



**BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES  
NOVEMBER 3-5, 2023  
AGENDA**

**Meeting Site:** Crowne Plaza  
260 Mall Boulevard  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
Ph: 610-265-7500

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

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

**Friday, November 3, 2023**

*For all who arrive in time, a buffet breakfast will be served from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and a buffet lunch from 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Forager Restaurant.*

**2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Appreciation Celebration in Honor of Jeff Woods  
Independence Ballroom**

**4:00 pm – 5:30 pm BGM Action Groups**

BGM Finance Committee	Devon
Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations	Radnor
Becoming a Beloved Community	Wayne
Communicating ABC Identity	Berwyn

**DINNER, 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.; Independence South**

**Saturday, November 4, 9:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; BGM Plenary; Independence North**

*A BGM buffet breakfast will be served from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. in The Forager Restaurant. The BGM Finance Committee will meet for breakfast from 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. in the Devon Room.*

*Please remember to sign the BGM attendance sheet.*

1. Welcome and Call to Order Jim Wolfe, Presiding, ABC President
2. Opening Worship/Lighting of the Christ Candle Cedric Jones, BGM Chaplain

Sharing the ABCUSA Focus Statement Unison  
***American Baptist Churches are missional congregations that nurture devoted disciples of Jesus Christ who live their lives in mission and ministry for the healing of the world through the love of God.***

3. General Consent Agenda Items Jim Wolfe

Written Reports Posted Prior to the Meeting

- a. Reports from ABCUSA & AMOs
- b. Special Directors to Other Boards
- c. Burma Refugee Commission – Florence Li
- d. Standing Rules Committee

**Proposed Action:** To approve by general consent the Minutes of the Board of General Ministries Meeting dated June 20-23, 2023 and to receive the designated reports identified on the agenda.

4. Regional Ministries Soozi Whitten Ford
5. ABHS Annual Corporate Meeting Jim Wolfe, ABHS Board Representative  
Priscilla Eppinger, Executive Director
6. Executive Session: Report of the General Secretary Search Committee Jim Wolfe
  - a. Introduction of the Candidate
  - b. Vote
  - c. Closing Remarks

**LUNCH, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.; The Forager Restaurant**

**New Board Director Orientation:** *New Board Directors will eat at tables together to get to know one another followed by instruction in Independence North at 1:00 pm*

7. BGM Picture (location to be determined)
8. Report from the ABCUSA General Secretary Jeff Woods
9. Report from the ABCUSA Nominating Committee Jim Wolfe

Election of At-Large Directors of the Board of General Ministries

*The Board of General Ministries is composed of At-Large Directors and Ex-Officio Directors. There are 33 At-large Directors, one from each ABCUSA Region, elected by the Biennial Delegates. Any vacancy for an At-Large Director may be filled by a majority vote of the Board of General Ministries on nomination of the ABCUSA Nominating Committee.*

**Proposed Action:** To elect Rev. Suleima Rosario-Diaz as at Large Director for ABC of New Jersey (first term 2024-2027) as recommended by the ABCUSA Nominating Committee

**Proposed Action:** To elect Rev. Abraham Gross as at Large Director for ABC of Vermont New Hampshire (first term 2025-2028) as recommended by the ABCUSA Nominating Committee.

**Proposed Action:** To reelect the following as at Large Directors for their first term (first term 2025-2028) as recommended by the ABCUSA Nominating Committee:

Mr. Orin Clinger (ABC of Nebraska)

Mr. Douglas Hill (ABC of Pennsylvania and Delaware)

Rev. Mathew Toupin (ABC of the Central Pacific Coast)

10. Report from the ABCUSA President Jim Wolfe  
a. 2025 Biennial Mission Summit

11. American Baptist Women's Ministries Karen Podsiadly

12. Report of the Budget Review Officer Paul Higgins  
a. Year to Date Financials through September 2023  
b. 2024 ABCUSA Budget

13. Report of Actions of the Executive Committee Michelle Nickens

14. Report of the Credentials and Caucus Committee  
Report of Changed Relationships

**Proposed Action:** To receive as recommended by the BGM Executive Committee, the Report of Changed Relationships of Local Churches (document 1205:1:11/23) and to forward the report to the Board of General Ministries.

15. President's Nominations and Appointments Jim Wolfe

**Proposed Action:** To be distributed

16. Mission Resource Development Robin Stoops

17. World Relief Committee Janice Fletcher

18. Recognition of Retiring Directors Jim Wolfe and Jeff Woods

Raimundo Barreto (8 years, 2016-2023)

Michelle Nickens (2 years, 2022-2023)

Karen Podsiadly (4 years, 2020-2023)

19. Additional Agenda Items

*(Agenda Items not addressed at the end of the Plenary Session, will continue to the next day's agenda)*

20. Recess of BGM Plenary/Convening of BGM in Action Groups (4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)

BGM Finance Committee	Devon
Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations	Radnor
Becoming a Beloved Community	Wayne
Communicating ABC Identity	Berwyn

**DINNER, 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.; Independence South**

**BGM VESPERS, 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Independence North**

*Remember to turn your clocks back an hour when you go to sleep.  
Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5, 2023*

**Sunday, November 5, 9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; BGM Plenary; Independence North**

*A BGM buffet breakfast will be served from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. in The Forager Restaurant.*

*A buffet lunch will be served from 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. in The Forager Restaurant.*

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| 21. Reconvening/Announcements              | Jim Wolfe, Presiding  |
| 22. Lighting of the Christ Candle/Prayer   | Chaplain Cedric Jones |
| 23. Presentation by Katie Choy Wong        |                       |
| 24. Action Group Reports/Proposals/Reports |                       |
| BGM Finance Committee                      | Paul Higgins          |
| Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations     | Raimundo Barreto      |
| Becoming a Beloved Community               | Marijane Kiley        |
| Communicating ABC Identity                 | Bonnie Higgins        |
| 25. Closing Worship and Holy Communion     | Chaplain Cedric Jones |
| 26. Prayer and Adjournment                 | President Jim Wolfe   |

**Board of General Ministries Meetings:**

June 12-14, 2024 Green Lake Conference Center

November 15-17, 2024 Alloy, King of Prussia, PA

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**BGM Executive Committee Meetings:**

March 7-9, 2024 Embassy Suites, San Francisco Airport

Notes: visit/tour Berkley Seminary/lunch with local clergy

June 11-12, 2024 Green Lake Conference Center

September 5-7, 2024 Hilton, Omaha, NE lunch with local clergy

November 14-15, 2024 Alloy, King of Prussia, PA