

Report on the Work of the Women's Caucus

The Women's Caucus had its first outing since the beginning of the pandemic in June 2022 at Green Lake for Radical. Redeemed. Ready. It was exactly the occasion for which Women's Caucus was ready! The energy stirred by women of every age, ethnicity, education and expertise and the opportunity to hear women preach, tell the stories and the truth of lay women, pastors, regional executive ministers, seminary staff and professors, all in one place.

As Women's Caucus has grown, now 9 years old, it's clear that we belong wherever American Baptist clergy-women and lay-women are gathered. Having missed the 2020 conference and the 2021 Mission Summit, we were out of our element. The virtual session we were given for the virtual Summit was satisfying and we were able to add many names to our constituents. Yet, virtual is not face to face, given the number of women who attended via Zoom.

Myself and one other of our officers were privileged to be at Green Lake and to be there together. We were also able to meet the newest member of our Caucus's officers. Another officer was able to attend Space for Grace as well as the meeting of the Inter-Caucus, which I was not able to do.

A Zoom meeting is planned for November or January. A virtual planning session of a core group who have sat together over the course of 9 years can be intimate and allow much conversation and planning. Over the next few months, we plan to introduce a change with another woman taking my place as Caucus Coordinator.

On the agenda going forward will be conversation about how funding the eight caucuses will change in the coming year. It behooves us to be all the more clear about our priorities. High on that list will be opportunities to be face-to-face with the women of our denomination. In addition, we will plan for our presence at the 2023 Mission Summit in Puerto Rico.

The Women's Caucus began while our first four officers were serving on the Board of General Ministries. We have often remarked that caucus-building was easier while we were all on the BGM, not just to interface with one another, but more than that, to interface with a larger group of women who are diverse in every way.

We need to hear their concerns and to learn more and know them more if we are to nominate them to board, committee and staff positions.

This does not mean that our goal is to meet with the BGM. But, rather to take this aspect of our work to ABWM, ABWIM and various settings in which we can do "caucus work." It suggests that we may prioritize sending persons to wherever American Baptists gather. We look forward to realizing a new day for the ABC Women's Caucus.

Respectfully,

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