

REPORT OF ACTIONS OF THE BGM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Jim Wolfe

The Executive Committee met September 16-18, 2021, in Dallas, Texas.

ABCUS President Karen Podsiadly highlighted her recent visit to the denominational office in Karen Valley Forge, noting 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. 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 recently met with the Caucus leadership.

Interim General Secretary Jeff Woods discussed 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.

Budget Review Officer Paul Higgins. 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%.

Positive evaluations were received regarding the Biennial Mission Summit and the Orientation to American Baptist Life.

The Celebrating Ministering Women: Radical. Redeemed. Ready. Conference is scheduled for June 15-18, 2022, at the Green Lake Conference Center.

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

The Executive Committee approved a motion to correct the mislabeling of the 2005 identity statement and to attach a brief explanation of the history of the document.

A motion was approved 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.

A motion was approved to recommend that the Board of General Ministries approve a budget of \$25,000 for the Anti-Racism Commission for the establishment phase.

A motion was approved to establish a Congregational Life Task Force for Interpreting the Impact of Covid 19 on Congregations.

The Executive Committee approved a survey of the Office of the General Secretary, a document describing the role of the General Secretary, and the ABCUSA Interim Strategic Plan.

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

Detailed minutes are available on the ABCUSA website.