

I continue to become more familiar with our staff, core operations of ABCUSA, Biennial processes, while building internal and external relationships. There is great joy in sharing our ABC story and gaining insights into the joys and challenges of ministry in regions, local churches, ecumenical relationships and national partners. It is a blessing to witness the movement of God in our denomination as we individually and collectively share the gospel.

Staff Development:

- As shared in the June GS report, I have continued to meet with ABCUSA staff, discovering common threads and themes that undergird success, a collegial and healthy work environment, and professional development needs.
- Implementing professional development for new staff and staff who have assumed increased or new responsibilities. In February, we held Employee Appreciation Day for ABCUSA staff.
- Staff meetings will include professional development led by various staff members.
- 6/18, Administrative staff appreciation luncheon.
- 6/25, New Staff and Buddy fellowship luncheon.
- 7/23, Recognized milestone employment achievements and held the annual staff picnic. Both events allowed us to celebrate, fellowship, and deepen our relationships.
- On-boarding process continues to be refined
- All new staff have a buddy and meet regularly.
- Working with the HR director and managers to update job descriptions, performance reviews, and vacation schedules.
- Leadership Retreat 9/10-9/11.

Biennial/Omaha Nebraska 2025:

- ❖ Continuing Biennial meetings, focused on successful implementation of registration, timeline, partner input, site visits and communication. We have established regular meetings for all committees. We have also included Alan Musoke in the budget process for both the Biennial and Engage.
- ❖ Modifying reporting and communication to improve operational and administrative efficiencies.
- ❖ Young Adult Advisory Team continued to share ideas with the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team. This initiative supports our Mission Table Priority, *Empowering Young Adults and Youth*, strengthening and enhancing our relationship with our National Executive Council (NEC) partners.

2027 Biennial Mission Summit:

- ❖ In July the Regional Executive Ministers received letters asking if their region is interested in hosting the 2027 Biennial.
- ❖ Yes, responses received from Regions are listed below:

- **7/27 - ABC of Wisconsin:**
Mindi Welton-Mitchell mentioned that a formal letter would be submitted. We await confirmation from David Gregg & Metro Chicago to ensure ABCMC will be on board as a co-host.
- **7/29 - ABC of Massachusetts:**
Mary Miller suggests the MA city of Worcester
<https://www.dcucenter.com/event-planning>

She also suggested Springfield, MA
<https://www.massmutualcenter.com/convention-center>
- **7/30 - ABC of Greater Indianapolis:**
Rev. Michael Friday recommends a site visit to the city.
- **8/3 - ABC Rocky Mountains:**
Steve Van Ostran submitted an invitation letter dated 8/13.
- **8/5 - ABC Rochester/Genesee:**
Sandra Hasenauer sent over a Pitch Deck 2027. [Pitch Deck 2027](#)

New Opportunities to Deepen and Initiate Relationships and Fellowship:

- ❖ Co-hosted a CFO gathering with MMBB in May, attended by CFOs from IM, MMBB, ABHMS, ABWM, ABF, and OGS. ABHS and ABEC were unable to attend. CFOs are collaborating on next meeting. The CFOs led by ABF's CFO are organizing the upcoming gathering.
- ❖ Everyday Conversations with a modified format has resumed. The Theme is Harmony.
- ❖ October Webinar 3-part series focused on domestic violence and wellness. Kickoff date 10/1.
- ❖ Continuing conversations after the National Leadership Council on Mission Table Priorities. Regional Executive Ministers and national partners participated in these ABC Staff conversations, 6/4-6/6.
 - Empowering Young Adults and Youth
 - Peacemaking in a Culture of Violence,
 - Mental Health
 - Creation Care Biennial
 - Building the Beloved Community through Collaboration
 - Discipleship and Disciple-Making
 - Claim, Distinguish, and Proclaim the Markers of American Baptists
- ❖ Continue to meet with regional leaders and local pastors.

- ❖ Continue to build ecumenical relationships and realign representation with ABCUSA's mission.
- ❖ Joined President Nikita McCalister in a meeting with AWAB leadership on 8/20/24.
- ❖ Will join President McCalister in a meeting with the ABGC Fellowship on 9/18/24. Michigan

Financial Condition Considerations:

- Reviewing One Great Hour of Sharing fundraising and collection processes and its impact on ABCUSA's financial condition and our relationship with regions, donors, and NEC partners.
- Increased donor communication from an annual “ask” to 4 communications, 3 of the four communications executed. So far, we have sent Easter, Summer, and Fall letters and will send an end-of-year appeal and other communication.
- Launching a Golden Jubilee donor opportunity in conjunction with the 2025 Biennial, marking 50 years of the Biennial. This will be shared in the Fall Mailing.
- CFO & Treasurer has oversight of the budget process for both the Biennial and Engage
- OGS department budgets are being prepared.

Discipleship and Fellowship:

- 6/1, Journey to Wellness, Hosted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Shiloh Baptist Church, *New Jersey*
- 6/11-6/15 BGM meeting, Wisconsin
- 6/14 General Secretary Installation at Federated Church of Green Lake, Hybrid Event
- 7/7-7-12, Baptist World Alliance Annual Gathering, Preached at the preaching symposium. This was an opportunity to preach, followed by a time of sharing with local and attending clergy. We discussed preaching preparation, spiritual formation, transparency, and personal good care. *Lagos, Nigeria*
- 7/19-7/21, ABWM Women’s Conference, Preached at a plenary session. *Virginia*
- 8/14-8/16, Asian Pastor Colloquium; shared a meditation and music and engaged participants in a conversation about ministry joys and challenges. This gathering enabled 1-1 and small group conversation and connection. This colloquium is hosted by MMBB. *Georgia*
- 8/17-8/18 Visited Friendship Baptist Church and connected with local clergy. *Georgia*
- 8/18- 8/21, Latinx Pastor Colloquium, Preached and engaged with participants. This colloquium is hosted by MMBB. *Georgia*
- 8/28 will meet with ABHMS staff in Puerto Rico
- 8/29-31, Mission Day, Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico region, *Puerto Rico*

Collaboration with National and Regional Partners:

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- ❖ August, collaborated with MMBB on R.M.M. O. Offering
- ❖ Organize regular NEC meetings and communications to enhance our coordinated ministries and deepen relationships. NEC members volunteer to rotate as hosts and lead meditations. The next NEC meeting is 9/9/24.

Future Discipleship and Fellowship:

- ◇ 9/26-9/27, Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries, Thriving Pastoral Ministry Program, *Massachusetts*
- ◇ 10/1-10/4 ABCOFLASH annual meeting, clergy luncheon, *California*
- ◇ 10/5 ABCNJ Luncheon preacher, *New Jersey*
- ◇ 10/10-10/12, ABC of Wisconsin Annual Meeting, 180th Anniversary, *Wisconsin*
- ◇ 10/13, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Preaching, *Wisconsin*
- ◇ 10/27, Bethlehem Baptist Church Anniversary, *Pennsylvania*
- ◇ 12/7-12/10, Second Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX, 145th Anniversary Celebration

Upcoming Fellowship, Representing ABCUSA on Boards:

- 10/18-10/21 NCC Board Meeting, Tennessee
- 10/21-10/23, ABF, Pennsylvania
- 10/24-10/26 Green Lake Board Meeting, Wisconsin
- 11/15-11/17 BGM Meeting, Pennsylvania