

Biennial Mission Summit | June 23-25, 2023  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Since I last shared an update with you in June, quite a few things have taken shape. The schedule of the Biennial Mission Summit, including additional sessions occurring at the event, is confirmed. We have received commitments from all workshop leaders as well as any organizations which will offer a meal event. A copy of the schedule follows this report.



### Worship Services

I previously shared that we are excited to welcome Rev. Dr. Frederick Haynes, III, as our Friday night speaker, Rev. Miriam Méndez as the Saturday night speaker, and Rev. Joy Martinez-Marshall as the Sunday night speaker. Rev. Méndez has agreed to preach in Spanish on Saturday evening. The Sunday morning worship service will feature Rev. Laura I. Ayala-Álvarez who will also preach in Spanish.

Jeremy Fackenthal, Biennial Producer, has begun meeting with the Liturgical Team whose work will include determining the sub-themes for worship services and crafting the worship service program while highlighting the diversity of ABCUSA with intentional diversity and inclusion. The Liturgical Team will also work with the music coordinator to showcase a variety of music and worship styles throughout the weekend. It is our hope to extend the diversity of participants into the house band as well.

### Workshops

There will be three different times for workshops in the schedule. Each section will offer six choices for attendees with 44% being offered in Spanish. The workshops planned are:

Saturday, 9:00am-10:00am

- Embracing Creation Care - English, Rebecca Driscoll
- Growing Pains: New Pastor and Church Relationships - English, Meriah Tigner
- Intergenerational Connection at Such a Time as This - English, Wilfredo Mercado
- For Such a Time as This?: Baptist Beginnings in Puerto Rico - Bilingual, Priscilla Eppinger
- Follow for Follow: the Digital Scenario and Discipleship - Spanish, Marcos Velez
- Semper Reformanda: Church In and Post Pandemia - Spanish, Laura Ayala & Jesus Garcia

Saturday, 10:30am-11:30am

- What Does Progress Look Like?: Anti-Racism Efforts and Impact, 2020 Until Now - English, Marie Onwubuariri
- Surviving Deconstruction and Rebuilding Faith from the Ground Up - English, Meriah Tigner
- Craft workshop -bilingual, Vanessa Rivera
- Times Are Changing: What About Theological Education? - bilingual, Mercy Gonzalez-Barnes and Tim Long
- Build Your Ark Before the Flood: Protecting Your Church's Legacy Before Disaster Strikes - bilingual, Jenny Manasco
- Intergenerational Connection at Such a Time as This - Spanish, Wilfredo Mercado

Sunday, 4:00pm-5:00pm

- First Things First (Soul Care and Self Care) - English, Gina Jacobs-Strain
- Church on the Move: Linking Social Justice, Church Renewal and Community Engagement - English, G. Travis Norvell
- Table Life: Meals Through the Bible and Into Everyday Discipleship - English, Greg Mamula
- Grief - Spanish, Juan Ramon Mejias-Ortiz
- Craft workshop - bilingual, Vanessa Rivera
- Creation Justice - Spanish, Felicita Burgos Hernandez

Following the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit in Virginia Beach, workshop leaders expressed a concern that persons lingered in the meeting rooms well past the end of meal events and previous workshop sessions. To prevent this from happening again, we have extended the time between sessions to 30 minutes, which will also allow people a chance to spend time chatting with other attendees. Additionally, to encourage people to exit as promptly as possible I am hoping to find musicians and/or other performers who will play music and create a festive atmosphere in the hallways outside of these areas. **If you have any suggestions for persons who we could contact for such a time as this, please let me know.** It is our hope that they would already plan to attend the event so no additional expense is incurred.

#### Registration Fees

Registration will open on November 1, providing an opportunity for people to register in 2022 helping to spread the cost of attending the event over two years. A number of different registration options and discounted fee structure will be available. This includes:

- Delegate or Participant \_\_\_\_\_ \$179 Nov1-Dec31/\$199 Jan1-Mar31/\$229 Apr1-May 17
- Young Adult Delegate or Participant \_\_\_\_\_ \$99 (rate does not change)
- Engage 2023! (OTABL) \_\_\_\_\_ \$99 (fee covered by OTABL budget)
- Exhibit staff \_\_\_\_\_ \$99 (one registration is included with each booth)
- Guest \_\_\_\_\_ \$49 (Guests must be part of a paid Delegate or Participant registration. Guests will not have the ability to attend workshops. Guests will not have access to the Attendee Hub)
- PR Resident Delegate or Participant \_\_\_\_\_ \$99 (rate does not change)
- PR Resident One Day Participant \_\_\_\_\_ \$49 (One Day Participants will not have access to the Attendee Hub)
- Online Attendee \_\_\_\_\_ \$49 (this registration option will open on January 1.)

#### Cvent Software

We will once again use Cvent software for our event website and corresponding registration process. Additionally, we have elected to use the Attendee Hub platform which will be included in every registration category except for Guest and PR One Day Participant. All sessions taking place on the main stage will be streamed live to the Attendee Hub and recordings of these sessions will be available to view online through September 23, 2022.

The use of the Attendee Hub provides us with the ability to utilize the polling feature to have Delegates vote online during the opening worship and business sessions. This system also includes an Event App which attendees will be encouraged to download prior to attending so they can check the schedule, access the Program Book, and more.

Another tool that we will use is the OnArrival platform which will allow attendees to use a kiosk upon arrival to self check-in and print their name badge. Volunteers from the Local Arrangements Committee will be present to distribute lanyards and welcome bags to attendees, and inform Delegate that the Delegate Packets can be found online. This tool will give us real time registration numbers needed to determine whether we have a quorum.

This year everyone's name badge will have a small unique QR code on the front. The code will contain information about all sessions the individual has selected and any meal events they have purchased. The OnArrival package includes 8 handheld scanners that will be used to scan badges to permit entrance into all of these sessions. A concern was raised by a few of the 2019 workshop leaders that more persons attended the workshop than expected which caused some people who had registered for the workshop to be left without a seat or standing in the hall. Persons who preregistered for a session will be admitted first, others will be able to enter as long as seats remain available.

### Biennial Budget

A draft of the biennial budget was previously shared with the executive committee. I used conservative attendance numbers when estimating registration fee income as we are unable to estimate whether person will feel comfortable attending.

The Sponsor, Exhibitor and Advertiser Prospectus has been drafted. A copy will be posted for your review prior to the meeting. Please do not share this prospectus. There are a few organizations that we will approach prior to distributing this publically. We have taken a new approach to Sponsor opportunities this year. Rather than use the standard Gold, Silver, Bronze designations, we are offering opportunities for organizations to be a *Connecting* Sponsor, *Worship* Sponsors, *Registration* Sponsor, *Lanyard* Sponsor, or *Children and Youth Program* Sponsors.

Additionally, we will try a new approach with our partner organizations by offering them a Partnership Proposal that includes all of the items they would normally “purchase” for the biennial, such as exhibit booth spaces, advertisements, and a/v for the luncheons, as well as additional opportunities for promotion and recognition during the event. The amount we request from each partner will be based upon their past support of the 2017 and 2019 events.

### Other Items

In an effort to exhibit our own concern for Creation Justice and the environment, we will not print program books for all attendees, but rather offer a printed commemorative program book which can be purchased for a nominal fee during the registration process. This will also reduce the cost associated with producing more than enough copies for distribution. The program book will be available online and in the Attendee Hub for all participants.

**I invite you to prayerfully consider attending the event yourself following the BGM meetings.** Since transportation to Puerto Rico is provided with your need to travel for the board meeting, and your registration as a BGM Delegate is covered by the Representative Process budget, the out of pocket cost to you is minimum. Your presence and assistance at the ABCUSA Pavilion in the exhibit hall would be greatly appreciated.

I am very excited about the program content and the new tools and features we will be using at the 2023 Biennial Mission Summit in San Juan. If you have any questions or feedback you would like to share, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Kiernan

Biennial Mission Summit Program Coordinator



American Baptist Churches USA  
2023 Biennial Mission Summit



Day	Date	Start Time	End Time	Session Name	Hosted by
Thursday	6/22/2023	7:00 AM	8:30 AM	BPFNA-Bautistas por la Paz	Baptist Peace Fellowship NA
Thursday	6/22/2023	8:30 AM	12:00 PM	BPFNA-Bautistas por la Paz	Baptist Peace Fellowship NA
Thursday	6/22/2023	9:30 AM	1:30 PM	Ministers Council Gathering with Lunch	The Ministers Council
Thursday	6/22/2023	2:00 PM	7:00 PM	REMC Continuing Education Event with Dinner	REMC
Thursday	6/22/2023	9:00 AM	6:00 PM	Theologians	Theologians
Thursday	6/22/2023	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	Engage 2023! (OTABL) Dinner	OTABL
Thursday	6/22/2023	6:00 PM	9:00 PM	American Baptist Hispanic Caucus Meeting	American Baptist Hispanic Caucus
Thursday	6/22/2023	7:00 PM	10:00 PM	American Baptist National Black Caucus Opening Worship	National Black Caucus of ABCUSA
Friday	6/23/2023	7:00 AM	8:30 AM	ABHMS breakfast	ABHMS National Network of American Baptist Chaplains, Pastoral Counselors, Spiritual Directors and Specialized Ministers.
Friday	6/23/2023	7:00 AM	8:30 AM	Breakfast - Grab & Go	
Friday	6/23/2023	9:00 AM	11:30 AM	American Baptist Indian Caucus Meeting	American Baptist Indian Caucus
Friday	6/23/2023	9:00 AM	11:30 AM	American Baptist National Black Caucus Forum and Business Session	National Black Caucus of ABCUSA
Friday	6/23/2023	9:00 AM	12:00 PM	American Baptist Hispanic Caucus Annual Meeting	American Baptist Hispanic Caucus
Friday	6/23/2023	9:00 AM	3:00 PM	Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches/Asian Caucus Meeting	Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches
Friday	6/23/2023	9:00 AM	4:00 PM	ABWM Women's Day	ABWM (held offsite)
Friday	6/23/2023	10:00 AM	7:00 PM	Exhibit Hall OPEN	
Friday	6/23/2023	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	MMBB Luncheon	MMBB
Friday	6/23/2023	4:00 PM	6:45 PM	Engage 2023! (OTABL) Gathering with Dinner	OTABL
Friday	6/23/2023	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	Welcome Session	ABCUSA
Friday	6/23/2023	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Spotlight on Puerto Rico	Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico
Friday	6/23/2023	4:00 PM	6:30 PM	Luther Rice Society Dinner	International Ministries
Friday	6/23/2023	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches/Asian Caucus Dinner	Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches
Friday	6/23/2023	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Berkley School of Theology Dinner	Berkeley School of Theology
Friday	6/23/2023	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations Dinner	
Friday	6/23/2023	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Amerian Baptist National Black Caucus Banquet	National Black Caucus of ABCUSA
Friday	6/23/2023	7:30 PM	7:50 PM	Worshipful Work - IM Report	International Ministries
Friday	6/23/2023	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	Worship - Speaker: Rev. Dr. Frederick Haynes, III	



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Friday	6/23/2023	9:30 PM	11:00 PM	American Baptist Women in Ministry After Party	ABCUSA
Saturday	6/24/2023	7:00 AM	8:30 AM	Breakfast - Buffet	
Saturday	6/24/2023	7:00 AM	8:30 AM	Baptist World Alliance Breakfast	Baptist World Alliance
Saturday	6/24/2023	7:00 AM	8:30 AM	AWAB Breakfast	
Saturday	6/24/2023	7:00 AM	11:30 AM	American Baptist National Portuguese-Speaking Caucus Meeting with Breakfast	American Baptist National Portuguese-Speaking Caucus
Saturday	6/24/2023	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Embracing Creation Care - English	
Saturday	6/24/2023	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Growing Pains: New Pastor and Church Relationships - English	
Saturday	6/24/2023	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Intergenerational Connection at Such a Time as This - English	
Saturday	6/24/2023	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	For Such a Time as This?: Baptist Beginnings in Puerto Rico - Bilingual	
Saturday	6/24/2023	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Follow for Follow: the Digital Scenario and Discipleship - Spanish	
Saturday	6/24/2023	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Semper Reformanda: Church In and Post Pandemia - Spanish	
Saturday	6/24/2023	9:00 AM	7:00 PM	Exhibit Hall OPEN	
Saturday	6/24/2023	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	What Does Progress Look Like?: Anti-Racism Efforts and Impact, 2020 Until Now - English	
Saturday	6/24/2023	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	Surviving Deconstruction and Rebuilding Faith from the Ground Up - English	
Saturday	6/24/2023	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	Craft workshop -bilingual	
Saturday	6/24/2023	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	Times Are Changing: What About Theological Education? - bilingual	
Saturday	6/24/2023	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	Build Your Ark Before the Flood: Protecting Your Church's Legacy Before Disaster Strikes - bilingual	
Saturday	6/24/2023	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	Intergenerational Connection at Such a Time as This - Spanish	
Saturday	6/24/2023	10:30 AM	11:30 AM	Engage 2023! (OTABL) Session	OTABL
Saturday	6/24/2023	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	IM Luncheon	International Ministries
Saturday	6/24/2023	2:30 PM	5:00 PM	Mission Summit Conversations	ABCUSA
Saturday	6/24/2023	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	American Baptist Haitian Caucus Dinner	American Baptist Haitian Caucus
Saturday	6/24/2023	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	American Baptist Historical Society Dinner	American Baptist Historical Society
Saturday	6/24/2023	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School Dinner	
Saturday	6/24/2023	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Roger Williams Fellowship Dinner	
Saturday	6/24/2023	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	ABCUSA Past Officers Dinner	ABCUSA General Secretary



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Saturday	6/24/2023	7:30 PM	7:50 PM	Worshipful Work - ABHMS Report	American Baptist Home Mission Societies
Saturday	6/24/2023	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	Worship - Speaker: Rev. Miriam Méndez	
Saturday	6/24/2023	9:30 PM	11:00 PM	Young Adult Caucus Social	American Baptist Young Adult Caucus
Sunday	6/25/2023	7:00 AM	8:30 AM	Breakfast - Grab & Go	
Sunday	6/25/2023	7:00 AM	8:30 AM	Inter Caucus Breakfast	American Baptist Inter Caucus
Sunday	6/25/2023	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	Sunday Morning Worship - Speaker: Rev. IBPR Laura I. Ayala-Álvarez	
Sunday	6/25/2023	11:00 AM	5:00 PM	Exhibit Hall OPEN	
Sunday	6/25/2023	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	ABHMS Luncheon	American Baptist Home Mission Societies
Sunday	6/25/2023	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	Business Session	ABCUSA
Sunday	6/25/2023	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	First Things First (Soul Care and Self Care)	
Sunday	6/25/2023	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Church on the Move: Linking Social Justice, Church Renewal and Community Engagement - English	
Sunday	6/25/2023	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Table Life: Meals Through the Bible and Into Everyday Discipleship - English	
Sunday	6/25/2023	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Grief - Spanish	
Sunday	6/25/2023	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Craft workshop -bilingual	
Sunday	6/25/2023	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Justice on Creation: Churches caring and defending creation - Spanish	
Sunday	6/25/2023	5:00 PM	10:00 PM	Exhibit Hall Move-Out	
Sunday	6/25/2023	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Dinner on the Terrace	open to all
Sunday	6/25/2023	7:30 PM	7:50 PM	Worshipful Work - OGS Report	ABCUSA
Sunday	6/25/2023	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	Worship - Speaker: Rev. Joy Martinez-Marshall	