



BGM Executive Committee
March 7-9, 2024
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Meeting Location: Embassy Suites by Hilton,
San Francisco Airport
250 Gateway Boulevard South
San Francisco. CA 94080

Officers: Nikita McCalister, President
Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer
Gina Jacobs-Strain, General Secretary

Unable to attend: Tom Ross, Vice-President

Committee: Cedric Jones, PBA,
Tamara Scott, MI
Joy Martinez-Marshall (Observer), NE
Jim Wolfe, Past President

Chaplain: Doug Scalise

Parliamentarian: Bill Frederickson

Staff: Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary/Treasurer/CFO

On Thursday, March 7, 2024 the BGM Executive Committee toured Berkeley School of Theology and met for dinner and fellowship in the hotel's Pople Pavilion.

On Friday, March 8, 2024 the BGM Executive Committee hosted lunch for local (17) American Baptist Churches constituents (pastors, partners and friends - see list of guests attached). The BGM Executive Committee met for dinner and fellowship off site at Andiamo in Banca in San Francisco, CA.

Throughout the Executive Committee meeting, Chaplain Doug Scalise lit the candle representing Christ's presence while leading devotions and worship.

- *Thursday, March 7, 2024 – Devotion: Journeying with Elijah – Serving a Mighty God of Abundance, 1 Kings 17:8-16*
- *Friday, March 8, 2024 – Devotion: Journeying with Elijah – Do All You Can and Pray the Fire Falls, 1 Kings 18:17-39*
- *Saturday, March 9, 2024 – Devotion : Journeying with Elijah – Some Food, a Nap, and a Word from the Lord, 1 Kings 19:4-14*

BGM EC 865 WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, DEVOTION

American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) President Nikita McCalister welcomed each person and provided time for a brief introduction and catching up with one another **at 9:02 am** on Thursday, March 7, 2024. Chaplain Doug Scalise, led Devotion: Journeying with Elijah – Serving a Mighty God of Abundance 1 Kings 17:8-16.

BGM EC 866 CALL TO ORDER

American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) President Nikita McCalister called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

BGM EC 867 CONSENT 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.

MOTION: Jim Wolfe moved and Gina Jacobs-Strain seconded, to approve the agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the November 2023 Meeting in King of Prussia, PA of the BGM Executive Committee.

Approved with no objections.

BGM EC 868 REPORT FROM THE ABCUSA PRESIDENT

ABCUSA President Nikita McCalister referenced her report which can be found in the “Report of the ABCUSA President.” She has been greeting, preaching and speaking throughout our ABC Family focusing on reestablishing, reintroducing, rejuvenating churches, regions, partners and friends retelling our collective God stories. She reminds people who we are and what we stand for - we have a role and responsibility to do that. She is open to visiting churches, regions, and partners during her tenure. She provided status updates for 17 litigation cases with David Ball, Esq. There are (9) cases pending.

BGM EC 869 REPORT FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

In addition to her written report, General Secretary Gina Jacobs-Strain stated it has been a whirlwind. Gina has been having 1 ½ hour broad conversations with each staff member about their hopes and dreams, what should ABCUSA be doing, what do they like and not like about current position, and how can we make their jobs better. Her focus is cultivating a culture of collaboration with our partners. Many of them have never been to the office of the General Secretary. An open-door policy, open house on April 4, creating an atmosphere of collegiality. She is partnering with MMBB to have a meeting with all the partners CFO’s.

BGM EC 870 2025 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

The location and date of the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit will be July 4-6, 2005 in Omaha, NE.

The Biennial Planning Team has not yet finalized the theme. However, (5) young adults are being added to the Biennial Planning Team. One young adult from each partner organization under 35 years of age will be invited to join the team and will be supported financially for in person meeting and biennial registration/attendance.

BGM EC 871 ENGAGE 2025

General Secretary Gina Jacobs-Strain shared that she has will continue the co-leadership format. She confirmed Rev. Dr. Valerie Andrews and Rev. Dr. Jeremy Andrews as leaders for the Engage 2025 formerly the Orientation to American Baptist Life. Engage will continue to be planning as part of the Biennial experience.

BGM EC 872 REPORT OF THE BUDGET REVIEW OFFICER

Budget Review Officer Paul Higgins referred to the financial report prepared by Alan Musoke, highlighted in the year-to-date financial report as of December 31, 2023 and included in the written report prepared by Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary for Finance/CFO/Treasurer. (See reports) Paul went over how the reports are constructed. Paul shared from the financial report the 2023 net loss of \$279,000. Our primary source of income is UM which has been declining steadily since the Common Budget Covenant was renegotiated primarily because the assumptions behind the funding model never held.

BGM EC 873 ALLIANCE OF ASIAN AMERICAN BAPTIST BANK ACCOUNT REQUEST

Budget Review Officer Paul Higgins presented the Resolution to the finance committee which recommends approval by the Executive Committee to adopt this resolution (see attached). By voice vote, the Executive Committee was unanimous approved.

BGM EC 874 AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

ABCUSA President Nikita McCalister shared that the Interim Executive Director is Lathelma Yenn-Batah. She advised that William (Bill) Poland will lead the Task Force committee to study and report on the ABWM proposal to be recognized as a national partner or program board alongside IM, ABHMS, MMBB. This group will bring their report to the whole board in June.

Paul Higgins helped to outline the process and timeline. He shared we need to be clear with all parties about what would need to change - that the bylaws would need to change, which would also mean changes to standing rules, and he made a motion related to changing the language. Changes to the bylaws would have to go before delegates at the next biennial. Once our Board says, "Yes," then we need 90 days before the 2025 Biennial to alert delegates. Changing the budget covenants would involve the other partners. There was clear consensus that it would be good to have the bylaw change voted on at the November meeting after the results of the task force are received.

BGM EC 875 CREDENTIALS & CAUCUS COMMITTEE

No report presented. Thomas Ross, Chair of Credentials & Caucus Committee is on medical leave.

BGM EC 876 REQUEST FROM THE BELOVED COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

All (5) request from the Beloved Community were approved. See Report. A practical question arose regarding who prepares the orientation. The General Secretary will follow up with the staff.

BGM EC 875 ACTION STEPS AND ADJOURNMENT

The BGM EC set the dates for 2025 Executive Meetings as follows:
March 13-15, 2025 Los Angeles
September 11-13, 2025 (Chicago, Minneapolis/St. Paul, or Detroit).
The staff will determine location based on cost.

The following topics were discussed for future agenda items for June.

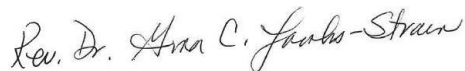
1. Beloved Community Action Group
2. Standing Rules Changes
3. ABWM Report
4. Installation of the new General Secretary on Thursday, June 13, 7pm
5. Contact Evon Moody to see if there are any BGM people who need to be voted in (i.e. Bill Frederickson as Parliamentarian, etc.) The Nominating Team may need to meet via Zoom before the June meeting.
6. There was a discussion to continue work with speaker KATHRYN CHOY-WONG who published book from Judson Press, "Building Lasting Bridges: An Updated Handbook for Intercultural Ministries." Her works is related to anti-racism.
7. Determine location for the 2027 Biennial

The meeting was adjourned and Doug Scalise led a closing prayer with communion.

Past President Jim Wolfe moved that we adjourn, and General Secretary Gina Jacobs-Strain seconded, voted unanimously.

Submitted by,

Submitted by,



Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain
General Secretary

GJS/recorded by Chaplain Doug Scalise

Documents attached

BGM EC Proposed Agenda (1002:03/24)

BGM EC Minutes: November 2023

March 2024 BGM EC Integrated Schedule

ABCUSA Financial Report as of December 31, 2023

AAABC Resolution (Updated)

Report of the ABCUSA President

Report from the ABCUSA General Secretary

March 2024 BGM Executive Committee Roster

Guests for BGM EC March 2024 Luncheon