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**

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<td>Church giving to American Baptist Missions – accounting and disbursement</td>
<td>Anti-Racism Task Force</td>
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<td>Baptist identity and values promotion</td>
<td>Local church pastoral transition resourcing</td>
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<td>Burma Refugee Commission</td>
<td>Orientation to American Baptist Life Conference</td>
<td>Board of General Ministries, the representative governing body of ABCUSA</td>
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<td>Regional Executive Ministers Council consultation &amp; support</td>
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<td>Devotional resources</td>
<td>Region board training and resourcing</td>
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<td>Donor support – accounting and disbursement</td>
<td>Regional Executive Minister search consultation</td>
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<td>Governance for the American Baptist Historical Society</td>
<td>Stewardship resources</td>
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<td>Grants administration</td>
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<td>Mission Table for identifying denomination-wide priorities</td>
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<td>Women in Professional Ministry</td>
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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
Facebook: @AmericanBaptistChurchesUSA
Twitter: @americanbaptist
Instagram: @americanbaptist

2021 Orientation to ABC Life: www.abc-usa.org/otabl
2021 Biennial Mission Summit: www.americanbaptists2021.com

American Baptist Women in Ministry: www.abwim.org

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)
United in Christ
Together in Mission

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
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 MBBB 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

American Baptist Women’s Ministries
international ministries
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