

---

# Orientation to ABC Life Conference American Baptist Churches USA Office of the General Secretary

---



## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ABCUSA OFFICE OF GENERAL SECRETARY

American Baptist Churches are missional congregations that nurture devoted disciples of Jesus Christ who live their lives in mission and ministry for the healing of the world through the love of God.

The Office of the General Secretary exists to serve the entire denomination. More specifically, we:

- Gather American Baptists for denominational events such as the Biennial Mission Summit and Mission Table
- Issue Calls to Prayer when people are in harm's way such as the recent Call to Prayer for Myanmar
- Create commissions and task forces to address timely issues that affect all American Baptists such as the Anti-Racism Task Force
- Support our national American Baptist entities as well as our 33 American Baptist Regions
- Ensure that contributions from individual American Baptists and American Baptist congregations end up in the precise place that the donor intends them to go.

And, we are the group that oversees the Orientation to American Baptist Life. ***We are delighted that you have joined us for this orientation session about the American Baptist Churches USA!***

Each of our administrative functions listed below performs its service as the hands and feet of Christ. These groups, teams, and committees provide support for a full range of American Baptist ministries.

- Mission Resource Development
- Regional Ministries
- Transition Ministries
- American Baptist Women in Ministry
- Accounting Office for American Baptist Mission Support
- American Baptist Churches Information Systems (ABCIS)
- Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations
- Conference planning for American Baptist family events
- World Relief Committee
- Professional Ministries Team

*Continued on next page...*

There is a tasty rice dish in every culture, such as jambalaya, paella, gumbo, etc., comprised of rice and local ingredients. The Office of the General Secretary is the bowl that holds these ingredients. Like rice, our Office of the General Secretary staff serve to bring everyone together, but we are dependent upon our missional partners to add key elements of mission and ministry to the dish.

**THREE MINISTRY PRIORITIES OF THE ABCUSA OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY:**

*SUPPORTING OUR AMERICAN BAPTIST FAMILY*

*STRENGTHENING OUR REGIONS*

*BRINGING TOGETHER AMERICAN BAPTISTS*

<b>Supporting our American Baptist Family</b>	<b>Strengthening our Regions</b>	<b>Bringing Together American Baptists</b>
Administration of information database for clergy and congregations	Church giving to American Baptist Missions - accounting and disbursement	Anti-Racism Task Force
Baptist identity and values promotion	Local church pastoral transition resourcing	Biennial Mission Summit
Burma Refugee Commission	Orientation to American Baptist Life Conference	Board of General Ministries, the representative governing body of ABCUSA
Creation Care/Justice Ministries	Regional Executive Ministers Council consultation & support	Disaster response thru convening the World Relief Committee
Devotional resources	Region board training and resourcing	Denomination-wide news service
Donor support - accounting and disbursement	Regional Executive Minister search consultation	Denomination-wide executive leadership convening
Governance for the American Baptist Historical Society	Stewardship resources	Ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and cooperation
Grants administration		Mission Table for identifying denomination-wide priorities
Group umbrella 501(c)3 coverage		Theologians Conferences and joint publications
Racial/ethnic, generational, and gender-based caucuses		
Women in Professional Ministry		<i>And more....</i>

WHO YOU WILL BE MEETING TONIGHT: ABCUSA LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Dr. C. Jeff Woods**, Interim General Secretary

**Judith Christiansen**, HR Resource Person

**Rev. Rebecca Driscoll**, Minister for Creation Justice

**Rev. Dr. Patricia Hernandez**, Associate General Secretary for Women in Ministry and Transition Ministries

**Tina Kiernan**, United Mission Coordinator, Mission Resource Development, and Biennial Mission Summit Program Coordinator

**Bridget Lipin**, Director of Communications, Mission Resource Development

**Alan Musoke**, Associate General Secretary for Finance/CFO/Treasurer

**Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri**, Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development

A COLLAGE OF ALL ABCUSA STAFF:



**Staff of the ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary**

ONLINE PRESENCE:

Main website: [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org)  
Facebook: [@AmericanBaptistChurchesUSA](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanBaptistChurchesUSA)  
Twitter: [@americanbaptist](https://twitter.com/americanbaptist)  
Instagram: [@americanbaptist](https://www.instagram.com/americanbaptist)

2021 Orientation to ABC Life: [www.abc-usa.org/otabl](http://www.abc-usa.org/otabl)  
2021 Biennial Mission Summit: [www.americanbaptists2021.com](http://www.americanbaptists2021.com)

American Baptist Women in Ministry: [www.abwim.org](http://www.abwim.org)  
2022 Radical.Redeemed.Ready. Conference: [www.radicalredeemedready.com](http://www.radicalredeemedready.com)

HIGHLIGHTS WITHIN THE ABCUSA WEBSITE:

Identifying as American Baptist:

- [Who We Are](#) (Overview page)
- [American Baptist History](#)
- [10 Facts You Should Know About American Baptists](#) (Handout)
- [United Mission Giving](#) (The central way congregations contribute financially to the breadth of American Baptist ministries and mission.)

ABCUSA Governance

- [Board of General Ministries](#) (Current Officers, Overview of the BGM)
- [Governing Documents](#) (Bylaws, Resolutions, and more)

Current News and Events

- [American Baptist News Service](#) (ABNS: press releases from across the ABC)
- [Archive of Enewsletters](#) (as well as link to join the ABCUSA Email List)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [2021 Lenten Devotional Resources](#)
- [2021 Call to Prayer for Myanmar Resources](#)

Networking

- [Staff Directories](#) (for ABCUSA and for American Baptist Partners and Organizations)
- [American Baptist Regions](#) (all ABC local churches must affiliated with one of the official recognized, yet autonomous, regional organizations)





**imagine**  
American Baptist Churches USA  
**BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT**  
An Online Experience | June 24-26, 2021

Registration for Church Delegates and Participants is open.  
Visit [www.americanbaptists2021.com](http://www.americanbaptists2021.com)  
to view the entire schedule and register.

## Highlights you won't want to miss:

(times listed are Eastern Daylight Time)

### THURSDAY JUNE 24, 2021

- 4:00 pm Welcome Session—  
Learn more about the online platform, schedule, and special events.
- 5:00 pm American Baptist Caucus Sessions
- 7:00 pm Worship—*Imagine Unity*  
Join with other members of the American Baptist family for this Communion service.

### FRIDAY JUNE 25, 2021

- 3:00 pm An Address to MMBB Members
- 4:00 pm A selection of workshops
- 5:00 pm Business Session—  
***Churches, please select delegates to represent your church at this session.***
- 6:30 pm Highlighting International Ministries
- 7:00 pm Worship—*Imagine Healing*  
Featuring Keynote Speaker Rev. Dr. Winterbourne LaPucelle Harrison Jones
- 8:15 pm Comedy (half) Hour

### SATURDAY JUNE 26, 2021

- 4:00 pm A selection of workshops
- 5:00 pm Mission Summit Conversations
- 6:30 pm Highlighting American Baptist Home Mission Societies
- 7:00 pm Worship—*Imagine Hope*  
Featuring Keynote Speaker Rev. Dr. Brianna Parker

## And more...

- Visit with American Baptist Partners and related organizations in the Virtual Exhibit Hall
- View the On-Demand Library of resources and recordings at your leisure before, during, and after the event
- Connect with other attendees around areas of interest to you

Imagine what God has in store this June 2021.

Presented by



In partnership with

