



**BGM Executive Committee**  
**September 7-9, 2023**  
**Cincinnati, OH**

**MINUTES**

**Meeting Site:** Hilton Cincinnati Airport  
7373 Turfway Rd.  
Florence, KY 41042  
(859) 371-4400

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

**Committee:** Cedric Jones, PBA  
Damaris Santiago-Lebron, PR  
Shawna Simmons, INS  
Karen Podsiadly, Past President

**Chaplain:** Cedric Jones, PBA

**Parliamentarian:** Bill Frederickson

**Staff:** Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary for Finance/Treasurer/CFO  
Kathy Jachowski, Administrator

*Nikita McCalister, ABCUSA President Elect attended as an observer*  
*Not present at this meeting: Paul Higgins and Bill Frederickson.*

*The BGM Executive Committee met at the Hilton Cincinnati Airport and enjoyed meals in the Frankfort Room. On Friday, September 8, the committee had lunch with local clergy/spouses from the American Baptist Churches of Ohio. That evening the committee had dinner and fellowship at Rafferty's. Cedric Jones began each daily plenary session by lighting the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and sharing a devotion.*

*Jim Wolfe led a discussion on the book "Say the Right Thing: How to talk about Identity, Diversity, and Justice" by Kenji Yoshino and David Glasgow.*

**BGM EC 842      CALL TO ORDER**  
ABCUSA President Jim Wolfe called the meeting to order.

## **BGM EC 843      CONSENT AGENDA**

Following the agenda, the BGM Executive Committee met in Cincinnati, OH. 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 included in these minutes.

**MOTION:** Cedric Jones made a motion and seconded by Damaris Santiago-Lebron to accept the agenda items dated Sept. 7-9, 2023 and to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 BGM Executive Committee Meeting in San Juan, PR.

**Approved with no objections.**

## **BGM EC 844      REPORT FROM THE ABCUSA PRESIDENT**

ABCUSA President Jim Wolfe shared highlights of his report since last meeting in June in San Juan, PR which included an update on the General Secretary Search Committee. Jim also shared that he and his wife visited the Office of the General Secretary staff. For more details on Jim Wolfe's Report, please reference the "Report from the ABCUSA President."

## **BGM EC 845      REPORT FROM THE ABCUSA GENERAL SECRETARY**

Jeff Woods shared highlights of his report since the last meeting in June in San Juan, PR. Jeff lifted up the three mission priorities...

1. **Gathering the Denomination** – we do this by the Biennial Mission Summit as the Office of the General Secretary is the only group that plans a meeting with the input from the whole for the whole.

2. **Supporting Congregations** – through the Treasurer's Office and NetSuite

3. **Creating Space** – for the conversations needed to happen

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

## **BGM EC 846      WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE**

**MOTION:** Karen Podsiadly made a motion and seconded by Damaris Santiago-Lebron to approve DuRhonda Pinegar as a representative from the Board of International Ministries to the World Relief Committee.

**Approved with no objections.**

## **BGM EC 847      2023 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT REVIEW**

The surveys reflected that the 2023 Biennial Mission Summit in San Juan, Puerto Rico was 89% good to excellent. In looking forward to 2025 Biennial Mission Summit being reflective of the political times we are in currently, the committee discussed concerns of possible push back in diversity, equity, and inclusion.

## **BGM EC 848      ENGAGE 2023!**

Seventy Seven participants total. The committee agreed on Jeff inviting Valerie Andrews to lead ENGAGE 2025! as Judy Fackenthal is transitioning from serving as the leader in 2025.

## **BGM EC 849      2025 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT**

Bruce Whitaker, Meeting Planner, gave four options of locations for the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit. The Executive Committee agreed to proceed with Bruce Whitaker.

**MOTION:** Michelle Nickens made a motion and seconded by Karen Podsiadly to approve Omaha, NE as the site for the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit, July 4-6, 2025.

**Approved with no objections.**

Jeff will work with Bridget Lipin for a “Save the Date” Press Release.

**BGM EC 850            REPORT OF THE BUDGET REVIEW OFFICER**

Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary for Finance/CFO/Treasurer shared the report, which is included in the reports.

**BGM EC 851            AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN’S MINISTRIES (ABWM)**

Karen Podsiadly will create a timeline for the November Board meeting which will include the details as to what led up to a proposal for ABWM to become a national board and where we are now. Next steps would be:

1. Introduce the proposal and present the timeline at the November Board Meeting, form small groups discussing, “What are your concerns and what needs to be clarified. Each table would have a recorder.
2. No motion will be given to the board at the November meeting.
3. These questions would then be given to Gina Jacobs-Strain, Executive Director for ABWM.

**BGM EC 852    RECESS/CREDENTIALS AND CAUCUS COMMITTEE/RECONVENE**

Michelle Nickens called to order the meeting of the Credentials & Caucus Committee. An email will be sent to the American Baptist Caucus leadership along with a copy of the guidelines and will read as follows...

“We are getting ready to send your quarterly grant, can you confirm your current leadership and mailing address to receive funds. Also please remember to send your annual summary report by Oct 3. In your report please include how the funds were spent. Any unused grant funds should be returned by March 31 (of the following year)”

**MOTION:** Cedric Jones made a motion and seconded by Damaris Santiago-Lebron for all caucuses to be eligible for equal funding of \$8000 for 2024.

**Approved with no objections.**

**BGM EC 853            ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,



Dr. C. Jeff Woods  
General Secretary

CJW/kj

Documents attached

*BGM EC Proposed Agenda (1101:09/23)*

*BGM Executive Committee Minutes: June 2023 (1002:06/23)*

*September 2023 BGM Executive Committee Roster*

*September 2023 BGM EC Integrated Schedule*

*Report from the ABCUSA President*

*Report from the ABCUSA General Secretary*

*2025 BMS Location Selection Report*

*2025 BMS Proposal Milwaukee, WI Part 2 of 2*

*2025 BMS Proposal Milwaukee, WI Part 1 of 2*

*2025 Proposal Sioux Falls, SD*

*2025 BMS Proposal Omaha, NE*

*ABCUSA Financial Report as of July 31, 2023*

*2023 BGM Executive Committee Agenda*

*ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit Summary*

*2023 Biennial Mission Summit Feedback results*

*ENGAGE 2023 report*

*Engage 2023 Feedback Responses*