

2019 BIENNIAL MISSION

SUMMIT MINUTES

Summit By the Sea
June 21-23, 2019
Virginia Beach, VA

Friday Evening Gathering, June 21, 2019

Worship 7:00-9:00 PM

From Sea to Sea

1. Attendees were welcomed with prelude music by the worship team. Josué Gómez-Menéndez, President of American Baptist Churches USA, opened the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit and welcomed attendees. Josué Gómez-Menéndez announced that as of 5:00 PM today 470 participants registered and 531 delegates registered, setting the quorum for conduct of business at 175, and convened. While only delegates may vote on motions, all attendees are welcome to attend the business session on Sunday afternoon.
2. Josué Gómez-Menéndez announced that the information shared throughout our time together, especially during the Sunday afternoon business session, will constitute the information related to the ABCUSA budget and actions of the Board of General Ministries.
3. Philip James, Chair of the 2019 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 2019 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. Rev. Dr. Philip James, Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team Chair, 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. Josué Gómez-Menéndez 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. Josué Gómez-Menéndez reminded attendees that the Rules of Procedure include information on how they may register to propose a future amendment to the Bylaws and added. "Questions about these procedures should be submitted to the ABCUSA Office located in Management Office 2E." Josué reminded all delegates to bring their voting cards to the business session on Sunday afternoon.

7. On behalf of the Board of General Ministries, Josué Gómez-Menéndez 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 of our ministry is built on the witness of the faithful who preceded us and we honor them.”
8. Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director/CEO, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) gave words of greeting and reflection, following a video montage of ABHMS’ “Coast to Coast Mission Impact.”
9. Scripture and prayer, which included a litany for congregation participation was followed by the presentation of the awards. Rev. LeDayne McLeese Polaski, recently retired Executive Director of BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz, received the Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace and Justice Award for outstanding work for peace and justice, courageous leadership and compassionate Christian witness for and with individuals marginalized in the United States and around the globe. Rev. Dr. Richard P. Olson, author of “Side by Side: Being Christian in a Multifaith World” (Judson Press, 2018), received the Suzan Johnson Cook Religious Freedom Award for leadership in defending God-given religious liberty for all.
10. Rev. Dr. Clifford Johnson, ABHMS Board President, introduced Dr. Howard Stevenson as the guest speaker.
11. After a sung response, Salvador Orellana, Director of Intercultural Ministries; Latino Ministries; and Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico, announced that the Friday evening offering would be collected for the “Rebuilding, Renewing, and Restoring of Puerto Rico.”
12. Rapper Andy O sung the benediction with the song, “Spoken Word.”

Saturday Evening Gathering, June 22, 2019

Worship 7:00-9:00 PM

Across the Seas

13. Rev. Sharon T. Koh, CEO and Executive Director, American Baptist International Ministries and Rev. Jim Bell, Associate Executive Director for Global Mission gave words of greeting and reflection, followed by a video “The Ups and Downs of Life Across the Seas,” featuring: Rev. Kit Ripley, Global Servant in Thailand, Larry Stanton, Global Servant in Hungary, and Rev. Dr. Stan Slade, Global Consultant for Theological Education.
14. A participatory prayer was led by Rev. Mylinda Baits, Global Consultant for Training Through Restorative Arts; Rev. Charles Jones, Area Director for Europe, the Middle East, and Liberia; Rev. Ben Chan, Area Director for East and South Asia, followed by the song “Oración” with Pastor Anáталys González-Ortiz.
15. Rev. Ray Schooler, Sr. Director of Development and Church Relations, and Joyce Bagiraneza, Donor Advisor for International Ministries announced that the Saturday evening offering would be collected as part of International Ministries 205th Anniversary campaign to raise \$205,000 by the end of the Biennial.

16. Following a reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 11:9, Rev. Sharon Koh and Rev. Jim Bell introduced Rev. Dr. Elijah Brown, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance as the guest speaker.
17. Rev. Rodney Ragwan, Director of Mission Mobilization, gave the closing Benediction.

Sunday Morning Gathering, June 23, 2019

Worship 10:30–11:45 AM

Worship by the Sea

18. After words of welcome and a litany led by representatives of Regional Executive Ministers, Rev. John Upton, Executive Director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, gave a morning greeting.
19. The top United Mission giving churches were recognized with gratitude from Tina Turner, United Mission Coordinator, ABCUSA and Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, ABCUSA General Secretary, followed by region highlights
20. Josué Gómez-Menéndez, along with Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer presented the Cora and John Sparrowk President's Award to Charles and Marie Mercer.
21. Following a reading from the Gospel of John 6:1-14, Louis Barbarin, Executive Director of the Ministers & Missionaries Benefit Board, introduced Rev. Ngwedla Paul Msiza, Baptist World Alliance President as the guest speaker.
22. Offering was collected for the healing ministries of Virginia Beach
23. The service concluded with Holy Communion followed by the benediction given by Rev. Dr. Philip K. James.

Sunday Afternoon Business Session, June 23, 2019

2:15 – 3:00 PM

24. Josué Gómez-Menéndez welcomed Biennial Mission Summit delegates, called the meeting to order and led in prayer.
25. Dean Parker, Vice President of ABCUSA, moved the adoption of the minutes of the business session of the 2017 Biennial. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the minutes were adopted.
26. Judy Fackenthal, member of the ABCUSA Nominating Committee, brought the report of the 2020-2021 officers and moved their election

President – Two year term, ending December 31, 2021

Ms. Karen Podsiadly, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Rochester, NY

Vice President – Two-year term, ending December 31, 2021

Rev. Dr. James Wolfe, First Baptist Church, Pontiac, IL

Budget Review Officer – Two-year term, ending December 31, 2021

Mr. Paul Higgins, Bethany Baptist Church, Clarkdale, AZ

27. Josué Gómez-Menéndez called for a delegate vote, and the officers were elected.
28. Judy Fackenthal referred the delegates to the nominees for At-Large Directors of the Board of General Ministries, located on page 30 of the Program Book.
29. Judy Fackenthal called for a delegate vote, and the slate of At-Large members were elected.
30. Karen Podsiadly, President-Elect was invited to share a few words.
31. Paul Higgins, budget review officer, presented the Auditor's Report on the 2018, ABCUSA Audited Financial Statements for the years ending December 31, 2018 and 2017, ABCUSA received from Tait, Weller, and Baker LLP, public accountants. For a complete audit report, visit ABC website at www.abc-usa.org or call the Treasurer's office for a copy.
32. Josué Gómez-Menéndez adjourned the business session.

Sunday Evening Gathering, June 23, 2019

Worship 7:00-9:00 PM

Sea of Witnesses

33. After a call to worship and Invocation by Betty Long, Dr. James M. Harrison, American Baptist Churches of the South Region Executive Minister gave words of welcome.
34. Josué Gómez-Menéndez signed the Bible presented by the American Baptist Historical Society Executive Director Rev. Dr. Priscilla E. Eppinger.
35. A service of Worship followed with the preaching of the Word by Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr.

This is a draft of the minutes from the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit in Virginia Beach, VA. These minutes are not official until voted on at the 2021 Biennial Mission Summit in San Juan, PR, June 25-27, 2021.