

PRESIDENT/SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT
November 2023

As this is my last report as president, I want to begin with words of appreciation to board and staff members who prayed and supported the work that we have done together. I am grateful for your kind and gracious words and honored to have been blessed with this opportunity to serve.

We welcome the Reverend Nikita McCalister as she begins her term as president on January 1, 2024. Reverend McCalister will serve alongside vice-president Tom Ross and budget review officer Paul Higgins. I am excited about the gifts this team brings to our shared ministry and trust that all of us will lift them up in daily prayer.

Serving as your president has offered many exciting opportunities to share in ministry. I would like to share a few of those experiences with you.

- **May 17-20, 2022 National Leadership Council, Green Lake, WI.**
- **40th Anniversary of the Women in Ministry Project, now known as American Baptist Women in Ministry (ABWIM).**
- **July 1, 2022, Palacios, Texas participated in the annual meeting of the Kachin American Baptist Assembly.**
- **July 11, 2022, Birmingham, Alabama participated in the Annual Gathering and**
- **General Council meeting of the Baptist World Alliance.**
- **July 24, 2022, was a very special day as I was able to join the First Baptist Church of Woodstown, New Jersey as they celebrated their 200th anniversary.**
- **July 26, 2022, enjoyed a great time of fellowship with the staff of OGS.**
- **August 30, 2022, traveled to Karlsruhe Germany to participate in the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches.**
- **A major highlight was the Biennial Mission Summit held in San Juan, Puerto Rico June 23-25, 2023. The biennial theme, “For Such a Time as This” was highlighted in preaching and teaching sessions throughout the Biennial. The biennial received very positive evaluations from participants. We all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the planning team and staff for their outstanding work. They are to be commended for a job well done!**
- **May 9-12, 2023, National Leadership Conference, Green Lake, WI**

One of the chief responsibilities of my term as president has been to chair the General Secretary Search Committee. This has been a challenging and rewarding task. It has been a blessing to serve with individuals who are totally committed to discerning God's will in the selection of our next General Secretary.

Since our first in-person meeting in Tampa, Florida, January 27-29, 2022, we have conducted scores of both online and in-person meetings and dedicated incalculable hours to listening to our constituents, developing a position description, conducting online and in-person interviews, and most important, to prayer.

As we present our final report to the BGM we offer it to you in the firm belief that the nominee being presented is the person that God has called "For Such a Time as This."

It has been my privilege to serve as your president. I look forward to journeying with you into the future that God has for American Baptist Churches USA.

**Respectfully submitted,
Jim Wolfe
President**