



**BGM Executive Committee**  
**March 11, 2021**

**MINUTES**

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

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

**Thursday, March 11, 2021; 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting** (All present and guest Marie Onwubuariri)

**BGM EC 700          DEVOTIONS**

Zina Jacque lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and shared a devotion based on Numbers 11.

**BGM EC 701          CALL TO ORDER**

ABCUSA President Karen Podsiadly called the meeting to order.

**BGM EC 702          CONSENT AGENDA**

***MOTION:** Judith Christiansen made a motion and seconded by Paul Higgins to accept the agenda items dated, March 11, 2021. Judith Christiansen made a motion and seconded by Josué Gómez-Menéndez to approve minutes of the November 12, 2020 meeting of the Executive Committee, held virtually.*

**Approved with no objections.**

**BGM EC 703          REPORT OF THE BUDGET REVIEW OFFICER**

Paul Higgins referred to the financial report prepared by Alan Musoke, which highlighted in the year-to-date through December 2020 a net gain of \$299,000 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 \$800,000. Expenses as compared to last year are lower by \$1,743,000. Some of the factors for the decrease in expense and revenue are:

- Elimination of intercompany charges in 2020 of \$545,500 (YTD Dec.)
- 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 \$6,277,390. This is a decrease of \$654,476 from the prior year. This represents a reduction of 9.44%.

Paul reviewed the history of the Common Budget Covenant that is part of the Covenant of Relationships adopted by the national boards and all regions in order to highlight some possible lapses in adherence by boards and regions.

## **BGM EC 704      REPORT OF THE ABCUSA PRESIDENT**

Karen Podsiadly shared her service as President over the past three months that included:

1. Continues to work with the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team and is excited about the progress. Karen is looking forward to participating in the virtual Exhibit Hall to “chat with folks.”
2. Working with the Anti-Racism Task Force.
3. Due to the events on January 6 at the Capitol, a letter was prepared to the denomination and Karen participated in a “Call to Prayer” event with leaders from around the country.
4. Karen will be leading a staff diversity-training program with the staff of the Office of the General Secretary. In preparation for this training session, Karen met individually with each of the staff by phone or Microsoft Teams.

## **BGM EC 705      CORA AND JOHN SPARROWK PRESIDENT’S AWARD**

The award recipient is selected for recommendation by the President, Past President, Vice-President and the General Secretary. The committee received five nominations and is recommending Rev. Dr. Albert P. Brinson as the recipient of the Cora and John Sparrowk Award.

*Judith Christiansen made a motion and Jim Wolfe seconded to accept the recommendation of Rev. Dr. Albert P. Brinson as the recipient of the Cora and John Sparrowk President’s Award.*

**Approved with no objections.**

*KJ will follow-up with Bridget Lipin and contact Al Brinson for the Bio and picture.*

## **BGM EC 706      REPORT OF THE ABCUSA INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY**

In addition to the many areas of mission, Jeff Woods’ process goals for 2021 include (1) the empowerment of staff and volunteers, (2) the clarification of identity for the Office of the General Secretary, and (3) the continued strengthening of relationships among national and regional staff. Jeff’s attached *Report of the Interim General Secretary* includes some highlights of the missional activity during the first three months of 2021.

## **BGM EC 707      RECESS/CREDENTIALS & CAUCUS/RECONVENE**

Josué Gómez-Menéndez called to order the meeting of the Credentials & Caucus Committee. Josué will be meeting with the inter-caucus leaders to request reports for next year’s budget.

## **BGM EC 708      ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE**

The Anti-Racism Task Force Co-Chairs Justin Thornburgh and Natalie Wimberly submitted a *Report of the Anti-Racism Task Force*, attached, that included the objective, work, and vision of the Anti-Racism Task Force.

Working from a paradigm reflective of the historical relationships of racial and ethnic groups and racial oppression within the denomination and the world and from the power and faith in God through Jesus the Christ, the Anti-Racism Task Force made the following recommendations:

- 1) The development of an ABCUSA Board of General Ministries Anti-Racism Commission.
- 2) The hiring of an Associate General Secretary for Anti-Racism to work with staffing support.
- 3) Adequate funding for the continued work and support of the Anti-Racism Commission.

- 4) The Anti-Racism Commission to work within the ABCUSA making necessary connections with other offices and divisions as to further the work of Anti-Racism.
- 5) Representation from the Anti-Racism Commission to be integrated and utilized appropriately within the Board of General Ministries.

*Judith Christiansen made a motion and Raimundo Barreto seconded to recommend to the Board of General Ministries to create a commission on Anti-Racism.*

**Approved with no objections.**

**BGM EC 709            2021 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT UPDATE**

Jeff Woods shared some highlights from the Biennial Mission Summit Coordinator Tina Kiernan's *2021 Biennial Mission Summit Update*, attached. Negotiations to move the contract from 2021 to the 2023 event, which will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, are almost finalized. Registration has begun. There will be a "hybrid" live preview on Tuesday, April 20 at 8:00 PM ET.

**BGM EC 710            ORIENTATION TO AMERICAN BAPTIST LIFE (OTABL)**

Zina Jacque shared an *Update on OTABL* from her report attached, which is currently underway beginning with OGS launching the first session. The hope is to "entice people with 'tastes of ABCUSA, so much so that the participants will come back, often, for full meals of information, participation, and education."

**BGM EC 711            WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE**

*Jim Wolfe made a motion and Judith Christiansen seconded to recommend Ivan Greuter as the IM representative to the World Relief Committee.*

**Approved with no objections.**

*Zina will follow-up with Ivan Greuter to inform of this action.*

**BGM EC 712            ROLE OF MISSION RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (MRD)**

Marie Onwubuariri reviewed her job description as the Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development, which includes public relations (communications and marketing), and development (United Mission and donor relations).

**BGM EC 713            IDENTITY OF ABCUSA**

Jeff Woods asked the committee to read and review the "Role of the Office of the General Secretary" attached, before the June meeting.

Submitted by,



Dr. C. Jeff Woods  
Interim General Secretary

CJW/kj

*Documents attached*

*BGM EC Proposed Agenda (1101:03/21)*

*BGM EC Roster March 2021*

*BGM Executive Committee Minutes: November 2020 (1002:11/20)*

*ABCUSA Financial Report through December 2020*

*Report of the Interim General Secretary*

*Role of the Office of the General Secretary*

*Report of the Anti-Racism Task Force*

*2021 Biennial Mission Summit Update*

*Update on OTABL*