

Survey Regarding the Role of the ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary

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The Board of General Ministries, the governing board for ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary, is currently in the process of clarifying the role of the Office of the General Secretary and is seeking your input in this process. The following survey will take approximately five minutes to complete. We value your responses and we thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. The survey will remain open until (date).

- A. Priorities of the Office of the General Secretary. On a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high), please rate the importance of each of these functions of the Office of the General Secretary (Randomize these questions)
1. Seek the welfare of the whole denomination
 2. Promote and celebrate American Baptist identity
 3. Promote a common message of who we are as American Baptists
 4. Present an overall picture of American Baptist life
 5. Identify mission and ministry priorities for the denomination
 6. Interpret American Baptist distinctives and values
 7. Provide resources and services to the regional offices and their executive ministers
 8. Relate to ecumenical agencies on behalf of the denomination
 9. Support denominational stewardship and ministry funding efforts
 10. Oversee the leadership pool for potential members of national boards
 11. Provide accounting services for American Baptist Mission Support funds
 12. Provide conference planning for national events such as the Biennial Mission Summit and National Leadership Council
 13. Initiate ministries and programs not currently being addressed by other agencies
 14. Oversee the World Relief Committee that distributes One Great Hour of Sharing funds
 15. Provide for a common database system for American Baptist clergy and congregations
- B. Roles of the General Secretary. Below you will find a variety of roles engaged in by previous General Secretaries. Please rank these roles from top (the role you most agree with) to bottom (the role you least agree with).
1. Harmonizer – help the denomination work together
 2. Convener – create space and call groups together for conversation, dialogue, and partnering
 3. Denominational pastor – provide for the spiritual needs of the ABC family
 4. Communicator – deliver a consistent and common message of who we are and what we are doing as a denomination
 5. Head of communion – interact with other religious bodies
 6. Goal setter – establish goals and objectives for the denomination
 7. Programmer – develop ministries alongside other national boards
 8. Networker – provide networking opportunities across national and regional organizations
- C. Congregational Needs. What is the greatest need among our ABC congregations? (Choose up to 3)
- a. Encouraging more local church baptisms
 - b. Helping more congregations to afford to call a full-time pastor

- c. Experimenting with creative models of pastoral ministry for local congregations who can no longer afford a full-time pastor
 - d. Providing more support for our bivocational pastors
 - e. Providing resources for the self-care of pastors and church leaders
 - f. Calling out more young people into the pastoral ministry
 - g. Encouraging more neighborhood involvement among local congregations
 - h. Empowering the next generation of leaders to lead now
 - i. Strengthening a sense of community within local congregations
 - j. Responding to new opportunities for ministry
 - k. Incorporating new technology in all aspects of church life
 - l. Reaching out to marginalized persons
- D. Global needs. What is the greatest global need that ABC congregations should address? Please rank the following items from top (greatest) to bottom (least).
- a. The systemic causes of racism
 - b. The systemic causes of poverty
 - c. Creation justice issues
 - d. The need for people to be civil and kind to one another
 - e. Addressing international conflicts through advocacy and humanitarian aid
 - f. Adjusting to life after the global pandemic
 - g. Advocating for the needs of people in Myanmar and the Burma Diaspora
- E. Other comments. What else would you like for the Board of General Ministries to know?
- F. Demographic questions
- a. Please indicate what ABC region you are in by checking the appropriate box below?
 - b. What is your age?
 - c. Clergy/Laity?