



**BGM Executive Committee
November 3-4, 2022
King of Prussia, PA**

MINUTES

Meeting Site:	Crowne Plaza 260 Mall Boulevard King of Prussia, PA 19406
Officers:	Jim Wolfe, President Michelle Nickens, Vice President Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer Jeff Woods, General Secretary
Committee:	Cedric Jones, PBA Karen Podsiadly, Past President Shawna Simmons, INS
Chaplain:	Cedric Jones, PBA
Parliamentarian:	Bill Frederickson, NJ
Staff:	Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary/Treasurer/CFO Kathy Jachowski, Administrator

Thursday, Nov. 3, 2022; 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.: Devon Room

The BGM Executive Committee gathered for dinner in the Devon Room of the Crowne Plaza, King of Prussia, PA.

Friday, November 4, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Devon Room

Lunch served during the meeting.

BGM EC 815 DEVOTIONS

Cedric Jones lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and shared a devotion.

BGM EC 816 CALL TO ORDER

ABCUSA President Jim Wolfe called the meeting to order.

BGM EC 817 CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Cedric Jones made a motion and seconded by Karen Podsiadly to accept the agenda items dated November 3 and 4 and to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2022 – October 1, 2022 BGM Executive Committee Meeting in Charlotte, NC.

Approved with no objections.

BGM EC 818 REPORT FROM THE ABCUSA PRESIDENT

ABCUSA President Jim Wolfe referenced his report and added that he visited the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region Annual Meeting and extended greetings to the American Baptist Men gathered there. Highlights of the report can be found in the “Report of the ABCUSA President.”

BGM EC 819 REPORT FROM THE ABCUSA GENERAL SECRETARY

Jeff Woods shared highlights of his report. Jeff reported on the latest news of the military airstrike killing 80 at a Myanmar concert and was the deadliest attack since the military leaders seized control of the country in February 2021. The military also prevented severely wounded people from leaving the area to get medical attention. Jeff shared that the Burma Advocacy Group, a sub-committee of the Burma Refugee Commission, is launching a second signature campaign to sign the letter which will automatically go to their respective state Senators to advocate for the passing of the Burma Bill. The link to sign is on the ABCUSA Website <https://burmaadvocacygroup.org/>.

More on this and other highlights can be found in the “Report from the ABCUSA General Secretary.”

BGM EC 820 REPORT OF THE BUDGET REVIEW OFFICER

The good news is that the year-to-date financials show a surplus of \$656,000. Revenue and expenses are based on the financials excluding the Biennial. Net revenue compared to last year is up \$360,000. Revenue is up primarily due to the difference in the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loans from last year to this year. Expenses as compared to last year are higher by \$427,000. This is primarily due to NetSuite implementation, Travel costs for the General Secretary, staff, and Representative Process, Transitional Ministries, and Women in Ministry RRR Event. ABCUSA received an additional PPP Loan in 2021 in the amount of \$744,802. This loan had been forgiven and the funds were moved to an income account in 2022. Total United Mission is \$4,174,782. This is a decrease of \$355,062 from the prior year. This represents a decrease of

\$7.84%.

The Finance Committee met to review the budget prepared by the ABCUSA staff. This is the first time that a budget was presented that does not balance with a deficit of \$557,000. The cause of the budget deficit for the 2023 fiscal year includes: (1) A decrease in United Mission from the past year. (2) Reserves included in the prior year to balance the budget. (3) Reduction in income from endowment from the prior year. (3) Additional costs for implementation of NetSuite. (4) Impact from 3% increase in payroll costs and related benefits. (5) Contribution to the Biennial Mission Summit from the operating budget. (6) Representative process contribution to the Mission Table.

The proposal was made to set aside time in January to meet via ZOOM to discuss restructuring our revenue models; as well as, hear from Robin Stoops, Interim Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development, regarding the individual giving database and other ways of giving other than UM. Kathy Jachowski will send out a date scan for the meeting.

BGM EC 821 REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

ABCUSA President Jim Wolfe announced the appointments of Michelle Nickens as Credential and Caucus Chair and Bruce Van Der Beek as BGM Special Director to International Ministries.

BGM EC 822 SPECIAL DIRECTOR TO OTHER BOARDS

Jeff Woods spoke to the National Executive Council (NEC) about an observer from the other boards being invited to the Board of General Ministries meetings. The BGM Executive Committee met with Kathryn Ray, the BGM Special Director to American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), regarding the role of the BGM Special Director. It was noted that it would be helpful to create a description of the position of the BGM Special Director and send to the other boards. Also, need to provide better orientation and information to the appointed director before the person accepts the position. In terms of the other boards, a cordial invite on behalf of the ABCUSA President will be sent welcoming an observer from their board as a gesture of respect.

In follow-up, Kathryn Ray was asked to give some thoughts in writing about what the job description might include for the BGM Executive Committee to create a job description for future use. The BGM Executive Committee will discuss these written thoughts provided by Kathryn at the March meeting. Also, Kathryn will report back to ABHMS and let them know she spoke to the BGM Executive Committee.

BGM EC 823 WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE

Lisa Rothenberger, World Relief Officer, met with the BGM Executive Committee regarding questions about the giving of funds and principal channels for distribution of funds. See the attached the BGM Executive Committee Questions regarding World Relief Committee November 2022 document and additional spreadsheets.

After meeting with Lisa Rothenberger, the BGM Executive Committee decided to invite Gina Jacobs-Strain, Executive Director of American Baptist Women's Ministries to meet in person or by Zoom in March or June.

BGM EC 824 CORA AND JOHN SPARROWK PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The award recipient is selected for recommendation by the President, Past-President, Vice-President, and the General Secretary. The committee reviewed the nominations and is recommending Rev. Kathryn Choy-Wong as the recipient of the 2023 Cora and John Sparrowk President's Award.

MOTION: Paul Higgins made a motion and seconded by Shawna Simmons to accept the recommendation of Rev. Kathryn Choy-Wong as the recipient of the 2023 Cora and John Sparrowk President's Award.

Approved with no objections.

BGM EC 825 BGM EC 791 RECESS/CREDENTIALS & CAUCUS/RECONVENE

Michelle Nickens called to order the meeting of the Credentials and Caucus Committee. Michelle Nickens noted that the updates from the caucuses were posted on the document page.

MOTION: Karen Podsiadly made a motion and seconded by Michelle Nickens to receive the Report of Changed Relationships for Local Churches (1205.1:11/22) and to forward the report to the Board of General Ministries.

Approved with no objections.

BGM EC 826 BGM OFFERING

By consensus vote, the BGM Offering will be designated to assist First Baptist Church – West in Charlotte, NC in their ministries. Cedric Jones will share more about the church with the Board of General Ministries.

BGM EC 827 EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss for action the 2023 housing allowances for ABCUSA ordained staff and for interim ministers.

BGM EC 828 RECESS MEETING

The BGM Executive Committee will reconvene for further business at 7:30 PM in the Devon Room following the BGM Dinner.

BGM EC 829 RECONVENE MEETING

BGM EC 830 ANTI-RACISM CONVENING TABLE UPDATE

The BGM Executive Committee reviewed the recommendations to the Board of General Ministries from the Convening Table which met in October. The Anti-Racism Convening Table recommendations to the board:

- ☐ Engage in the important steps in coming to a clearly articulated and authentic commitment to the work of anti-racism within the purpose, priority, persons and practices of BGM and OGS. We recognize this would:
 - o Require additional time commitment from Board members
 - o Call on the particular skills/experience of existing Board members who can shepherd this next phase (see Skills section)
 - o Potentially necessitate education and/or consultation for the Board itself
- ☐ Identify other existing resources/entities/persons who can help reach objectives and offer the skills named in the previous two sections.

- ☐ Identify what is requested of ABC partners to work alongside BGM in reaching objectives
The BGM Executive Committee will read or watch, The Color of Compromise before the March
BGM Executive Committee for further discussion.

BGM EC 831 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,



Dr. C. Jeff Woods
General Secretary

CJW/kj

Documents attached

BGM EC Proposed Agenda (1101:11/22)

BGM EC Roster November 2022

ABCUSA Financial Report through September 30, 2022

2023 Biennial Mission Summit Update

ABCUSA 2023 Budget

Report from the ABCUSA General Secretary

ABCUSA President's Report

November 2022 BGM Integrated Schedule

BGM Executive Committee Minutes: September 2022 (1002:09/22)

General Secretary Search Committee Update

World Relief Committee Questions and Answers

Updates from the Caucuses

Report of Changed Relationships