/2013 Through 12/31/2019

Biennial Mission Summit

	12/31/2015	12/31/2017	12/31/2019	2021 Budget	comments
REVENUE					
TARGETED GIVING	2,420.00	1,536.00	0.00	2,000.00	Scholarship donations
REIMB. FOR HOTEL CHARGES	236,611.00	198,954.89	0.00	0.00	
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	0.00	21,335.00	51,609.09	87,390.00	Partner & Sponsor opportunities and shipping charge collected for Attendee Experience Box
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	19,350.00	0.00	19,666.50	0.00	Donation from Convention Center
GRANTS-BIENNIAL	60,000.00	60,000.00	10,000.00	50,000.00	OGS Contribution
AD SPACE - PROGRAM BOOKLETS	24,390.00	14,480.00	25,405.00	0.00	
DELEGATE REGISTRATION REVENUE	87,572.94	53,249.00	63,675.77	62,500.00	500 @ \$125
VISITOR REGISTRATION REVENUE	14,502.31	62,883.50	5,725.00	123,500.00	521 Attendee @ \$125, 125 Watch Party @ \$399, 150 OTABL @ \$50, 25 Post event @ \$40
MEAL FUNCTIONS REVENUE	124,890.26	279,826.72	75,294.29	0.00	
EXHIBITORS REVENUE	88,758.51	56,000.00	34,000.00	21,800.00	\$500x20 nonABC exhibitors, \$295x40 ABC exhibitors
OFFERINGS REVENUE	13,732.32	19,162.22	17,021.40	5,000.00	Worship offerings
SHUTTLE TRANSPORT REVENUE	21,980.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
HOST REGISTRATION	73,549.00	42,377.00	48,393.60	0.00	
CHILD/YOUTH REGISTRATION	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>14,280.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	
Total REVENUE	<u>767,756.34</u>	<u>809,804.33</u>	<u>365,070.65</u>	<u>352,190.00</u>	
EXPENSES					
PER DIEM LABOR	6,547.32	9,941.36	0.00	0.00	
TRAVEL - EXECUTIVE STAFF	731.00	0.00	234.37	2,500.00	onsite meals for crew & speakers
TRAVEL - ECUMEN.	1,604.20	37.30	0.00	0.00	
TRAVEL - PLENARY SPEAKERS	1,869.27	12,081.93	3,947.17	3,000.00	
RESOURCES/BOOKS EXPENSE	190.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
POSTAGE EXPENSE	2,883.61	4,749.11	3,954.67	2,000.00	mail delegate letters to all churches, shipping equipment
POSTAGE-MAILING PICKUP & DEL.	1,636.04	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	shipping cost for attendee experience boxes
TELEPHONE-TOLLS, SPECIAL EXP.	242.45	116.37	0.00	0.00	
TELEPHONE-INTERNET	0.00	6,235.51	15,696.92	0.00	
OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,491.92	2,309.63	191.48	1,000.00	
COMPUTER HD/SFT MAINTENANCE	175.00	0.00	0.00	72,190.00	Cvent Virtual Attendee Hub & Professional Services including potential overages charges
PRINTING/LITERATURE EXPENSE	14,454.69	4,403.00	17,633.00	10,000.00	base materials for estimated 1,000 attendee experience boxes
COPYRIGHT LICENSE EXP.	0.00	160.00	472.00	550.00	CCLI license
MEDIA PRODUCT PRODUCTION	1,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
PHOTOCOPIES EXP & OFFICE EQUIP	0.00	950.16	0.00	0.00	
ADVERTISING	0.00	0.00	1,975.00	0.00	
INSURANCE - TRAVEL	1,934.00	1,875.00	0.00	0.00	
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	19,209.61	3,621.68	3,006.71	5,000.00	
BIENNIAL EXPENSE	3,108.50	0.00	830.50	0.00	

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BANK CHARGES	0.00	18,113.92	0.00	12,000.00	credit card transection fees
PROFESSIONAL FEE - LEGAL	2,625.00	797.28	0.00	1,500.00	
PROFESSIONAL FEE - OTHER	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	6,500.00	Tech Team expenses for travel & housing
TRAVEL & CONFERENCE PLANNING	87,168.96	33,333.32	45,738.30	25,000.00	
CONSULTANCY FEE	42,068.77	40,800.00	0.00	55,600.00	Contract Negotiator & Producer contracts
MATERIALS FOR CONFEREES	0.00	5,113.50	0.00	3,500.00	Communion elements for experience box, speakers' equipment, graphic designer for booklet
HONORARIUM TM	250.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	6 Zoom techs @ \$300 each & 4 Liturgical Team @ \$500 each
UTILITIES - ELECTRICITY	0.00	0.00	4,370.00	0.00	
BOARD EXPENSE	0.00	0.00	43.33	0.00	
BIENNIAL PROGRAM COMM.	10,360.92	0.00	290.98	2,000.00	Travel costs
MUSIC EXPENSE	3,285.00	0.00	3,500.50	4,000.00	Choir recording/editing, equipment to ship for leaders/speakers
SOUND, LIGHTS, STAGING	115,170.80	145,815.13	132,218.89	112,850.00	Staging and crew expenses
PUBLICITY EXPENSE	2,167.27	500.00	0.00	0.00	
ABC OFFICE	2,342.76	1,245.00	2,098.28	0.00	
BIBLE STUDIES/WKSP AV	291.40	7,581.00	31,242.00	0.00	
FIRST AID/ EMT	515.00	837.50	286.30	0.00	
HOSPITALITY/INFO	2,018.75	5,000.00	2,623.25	0.00	
TRAVEL OTHER	180,224.14	270,243.02	2,466.30	1,000.00	
REGISTRATION	9,582.82	1,083.15	2,608.78	3,000.00	Complimentary registrations - \$75 discount for 40 people
RENTAL	9,000.00	2,400.00	18,186.45	0.00	
TEMPORARY LABOR	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	onsite - photographer, writer
TRANSLATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	For main stage events only - will resource & pay stipend
SECURITY	0.00	0.00	888.10	0.00	
INSURANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	
DECORATING	29,271.97	51,314.51	56,813.43	1,500.00	additional items for staging
HONORARIAM EXPENSE	16,450.00	11,000.00	11,571.12	1,500.00	two main speakers
SHUTTLE TRANSPORTATION	67,106.00	0.00	39,180.53	0.00	
MEALS	125,355.26	178,079.33	90,499.86	0.00	
OFFERINGS DISTRIBUTED	13,732.32	19,162.22	17,021.40	5,000.00	
CHILD CARE	0.00	0.00	17,740.53	0.00	
REGIONAL YOUTH REPS	0.00	0.00	9,415.24	0.00	
MARKETING/PROMOTIONS	0.00	0.00	3,286.00	1,000.00	
Total EXPENSES	<u>777,464.75</u>	<u>838,899.93</u>	<u>541,531.39</u>	<u>352,190.00</u>	
Net Revenue & Expenses	<u>(9,708.41)</u>	<u>(29,095.60)</u>	<u>(176,460.74)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	