

DELEGATE PACKET



American Baptist Churches USA
BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

An Online Experience | June 24-26, 2021

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS AT THE 2021 BIENNIAL MEETING OF DELEGATES

In order to provide a fair and orderly procedure for the conduct of all business which comes before this meeting, the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team, after consultation with the ABCUSA General Secretary and legal counsel, recommends to the Delegates the following Rules of Procedure, to be adopted by a majority vote of the votes cast:

1. The procedures used for election of ABCUSA officers and At-Large members of the Board of General Ministries shall follow the provisions in the ABCUSA Bylaws (Article IV, Section 3(b) and 3(e); Article XV, Section 1; and Article XVIII, Section 9). No nominations from the churches having been received, delegates shall vote Yes or No on each slate.
2. Any addition or amendment or repeal of the Bylaws must be made in accordance with the ABCUSA Bylaws Article XIX, Section 1.¹
3. Roberts' Rules of Order (newly revised) shall be the manual to guide the Biennial Meeting in all matters of parliamentary practice not prescribed in the ABCUSA Bylaws or the foregoing Rules of Procedure or the intent thereof.

¹ Any addition to or amendment or repeal of these Bylaws may be recommended: (i) at any Biennial meeting by a majority of the votes cast by the Delegates present; provided that prior to such Biennial Meeting, the addition, amendment or repeal has been presented to and approved by the Board of General Ministries; or (ii) by petition to the Board of General Ministries signed by at least two hundred (200) Cooperating Churches which are located within the areas of at least five (5) Regional Organizations; or (iii) by majority vote of the entire Board of General Ministries taken at any meeting of the Board of General Ministries. Voting by the Delegates pursuant to this Section 1 shall be in accordance with Article XVIII, Section 9 or these Bylaws. (ABCUSA Bylaws Article XIX, Section 1)

2019 BIENNIAL MISSION

SUMMIT MINUTES

Summit By the Sea
June 21-23, 2019
Virginia Beach, VA

Friday Evening Gathering, June 21, 2019

Worship 7:00-9:00 PM
From Sea to Sea

1. Attendees were welcomed with prelude music by the worship team. Josué Gómez-Menéndez, President of American Baptist Churches USA, opened the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit and welcomed attendees. Josué Gómez-Menéndez announced that as of 5:00 PM today 470 participants registered and 531 delegates registered, setting the quorum for conduct of business at 175, and convened. While only delegates may vote on motions, all attendees are welcome to attend the business session on Sunday afternoon.
2. Josué Gómez-Menéndez announced that the information shared throughout our time together, especially during the Sunday afternoon business session, will constitute the information related to the ABCUSA budget and actions of the Board of General Ministries.
3. Philip James, Chair of the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team, was recognized to make a motion. He moved to adopt the Rules of Procedure for the conduct of business at the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit meeting of delegates. (This document was posted on the ABC website prior to the Biennial and included in the delegate packets.) There was no discussion, and the motion was adopted.
4. Rev. Dr. Philip James, Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team Chair, made a motion to adopt the provisional program as printed in the program book subject to any further changes the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team, acting as the Committee on the Order of Business, might recommend. There was no discussion and the motion was adopted.
5. Josué Gómez-Menéndez introduced ABCUSA Parliamentarian Dennis Johnson, appointed by the ABCUSA President in consultation with the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team to serve as Biennial Parliamentarian.
6. Josué Gómez-Menéndez reminded attendees that the Rules of Procedure include information on how they may register to propose a future amendment to the Bylaws and added. "Questions about these procedures should be submitted to the ABCUSA Office located in Management Office 2E." Josué reminded all delegates to bring their voting cards to the business session on Sunday afternoon.

7. On behalf of the Board of General Ministries, Josué Gómez-Menéndez expressed their respect and gave acknowledgement to those who have gone before us. “This place where we meet is built on what was once the land of Host Nations, those who are known as the traditional custodians of this land. We acknowledge their elders past and present. As a body of faith called American Baptist, all of our ministry is built on the witness of the faithful who preceded us and we honor them.”
8. Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director/CEO, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) gave words of greeting and reflection, following a video montage of ABHMS’ “Coast to Coast Mission Impact.”
9. Scripture and prayer, which included a litany for congregation participation was followed by the presentation of the awards. Rev. LeDayne McLeese Polaski, recently retired Executive Director of BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz, received the Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace and Justice Award for outstanding work for peace and justice, courageous leadership and compassionate Christian witness for and with individuals marginalized in the United States and around the globe. Rev. Dr. Richard P. Olson, author of “Side by Side: Being Christian in a Multifaith World” (Judson Press, 2018), received the Suzan Johnson Cook Religious Freedom Award for leadership in defending God-given religious liberty for all.
10. Rev. Dr. Clifford Johnson, ABHMS Board President, introduced Dr. Howard Stevenson as the guest speaker.
11. After a sung response, Salvador Orellana, Director of Intercultural Ministries; Latino Ministries; and Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico, announced that the Friday evening offering would be collected for the “Rebuilding, Renewing, and Restoring of Puerto Rico.”
12. Rapper Andy O sung the benediction with the song, “Spoken Word.”

Saturday Evening Gathering, June 22, 2019

Worship 7:00-9:00 PM

Across the Seas

13. Rev. Sharon T. Koh, CEO and Executive Director, American Baptist International Ministries and Rev. Jim Bell, Associate Executive Director for Global Mission gave words of greeting and reflection, followed by a video “The Ups and Downs of Life Across the Seas,” featuring: Rev. Kit Ripley, Global Servant in Thailand, Larry Stanton, Global Servant in Hungary, and Rev. Dr. Stan Slade, Global Consultant for Theological Education.
14. A participatory prayer was led by Rev. Mylinda Baitis, Global Consultant for Training Through Restorative Arts; Rev. Charles Jones, Area Director for Europe, the Middle East, and Liberia; Rev. Ben Chan, Area Director for East and South Asia, followed by the song “Oración” with Pastor Anátalys González-Ortiz.
15. Rev. Ray Schooler, Sr. Director of Development and Church Relations, and Joyce Bagiraneza, Donor Advisor for International Ministries announced that the Saturday evening offering would be collected as part of International Ministries 205th Anniversary campaign to raise \$205,000 by the end of the Biennial.

16. Following a reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 11:9, Rev. Sharon Koh and Rev. Jim Bell introduced Rev. Dr. Elijah Brown, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance as the guest speaker.
17. Rev. Rodney Ragwan, Director of Mission Mobilization, gave the closing Benediction.

Sunday Morning Gathering, June 23, 2019

Worship 10:30–11:45 AM

Worship by the Sea

18. After words of welcome and a litany led by representatives of Regional Executive Ministers, Rev. John Upton, Executive Director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, gave a morning greeting.
19. The top United Mission giving churches were recognized with gratitude from Tina Turner, United Mission Coordinator, ABCUSA and Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, ABCUSA General Secretary, followed by region highlights
20. Josué Gómez-Menéndez, along with Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer presented the Cora and John Sparrowk President's Award to Charles and Marie Mercer.
21. Following a reading from the Gospel of John 6:1-14, Louis Barbarin, Executive Director of the Ministers & Missionaries Benefit Board, introduced Rev. Ngwedla Paul Msiza, Baptist World Alliance President as the guest speaker.
22. Offering was collected for the healing ministries of Virginia Beach
23. The service concluded with Holy Communion followed by the benediction given by Rev. Dr. Philip K. James.

Sunday Afternoon Business Session, June 23, 2019

2:15 – 3:00 PM

24. Josué Gómez-Menéndez welcomed Biennial Mission Summit delegates, called the meeting to order and led in prayer.
25. Dean Parker, Vice President of ABCUSA, moved the adoption of the minutes of the business session of the 2017 Biennial. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the minutes were adopted.
26. Judy Fackenthal, member of the ABCUSA Nominating Committee, brought the report of the 2020-2021 officers and moved their election

President – Two year term, ending December 31, 2021

Ms. Karen Podsiadly, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Rochester, NY

Vice President – Two-year term, ending December 31, 2021

Rev. Dr. James Wolfe, First Baptist Church, Pontiac, IL

Budget Review Officer – Two-year term, ending December 31, 2021

Mr. Paul Higgins, Bethany Baptist Church, Clarkdale, AZ

27. Josué Gómez-Menéndez called for a delegate vote, and the officers were elected.
28. Judy Fackenthal referred the delegates to the nominees for At-Large Directors of the Board of General Ministries, located on page 30 of the Program Book.
29. Judy Fackenthal called for a delegate vote, and the slate of At-Large members were elected.
30. Karen Podsiadly, President-Elect was invited to share a few words.
31. Paul Higgins, budget review officer, presented the Auditor's Report on the 2018, ABCUSA Audited Financial Statements for the years ending December 31, 2018 and 2017, ABCUSA received from Tait, Weller, and Baker LLP, public accountants. For a complete audit report, visit ABC website at www.abc-usa.org or call the Treasurer's office for a copy.
32. Josué Gómez-Menéndez adjourned the business session.

Sunday Evening Gathering, June 23, 2019

Worship 7:00-9:00 PM

Sea of Witnesses

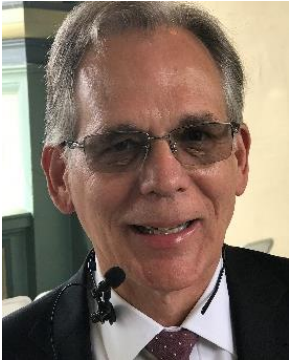
33. After a call to worship and Invocation by Betty Long, Dr. James M. Harrison, American Baptist Churches of the South Region Executive Minister gave words of welcome.
34. Josué Gómez-Menéndez signed the Bible presented by the American Baptist Historical Society Executive Director Rev. Dr. Priscilla E. Eppinger.
35. A service of Worship followed with the preaching of the Word by Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr.

This is a draft of the minutes from the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit in Virginia Beach, VA. These minutes are not official until voted on at the 2021 Biennial Mission Summit.



Nominated ABCUSA Officers

For the January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023 Biennium



President

Rev. Dr. James O. Wolfe III (Jim) has been nominated to serve as President. Wolfe is pastor of First Baptist Church, Pontiac, Ill. where he has served since March 1, 1990. Prior to serving in Pontiac, Jim served two churches in New Jersey: Memorial Baptist Church in Salem and Calvary Community Baptist Church in Pennsauken. Jim was ordained March 15, 1981 at the Bethel Baptist Church, South Charleston, WV. He is a graduate of Alderson-Broaddus College, where he met his wife Janet, a Registered Nurse. He holds the M.Div. and D. Min. degrees from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Palmer), and a Ph. D. from the Graduate Theological Foundation. Jim is also a member of the Board of Directors of the American Baptist Historical Society, and serves on the Board of Managers of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region.



Vice President

Rev. Michelle Nickens has been nominated to serve as Vice President. Nickens is the pastor of Washington Plaza Baptist Church in Reston, Va., where she has been servant leader since 2016. Rev. Nickens is a member of the Steering Committee of Va CURE (Clergy United for Racial Empathy), an interfaith organization that creates opportunities for clergy and congregations to engage in dialogue across racial lines, educate themselves about the history of race in Virginia, and become more engaged in activism. Prior to her call to Washington Plaza Baptist, Nickens served as Associate Minister and Director of Adult Education Programs at Metro Baptist Church/Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries in New York City. There she coordinated and facilitated empowerment programs for domestic violence survivors and their children,

and for homeless veterans, and has been a frequent lecturer on religious responses to domestic violence and child sexual abuse. For several years she was an instructor in the Integrative and Field-Based Education Program at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. She is a graduate of Howard University with a B.A. in Television and Film production, and earned a M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary where she received the Karen Ziegler Preaching Award.



Budget Review Officer

Mr. Paul Higgins serves as ABCUSA Budget Review Officer. Paul is the Chief Financial Officer of Rainbow Acres, a residential ranch-style community in Camp Verde, Arizona for adults with developmental disabilities. Prior to joining Rainbow Acres in 2010, Paul served as the Vice President of Finance at the American Baptist Assembly/Green Lake Conference Center for thirteen years, where he also served as Vice President of The Golf Courses of Lawsonia, Camp Grow Ministries, and Worldwide Gifts of Green Lake. Paul served as Treasurer of American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin for four years. He previously served on committees for American Baptist Churches of the South and American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest. Paul has participated in church leadership in the areas of preaching,

teaching, computer and network administration, stewardship and finances. He has served on the financial boards of four American Baptist congregations including service as the treasurer of two merging congregations. Paul was elected to the Board of General Ministries in January 2012 and began serving as Budget Review Officer in January 2014. Paul has a B.S. in Information and Computer Science from the University of California, Irvine. He simultaneously earned an M. Div. and an MBA at Emory University. Paul and his wife Jeri reside in Camp Verde, Arizona.



Board of General Ministries Election Slate

Ex officio: President, Vice President, Budget Review Officer, (to be voted separately – see below)

At-Large Directors

Region	Director	Class	Nominee & Term	Class
Central	William Poland	*2021	William Poland	2022-2025
Chicago	Kathryn Ray	*2022	Kathryn Ray	2023-2026
Cleveland	Thomas Gilmore	*2023		
Central Pacific Coast	John Nichols	*2024		
Connecticut	Laura Austin	*2024		
Dakotas	Dwayne William	*2024		
Dist/Columbia	Emmett Dunn	*2021	Emmett Dunn	2022-2025
Evergreen	Stephanie Commandest	^2022	T. Scott Pegues	2023-2026
Growing Healthy Ch	Al Marks	*2022	Al Marks	2023-2026
Great Rivers	Patrick Embley	*2024		
Indiana/Kentucky	John Campbell	*2022	John Campbell	2023-2026
Indianapolis	Shawna Simmons	*2023		
Los Angeles	Brandon Bouldin	*2025		
Massachusetts	Douglas Scalise	+2024		
Maine	Bonnie Higgins	^2024		
Michigan	Nancy Lewis	*2023		
Mid-America	Bruce Van Der Beek	*2021	Bruce Van Der Beek	2022-2025
Metro New York	Noemi Nunez-Sanchez	*2021	Noemi Nunez-Sanchez	2022-2025
Nebraska	Mark Harvey	^2024		
New Jersey	Lillian Ramos	+2022		
New York State	Judith Christiansen	*2021	Judith Christiansen	2022-2025
Ohio	Ken Atchison	*2021	Daryl Ward	2022-2025
Pennsylvania/Del.	Christopher Hamilton	*2024		
Philadelphia	Cedric Jones	^2024		
Puerto Rico	Damaris Santiago-Lebron	+2022		
Rhode Island	Janice Fletcher	^2024		
Rocky Mountains	Bryan Roberts	*2023		
Rochester/Genesee	Clifford Matthews	*2023		
South	Robert Jemerson	*2022	Robert Jemerson	2023-2026
Vermont/N Hamp	Annie Field	^2024		
Wisconsin	Kurt Kaufman	*2022	Kurt Kaufman	2023-2026
West Virginia	Marijane Kiley	^2022	Yvette Shafer	2023-2026

General Directors elected by the Board of General Ministries

Marilyn Malone	*2023
Raimundo Barreto	^2023
Zina Jacque	^2023
Thomas Ross, Jr.	^2023
Angela Russell	^2025

Key

*First Term
^Second Term
+Filled Vacancy

Officers to be voted separately

President: James Wolfe
Vice President: Michelle Nickens
Budget Review Officer: Paul Higgins