

ABCUSA Statements
Current Practices
March 14, 2023

The General Secretary is charged with signing onto statements drafted by other agencies such as the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches when such statements are supported by previous ABC policy statements and resolutions. The General Secretary may make this determination.

The General Secretary may also choose, via public statements, to respond to events that become newsworthy such as acts of racial injustice, climate disasters and other matters. The General Secretary may gather input from key persons when making these statements depending upon the subject matter and the level of urgency to release a statement quickly. In rare instances, such input may involve the entire BGM or its Executive Committee. When addressing current events, the General Secretary should make it clear that the GS is not speaking on behalf of the denomination, but is offering a word in his or her role as General Secretary.

Due to the reduction of the representative size of the Board of General Ministries from the General Board, ABCUSA can no longer issue new policy statements or resolutions on behalf of ABCUSA, but may sign onto other statements initiated by other national boards. See ABCUSA Bylaws: Article XII.

ABCUSA will not distribute statements from individuals even if the content is supported by ABCUSA policy statements and resolutions due to the appearance of endorsing individual statements and setting an unwanted precedent.