



**BGM Executive Committee
Green Lake Conference Center
June 11-12, 2024**

MINUTES

Meeting Site: Green Lake Conference Center
W2511 State Rd. 23
Green Lake WI 54941

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

Committee: Cedric Jones, PBA – Not Present
Tamara Scott, MI
Joy Martinez-Marshall (Observer), NE
Jim Wolfe, Past President

Chaplain: Doug Scalise

Parliamentarian: Bill Frederickson

Staff: Alan Musoke,
Associate General Secretary for
Finance/CFO/Treasurer
Vicella Gramling, Administrative Manager

Tuesday, June 11, 2024, Mitchell Dining Room, 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm (dinner meeting)

The BGM Executive Committee met for a dinner meeting from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Mitchell Dining Room. All committee members were present except Cedric Jones.

BGM EC 876 CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND DEVOTIONS
ABCUSA President Nikita McCalister called the meeting to order, including welcome and introductions.

Chaplain Doug Scalise led with Devotions: Celebrating the Grace and Power of God in a United Church, Spiritual Blessings in Christ - Ephesians 1:1-14

BGM EC 877**CONSENT AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Proposed Action: To approve the agenda of the March BGM Executive Committee Meeting in San Francisco, CA, and to approve the minutes for this meeting of the BGM Executive Committee. Reports from this meeting are included with the filing of the minutes. Not all items from the agenda are listed here in the minutes. These minutes note the motions and additional notes not included in the reports.

Motion: Jim Wolfe, President, moved, and Gina Jacobs-Strain, General Secretary, seconded to approve the June 2024 agenda and the minutes of the March 2024 Meeting in San Francisco, CA. They were approved **with no objections**.

BGM EC 878**REPORT FROM THE ABCUSA PRESIDENT**

ABCUSA President Nikita McCalister shared highlights of her report since the last meeting in San Francisco, CA, in March. She tries to engage equally with regions and local congregations, sharing the ABC story and hearing their “God stories.” She is grateful to be the President and to have an incredibly supportive family to serve in this role. Please refer to the “Report from the ABCUSA President.”

BGM EC 879**REPORT FROM THE ABCUSA GENERAL SECRETARY**

ABCUSA General Secretary Gina Jacobs-Strain shared highlights of her report since the last meeting in San Francisco, CA, in March. She shared that three newly hired staff members have joined the ABCUSA family. We started an onboarding process, which includes information and tours of our partners’ offices in King of Prussia. We are strengthening relationships with regions and national partners. ABHMS hosted a hybrid Biennial Mission Summit Planning Meeting at L.A.M.B. at no cost. We revisited the Mission Table Priorities from the National Leadership Council (NLC) meeting. She highlighted the implementing revenue review and donor communication (One Great Hour of Sharing, United Mission). More on this and other highlights are in the “Report from the ABCUSA General Secretary.”

BGM EC 880**2025 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT – OMAHA, NEBRASKA**

General Secretary Gina Jacobs-Strain shared that the Biennial Mission Summit is July 3-6, 2025 focusing on a family-centered event. A Young Adult Advisory Team was added to the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team. A young adult contest was held to seek themes for the Biennial Mission Summit, leading to the theme “Come Seek Living Water.”

BGM EC 881**AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN’S MINISTRIES**

President Nikita McCalister led the discussion regarding ABWM becoming a national board in light of the Executive Committee’s recommendation at the March 2024 BGM EC meeting. The Task Force Report was discussed which does not include a recommendation. It was noted that ABWM becoming a national partner has been part of an ongoing conversation since 1992. The National Executive Council (NEC) has been informed of this and supports the request. If ABWM functions as a national board, they should be a national board. If ABWM becomes a national partner/national board, they must raise funds.

The Executive Committee will continue to move their recommendation forward. ABCUSA Bylaws language must be updated, and “national board” should be defined. MMBB will also be a national board that provides programming. ABWM is not the same as other AMOs, including AB Men. The Executive Committee agreed that the ABCUSA documents (Bylaws and Standing Rules) are not

that dense, allowing for efficient edits. The Bylaws changes will be presented to the delegates at the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit for a final vote. At that time, MMBB should also become a national board. The BGM June 2024 agenda will be updated to add this additional item to the agenda.

Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Mitchell Dining Room

The BGM Executive Committee met (including breakfast and lunch).

BGM EC 882 CALL TO ORDER/DEVOTIONS

President Nikita McCalister called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Chaplain Doug Scalise began with the lighting of the Christ Candle and led the Devotions: Celebrating the Grace and Power of God in a United Church. A Prayer of Wisdom - Ephesians - 1:15-23

BGM EC 883 REPORT OF THE BUDGET REVIEW OFFICER

Budget Review Officer Paul Higgins reviewed the Financial Report prepared by Alan Musoke. He highlighted the Year-To-Date Financial Report as of April 30, 2024, which showed a surplus of \$121,534. He also reviewed the December 31, 2023, Year-end Report. The written reports prepared by Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary for Finance/CFO/Treasurer, are attached.

Paul pointed out the revenue lines from the Board and stated that the world is watching how we give as a Board. The Board can give back by claiming travel expenses and donating the reimbursement.

BGM EC 884 BOARD FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

General Secretary Gina Jacobs-Strain shared that ABCUSA only has approximately 400 donors. There is limited Board support. Some Board directors only give at the Biennial Mission Summits. Donors who give to OGHS through ABHMS and IM are now considered their donors, as we do not have access to anonymous donors. We have met with IM to review a donor designated as “anonymous” and are awaiting a response. It should be noted that the decision made 20 years ago to allow IM and ABMHS to collect OGHS has increased their donor base.

**BGM EC 885 NOMINATION FOR VICE PRESIDENT;
RECOMMENDATION FOR BGM/ABCUSA FINANCE COMMITTEES**

Thomas C Ross, Jr., Vice President, has resigned from the Executive Committee, the Board of General Ministries, and the BGM/ABC Finance Committees. The Executive Board will present to the Board the following nomination and recommendation:

William (Bill) A. Poland to serve as Vice President.

Brandon Bouldin to serve on the BGM/ABCUSA Finance Committees.

BGM EC 886 AWAB and ABGC FELLOWSHIP REQUEST

President Nikita McCalister and General Secretary Gina Jacobs-Strain shared that the following letters will be sent on behalf of the Executive Committee:

1. ABGC Fellowship (American Baptist Great Commission Fellowship) asked ABCUSA to request the removal of the ABCUSA logo from AWAB’s (Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists) website. The Executive Committee agreed to send a letter to AWAB, Fresh Expression, Ascent, and Operation Reconquista requesting they remove ABCUSA from partner status.

2. Send a letter on behalf of the Executive Committee to ABGC Fellowship regarding this decision. It was noted that the response should be brief.

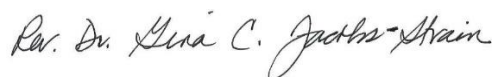
BGM EC 887 2027 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT LOCATION

President Nikita McCalister and General Secretary Gina Jacobs-Strain shared that Steve Bils, Executive Minister of ABC of the Central Pacific Coast, has requested to host the 2027 Biennial Mission Summit in Sacramento, CA. It should not be held during the July 4th holiday. It should be pitched around “family.”

BGM EC 888 Closing Prayer and Adjournment

President Nikita McCalister adjourned the meeting following the Closing Prayer.

Submitted by,



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

GCJS/vg

Documents attached:

BGM EC Proposed Agenda (1101:06/24)

BGM Executive Committee Minutes: March (1002:03/24)

June 2024 BGM Executive Committee Roster **[Updated Roster to be posted]**

June 2024 BGM EC Integrated Schedule

Report from the ABCUSA President

Report from the ABCUSA General Secretary

Special Task Force on American Baptist Women's Ministries Recommendation

ABCUSA Year-to-Date Financial Report as of April 30, 2024

ABCUSA Year-end Financial Report as of December 31, 2023

2027 Biennial Mission Summit Invitation

Board of General Ministries Meetings:

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

July 1-3, 2025, CHI Health Center Arena and Convention Center, Omaha, NE

BGM Executive Committee Meetings:

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

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

March 13-15, 2025, Los Angeles, CA

June 30-July 1, 2025, CHI Health Center Arena and Convention Center, Omaha, NE

September 11-13, 2025 (Location TBD)