

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the first few months of this year, a great deal of my time has been spent working with the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team and the General Secretary Search Committee. The General Secretary Search Committee began meeting in January with an in-person meeting in Tampa, Florida. Since then, we have met monthly via Zoom. As we continue this important process, we are grateful for your prayers and patience. Periodic updates are posted on the ABCUSA website.

The Biennial Mission Summit planning team also began meeting in January. The team is working diligently to recruit inspiring speakers and workshop leaders, as well as an online component to create a meaningful and memorable biennial experience.

I recently had the opportunity to attend the national leadership conference and am looking forward to participating in the Kachin American Baptist Association biennial meeting and the Baptist World Alliance.

The theme for the Biennial Mission Summit to be held June 23-25, 2023, in San Juan, Puerto Rico is *For Such a Time as This*. Those familiar words from the book of Esther remind us that we have an opportune time as American Baptists to impact our denominational family, and our nation for Christ.

For Such a Time as This we can speak prophetically against the abomination of systemic racism. We abhor the acts of violence spawned by hatred, perpetrated against our sisters and brothers, equally created in the image of God.

For Such a Time as This we challenge the nations of the world to take seriously the call to creation justice and act as responsible stewards of the world entrusted to us by our Creator.

For Such a Time as This we call upon the people of God to speak civilly to one another and treat one another with the dignity every child of God deserves.

For Such a Time as This we search for our next General Secretary who will lead us into the future that God has planned for us.

For Such a Time as This American Baptists are called to “do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).