

General Secretary's Report for BGMEC March 2024 Meeting

On 2/1, I began to serve as the general secretary of ABCUSA. The ABCUSA staff greeted me warmly and planned a wonderful reception for my first day in the office. I have also received welcoming notes and flower from partners. I am gaining a deeper understanding of the staff as I meet with all staff members individually, enabling them to share the specifics of their day-to-day responsibilities, likes and dislike, growth interest, impact on ABCUSA's mission and purposefulness in their contribution, and professional development. I should complete these conversations by April. I have begun to review the budget with Alan to gain insight into the budget process and the assumptions used to build the annual budget.

Biennial/Omaha Nebraska 2025

- ❖ We have begun Biennial meetings and discussed successful implementation, timeframes, partner input, site visits and communication. Upcoming Biennial meetings: 2/28, 3/4, 3/19, & 4/15-4/17.

Promoting ABCUSA

- 1/25, As General Secretary-Elect, Shared a video with St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church to celebrate ABCUSA Sunday; Pastor is Rev. Dr. Clifford Matthews Jr. (**BGM Director**)
- 1/25, As GS-Elect, Shared a prayer with the Burmese Refugee Commission and Burmese Advocacy Group as these two groups worked together with the Burmese Diaspora to hold a prayer service and protest in Washington DC on February 3 at Calvary Burmese Church.
- 1/25, As GS-Elect, Participated in The Cleveland Baptist Association's Ministers Council virtual event, celebrating women in leadership within ABCUSA.
- 1/24, As GS-Elect, Completed an Interview with Rev. Dr. Anna Piela for The Christian Citizen
- 1/26, Met with Kathy Jachowski and we had lunch. I expressed my gratitude for her years of service to ABCUSA, her support as I prepared to assume the role of GS, and wished her well in her new venture.
- 2/25-3/1, Attended and presented at the MMBB Colloquium

ABCUSA Relationship Building Opportunities

- 2/8, Burma Advocacy Meeting, Virtual meeting, shared a GS update and greeting.
- 2/29, Employee Appreciation Day, ABCUSA staff
- 3/4, Staff Professional Development, Guest speaker Rebecca Irwin-Diehl, PhD. Director, ABHMS Continuous Learning Center
- 3/7-3/10, BGMEC Meeting
- 3/11-3/14, NLC meeting
- 4/4, ABCUSA Open House

Upcoming Events with National and Regional Partners

- ❖ 3/10-3/11, Sharing a greeting & GS update at MMBB Financial Conference
- ❖ 3/18-3/20, Preaching at Prairie Clergy Conference, ABC-Nebraska
- ❖ 3/25, Hosting NEC meeting and luncheon
- ❖ 4/9-4/11, Preaching at Space for Grace, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS)
- ❖ 5/1-5/2, Preaching and Panelist, ABCOTS
- ❖ 5/16-5/17, NCC Board Meeting
- ❖ 5/20 MMBB & ABCUSA will cohost a CFO gathering.

I am reading, *In Defense of Kindness, Why it matters, How it changes Our Loves and How It Can Save the World*, Bruce Reyes-Cho. Each chapter concludes with an exercise, reflection and addresses the importance of kindness and hospitality as an intentional act and asset in building genuine relationships. I will share some of the exercises with the staff over the next few months.

General Secretary Report for BGMEC Meeting 3/7-3/10/24 submitted by Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain.