

2017 BIENNIAL MISSION

SUMMIT MINUTES

Friday Evening Gathering, June 30, 2017

Worship 7:00-9:00 PM

Connected to Christ

1. Attendees welcomed with prelude music by the worship team. Judy Fackenthal, President of American Baptist Churches USA, opened the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit and welcomed attendees. Judy Fackenthal announced that as of 5:00 pm today 339 participants registered and 483 delegates registered, setting the quorum for conduct of business at 161. While only delegates may vote on motions, all attendees are welcome to attend the business session on Saturday afternoon.
2. Judy Fackenthal announced that the information shared throughout our time together, especially during the Saturday afternoon business session, will constitute the information related to the ABCUSA budget and actions of the Board of General Ministries.
3. Steve Bils, Chair of the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team, was recognized to make a motion. He moved to adopt the Rules of Procedure for the conduct of business at the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit meeting of delegates. (This document was posted on the ABC website prior to the Biennial and included in the delegate packets.) There was no discussion, and the motion was adopted.
4. Steve Bils made a motion to adopt the provisional program as printed in the program book subject to any further changes the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team, acting as the Committee on the Order of Business, might recommend. There was no discussion and the motion was adopted.
5. Judy Fackenthal introduced ABCUSA Parliamentarian Dennis Johnson, appointed by the ABCUSA President in consultation with the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team to serve as Biennial Parliamentarian.
6. Judy Fackenthal reminded attendees that the Rules of Procedure include information on how they may register to propose a future amendment to the Bylaws. Questions about these procedures should be submitted to the ABCUSA Office located in A-103 and A-104. Judy reminded all delegates to bring their voting cards to the business session on Saturday afternoon.
7. On behalf of the Board of General Ministries, Judy Fackenthal expressed their respect and gave acknowledgement to those who have gone before us. "This place where we meet is built on what was once the land of Host Nations, those who are known as the traditional custodians of this land. We acknowledge their elders past and present. As a body of faith called American Baptist, all our ministry is built on the witness of the faithful who preceded us and we honor them." She also acknowledged the painful days the city of Portland has experienced in light of the recent violence that occurred, thanking them for their gracious hospitality.

8. Rev. Dr. Harry L. Riggs, II, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Lincoln, NE gave words of welcome and announcements.
9. Rev. Dr. C. Jeff Woods, Associate General Secretary for Regional Ministries of American Baptist Church USA, gave an overview of the Orientation to the Mission Summit 2017 which will introduce the “Mission Summit Conversations” around the “Seven Priorities.”
10. Judy Fackenthal with the General Secretary Search Committee introduced the new General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA, Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer. American Baptist Churches USA Past President Rev. Dr. Don Ng prayed for Lee Spitzer as a servant leader. Lee Spitzer thanked the search committee for their hard work and dedication. Lee Spitzer shared that Portland Mayor Kate Brown declared this is officially American Baptist weekend in Portland. Lee Spitzer spoke about his love for the American Baptist Churches and stated, “I seek to provide pastoral oversight over the churches of the whole nation. Together we live, fellowship, and serve as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.”
11. Judy Fackenthal spoke of the rushed pace of the Biennial Mission Summit and all that is wonderful about the Biennial. Judy Fackenthal reminded those gathered to pause – that it is “in the silent spaces that God’s spirit speaks into our lives.”
12. Congregational singing was followed by an opening prayer given by Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal, Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Norristown, PA.
13. Rev. Dr. Luran Bethell, Global Consultant on Human Trafficking, American Baptist International Ministries, introduced Rev. Sharon T. Koh, Executive Director/CEO, American Baptist International Ministries, as the speaker for the evening. Dr. Charles Jones, Area Director for Europe, the Middle East and Liberia, American Baptist International Ministries, read the scripture from the Gospel according to John 15:9-17.
14. After special music by soloist Melissa Gibson, Sharon Koh was the guest speaker for the evening focusing on the theme “Come, Follow Me.”
15. After a sung response, Steve Bills announced that the Friday evening offering would be collected for short term missions scholarships for missions for 19-29 year olds in support of young adult experiences facilitated by the IM short term mission team. The offertory music was given by Pastor Anáталy González -Ortiz and Rev. Julio González-Paniagua, First Spanish Baptist Church of Central Islip, NY.
16. A moment of reflection by Harry Riggs was followed by a congregational song of response led by guest performer Hornrette Thomas Washington. Rapper Andy O sung the benediction with the song, “Spoken Word.”

Saturday Afternoon Business Session, July 1, 2017

2:30 – 3:30 PM

17. Judy Fackenthal welcomed Biennial Mission Summit delegates, called the meeting to order and led in prayer.

18. Josué Gómez-Menéndez, Vice President of ABCUSA, moved the adoption of the minutes of the business sessions of the 2015 Biennial. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the minutes were adopted.
19. Don Ng, member of the ABCUSA Nominating Committee, brought the report of the 2018-2019 officers and moved their election

President – Two year term, ending December 31, 2019

Dr. Josué Gómez-Menéndez, First Baptist Church, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

Vice President – Two-year term, ending December 31, 2019

Mr. Dean Parker, Canaan Baptist Church, Germantown, PA

Budget Review Officer – Two-year term, ending December 31, 2019

Mr. Paul Higgins, Rainbow Acres, Camp Verde, AZ

20. Judy Fackenthal called for a delegate vote, and the officers were elected.
21. Don Ng referred the delegates to the nominees for At-Large Directors of the Board of General Ministries, located on page 28 of the Program Book.
22. Judy Fackenthal called for a delegate vote, and the slate of At-Large members were elected.
23. Josué Gómez-Menéndez, President-Elect was invited to share a few words as the first ABCUSA President-Elect from Puerto Rico.
24. Paul Higgins, budget review officer, presented the Auditor's Report on the 2016, ABCUSA Audited Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, ABCUSA received from Tait, Weller, and Baker LLP, public accountants. Some of the highlights of the report were shared via power point. There was a change in net assets of \$327,991 compared to \$1.5 million in 2015. Some significant changes from 2015:
 - Investment gains up \$1.7 million
 - Biennial expense down \$777,000
 - G & A down \$119,000
 - Representative process down \$85,000
 - Ecumenical relations down \$73,000

For a complete audit report, visit ABC website at www.abc-usa.org or call the Treasurer's office for a copy.

25. Louis Barbarin Executive Director of MMBB gave an update on the ABC Mission Center property located in Valley Forge, PA. (A summary of his update is provided in Appendix 1 attached to these minutes.) An announcement about development of the 588 N. Gulph Road property will be released when negotiations are completed and development plans are in place.
26. Proposed Bylaws changes

At the June 2015 and November 2016 meetings the Board of General Ministries, it was voted to recommend for approval several proposed amendments to the ABCUSA Bylaws to the ABC delegates at the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit. These proposed amendments were posted on the ABCUSA website for 90 days. In addition, a copy of the proposed amendments was given to delegates at the Biennial Mission Summit registration desk.

David Knipel, ABCUSA Attorney was asked by Judy Fackenthal to provide background for the Bylaws changes. A summary of his background comments is provided in Appendix 2 attached to these minutes.

Don Ng moved the adoption of the proposed amendments to Articles 7 and 17 of the ABCUSA Bylaws as recommended by the Board of General Ministries.

There being no speakers registered to speak to amendments to Articles 7 or 17, the President called for the vote. The motion received the required 2/3 majority for passage and the proposed amendments to Articles 7 and 17 were approved.

Don Ng moved the adoption of the proposed amendments to Articles 4, 10, 13, 15, and 19 of the ABCUSA Bylaws as recommended by the Board of General Ministries.

The chair recognized Rev. James Oldham of First Baptist Church Sioux Falls, SD who registered to speak against the proposed amendment to Article XIX. The chair then recognized Paul Higgins to speak in favor of the proposed amendment.

There being no other delegates registered to speak, the President called for the vote. The motion received the required the 2/3 required majority for passage and the proposed amendments to Articles 4, 10, 13, 15, and 19 were approved.

Saturday Evening Gathering, July 1, 2017

Worship 7:00-9:00 PM

Connected to Each Other

27. Rev. Dr. Harry Riggs, II opened the gathering with a reflection.
28. Rev. Lauren Lisa Ng, Board Member, American Baptist Home Mission Societies introduced Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director/CEO, American Baptist Home Mission Societies as the speaker for the evening. Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton, Executive Minister, Evergreen Baptist Association, read the scripture from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.
29. After special music from the Evergreen Mass Gospel Choir, Jeffrey Haggray spoke on the theme "Connected to Each Other."
30. Rev. Katie Choy Wong, Pastor, New Life Christian Fellowship, Castro Valley, CA announced that the Saturday evening offering would be collected to support matching grants in partnering with ABHMS to support excellence in ministry in support of seminarians and clergy on the "front lines" of ministry.

31. A moment of reflection by Harry Riggs was followed by a congregational song of response. Rev. Dr. David Wheeler, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Portland, OR, closed with the Benediction.

Saturday Morning Gathering, July 2, 2017

Worship 9:15-10:15 AM

Connected to the World

32. Rev. Dr. Harry Riggs, II opened the gathering with a responsive call to worship and opening prayer.
33. Rev. Judy Fackenthal gave a brief reflection and led the prayer of confession and assurance of pardon.
34. Mey Saephan, Michelle Saechao, and Lily Yang of Lu-Mien Fellowship Baptist Church in Richmond, CA, read Psalm 141. Rev. Karen Gyax Rodriguez, Pastor of the Federated Church, Green Lake, WI, read the Gospel reading.
35. After a sung response, Mylinda Bates and team led a “Prayer Spiral.”
36. Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary for Finance, CFO/Treasurer, ABCUSA announced that the Sunday morning offering would be collected to support the Matthew 25 Grant, sponsored by ABCUSA and Board of General Ministries, which is funded by a generous anonymous donor whose goal is to meet the needs of housing, feeding, education, and health with regard to the less fortunate. The application process for a Matthew 25 Grant is structured to help small ministries with limited staff time.
37. Family members of Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, ABCUSA General Secretary introduced him prior to his message, including his wife Dr. Lois Spitzer, daughter Larisa Skinner, and son Joshua Spitzer, along with attendees and delegates from the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey. His son-in-law, Travis Skinner, read the scripture, John 3:16-21.
38. Lee Spitzer spoke on the theme “Connected to the World.”
39. The Benediction was given by Rev. Laura I. Ayala, Chair of the American Baptist Women in Ministry Advisory Team, Senior Minister of Primera Iglesia Bautista de Rio Piedras, PR.

Saturday Evening Gathering, July 2, 2017

Worship 7:00-9:00 PM

Connected in Joy

40. Rev. Dr. Harry Riggs, II opened the gathering with words of welcome.

41. Rev. Dr. Philip James, Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN, and Vice-Chair, Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team gave an opening prayer followed by the presentation of the American Baptist Historical Society Bible as it was signed by Judy Fackenthal, in which she added her signature to the other leaders who served as ABCUSA President.
42. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray presented the Dahlberg Award to Rev. Dr. Wayne Croft, Sr. and Judy Fackenthal along with Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer presented the Cora and John Sparrowk President's Award to Emilie Ballard and Newton Old Crow, Sr.
43. The top United Mission giving churches were recognized with gratitude from Rev. Dr. Al Fletcher, Acting Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development, ABCUSA.
44. Rev. Steve Bils, Chair of the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team shared a "Celebration of Local Church Ministry."
45. Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin and her daughter, Anaya, announced that the Sunday evening offering would be collected to supply scholarships to attend the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit.
46. Professional Storyteller Sally Perkins led a "Story of Transformation and Hope," accompanied by Rev. Julio González-Paniagua, First Spanish Church of Central Islip, NY, and Kevin Padworski, along with the Worship Team.
47. The 2017 Biennial Mission Summit in Portland, OR concluded with Holy Communion and Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer ending the evening with the Benediction.
48. President Judy Fackenthal adjourned the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit in Portland OR.

This is a draft of the minutes from the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit in Portland, OR. These minutes are not official until voted on at the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit in Virginia Beach, VA, June 21-23, 2019.

Addendum 1: MISSION CENTER UPDATE

History and Objective

On March 1, 2009, the Board of General Ministries (BGM), American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS), Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB), and American Baptist International Ministries (IM), entered in an agreement of limited partnership for joint ownership of the Mission Center property located in Valley Forge, PA. As a result, 588 Associates was formed. The purpose of this transaction was to assist the Board of General Ministries with establishing an endowment to fund ministry. The purchase price was \$20,000,000 with each partner contributing an amount equal to their share of the property. The percentage of ownership for each entity is as follows: BGM and ABHMS each own a 35% share, MMBB owns a 25% share, and IM owns a 5% share. Between 2009 and 2014 additional contributions totaling \$820,000 were received from the partners per their pro-rata ownership to pay for capital expenditures bringing the total investment in the Mission Center property to \$20,820,000.

The Mission Center consists of two buildings which were constructed in 1962. When the buildings were designed, and constructed its circular configuration served as a model of unity for the national boards with a combined staff of over 750 people. Over the years, the Mission Center, due to a confluence of events including technological advances and the decline of mission funding, has experienced staff attrition resulting in excess building space. This excess space over time has been rented not without challenges. Due to the unique architecture of the building securing tenants often resulted in significant time, energy, and effort; often without success. The building is no longer optimal for serving its ABC tenants into the future. The Mission Center would require extensive and costly renovations which were determined not to be economically feasible or good stewardship of financial resources. Much of the value of the Mission Center property can be attributed to the land.

During the past several years, the primary objectives of 588 Associates have been to stabilize the Mission Center's finances, determine an optimal site for the location of denominational staff and to determine what business decisions to make now, or in the future, related to the Mission Center. The partnership has been working with CSG Urban Partners, real estate consultants to assist with its decisions regarding the aforementioned. CSG performed an in-depth analysis of the Mission Center buildings and the surrounding area and several scenarios were outlined. The options included an outright sale of property and relocating or constructing a new building on the Mission Center site to house ABC employees.

Real Estate Council

A Real Estate Advisory Council was formed to supplement and complement the work of 588 Associates as it develops and executes plans around the disposition of the Mission Center. Council members are vested with authority from their respective Boards to help expedite the execution of favorable real estate opportunities and are guided by transaction approval authority developed by the Council and their respective Boards. Members overall responsibility is to provide their input and expertise to help facilitate the disposition of the Mission Center. Other duties include; ensuring plans align with ministry priorities, assisting with due diligence, sharing vision, helping to manage perceptions, assisting with public relations and providing financial, legal, technical and communications expertise where appropriate. The Real Estate Council is comprised of the National Executive Council members, two board representatives from each national board partner. In addition to the two representatives for each partner organization one stakeholder from AB Computer Center, AB Women's Ministries, AB Minister's Council, AB Extension Corporation, AB Historical Society and AB Foundation were selected by their respective organizations to participate on the Council.

Disposition of the Mission Center

Through discussions with CSG it was determined that the most prudent way to market the Mission Center was to contact real estate entities that may be interested in the property. In the spring of 2015, a Request for Expression of Interest was sent to approximately forty real estate firms that were identified by CSG as potential suiters. The most attractive responses yielded two offers that were below the value of our collective contributions of \$20M. (range of \$12M - \$13M) therefore, 588 Associates and the Real Estate Council agreed at its October 2015 annual Real Estate Council meeting that these offers were not acceptable. Subsequently, a determination was made to explore the possibility of a joint venture which resulted in CSG Associates soliciting offers from various real estate developers. During the 1st quarter of 2016 proposals were analyzed and meetings were conducted with potential partners.

Eventually three finalists were chosen and each real estate developer met with CSG, 588 Associates and the National Executive Council (NEC) in August of 2016 to present their proposals. To retain as much future value as possible and to generate future cash flow to fund ministry, a decision was made to offer prospects a ground lease rather than sell the property which allows for future monetization of the property when the ground lease expires. 588 Associates and the National Executive Council narrowed the search down to two potential partners with the possibility of dividing the Mission Center property into two separate investment opportunities (parcels). Approximately 15 of the 24 acres is currently under consideration for near term development with one developer since there is an identified use that is agreeable to all parties (family entertainment organization). A letter of intent is under review by 588 and the prospective joint venture partner. The remaining 8.65-acre parcel currently does not have a fully identified use and is available for a deal with another joint venture partner.

Relocation

As the real estate council was negotiating redevelopment of the Gulph Road property, the National Executive Council and Treasurers Council (executives and treasurers of ABCUSA, ABHMS, the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board and International Ministries) realized an urgency to relocate Mission Center offices to facilitate the negotiations with potential developers.

To support the continuing negotiations and keep the property development project moving forward, ABHMS proposed several scenarios to the National Executive Council (NEC) and Treasurers Council that would expedite relocation and, at the same time, benefit the entire American Baptist family. Options included mission partners' joint ownership of a new property along with an offer from ABHMS to purchase a property that all could call home. NEC members unanimously supported the option of leasing from ABHMS as the property's sole owner.

After a collaborative process that considered location issues and operational needs related to offices of American Baptist Churches' national partners, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) purchased a building within a half mile of the current Mission Center that ensures partners will continue, as well as enhance, their ministries into the coming decades of the 21st century. The new center, located in the heart of the new King of Prussia Business Improvement District, will incorporate state-of-the-art design and technology features that will enable American Baptists to pursue our mission more effectively and efficiently. Required renovations to the newly purchased building—1075 First Avenue, King of Prussia— are expected to be completed within the first six months of 2018, followed by mission partners' relocation into the new space.

American Baptist partners relocating to 1075 First Avenue include: ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary; American Baptist Extension Corporation; ABHMS; American Baptist Women's Ministries; American Baptist Computer Center; The Ministers Council ABCUSA and one staff member of American Baptist Historical Society. International Ministries (IM), the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB), and the American Baptist

Foundation will not relocate to the First Avenue site. International Ministries will be located at 1003 W. Ninth Avenue in King of Prussia; approximately one half of a mile from ABHMS's new center. The Foundation has not yet secured space. MMBB has historically maintained its primary offices in New York City and will continue to do so.

An announcement about development of the 588 N. Gulph Road property will be released when negotiations are completed and development plans are in place.

** 588 Associates Real Estate Council includes representatives of:

- Mission Center equity partners ABCUSA, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board and International Ministries; along with
- American Baptist Extension Corporation;
- American Baptist Computer Center;
- American Baptist Women's Ministries;
- American Baptist Ministers Council; and
- American Baptist Foundation.

Addendum 2: Proposed Bylaws Changes

At the 2015 Biennial Mission Summit Meeting, a formal Notice of submission of some of those proposed Bylaws amendments to the Delegates for their consideration at this 2017 Biennial Meeting Mission Summit was given. At its November 2016 meeting, the Board of General Ministries approved further amendments for submission to the Delegates at this 2017 Biennial Mission Summit Meeting. Notice of those additional amendments was posted online on March 28, 2017. Time for questions and discussion on all of the proposed amendments is being allotted at this Business Session.

Article XIX, Section 1 of the Bylaws provides that the Bylaws may be added to, amended, or repealed only with the consent of the Delegates at any Biennial Meeting of Delegates, provided that: (i) notice of any such proposed addition, amendment or repeal has been given to the Delegates upon the recommendation of the Board of General Ministries either (A) at least ninety (90) days prior to the Biennial Meeting at which such proposed addition, amendment, or repeal is to be submitted, or (B) at the Biennial Meeting immediately preceding the Biennial Meeting at which such proposed addition, amendment, or repeal is to be submitted. Any addition to or amendment or repeal of the Bylaws may be recommended by majority vote of the entire Board of General Ministries taken at any meeting of the Board of General Ministries. The Board of General Ministries has recommended that the amendments as summarized on the screen, which are available online at www.abc-usa.org and which were given to you in hard copy when you registered, be presented to the Delegates for their consideration at the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit.

Amendments to Article IV (Delegates), Section 2 to reflect that the Flexible Stewardship Plan no longer exists, and to provide that the number of Biennial Delegates allotted to local congregations will be determined by the number of members of a particular congregation reported on the most recent annual report received from that congregation during the last five years.

Amendment to Article VII (Mission Table), Section 1 to add the Intercaucus President at a Mission Table participant.

Amendments to Article X (Board of General Ministries), Section 1

- To provide that a Board of General Ministries Director appointed to fill a vacancy of less than two years is eligible for reelection to two additional 4-year terms;
- To provide that Regions will suggest 3 people (rather than 5) as nominees for At-Large Directors;
- To provide that the President, General Secretary and the Region Executive may agree to submit only the incumbent's name as a nominee to a second term.

Amendment to Article XIII (National Boards) to reflect the change of title for some of our National Boards of their Executive Director to Executive Director and/or Chief Executive Officer.

Amendment to Article XV (Officers), Section 1 to provide that neither the President nor the Vice President may be an employee of ABCUSA.

Amendment to Article XVII (Associated Ministry Organizations) to provide that the Standing Rules shall list the Associated Ministry Organizations.

Amendment to Article XIX (Amendments) to provide that Bylaw Amendments proposed from the floor at any Biennial Meeting be first submitted to the Board of General Ministries for review and approval prior to presentation on the Biennial Meeting floor.