

BGM EC Item 10  
2023 Biennial Mission Summit Update

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



Registration for the 2023 Biennial Mission Summit opened on February 8, 2023. There are a number of issues that led to such a delay in launching registration which included issues with the Cvent build, difficulties getting materials translated, and delay in receiving meal pricing from the convention center. The Flash Sale price of \$179 was available for one week before increasing to the Early Bird rate of \$199. The next increase in registration fee will be \$229 on April 1. Online Attendee registration will open on April 1.

As of February 28 at 2:00PM ET there are 387 registrations totaling revenue of \$74,935.  
Participants – 80; Delegates – 163; Guests – 62; Staff/event – 85  
Only one person in Puerto Rico has registered.

### Sponsorships

The following Sponsor Opportunities have been reserved:

Registration Sponsor - \$10,000, American Baptist Extension Corporation (ABEC)  
Badge/Lanyard Sponsor - \$5,000, American Baptist Foundation (ABF)  
Youth Programs Sponsor - \$5,000, Palmer Theological Seminary at Eastern University

There are still opportunities for organizations to be the  
Connectivity Sponsor - \$25,000 (provides internet connectivity throughout the event)  
Worship Experience Sponsor - \$5,000, 4 opportunities (provides translation needs for Worship services)

I had previously mentioned the new approach I wanted to take regarding sharing Partnership Proposals with the NEC partners. One organization very much liked the idea and agreed to the package. A second organization came back to us with a modified counter offer that was very fair. A third organization has agreed but did ask for some changes to their benefits. I am still waiting to hear from the remaining organization. I am quite surprised as I had bundled more value into the proposal than the “ask” amount. To date the Partnership Proposal has generated \$54,000 in sponsorship.

### Worship Services

Jeremy Fackenthal continues to meet regularly with the Liturgical Team who is working together to develop the four Worship Services. The scripture texts were easily broken in to four sections that helped surface the focus for each Worship.

Friday evening: Brokenness, Listening and Awareness

Saturday evening: Lament and Confession

Sunday morning: Hope

Sunday evening: Action and Sending

Looking at the daily focus, the Chair Group has tentatively decided on the Offerings for each service:

Friday evening: Water Rights Protection for Indigenous Americans

Saturday evening: Continuing the Anti-Racism work of our Denomination

Sunday morning: scholarship for youth/young adult for future biennials 2025 event

Sunday evening: Humanitarian Aid for Burma

The Liturgical team has outlines for each Worship service. They have allowed a few minutes for the offering introductions and hope to collect the offering via QR codes. Rather than take time to pass the plate, we will have ushers stand around the perimeter of the room where folks can go up to submit their offering.

The Saturday evening Worship Service will be primarily in Spanish. Rev. Miriam Mendez will preach in Spanish and provide her own English translations.

Rev. Edgardo Caraballo has asked us to open up the Saturday evening Worship Service to anyone in Puerto Rico that wants to attend. He has offered to handle registration for this session. I have let him know that we will need to wait until the beginning of May to see what registration numbers are and what the maximum capacity is of the Ballroom before they begin to collect names.

Sunday morning Worship will include Communion. In an effort to save time, we will distribute the elements as people enter the Ballroom. After the service begins, there will be servers who will have the elements on trays and can serve anyone who did not get their bread and juice when entering.

#### Youth Programs & Childcare

The Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) has outlined a robust Youth Program that will be offered this year. Childcare will be available for children 6 months through 4 years old. Programming will be available Friday through Sunday from 8:30am until 5:00pm each day. Childcare will also be offered from 7:30pm-9:00pm so parents of small children can attend Worship. With the Youth Program Sponsorship, we are able to offer this program for a reasonable daily rate which will include lunch. Parents would need to pay an additional fee for any of the tours.

Youth ages 5 through 17 will be divided into age groups and have focused activities such as Bible study, crafts, worship dance, music and art. Parents will also have the option each day to allow their child(ren) to participate in a visit to the Eco Exploratorium, and two different San Juan Tours.

Details will be finalized soon and a separate registration site will be developed for this program.

Submitted by  
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