

## **2013 MISSION SUMMIT/BIENNIAL MINUTES**

### **FRIDAY EVENING GATHERING, JUNE 21, 2013**

#### **WORSHIP 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

1. Attendees were welcomed with music by the worship team, consisting of Dan Bourquin, Del Lamont Coleman, Chan Hnin Thui, Monica Uk, Eboni Fondren, Thaw Tu Say, Julio González-Paniagua and Anátalys (Annie) González-Ortiz.
2. Worship began with the congregation singing *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* and *Hear Our Praises*.
3. Ruth Clark, president of American Baptist Churches USA, welcomed the attendees.
4. John Williams, executive minister for American Baptist Churches of the Central Region, welcomed the attendees.
5. Neville Callam, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, brought greetings from the wider Baptist family. He celebrated our unity in Christ.
6. Susan Gillies, vice chair of the 2013 Mission Summit/Biennial Planning Team, invited attendees to take photos and send them to [missionsummit2013@gmail.com](mailto:missionsummit2013@gmail.com) to be shared. She also taught us to say “Peace be with you” in Chin.
7. A group of Native Americans from the Oklahoma Baptist Association and Bacone College led us in a welcome ritual and blessing. Robert Duncan, president of Bacone College, announced two scholarships. Kathy Longhat and Duke Tsoodle led in prayer in a native language. Wil Brown led in a purification ritual with smoke and a feather. Four young girls in native dress performed a creative movement to the song of the Lord’s prayer.
8. Don Ng, vice president, American Baptist Churches USA, led in the invocation.
9. Ruth Clark called the meeting to order. She announced that as of 5:00 pm today we have over 1,500 participants registered and 756 delegates, setting the quorum for conduct of business at 252. While only delegates may vote on motions, all attendees are welcome to attend the business session on Sunday morning.
10. Reg Mills, chair of the 2013 Mission Summit/Biennial Planning Team, was recognized to make a motion. He moved the adoption of the Rules of Procedure that were posted on the ABC website and included in the delegate packets. There was no discussion, and the motion was adopted.

11. Reg Mills moved the adoption of the provisional program as printed in the program book, subject to any further changes the Committee on the Order of Business might recommend, and that the Mission Summit/Biennial Planning Team be designated as the Committee on the Order of Business. There was no discussion and the motion was adopted.
12. Ruth Clark introduced the parliamentarian, Dennis Johnson, BGM member and pastor of Baptist Temple in Charleston, WV.
13. Ruth Clark announced that the information shared throughout our time together, especially during the Sunday morning business session, will constitute the information sharing by the Board of General Ministries mandated in our bylaws. She referred questions regarding our business procedures to the ABCUSA office. Finally, she personally invited all attendees to participate in the Mission Summit conversations scheduled for Saturday and Sunday.
14. The congregation joined in singing *God of Grace*.
15. Roy Medley, general secretary of American Baptist Churches USA, welcomed the group. He shared some thoughts from Brent Miller of Phoenixville, PA, about the importance of trusting and trying new things. Some video clips were shown of churches doing new things. Dr. Medley explained that the goal of *Transformed by the Spirit* is to turn the focus of congregational life outward to the world. We are in the third generation of the great baby boomer dropout from church. We need to go back to our Baptist DNA, to our heritage of trying new things to meet new needs. We have faced major challenges throughout the years, including the evils of slavery, the need for missions and the absence of religious liberty. When faced with these problems, we were able to work together with God's help to address them. Our challenge today is to be as experimental, risking and passionate as early Baptists. We must follow Jesus into the world for the sake of the world and the gospel.
16. Jeff Woods, associate general secretary for Regional Ministries, introduced the Mission Summit concept. The Mission Summit conversations are a way to share questions and ideas. It is a way for us to think about the future and the ways that God would have us move into it. Each table will share ideas around a specific topic of interest to the participants. It is best to stay with one group throughout the weekend, but participants may switch to another topic if they so desire. Updates will be posted live on the website.
17. Roy Medley expressed appreciation for the prayer team that has been praying for this Mission Summit/Biennial.
18. Annie González-Ortiz sang *Yo Iré*.

19. Robin Stoops, executive minister of American Baptist Churches of Nebraska, and Chloe Lang, regional youth representative, read Isaiah 1:17 and Micah 6:6-8.

20. A brief video was shown.

21. Valoria Cheek, general counsel for American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), introduced the speaker. Tonight we lift up justice, as we remember the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation that freed 3.1 million of the 4 million enslaved persons in the U.S. at that time. There is still a need for justice today, as we will learn from our speaker, Michelle Alexander, JD. Author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, Alexander currently holds a joint appointment at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and the Mortiz College of Law at Ohio State University.

22. Eboni Fondren and the band sang *Through It All*.

23. Michelle Alexander brought the message based on her recent book, *The New Jim Crow*. She shared a number of disturbing statistics:

- There are more African-American adults in jail or on probation today than were enslaved in 1850.
- There are more African-American men disenfranchised today than in 1870; the label “felon” accomplished what poll taxes could not.
- Over the past 30 years, the U.S. prison population grew from 300,000 to 2 million. This is the highest rate of incarceration in the world. At the same time, crime rates have not increased, and today are at historic lows. Two-thirds of the increase in incarcerations from 1985-2000 is due to drug offenses.
- Federal funding rewards the number of arrests, not the severity of the crime.
- Once an individual is branded a felon, discrimination becomes legal. Ex-felons may be refused jobs, housing and food stamps. Their wages may be garnished up to 100% to pay fines, fees and back child support.

In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King changed his focus from civil rights to human rights. We, the people of faith, need to work to change the system to benefit poor people of all races. There are a number of specific things we can do to be helpful:

- Tell the truth about the current system. It must become visible.
- Provide help and support to those released from prison.
- Dismantle the system of mass incarceration by ending the war on drugs, shifting our response to addiction to a health model rather than a criminal model, ending legal discrimination for felons, and moving to a redemptive rather than a punitive approach to violence.
- Address the core belief that some are not worthy of care and compassion.

24. Fela Barrueto, national coordinator for Prisoner Re-entry and Aftercare Ministry, ABHMS, brought a response to the message. Prisoner care and re-entry is a modern day

underground railroad. The church must provide health and hope to all those impacted by incarceration. Individual concern is not enough; we must be advocates for justice.

25. Kim Jones of Praise Propulsion shared a liturgical dance to the song *Break Every Chain*.
26. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins, III, executive director of ABHMS, and Dwight Lundgren, manager, American Baptist Personnel Services, ABHMS, announced the recipients of the Dahlberg Peace Award, Revs. Mary and Steve Hammond of Peace Community Church in Oberlin, OH. They were unable to attend tonight due to Mary's ongoing battle with cancer. Aidsand Wright-Riggins closed with prayer for the Hammonds.
27. Anne Jernberg, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Denver, CO, announced the recipient of tonight's offering. Micah says, "Do justice," not just talk about it or think about it. The offering tonight will benefit the justice ministries of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies.
28. Julio González-Paniagua, pastor of Iglesia Bautista de Santurce, San Juan, PR, played *Amazing Grace* on the sax as the offertory.
29. Susan Gillies announced that copies of Michelle Alexander's book will be available for purchase as we exit.
30. The congregation sang *I Will Do a New Thing*.
31. Kathy Longhat brought the benediction in English and in Kiowa.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON GATHERING, JUNE 22, 2013**  
**MISSION SUMMIT REPORTING, 4:00 – 5:00 PM**

32. Jeff Woods welcomed the group with the reminder that we are part of history today. Over 1,000 individuals have chosen to participate in these conversations, so many that we had to recruit extra facilitators. We do not have all the answers, but we are learning from each other. Marcia Patton, executive minister of Evergreen Baptist Association, reminded us that these conversations are about addressing our passions, not going where we "should." Karen Yee expressed her happiness that today we left our small *Transformed by the Spirit* groups and opened the process to the whole denomination. Michael Harvey reminded us that pastors are not to be the experts in this process, but the facilitators.
33. Judy Allbee, executive minister of American Baptist Churches of Connecticut and room host of the "Our Leaders" group, joined Jeff Woods on the stage to report on their conversations. Several of the table facilitators reported on conversations in their group today:

- Wally Holt: We must be disciples before we can do discipleship. We need to look at what God is doing. We must be willing to experiment and be willing to fail.
- Holly Bean: Spiritual discernment often works best in a group that comes together to pray and listen together. When we listen to the thoughts and insights of others, we are often led to understanding.
- Jim Kelsey: Teaming is built on gifts, interests and passions. The leader/facilitator must help the team to remain flexible. Teams should evolve, serve their purpose, and then fade away. God gives different people different passions, and teaming allows these to be best used.
- Larron Jackson: Leadership must be grounded in the will of God to be effective. God works within challenges.

34. Dwight Stinnett, executive minister of American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region and room host of the “Our Witness” group, joined Jeff Woods to report on their conversations. Dwight Stinnett described this experience as the most exciting day in his thirty-plus years of ABC life. Facilitators from this room shared:

- Dave Nichols: Our group had to face the fact that many churches are out of step with their communities. We have a tendency to ask how to get the community into the church rather than how to get the church into the community. We will not succeed until we address the second question.
- Camille Brown: We must step out of our comfort zone to bring others into the church. We must trust each other. The church should know the climate in its neighborhood, but love is central to success.
- Laurel Balyeat: It is God’s plan that churches reproduce. God uses new churches to welcome and invite new members into the family. New churches can also be labs for new ideas. The team created a new ABC church planting facebook page on the spot. The goal is to cooperate with new churches, not to compete with existing ones.
- Robin Stoops: What if we actually lived our faith back home? That is the most effective form of evangelism. We need to take risks, and to ask “why not?” We need to examine how we can turn the things we already do just a degree outward.

35. Michaele Birdsall, treasurer and CFO of American Baptist Home Mission Societies and room host of the “Our Future” group, joined Jeff Woods on stage. She reported that every table was highly engaged and that the energy in the room was high. Facilitators reported:

- Ted Chaffee: Small congregations face a particular challenge in developing new leaders. The strength of small churches is that they are forced to rely on partnerships and relationships. The future of small churches is not to become big, but to become more open. The group is filled with hope and excitement for the future of small congregations.

- Steve Bils: It is too easy to feel like Eeyore when contemplating the future of the local church. However, we are at our best when we are serving others. When our focus turns out, we can move from survival mode to service mode. However, we must be open to change in order to succeed.
- Marcia Patton: We are a very diverse people, and thus ABC has a gift to teach society as we succeed as a multi-cultural people. Our diversity is not just ethnic, but also generational, economic, and abled/disabled. This diversity is a gift from God. Love and understanding are key to success. We need to elevate this conversation beyond the local church.
- Frank Frischkorn: How do we leave the Ozzie and Harriett model and move to Modern Family? In order to minister to today's and tomorrow's families, we must create safe spaces with diverse family structures. God is not surprised by our culture. It is not about us, but about reaching out to those who God loves.
- Carrie Kiker: As a high school senior, Carrie finds intergenerational relationships important. It is these relationships that can keep younger people engaged with the church. God is working with absent generations, but not necessarily within the walls of the church. The creation of an arena for mutual mentoring is key.
- Allison Tanner: Intergenerational relationships must come first. Once these exist, the structures can be transformed.

36. Jeff Woods concluded by reminding us that we can follow these conversations by looking at the post-it notes on the wall or by going to [www.missionsummitconversations.com](http://www.missionsummitconversations.com). Woods then closed the meeting with prayer.

**SATURDAY EVENING GATHERING, JUNE 22, 2013**  
**WORSHIP 7 – 9 PM**

37. Attendees were welcomed with music by Richard Hill, followed by some photos from the Mission Summit/Biennial.
38. The congregation sang *Friend of God*.
39. The congregation sang *Lift High the Cross* while representatives of International Ministries processed holding flags representing countries where International Ministries is at work.
40. The invocation was led by Molly Marshall, president, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, in English and by Chan Hnin Thui in Haka Chin.
41. Hopeton Scott, president of the Board of International Ministries (IM), welcomed the attendees to this special celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Ann and Adoniram Judson in Burma.

42. Roy Medley and Ruth Clark welcomed Dr. Yam Kho Pau, general secretary of the Myanmar Baptist Convention. Ruth Clark read a letter from Dr. Pau. Roy Medley presented Dr. Pau with a framed copy of the text that is being made into a bronze casting to be presented to the Myanmar Baptist Convention upon their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in December. Stan Murray, IM's Area Director for Southeast Asia and Japan, introduced nine other guests from Burma.
43. A Burmese choir shared a song.
44. Ruth Clark introduced John Upton, Jr., president of the Baptist World Alliance and executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. He has served as a local pastor and as a missionary to Taiwan. As a staff member and now executive director of Virginia Baptists, John has been instrumental in forming creative partnerships across cultural lines. In his role as president of the Baptist World Alliance, he is enjoying the opportunity to build closer relationships around the world.
45. Susan Gillies shared that more than 1,000 individuals had participated in the Mission Summit Conversations on Saturday. Additional participants would be very welcome on Sunday afternoon. The conversations may be followed at [www.missionssummitconversations.com](http://www.missionssummitconversations.com).
46. A song was shared by the Chin choir.
47. Chan Hnin Thui of Dallas Chin Baptist Church, Dallas, TX, Monica Uk, Chin Baptist Mission Church, Silver Spring, MD, and one other guest read John 13:34-35 in Burmese, Karen and Haka Chin.
48. John Upton brought a message based on three Old Testament passages. Christ commands us to love one another. Command can be an abusive word, but not in this context. We bring our hard questions to God, but sometimes God comes to us with hard questions. God asks these of every generation:
- Where are you? (Genesis 3:9) This is not a location question but a relationship question. Christians often hide from God through a busy Christian calendar, an attitude or an activity. An atheist economist and terrorism expert recently visited Duke University. He shared that the only way to stop terrorism is with values. The only group that has been addressing values has been the church. But now extremists are building wells and schools and hospitals and the Christians are no longer doing that. Why have we stopped helping the world? Where are we?
  - Where is your brother? (Genesis 4:9) This first murder was over a dispute about worship style. We need to remember that Jesus' most common miracle was the healing of people's eyes. We need to open our eyes to see our brothers and sisters and relate to them. A young pastor accepted a call to a dangerous and difficult inner city neighborhood. Young people were regularly being killed in

gang violence. Finally this pastor called together other pastors in the neighborhood and made an appointment for them to visit the local drug lord. They asked him how he controlled the youth of the area when they could not. He responded that he was there before school and after school, on the playgrounds and on the street corners. The church was in its buildings. So the pastors divided up the neighborhood and started having a presence. In the past two years there have been no homicides in this neighborhood. Where are our brother and our sister?

- What are you doing? (1 Kings 19:9) This is the question God asked Elijah who was hiding in a cave after hitting a spiritual low. It is easy for us in the church to be discouraged today as we struggle to be heard amidst all of the cultural noise. John Upton told of a trip to northern Ghana to deliver mosquito nets. The chief of the tribe invited them to have a worship service, at which many people accepted Christ. After the service, one new Christian asked how long the missionaries had known this good news. When they replied, “about 2,000 years,” the tribesman asked them, “What took you so long to share it with us?” What are we doing?

If we today can answer these three questions, we will be transformed by the Spirit of the living God.

49. The Karen Choir shared a song.

50. Lauran Bethell and Becky Mann, IM missionaries, read Matthew 28:16-20 in English and Thai.

51. Yam Kho Pau brought a message based on Luke 4. The church in Myanmar has been growing since the arrival of the Judsons on July 15, 1813. There are 1.5 million Baptists there today. The relationship between ABC and the Myanmar Baptist Convention (MBC) has grown even stronger as we have begun celebrating this anniversary together. We have a common mission as disciples of Jesus. Salvation is holistic and inclusive.

What must be transformed for mission?

- The individual – Each person needs an individual, personal transformation. Even Judson himself was once an atheist and had to find personal transformation.
- The family – As the primary unit of human society, our families must also be transformed.
- The church – If a church is not mission-focused, it will die. The church must consist of all people, not just a particular tribe.
- The nation – God chose Israel to be on mission to the world. Today, the U.S. is modeling being on mission.

The sole message of mission is love. As we love one another, God’s love dwells in us. If we love each other, we will share the love of God with those who do not know it. John 13:34-45 says *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have*



*loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.* In Myanmar, 80% of the people do not know Christ. We will heal our country by sharing God's love. The whole world needs this message of love.

52. The Chin choir shared a song.

53. John Mandt, Board of Managers, MMBB, and Yam Kho Pau recognized George Tooze for his work on the Emily Chubbock Judson writings. He spent 35 years collecting these, and they have been published as a seven-volume set. George was unable to be with us here due to his battle with cancer. A set of the books was presented to Dr. Pau.

54. The Karen choir shared a song.

55. Susan Gillies reminded us that God seems to like surprising us. The Judsons were able to adapt to the surprises, and so must we.

56. International Ministries brought a report:

- A video featuring Jeni Pedzinski's testimony was shown. She is currently working on a joint degree from Palmer Theological Seminary and Eastern University. She can trace her call to missions back to a childhood encounter.
- Dan Buttry, global consultant for peace and justice, IM, and the U.S. members of the IGNITE team shared their experiences in the Republic of Georgia earlier this summer. The team was co-led by Dan Buttry and Jeni Pedzinski. Jeni Pedzinski, Toeis Zeiner, Sarah Coots and Alex Toro shared live testimonies, while Ina Osymashvili and Tamuna Gogladze from the Republic of Georgia shared via video.
- Reid Trulson, executive director of IM, announced that Jeni Pedzinski has just been endorsed as a missionary candidate to Cambodia, and is working to raise her support.

Jeni Pedzinski closed by asking the attendees, "Where will God use you to definitively influence another person's life?"

57. Mark Caruana, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Utica, NY, presented the purpose for tonight's offering. It will support resettlement needs of immigrants from Burma, a cooperative effort of ABCUSA, IM, ABHMS, AB Women's Ministries and leaders from the Karen, Chin and Kachin communities.

58. Monica Uk sang the offertory song in Chin.

59. Susan Gillies celebrated the fact that we have come full circle in mission. First the Judsons went to Burma to share the love of Christ, and now many Burmese are coming to the U.S. and revitalizing our churches.

- 60. A video trailer from “A New Land, A New Hope” was shown, focusing on the relationship between the Judson heritage and the blessing of the new immigrants to the U.S. from Myanmar. Monica Uk shared a few words about her own immigration experience.
- 61. Monica Uk and the worship team led the congregation in singing *How Great Thou Art*.
- 62. Saw Ler Htoo, executive secretary, Karen Baptist Churches USA, brought the benediction.
- 63. The entire congregation sang the *Hallelujah Chorus* to close the service.

**SUNDAY MORNING GATHERING, JUNE 23, 2013**  
**DISCERNMENT SESSION, 9:30 – 9:45 AM**

- 64. Ruth Clark welcomed the delegates and voiced a prayer.
- 65. Ruth Clark reminded us that the new bylaws are now in effect, and the business time will be a little different this year. Rather than ballots, the voting card included in delegate packets will be used for voting. Having received no nominations for any position from the cooperating churches, each vote will be a yes or no vote by uplifted voting card.
- 66. William Frederickson, BGM member from New Jersey, brought the report of the nominating committee for the 2014-2015 officers and moved their election:  
President – Two-year term, ending December 31, 2015  
 Rev. Dr. Donald Ng, First Chinese Baptist Church, San Francisco, CA  
Vice President – Two-year term ending December 31, 2015  
 Rev. Judy Fackenthal, Garfield Park Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN  
Budget Review Officer – Two-year term, Ending December 31, 2015  
 Mr. Paul Higgins, Federated Church of Green Lake, Green Lake, WI
- 67. Ruth Clark asked the delegates to vote, and the officers were elected.
- 68. William Frederickson referred the delegates to the nominees for At-Large members of the Board of General Ministries, located on page 21 of the Program Book. On behalf of the nominating committee, he moved the election of these for the terms specified.
- 69. Ruth Clark asked the delegates to vote, and the slate of At-Large members was elected.

70. Don Ng, vice president of ABCUSA, moved the adoption of the minutes of the business sessions of the 2011 Biennial. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the minutes were adopted.
71. Jim Ratliff, budget review officer, brought a financial report. We have received the audit from Tait Weller, and some of the highlights of the report were shared via power point.
- The scope and opinion paragraphs state that this is a clean or unqualified opinion.
  - The most significant change from 2011 to 2012 is the change in the fair market value of our investments, increasing from \$16,072,064 to \$17,824,204, an increase of \$1,752,140.
  - The liabilities decreased by \$53,000.
  - The total net assets increased by \$1,335,555. These assets are divided into three categories based on donor-imposed restrictions: unrestricted net assets include those associated with the principal mission of ABCUSA; temporary restricted net assets include those for which restrictions imposed by the donors have not yet been met; and permanently restricted net assets include ABCUSA's permanent endowment fund.
  - The net realized and unrealized gain and losses on investments show that in 2011 there was a net loss of \$630,163 and a gain in 2012 of \$935,624, an increase of \$1,565,787.
  - Our expenses declined slightly between 2011 and 2012.
  - Because of the recent volatility of the market, prudent management only allows us to draw 4-5% of the fair market value of the investment for operating activity.
  - United Mission giving has decreased 22.5% from 2008 to 2012. This is an unsustainable trend. We encourage you to increase your giving to United Mission.

Copies of the financial statement are available outside the door to this room. For a complete audit report, visit the ABC website at [ww.abc-usa.org](http://ww.abc-usa.org) or call the Treasurer's office for a copy.

72. Ruth Clark asked attendees to remain and prepare now for worship.

**SUNDAY MORNING GATHERING, JUNE 23, 2013**  
**WORSHIP 10:00 – 11:45 AM**

73. Heather Entrekin, professor in Congregational Health at Central Baptist Theological Seminary, opened the time of worship with a word of welcome.
74. The congregation joined the house band in singing *Praise Him*.
75. Susan Gillies shared a word of welcome and introduced Leo Thorne, associate general secretary for Mission Resource Development.

76. Leo Thorne led a time of celebration of all churches that give to United Mission. We send a letter of thanks annually to all churches who increase their UM giving, renew giving to UM after a time away, or become new givers to UM. Your gifts to UM express your appreciation for and participation in ABC. Top givers to United Mission were recognized:

- Number 1 in UM giving, and Number 1 in UM giving among Hispanic congregations is Primera Iglesia Bautista de Carolina, Carolina, PR, Carmen Adames-Vazquez, pastor, and Roberto Dieppa-Baez, executive minister, Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico. Both accepted for the church.
- Number 2 in UM giving is Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, Huntington, WV, Allen Reasons, pastor, and David Carrico, executive minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention. Accepting for the church was David Carrico.
- Number 3 in total UM is North Shore Baptist Church, Chicago, IL, Larry Greenfield, executive minister, American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. Douglas Harris and Carole McVetty are the English-speaking pastors, and they accepted for the church.
- Number 4 in UM is South Parkersburg Baptist Church, Parkersburg, WV. Ed Rogers is the pastor, and accepted for the church along with David Carrico, executive minister.
- Number 5 in total UM is Calvary Baptist Church, Newark, DE where Bruce Martin is pastor. Frank Frischkorn, executive minister, American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware, accepted for the church.
- Highest giving church to United Mission among African American congregations and number 9 overall is Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Detroit, MI, Charles Adams, pastor. Mike Williams, executive minister, American Baptist Churches of Michigan, accepted for the church.

Leo Thorne led us in a prayer, and asked that we continue to pray these words for the next two years: *Holy Spirit, renew/transform my church's commitment to United Mission.*

77. Susan Gillies invited the congregation to take a moment to greet one another.

78. The congregation joined in singing *Blessed Assurance*.

79. Jamal Davis Neal, Jr., a regional youth representative, led us in a responsive call to worship.

80. The congregation joined in singing *Crown Him with Many Crowns*.
81. Blake Bradford, a regional youth representative, led us in the invocation.
82. Jeff Savage, BGM member and pastor of First Baptist Church, Springfield, OR, read Psalm 1.
83. Zina Jacque, Journey Team member and pastor of the Community Church of Barrington, IL, invited us to a time of confession. The roots of the word confession convey the idea of coming together to speak. So today we have come together and will speak about our need for forgiveness. Zina Jacque then led us in the unison prayer of confession. She closed by sharing words of pardon and reminding us that God will forgive wholeheartedly and completely.
84. The song of response was *Renew in Me a Right Spirit*.
85. Jeff Savage led us in a lectio style reading of Matthew 6:24-34. The first time through we were to listen and ask “what?”; the second time ask “so what?”; and the third time ask “now what?”
86. The song of response was *Alleluia*.
87. The Classic Ensemble from First Baptist Church, Olathe, KS sang *He Loved Me*.
88. Greg Mamula, associate executive minister of ABC of Nebraska, shared a testimony. In 1 Kings, Elijah hid in a cave until God asked “What are you doing here?” God had spoken through the wind, the fire and the earthquake in the past, but this time God did a new thing with a still small voice.
- In ABC of Nebraska, Glynis LeBarre led 21 churches to change through the missional church process. ABC of Nebraska is also participating in *Transformed by the Spirit*. Now Nebraska churches are hearing God’s whispers everywhere. First Baptist of Scotts Bluff began Diaper Depot, giving away diapers to families in need. This has opened many new relationships, and the power of God’s presence is growing. Gibbon Baptist is giving away potatoes that do not meet Lays’ standards, opening many more partnerships. First Baptist of Norfolk worked to rehab seven homes in one day. Because of that work, they were contacted by their local middle school to lead in a Dad’s Night Out program. Many other Nebraska churches have similar stories to tell. God is doing a new thing. Will we join him, or hide in our caves?
89. The house band led the congregation in singing *Change My Heart O God*.
90. Wendy Quan and Becky Chuck Lessler, members of First Chinese Baptist Church, San Francisco, CA, shared a testimony. In Exodus, we see that Moses led the people through

the wilderness for 40 years, until an entire generation had died. This time in the wilderness prepared the people for their new life. Today, life expectancies are longer, and leadership transitions take longer. We need to share leadership and ownership. First Chinese Baptist Church has three worshipping congregations in the heart of San Francisco's Chinatown. Each of these has micro-congregations within it, joining around different missional passions. The church is no longer made up exclusively of local residents, but the commitment to the church remains high. It takes a lot of work to keep diverse micro-congregations together, but that is the strength of the church, just as it is a strength of ABC nationally. We do not know what the future will be, but we know to ask and to listen.

91. Leslie Lee and Steve Gretz of Rochester, NY, sang *Children of God*.
92. Daniel Martínó, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista in New London, CT, shared a testimony. They recently relocated to a new part of town. Jeremiah 29:7 inspired a new vision and ministry, *Transformed to Serve*. The focus was especially on those living on the periphery. The church has tripled in attendance and planted a new congregation. In 2009, during the heart of the recession, the church received the greatest amount of financial gifts in its history. They are now partnering with First Baptist of New London, and will become one church with one identity and many cultures known as the Church of the City. Anything is possible when we allow the Spirit to transform us as individuals first.
93. Heather Entrekin invited us to the table where everybody is welcome. She led in prayer, followed by a passing of the peace.
94. Jeff Haggray and Roy Medley shared the words of institution and prayed over the bread and the cup. The congregation moved to servers to receive the elements.
95. The congregation joined in singing *Christ Be Our Light*.
96. Veronica Lanier, well known American Baptist retired missionary, prayed a blessing over the newly elected officers, Don Ng, Judy Fackenthal and Paul Higgins. Don responded with thanks for Ronny Lanier as she approached her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday, and led in the benediction.

**SUNDAY EVENING GATHERING, JUNE 23, 2013**  
**WORSHIP, 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

97. There was a prelude by Mark Hayes.
98. The congregation joined the worship team in singing *Hear Our Praises* and *Freedom Reigns*.

99. Julio González Paniagua brought the invocation.
100. The congregation joined the worship team in singing *Thank You Lord*.
101. Susan Gillies shared some words of welcome.
102. Several invited guests brought words of greeting:
- Stan Noffsinger, general secretary, Church of the Brethren: Our faith families have been in relationship for more than 50 years. We recently journeyed together to Israel and Palestine as a tangible example of the fellowship we find in God's peace.
  - Suzii Paynter, executive coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship: Philippians 2 tells us to live together in harmony. As fellow Baptists, it is a pleasure to be in harmony with ABC.
  - Jim Hill, president of the North American Baptist Fellowship: Please join us March 6-8, 2014 in Philadelphia as we celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the North American Baptist Fellowship.
103. Susan Gillies congratulated First Baptist Church of Swansea, MA on its 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She also expressed sincere thanks to Reg Mills for his leadership in the planning of the Mission Summit/Biennial. She introduced Matt Sturtevant, our speaker for the evening.
104. Reg Mills expressed appreciation to Sumner Grant, recently retired executive director of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB), for his 20 years of service. Sumner Grant thanked the denomination for the opportunity to serve, and presented a flash drive to Louis Barbarin, new executive director of MMBB. The flash drive contains the names of the 17,000 individuals who have entrusted their futures to MMBB. Louis Barbarin shared that he is honored to have been elected as the 7<sup>th</sup> executive director. Paul Martin, president of American Baptist Seminary of the West, prayed a prayer of thanks for the ministry of Sumner Grant and of Louis Barbarin.
105. The congregation then joined in a hymn dedicated to Sumner Grant, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*.
106. Ruth Clark and Roy Medley presented the Sparrowk President's Award to Beverly and Andrew Davison. The Davisons have made an exceptional contribution to the life of Christ's church throughout their 62 years of marriage. Beverly has served as president of ABC and in many other leadership roles. Andrew pastored four churches, was on staff at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, and was the president of the Board of International Ministries from 1972-75. Beverly expressed thanks for the honor of receiving the award, and appreciation for the entire ABC family with whom she has had the privilege of working. Andy thanked Cora Sparrowk for creating the award and for the good work she did on the Board of IM. Knowing her makes this award a special

honor for him. He also reminded the ABC family of the importance of listening to our young people and learning from them.

107. Joel Fredrikson brought a message in music.
108. Ruth Clark and Roy Medley recognized the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Baptist Church in America, Providence, RI. They presented a bronze plaque to Dan Ivins, pastor, and J. Stanley Lemons, church historian.
109. The choir of the First Baptist Church in America shared three pieces, *Be Thou My Vision*, *Can I Ride* and *I Shall Be Free*.
110. Virginia Holmstrom, executive director of American Baptist Women's Ministries, read the scripture from John 3:8 and 2 Corinthians 3:12-18.
111. Susan Gillies thanked Mark Hayes for his presence with us tonight.
112. Mark Hayes directed a volunteer choir in an anthem he wrote, *To Love Our God*.
113. Matthew Sturtevant, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lawrence, KS, brought the message. As we read in John, Nicodemus came to Jesus with an olive branch, but Jesus surprised him with new ideas. Today's church is often like Nicodemus, thinking that the world will embrace us, but the world does not want what we are bringing. Jesus tells us that the essentials are the love of God, the new life in Christ, and the saving power of the Holy Spirit. How might we change the non-essentials to share the important things with a needy world?
  - We must change from being attractational to being missional. The church will be a base camp, a place to rest and prepare for the climb ahead of us. We cannot attract others to a program, but only to a person.
  - We must change from a clergy driven church to a worship community. Clergy are burning out at a rate of 50%. We must understand that we are better together than we are apart, and that no one person can be responsible for the vision and resources of the church.
  - We must change from a symphony orchestra church to a jazz band church. No longer will denominational and local leaders be able to point a baton and tell all the churches to play from the exact same music. Instead, denominational leadership must set the beat and begin the song not knowing where the music will go.Tonight, ABC, we have not yet begun to feel the full power of the wind. The good news is that it has begun to blow.
114. The congregation joined in singing *Spirit*.



115. Judy Allbee, executive minister of ABC of Connecticut, shared that tonight's offering will go to support *Transformed by the Spirit*.
116. Mark Hayes played *How Great Thou Art* on the piano as the offertory.
117. Roy Medley thanked Ruth Clark and Jim Ratliff for their exemplary service as officers of ABC.
118. Leo Thorne thanked the Mission Summit/Biennial Planning Team, the Professional Staff Advisory Team, ABC of the Central Region, and the Local Arrangements Committee for their preparation for this event. He also thanked all participants in the program, Brad Berglund, Annie Marcucci and her team, Jeff Woods and all participants in the Mission Summit conversations, and all the churches which registered. This year we have 2,455 total registered attendees, up from 2,100 in 2011. A video review of the weekend was shown.
119. Roy Medley shared some thoughts about the future of *Transformed by the Spirit*. The surest sign of the presence of the Spirit isn't peace, but discomfort. The Holy Spirit shakes and disturbs us, but the life of the Spirit is also one of joy. Out of the horror of the recent political climate in Burma has come the joy of renewing fellowship with our brothers and sisters who emigrate from that country. Only God can bring good from evil. The spirit of fellowship and togetherness has pervaded this Mission Summit/Biennial. Roy Medley closed in a prayer of thanksgiving.
120. Susan Gillies shared that she will be chairing the 2015 Mission Summit/Biennial, which will return here to Overland Park. Please send any ideas and suggestions for 2015 to Susan or to Leo Thorne, whose email addresses were shown.
121. The congregation joined in singing *Send Us Out*.
122. Roger Fredrikson, former president of ABC, shared that he attended his first ABC national meeting in 1945, and that this has been the most powerful of all. All we can do is thank the Lord. He then led in a prayer of thanks and benediction.
123. Mark Hayes provided the postlude on the piano.