



**BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO
JUNE 20-22, 2023
MINUTES**

Meeting Location: Sheraton Puerto Rico Hotel
200 Convention Boulevard
San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00907
Ph: (787) 993-3500

Officers: Jim Wolfe, President
Michelle Nickens, Vice President
Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer
Jeff Woods, General Secretary

Parliamentarian: Bill Frederickson **BGM Chaplain:** Cedric Jones

During the meeting of the Board of General Ministries, Chaplain Cedric Jones led devotions and worship along with special music by guitarist Matt Toupin, accompanied by singers from the board. Interwoven throughout the meeting, the “Becoming a Beloved Committee” Action Group led several sessions to create more meaningful relationships and community among the board. On Wednesday, June 21, 2023 all of the partner boards gathered for dinner.

BGM 613 CALL TO ORDER

American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) President Jim Wolfe welcomed all of the Board of General Ministries (BGM) directors and staff, calling the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

BGM 614 CONSENT AGENDA

By voice vote, the BGM approved by general consent the Minutes of the Board of General Ministries November 4-6, 2022 and to receive the designated reports on the agenda.

Reports from this meeting are included with the filing of the minutes. Not all items from the agenda are listed here in the minutes. Motions and additional notes not included in the reports are noted in these minutes.

BGM 615 REPORT FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

General Secretary Jeff Woods gave an update since the last board meeting in November 2022. Jeff discussed with the board “reciting their ABC’s by identifying the habits and practices that each person engages in that demonstrates to the world that they are Christians and American Baptist. We recite our

ABC's by sharing with the world those habits and practices that make us Christian and make us American Baptist."

More details from Jeff's report are in the "Report from the General Secretary."

BGM 616 REPORT FROM THE ABCUSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By voice vote Douglas Hill was elected to fill the vacancy in American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware, as an At-Large Director (class of 2024) as nominated to the Board of General Ministries completing the term of Christopher Hamilton.

BGM 617 REPORT FROM THE ABCUSA PRESIDENT

ABCUSA President Jim Wolfe referenced his report which can be found in the "Report of the ABCUSA President." Jim asked the board to continue to pray daily for the search committee as they continue the search for the next General Secretary.

BGM 618 2023 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT, SAN JUAN, PR UPDATE

ABCUSA Biennial Coordinator Tina Kiernan was recognized and thanked for her planning of the 2023 Biennial Mission Summit in San Juan, PR. Tina gave instructions in how to download the Cvent App with the attendee hub. Tina also reminded the delegates that there will be a test of the voting platform on Friday, June 23, 2023 at 3:00 PM.

BGM 619 ENGAGE 2023!

Engage 2023!, formerly Orientation to American Baptist Life, reflects its new name as its approach to engaging new pastors and seminary students. Under the leadership of Judy Fackenthal and Zina Jacque, seventy-seven participants have registered for this event.

BGM 620 REPORT OF THE BUDGET REVIEW OFFICER

Budget Review Officer Paul Higgins gave an overview of the 2022 Audited Financial Statement of the independent certified public accountants, Tait, Weller & Baker LLP.

Paul Higgins referred to the financial report prepared by Alan Musoke, highlighted in the year-to-date financial report for the year ending April 30, 2023 and included in the written report prepared by Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary for Finance/CFO/Treasurer.

The report of the independent certified public accountants, Tait, Weller & Baker LLP and the financial report are both included with the minutes.

BGM 621 CREDENTIALS & CAUCUS COMMITTEE

Michelle Nickens, Chair, shared figures from the *Report of Changed Relationships*.

By voice vote, the Report of Changed Relationships of Local Churches (1205.1:06/23) was accepted.

BGM 622 MISSION RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Robin Stoops shared a video being premiered at the Biennial and discussed the United Mission Tool Kit that can be accessed through the United Mission QR code.

BGM 623 Churches in India

The board was given an update on the wave of violence against the churches in Manipur, India, The BGM Offering collected was designated to assist the churches in India.

BGM 624 Special Guest Kathryn Choy-Wong

The BGM Executive Committee is committed to praying, reflecting, and reading texts related to anti-racism. As part of the next steps in working on exploring ways to model and lead the BGM to do the same work, Kathryn Choy-Wong was invited to help the board begin that journey. Kathryn Choy-Wong is a consultant, trainer, and writer in Intercultural Ministries. In her presentation. Kathryn referenced her recently published book for Judson Press, “Building Lasting Bridges: An Updated Handbook for Intercultural Ministries” and an online workbook to accompany the handbook. Each BGM director received a copy of the book.

BGM 625 ACTION GROUP REPORTS**BGM Finance Committee**

By voice vote, the resolution to allow a money market account to be created at TD Bank so that AMOs for whom, ABCUSA provides accounting services can receive interest on deposits was approved.

By voice vote, the resolution to allow a Chase Bank account to be created for the American Baptist Hispanic Caucus was approved.

Further updates from the BGM Finance Committee can be found in the reports included with the minutes.

Becoming a Beloved Community asked the BGM Executive Committee to consider inviting Kathryn Choy-Wong to guide in planning the team building exercises. Further updates from the Becoming a Beloved Community Action Group can be found in the reports included with the minutes.

Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations has an exhibit booth at the 2023 Biennial Mission Summit located within the area of the larger Office of the General Secretary display area. Further updates from the Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations Action Group can be found in the reports included with the minutes.

Communicating ABC Identity helped stuff bags at the convention center in preparation for the 2023 Biennial Mission Summit. Further updates from the Communicating ABC Identity Action Group can be found in the reports included with the minutes.

BGM 626 CLOSING WORSHIP AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned and Cedric Jones led a closing worship with communion.

Submitted by,



Dr. C. Jeff Woods
General Secretary

CJW/kj

Documents attached

BGM Minutes – November 2022 (1001:11/22)

BGM Proposed Agenda (1102:06/23)

Integrated Schedule- June 2023

BGM Executive Committee Minutes: March 2023 (1002:03/23)

BGM Executive Committee Minutes: November 2022 (1002:11/22)

Reports from ABCUSA OGS and AMOs

Burma Refugee Commission Report

Professional Ministries Team Report

Report from Special Director to MMBB

Report from Special Director to American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Report from the General Secretary June 2023

Report from the ABCUSA President June 2023

ABCUSA Financial Report as of April 30, 2023

Financial Statements and Reports of the Independent CPAs Dec. 31, 2022 and 2021

Report of Changed Relationships of Local Churches June 2023

World Relief Committee Report to the BGM

Investment Policy 2017

Budget Review Officers Report

Banking Resolution AB Hispanic Caucus

Banking Resolution AMO Money Market Account

Five Circles of Identity (Presentation Kathryn Choy-Wong)

BGM Action Groups – June 2023

Update from Becoming a Beloved Community Action Group

Update from Communicating ABC Identity Action Group

BGM Finance Committee Report

Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations Action Group Report