



**BGM Executive Committee**  
**September 16-18, 2021**

**MINUTES**

<b>Officers:</b>	Karen Podsiadly, President Jim Wolfe, Vice President Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer Jeff Woods, Interim General Secretary
<b>Committee:</b>	Cedric Jones, PBA Raimundo Barreto, NJ Judith Christiansen, NYS Josué Gómez-Menéndez, Past President
<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

*Michelle Nickens, Vice-President Elect attended the meeting as an observer. Not in attendance Zina Jacque. Bill Frederickson and Raimundo Barreto attended virtually.*

**Thursday, September 16, 2021: 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**BGM EC 729          DEVOTIONS**

Cedric Jones lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and shared a devotion based on James 1:19-20.

**BGM EC 730          CALL TO ORDER**

ABCUSA President Karen Podsiadly called the meeting to order.

**BGM EC 731          CONSENT AGENDA**

***MOTION: Judith Christiansen made a motion and seconded by Cedric Jones to accept the agenda items dated September 16-18, 2021 and to approve minutes of the June 3, 2021 meeting of the Executive Committee, held virtually.***

**Approved with no objections.**

**BGM EC 732          REPORT OF THE ABCUSA PRESIDENT**

Karen Podsiadly shared about her recent visit to the Office of the General Secretary in Valley Forge. Karen noted how wonderful it was to be in the offices and to be with the staff and how it “was the joy of the spirit in the place.” During Karen’s visit, the Personnel Manual was presented to the staff and she thanked Judith Christiansen for the work done in updating the handbook. Karen also shared that while she was in Valley Forge there was a retirement celebration for Geri Blier of ABCIS who served 42 years at ABCUSA. Karen will be writing a letter of commendation to Geri on behalf of the Executive Committee to be included in the “Book of Letters” being presented to Geri.

In addition to visiting the office in Valley Forge, Karen recently met with the Caucus leadership. She is planning to attend First Baptist Church Brockport and bring greetings. On October 13, Karen will be participating in the “Everyday ABC Conversations.” Karen has been invited to the Iroquois Association in November and will also be visiting with ABC of Connecticut.

**BGM EC 733          REPORT OF THE ABCUSA INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY**

In addition to the many areas of mission, Jeff Woods continued to work on his process goals for 2021 which 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 since the last board meeting in June of 2021.

**BGM EC 734          REPORT OF THE BUDGET REVIEW OFFICER**

Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer, presented a chart showing that targeted giving through July had exceeded United Mission Basics. This led to a discussion about United Mission and American Baptist Mission Support.

Key highlights of the financial report for the year ending July 31, 2021 were included in the written report prepared by Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary for Finance/CFO/Treasurer. Overall the year-to-date financials show a surplus of \$774,000 with the Biennial. The net surplus without the Biennial is \$837,000. The following activity is based on the financials excluding the Biennial. There was no Biennial last year and there is a Biennial this year.

- Net revenue compared to last year is up \$641,000. Revenue is up due to the PPP Loan.

- Expenses as compared to last year are lower by \$67,000, mainly due to the reduction of travel expenses and a reduction in staff.

ABCUSA received an additional PPP Loan in 2021 in the amount of \$744,802 from the Payroll Protection Program shown as a liability. The PPP Loan received in 2020 in the amount of 619,000 was forgiven and was moved to income.

Total United Mission is \$3,608,347. This is an increase of \$230,231 from the prior year. This represents an increase of 6.82%.

In response to a question regarding the downward trend in United Mission Giving, Jeff noted that Marie Onwubuariri has been called to address the concerns of the UM Task Force and create a new task force with new members.

### **BGM EC 735            2021 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT FEEDBACK**

This Biennial Mission Summit was the first ever “On-line” experience as decided by the BGM Executive Committee and carried out by the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team which did a great job. See the “Quick Notes” for more details.

### **BGM EC 736            OTABL FEEDBACK**

Orientation to American Baptist Life (OTABL) was led by Judy Fackenthal and Zina Jacque and assisted by a team that included three Region Executive Ministers (REMs), a representative from International Ministries and American Baptist Home Missions Society; along with, American Baptist Historical Society (ABHS) giving a presentation on the history of the ministry partner for that evening session. The biggest concern was that the attendance was not what they hoped for which may have been because students were currently spending so much time on-line. Also, when the OTABL met in-person at the previous Biennial their travel was paid for. Judy and Zina will again chair the 2023 OTABL that will have individual sessions throughout the Biennial.

### **BGM EC 737            CELEBRATING MINISTERING WOMEN CONFERENCE**

The Celebrating Ministering Women: Radical. Redeemed. Ready. Conference is scheduled for June 15-18, 2022 at the Green Lake Conference Center. More information about this conference and the speakers’ bios can be found in the attached reports.

### **BGM EC 738            RECESS/CREDENTIALS & CAUCUS/RECONVENE**

Josué Gómez-Menéndez called to order the meeting of the Credentials & Caucus Committee. Josué and Karen will be meeting during dinner with the caucus leaders to discuss a new way for the caucuses and the BGM Executive Committee to work together in reporting and to have more avenues for the caucuses to communicate with the Executive Committee. Caucuses are not designed to help “under-represented” groups, but to represent a constituency by trait or common aspect.

From the Standing Rules...

14.4.1 Criteria. The criteria shall be as follows:

- (1) being national in scope or at least having constituency from more than one Region;
- (2) having a clearly identifiable constituency, which has provided a process for identification of its leadership;
- (3) having overall agreement with the Purpose Statement and related goals of ABCUSA and

not advocating radical change in the polity, practices, or beliefs of ABCUSA;

- (4) having an interest and/or constituency, which are restrictive as to one or more objectively recognizable characteristics such as age, gender, race/ethnicity, or disability;
- (5) having concerns within the responsibility of the Board of General Ministries;
- (6) without any unit in the ABCUSA representative process advocating those concerns;  
and
- (7) such other criteria as the Board of General Ministries, upon recommendation of the Credentials and Caucus Committee, may from time to time specify.

#### **BGM EC 739 INCLUSION DISCUSSION ON IDENTITY STATEMENT**

**MOTION:** *Paul Higgins made a motion and seconded by Judith Christiansen to ask the OGS Staff to correct the mislabeling of the 2005 statement and to attach a brief explanation of the history of the document.*

**Approved with no objections**

#### **BGM EC 740 ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE UPDATE**

Dr. Wimberly met with the BGM Executive Committee to answer questions regarding the *Proposal for the Establishment of an Anti-Racism Commission*.

**MOTION:** *Judith Christiansen made a motion and seconded by Cedric Jones to recommend that the Board of General Ministries consider the proposal for the establishment of an Anti-Racism Commission for a vote at the November Board Meeting.*

**REQUEST TO AMMEND:** *Paul Higgins made a motion and seconded by Jim Wolfe to amend the sentence on reparations and amend the budget structure to indicate that it is following the establishment phase.*

**AMMENDED MOTION:** *Judith Christiansen made a motion and seconded by Jim Wolfe to recommend that the Board of General Ministries consider the proposal for the establishment of an Anti-Racism Commission for a vote at the November Board Meeting with amending the sentence on reparations and amending the budget structure to indicate that it is following the establishment phase.*

**Approved with no objections.**

**MOTION:** *Judith Christiansen made a motion and seconded by Cedric Jones to recommend that the Board of General Ministries to approve a budget of \$25,000 for the Anti-Racism Commission for the establishment phase.*

**Approved with no objections.**

#### **BGM EC 741 CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEE, COMMISSIONS, AND TF**

See the attached document *Chairpersons of Committees, Commissions, and Task Forces*. Each chairperson will be given a template to fill out to retain for helpful memory and purpose. This will help ensure that BGM committees, commissions, and task forces carry out their stated mission and function to their fullest capacity.

***NEXT STEPS:** A copy of the template pertaining to each entity will be emailed to the chairpersons to fill out.*

**BGM EC 742            CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TASK FORCE**

The Congregational Life Task Force would interpret the impact of COVID on congregations. Jeff Woods has asked Frank Frischkorn to lead the task force.

***MOTION:** Cedric Jones made a motion and seconded by Jim Wolfe to establish a task force for Interpreting the Impact of Covid 19 on Congregations.*

**Approved with no objections.**

**Friday, September 17, 2021; 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**BGM EC 743            DEVOTIONS**

Cedric Jones lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and shared a devotion based on Matthew 9:12-13. After lunch Cedric led a meditation on 1 John 3:18.

**BGM EC 744            OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY SURVEY**

The survey would be distributed to congregations with a link on the website for people to respond. A recommendation was made to add the option for age range and clergy vs. lay.

***MOTION:** Judith Christiansen made a motion and seconded by Paul Higgins to recommend the survey with the changes of adding age range and clergy vs. lay to be forwarded to the Board of General Ministries for approval for distribution.*

**Approved with no objections.**

**BGM EC 745            ROLE OF THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

This document is for the board to reference and is not a marketing tool. The purpose would be for the board to reference when someone asks what we do.

***MOTION:** Judith Christiansen made a motion and seconded by Paul Higgins to recommend the document on the Role of the Office of the General Secretary be forwarded to the Board of General Ministries for approval.*

**Approved with no objections.**

**BGM EC 746            ABCUSA INTENTIONAL INTERIM STRATEGIC PLAN**

Changing culture and clarifying values is the focus of the Interim General Secretary for the structures that need to be in place.

***MOTION:** Cedric Jones made a motion and seconded by Jim Wolfe to recommend the ABCUSA Intentional Interim Strategic Plan to be referred to the Board of General Ministries for adoption.*

**Approved with no objections.**

**BGM EC 747            BELOVED COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP RECOMMENDATION**

The Beloved Community Action Group came up with an idea for the board since many of the board members are new and the board has not met in-person for 18 months to allow for everyone to get to know each other and be together again.

Step 1. Pair up with someone that doesn't look like you and answer questions (3 minutes)  
Step 2. Three pairs of partners at a table. Introduce your partner to the table (12-15 minutes)  
Step 3. One person from each table introduces the people at their table to the group (15 minutes)  
*This will be included in the beginning of the BGM November agenda.*

**BGM EC 748                      CLARIFY EXPECTATIONS FOR BGM DIRECTORS**

Suggestion was made for the Beloved Community to create a one page document on quick facts that could be shared with the regions when nominating board directors that would include the time commitment, leadership skills, and logistics.

**BGM EC 749                      LOCATIONS AND DATES FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**BGM Executive Committee Meetings:**

November 4-5, 2021 King of Prussia, PA (Crowne Plaza)

*March 10-12, 2022 Phoenix, AZ*

June 12-13, 2022 Green Lake, WI

*Sept. 22-24, 2022 Charlotte, NC*

November 3-4, 2022 King of Prussia, PA (Crowne Plaza)

*March 2-4, 2023 San Francisco, CA*

June 19-20, 2023 San Juan, PR

*September 7-9, 2023 Cincinnati, OH*

*November 2-3, 2023, King of Prussia, PA*

**BGM Meetings:**

November 5-7, 2021 King of Prussia, PA (Crowne Plaza)

June 13-15, 2022 Green Lake, WI

*June 15-18, 2022 Celebrating Ministering Women: Radical. Redeemed. Ready.*

November 4-6, 2022 King of Prussia, PA (Crowne Plaza)

June 20-22, 2023 San Juan, PR (Biennial Mission Summit: June 23-25)

*November 3-5, 2023, King of Prussia*

*\*Dates and locations in italics to be determined by OTCP.*

**BGM EC 750                      ADJOURNMENT**

Judith Christiansen made a motion to adjourn and seconded by Jim Wolfe.

Submitted by,



Dr. C. Jeff Woods

Interim General Secretary

CJW/kj

Documents attached

*BGM EC Proposed Agenda (1101:09/21)*

*BGM EC Roster September 2021*

*BGM Executive Committee Minutes: June 2021 (1002:06/21)*  
*ABCUSA Financial Report through July 2021*  
*Report of the Interim General Secretary*  
*2021 Biennial Mission Summit Summary*  
*Quick Facts about 2021 Biennial*  
*OTABL Evaluations*  
*Celebrating Ministering Women: Radical. Redeemed. Ready.*  
*Anti-Racism Task Force*  
*Chairpersons of Committees, Commissions, and Task Forces*  
*Congregational Life Task Force Proposal*  
*Role of the Office of the General Secretary Survey*  
*Role of the Office of the General Secretary*  
*ABCUSA Intentional Interim Strategic Plan*