

General Secretary March 2025 Executive Committee Report

The end of 2024 as well as the beginning of 2025 I have a growing emphasis on the Biennial and I continue to focus on deepening our fellowship and support with regions, national partners, churches and congregants. I am blessed by the ministries in our denomination and to witness the many ways God is using ABCUSA as we yield our hearts, minds and actions to the inner working of the Holy Spirit to share the gospel and to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Gathering the Denomination

- 2/4 and 2/18 February workshops - Virtual “Wellness Leadership Workshop”
- 2/7 Hosted a prayer event for the denomination. The following individuals participated: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula, Rev. Edgardo Caraballo, Rev. Nikita McCalister, Rev. Dr. Gregg Hemmen, Rev. Dr. James Kelsey, Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley, Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, Rev. Steve Bils, Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal, Rev. Stephen Hre Kio, Rev. Dr. Mary Day Hamel, Rev. Miriam Mendez, and myself.
- 2/18 Hosted conversation with Regional Executive Ministers about region concerns
- Developed resolutions for churches, seminary and clergy that have milestone celebrations.
- Everyday ABC Conversations, scheduled quarterly continuing the theme Harmony – the next Conversation is 3/20
- 4/3 Co-hosting with ABHMS an Intercaucus conversation
- NLC planning,
 - Meet 4-6 weeks beginning in Jan. 2025 with planning committee to design programming, select topics and speakers.
 - Committee decided to select a theme for the 2025 NLC meeting, *Building the Beloved Committee through Collaboration*
 - Main NLC Goal for this meeting was selected from NLC purposes: *Building and fostering authentic relationships within the NLC*
 - Topics for the NLC meeting
 - Deepen our understanding of Baptist Polity and Family Systems
- NEC meetings – 2/11 and 4/18
- Biennial
 - Registration – 452 persons are registered as of 3/4 including 196 Delegates and 123 Participants.
 - Security concerns
 - 2027 Biennial

Supporting the Region, Partners and Church Events

Most region events will be covered this year by staff visits. I continue to support regional executive ministers.

- 11/30-12/1 Clergy Installation Service, shared the Prayer of Consecration, *Puerto Rico*
- 12/7-12/9 Second Baptist Church, *San Antonio, Tx*
- 1/22—Ongoing discussions with BJC, partners and OGS staff regarding the Baptist Joint Committee lawsuit
- 1/30 Met with Church World Service and heads of communion
- 2/2 Calvary Baptist Church, preached and shared OGS Powerpoint and had Q&A time with the congregation, Rev. Dr. Corey Fields, Newark, Delaware

- 2/7 Met with Churches for Middle East Peace, Dr. Mae Cannon
- 2/7 Hosted Prayer Gathering
- 2/16-20 Proctor Conference, Little Rock, Arkansas
- 2/21-2/23 Hawaiian Association Annual Gathering, Honolulu, HI
 - 2/21 Attended reception and fellowship, Honolulu, HI
 - 2/22 Preached at the annual gathering, Honolulu, HI
 - 2/23 Preached at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church and attended their Black History Month Program, Honolulu, HI
- 3/2-3/7 MMBB Colloquium, OGS presentation, Ft Lauderdale, Florida
- 3/7-3/11 IBPR Annual Gathering and local church visit, Yauco, Puerto Rico
- 3/9 Visit Primera Iglesia Bautista de Carolina, Carolina, Puerto Rico
- Continue support for regional executive ministers
- Making Space for essential conversations
- Expanding Ecumenical Relationships/Attended meetings with or regarding our role in these organizations
- Serve on the MMBB Search Committee

Communication/social media: Biennial promotion continues through epromos and social media. Biennial “shorts” a series of short videos will be distributed weekly. The Reuben Challenge and Jazz videos have also been shared.

- <https://www.dropbox.com/s/mfr9jlhbr3tglyk/What%20is%20the%20Biennial%20Pt.%201%20-%20HD%201080p.mov?st=3kf0uza0&dl=0>
- <https://www.dropbox.com/s/2nf33nz5rdmq3zp/What%20is%20the%20Biennial%20Pt.%202%20-%20HD%201080p.mov?st=apyklpce&dl=0>
- <https://www.dropbox.com/s/cvptym09gsw34ap/What%20is%20the%20Biennial%20Pt.%203%20-%20HD%201080p.mov?st=fvdgqp4j&dl=0>
- <https://www.dropbox.com/s/mzsxn0aikxu2ctk/What%20is%20the%20Biennial%20Pt.%204%20-%20HD%201080p.mov?st=g6yru7rs&dl=0>
- <https://www.dropbox.com/s/2zei0le4wphf5kg/What%20is%20the%20Biennial%20Pt.%205%20-%20HD%20720p.mov?st=juu7p0ps&dl=0>
- <https://www.dropbox.com/s/28mylcz9v7md5hx/What%20is%20the%20Biennial%20Pt.%206%20-%20HD%20720p.mov?st=tdojc6f0&dl=0>

Donor Relationships: We will connect with our donors multiple times this year, in addition to the 4 planned communications we will also share the Biennial shorts.

Staff Development: Creating space to build collegial connections and deepening connection and participation of the leadership team to all of the ministries.

- Gathering staff every 4-6 weeks for staff lunches
- Checking in 1-1 with staff
- Intercultural workshop for staff led by Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri/ABHMS
- Hiring new staff to support IT, ACCT, OTC
- Staff transitioning to part-time
- Hiring new staff
- Creating space to build collegial connections

Upcoming Events

- 3/31 Cofacilitate with Cheryl Price/Judson Press an author discussion
- 4/3 Cohosting with ABHMS Intercaucus event
- 4/9-10 Yale Divinity School and Andover Newton Seminary lecture and fellowship
- 4/14-4/15 BWA UN discussion on racism, Rev. Dr. Pat Hernandez will also attend NYNY
- BWA video for BWA conference in Brisbane, Australia
- 7/3-7/6 BGM Meetings followed by Biennial Mission Summit
- 8/24, Preaching at Brewster Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Doug Scalise
- 9/13 WIM Wellness event, hosted at ABCUSA Roblee Building
- 9/14 Preaching at Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Rockville, Maryland

Prayerfully shared by Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain