



BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES
November 17-19, 2016

MINUTES

Meeting Site: Crowne Plaza
260 Mall Boulevard
King of Prussia, PA 19406
Ph: 610-265-7500

Officers: Judy Fackenthal, President
Josue Gómez-Menendez, Vice President
Don Ng, Past President
Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer
Susan E. Gillies, Interim General Secretary

Parliamentarian: Dennis Johnson **BGM Chaplain:** Kay Farley

Thursday, November 17, 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.; BGM Plenary; Independence North

BGM 307 CALL TO ORDER

Judy Fackenthal, ABC President, called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the “holy work we are about to do.” Judy recalled the events of BGM’s November 2015 meeting and, in particular the recognition and celebration of the ministry of former General Secretary Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley upon his retirement and the welcoming of Dr. Susan E. Gillies as Interim General Secretary. She also spoke of the state of our nation during this post-election time and the transition that will be taking place in the upcoming new year. In light of this, she invited BGM directors and staff, in groups of two or three, to spend a few moments reflecting on the past months and responding to the question: What have you learned this year that has changed you?

Judy shared regrets from BGM directors Andy Arndt and Danny Jack. She also thanked Stephanie Commandest and Manuel Luquin for agreeing to serve as Tellers for this meeting, and she thanked Nancy O’Neill for sharing her gift of music during our times of Worship.

BGM 308 WORSHIP

BGM Chaplain Kay Farley lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence. Felipe Candelaria, Dean Parker and Vivan Martindale participated, respectively, in reading scripture, in prayer and in song. Kay led in a devotional titled, "Having the Power to Match the Problem," focusing on the power of God released through the depth of prayer.

BGM 309 CONSENT AGENDA

The following written reports of update were posted for BGM directors' review prior to the meeting:

- Reports from Directors to Other Boards—Frederickson, MMBB; Martindale, IM; Wolfe, ABHMS
- Reports from ABCUSA & Associated Ministry Organizations
- New Baptist Covenant—Judy Fackenthal
- National Ministers Conference—Debora Jackson
- General Secretary Emeritus Ecumenical Report—A. Roy Medley
- Transformed by the Spirit/Journey Team—C. Jeff Woods*
- Rhythms of the Spirit—Brad Berglund
- ABC Creation Justice Network—Ian Mevorach, Tom Carr
- Professional Ministries Team—Jeff Woods
- Burma Refugee Commission—Florence Li
- Emerging Theologians Commission—Jennifer Davidson

The proposed Agenda for this meeting and the June 16-18, 2016 BGM Meeting minutes were also posted prior to the meeting.

By consensus, it was

VOTED: To approve the General Consent Agenda: Written Reports posted prior to the meeting and the Proposed November 2016 Agenda and Minutes of BGM's June 16-18, 2016 Meeting (held in Green Lake, WI).

BGM 310 REPORT OF ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Josue Gómez-Menendez, ABC Vice President, reported the actions taken by the BGM Executive Committee at its September 8-10, 2016 meeting held in Rochester, NY.

BGM 311 REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Slate of ABC Officers for the 2018-2019 Biennium

President Judy Fackenthal announced the following slate of ABC Officers for the 2018-2019 biennium to be forwarded to the 2017 Biennial delegates for vote at the Biennial Mission Summit in Portland, OR:

- President: Josue Gómez-Menendez
- Budget Review Officer: Paul Higgins

The Nominating Committee has not made a decision related to the nomination for ABC Vice President. Time has been provided for additional reflection, with the Nominating Committee meeting for a second

session at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, November 18. The three region executives who serve on the Nominating Committee (and who are currently participating in the REMC retreat in Phoenix, Arizona), will join the meeting by conference call.

BGM 312 ELECTION OF BGM DIRECTORS

Election of BGM Committee Members

Beryl Hornberger will complete her term on the Board of General Ministries with the November 2016 meeting. It was by consensus

VOTED: At the recommendation of the BGM Executive Committee, to elect Thomas Ross, Jr. to serve on the BGM Finance Committee, beginning in 2017.

Ashley Whitaker, who has been serving on the Committee on Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations, has taken a pastorate in a region which is not one she represents on this board. It was by consensus

VOTED: To approve the appointment of Zina Jacque for service on the Committee on Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations, beginning in 2017.

Election of BGM Director to the Board of International Ministries

Vivan Martindale will complete his term as BGM director with the November meeting. It was by consensus

VOTED: To elect Marijane Kiley as BGM Director to the Board of IM for 2017.

BGM 313 ROLE OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES

As a result of discussion at the BGM Executive Committee's September 2016 meeting related to the role of the Board of General Ministries, Dr. C. Jeff Woods, Associate General Secretary for Regional Ministries, was invited to create a survey to be sent to board directors, with the results of the survey being discussed at this November meeting. This survey focused on corporate and individual responsibilities of the Board, as listed in the ABCUSA Bylaws. At this meeting, Jeff provided an overview of the survey results, asking BGM directors and staff to reflect on the following questions, jotting down responses to be used for table discussion following this review: What did you hear that was confirming of what you already thought? What did you hear that was surprising to you? What did you hear that you believe needs to be discussed further by the board? Following table group discussion, the full board met to continue discussion. Fourteen items, representing important areas that surfaced during table conversations, were recorded on newsprint and posted at the back of the room.

During a beverage break, directors were given colored paper dots to use as a means of voting on which items should be prioritized as first and second in importance of being addressed. Following break, the results of the voting process were announced as listed below:

- 1-What is our clear focus/direction? -22 votes
- 2-What does "seek welfare of the whole" mean? -20 votes
- 3-Improving new board orientation -9 votes

The notes recorded from table discussion are attached to the official copy of the minutes filed in the General Secretary's office. The Executive Committee will be focusing on the three priorities noted above at its March 2017 meeting, determining how to move forward and bringing that work to the BGM's June 2017 agenda for feedback.

BGM 314 CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

The New York legislature has adopted further changes to the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, which are awaiting the Governor's signature. David Knipel, ABCUSA legal counsel, was present at the Executive Committee meeting earlier today to provide background on recent updates (since 2013) and to answer questions related to the most recent updates (2015-2016). He reiterated the following information at this meeting as well:

David reported that in 2013, the State of New York adopted the New York Non-Profit Revitalization Act which revised many aspects of the law applicable to not-for-profit corporations formed in New York. Many provisions became effective on July 1, 2014. One of these changes required not-for-profit corporations to adopt a conflict policy to ensure that directors, officers, and key employees act in the organization's best interest. The policy must include (1) a definition of the circumstances that constitute a conflict, (2) procedures for disclosing a conflict, (3) a requirement that the conflicted person not be present at or participate in the deliberations or vote (other than to present information prior to deliberations and voting in response to a request), (4) a prohibition on any attempt to influence improperly the deliberations or voting, (5) a requirement that the existence and resolution of the conflict be included in the minutes, and (6) procedures for disclosing, addressing, and documenting related party transactions. The policy must also require an annual conflict disclosure statement, and the Act requires a board, audit committee, or another committee of independent directors to oversee compliance with the conflict policy.

The Act also introduced the concept of related party transactions, and it provided that a corporation may not enter into a related party transaction unless the Board determines that the transaction is fair, reasonable, and in the organization's best interest at the time of determination. The board of charitable corporations are required to take additional steps, such as the consideration of alternatives before making a determination, where a related party has a substantial financial interest.

In 2015, the State of New York adopted some additional changes to the Act and, earlier this past summer, the New York legislature passed a bill approving further changes. The bill has been passed by both houses and is currently awaiting the Governor's signature, which must happen before the end of the year. The recent changes update some of the definitions associated with conflicts of interests and related party transactions. For example, the bill replaces the concept of "key employees" with "key persons" who are defined more broadly to include individuals who (1) have responsibilities similar to those of directors or officers, (2) manage a substantial portion of a corporation's activities, assets, income or expenses, or (3) help determine a substantial portion of the corporation's capital expenditures or operating budget. It also requires the conflict policy to include procedures to disclose *possible* conflicts of interest and for the board or committee to determine whether a conflict exists. The Act also generally removes the requirement that a committee of independent directors needs to oversee conflict of interest and whistleblower policy matters.

Following a time for questions and discussion, at the recommendation of the BGM Executive Committee, it was

VOTED: To approve the proposed changes, as presented, to the Conflict of Interest policy for the Board of General Ministries.

Dave Knipel will contact ABHS director Priscilla Eppinger to inform her of this action and to let her know that ABHS will need to comply as well.

BGM 315 PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

At its June 2015 meeting, the Board of General Ministries voted to approve several proposed amendments to the ABCUSA Bylaws for recommendation to the ABC delegates at the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit. At this meeting ABCUSA Legal Counsel David Knipel presented the following three additional proposed bylaw amendments as recommended by the BGM Executive Committee for consideration:

1) Article IV, Sections 2ii, 2iii and 2iv regarding the receipt of annual reports from cooperating churches used to determine the number of delegates to Biennial meetings; 2) Article XIII, section 2 regarding the change in title of the executive director of MMBB to “Chief Executive Officer”; and 3) Article XIX, section 1 regarding the process for future proposed additions/amendments/repeal of the Bylaws prior to presentation on the Biennial floor. (The marked bylaws, indicating the 3 proposed changes in blue font, were posted on the BGM document page on the ABCUSA website prior to the meeting for directors’ review.)

Dave Knipel reported that the Executive Committee voted at its meeting earlier today to forward these 3 additional proposed amendments to Biennial delegates, with one added change to Article XIX, Section 1 (lines 1373-1375) to read: “...provided that prior to such Biennial Meeting, the addition, amendment or repeal has been presented to and approved by the Board of General Ministries” (striking out “for presentation to the delegates”). Should this amendment be approved, it would not be applicable to the 2017 biennial.

As part of the discussion related to the proposed amendment to Article XIX, Section 1, Paul Higgins reported that following the BGM Executive Committee meeting in September, a small group was charged to look at the issue of items coming to the floor at Biennial business sessions. A document has been prepared titled, “How Can I Be Heard at the Biennial?” It is hoped that this document will be included in registration materials or in Biennial delegate packets to orient those who have never attended a Biennial Mission Summit business session. This document may also be posted on the ABCUSA website and used as part of the orientation process for participants in OTABL.

Time was provided for further discussion, after which a motion was made, seconded and it was

VOTED: To call for the question and to cease the debate
(COUNTED vote: Yea- 21; Nay-8; The motion did not pass.)

Discussion continued and clarification was brought to several questions, including: Is there a timeline in which this happens if we move forward to this change? Can we get the rules of procedure out in a timely fashion to explain how this works?

If appropriate notice is given 90 days prior to the biennial, the additional amendments (noted in blue on the draft) can be voted on along with the previous proposed amendments voted on at the BGM’s June meeting (noted in red on the draft) at the 2017 biennial. David Knipel advised that while both sets of amendments can be presented for vote, that they be presented separately.

Following discussion, at the recommendation of the BGM Executive Committee, it was

VOTED: To forward the proposed three amendments to the ABCUSA Bylaws (indicated by blue font), as amended, to the ABC delegates at the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit for action.
(COUNTED VOTE: Yea- 32; Nay- 1)

Interim General Secretary Susan Gillies reported that the proposed amendments to the Bylaws will be mailed to American Baptist congregations, with a narrative.

BGM 316 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Judy Fackenthal recessed the meeting of the Board of General Ministries for an Executive Session without staff present, to discuss the General Secretary's search. If any action was taken during this time that action will be recorded and sealed in an envelope attached to the official set of minutes filed in the General Secretary's office.

DINNER

At 6:00 p.m., BGM directors, spouses (Malachi Blandon, Myrtice Warren) and staff gathered in Independence South to enjoy dinner and fellowship together. Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, attended as BGM's special guest and following dinner, he shared his vision for ABHMS ministry.

BGM VESPERS—7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., BGM Chaplain Kay Farley, assisted by Rev. Zina Jacque and Rev. Jonathan Malone, led in a time of evening prayer and meditation and sharing in the Lord's Supper.

Friday, November 18, 2016

At 7:00 a.m., the BGM Finance Committee met for a breakfast meeting in the Wayne Room and the Baptist Talk Commission met for a breakfast meeting in DeKalb 206. Other BGM directors and staff enjoyed breakfast in Stirlings Restaurant of the Crowne Plaza.

Following breakfast, at 8:40 a.m., BGM directors and staff met in the lobby of the Crowne Plaza for transport to the American Baptist Mission Center.

Tour of the Mission Center, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Upon arrival at the Mission Center, BGM gathered in the lobby for an introduction to Rev. Dr. Al Fletcher, new Acting Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development and Dr. Laura Miraz, new ABCUSA Director of Human Resources. Laura Miraz and Tina Turner, Executive Assistant to the Acting Associate Director for Mission Resource Development, each led a group of directors on a tour of the Mission Center. Bridget Lipin, Assistant Director of Communications/Web Manager, photographed BGM directors and members of the Executive Committee, in response to a decision made at a recent BGM Executive Committee meeting to become more intentional in recording visual historic records.

BGM Plenary; Side Dining Room of the ABC Mission Center

BGM 317 RECONVENING/WORSHIP

ABC Vice President Josue Gómez-Menendez called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

Nancy O'Neill led in singing the hymn, "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less." Chaplain Kay Farley led in a meditation, contemplating ways in which the words of this hymn speak to our souls as we think of redevelopment of the Mission Center property. She noted that although there is a feeling of great sadness in this process of redevelopment, there is yet a greater sense of blessing that this sacred space has provided for American Baptists over the years. BGM joined in a prayer of thanksgiving and to petition God's guidance and wisdom in future decisions.

BGM 318 REPORT OF THE INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY

Susan expressed appreciation for this special time for directors to tour the Mission Center, recognizing that for many this is a first visit. She also expressed gratitude for this amazing facility that God has blessed the American Baptist family with, emphasizing that it is not just the building itself, but that it has in so many other ways been an incredible home for American Baptists. Many well-known leaders have walked these halls, including Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Dr. Jitsuo Morikawa, and international and home missionaries who have served over the years. She requested prayer for staff, many who understandably have deep-seated emotions related to the development process itself and will undoubtedly experience stress related to the possible timing of this process. She also noted that it has been such a joy and an incredible privilege to be part of this planning.

BGM 319 RECESS BGM/CONVENE ABHS

President Judy Fackenthal recessed the meeting of the Board of General Ministries. Rev. Garth Brokaw, president of the American Baptist Historical Society (ABHS), called the annual corporate meeting of the ABHS to order. Garth brought regrets from Rev. Dr. Priscilla Eppinger, ABHS executive director, who was not able to be present due to the passing of her father and American Baptist leader Paul Eppinger. BGM directors enjoyed connecting with Priscilla through a video greeting she prepared.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Historical Society will be posted on the BGM document page of the ABCUSA website upon following the meeting and a hard copy attached to the minutes filed in the General Secretary's office. The annual corporate meeting of ABHS was adjourned and the BGM meeting was reconvened.

BGM 320 RECONVENE BGM/COALITION TO TRANSFORM ADVANCED CARE

At its March 2016 meeting, the Executive Committee voted to name American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries (ABHCM), because of its expertise, as the official ABC representative to the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC). C-TAC is based in the DC area and shepherds quality of care for those with terminal illnesses. Funding (approximately \$1500) to cover the cost of a representative attending the annual meeting is financed by ABCUSA- Office of the General Secretary. Rev. Garth Brokaw, then executive director of ABHCM, was named as ABC's representative. Garth has attended two of the three National Summits held, one in March 2015 and the most recent Summit held on September 20-21, 2016, both in Washington DC.

Garth provided a brief history related to ABC's decision to join C-TAC, noting that this organization includes primarily non-profits and church groups which address issues of healthcare for the elderly, including ways to involve congregations. He noted that Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, CA is committed to the work of C-TAC and shepherds an incredible program addressing the issues of healthcare in its community. Garth serves on the board as a representative of the interfaith committee on the role of faith

and spirituality for persons facing end of life. The organization views issues of faith to be critical in whole life care, but this view is not widely understood with care providers. The goal of C-TAC is to ensure that faith providers are involved beginning with the first stage of terminal care and that this care reflects the respective family values.

BGM 321 WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE

Lisa Rothenbeger, World Relief Officer, stated that we are in a crisis of historic proportion where one in every 13 people globally is an asylum seeker, a refugee, or a displaced person. In response, One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries.

In August, OGHS funding of \$50,000 was provided to each of two churches in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana area where flood damage, noted to be the worst since Superstorm Sandy, has been estimated at over \$10 billion, with many displaced churches and uninsured homeowners. ABHMS and ABMen have also been involved in hands-on ministry in the area. \$10,000 in OGHS funding was also sent to Haiti in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew in early October, where approximately 1.5 million people were displaced. Lisa noted that the work of American Baptists through World Relief continues to embody the work of Christ in new and different ways.

BGM 322 588 REAL ESTATE STATUS

Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer, shared an informational PowerPt. presentation related to the background and history of the Mission Center property and provided a detailed explanation of oversight of the development of the Mission Center process, including the way this process has been guided by a review of relevant American Baptist policy statements. Prior to his presentation and throughout, he stressed the need for those present to honor their pledge of confidentiality.

Vice President Josue Gómez-Menendez recessed the meeting at 11:45 a.m. BGM directors and staff returned to the Crowne Plaza for lunch.

BGM Plenary; Independence North

BGM 323 RECOVERING/ REPORT OF THE BUDGET REVIEW OFFICER

President Judy Fackenthal reconvened the meeting of the Board of General Ministries at 1:45 p.m.

YTD Financials/UM Funding Distribution

Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer, presented the YTD Financials through September 2016. The detailed report was posted for BGM review prior to the meeting and is attached to the minutes filed in the General Secretary's office.

During this time Paul also reported that total YTD United Mission income is \$5,747,183, a reduction of 4.99% from the previous year, with the term "United" becoming more and more erroneous, with some partners being squeezed out. Susan Gillies is currently in conversation with other organizations in regard to

this issue. A question was asked about the possibility of revising the Common Budget Covenant. Paul explained that the covenant was last approved in 2005 after 12 yrs. of negotiation involving all national boards and regions. At that time the regions' portion of United Mission increased from 55% to 65%. No one is anxious to reopen such a process.

Upon recommendation of the ABCUSA Finance Committee, it was

VOTED: To approve the proposed UM distribution for 2017, as presented.

2017 ABCUSA Budget; Rep Process Budget for 2017; MRD Budget for 2017

Paul presented a detailed report of the 2017 Budget packet.

Salaries in the proposed budget reflect a 2.23% increase. The ABCIS programmer salary is budgeted at 100% in 2017 (compared to being budgeted at 50% in 2015 and 75% in 2016). This budget also includes the General Secretary's salary budgeted at 75% for the first 6 months and 100% for the following six months. Medical costs increased by 9.9%. Expenses for the General Secretary Search process are not included in this budget; those expenses are paid out of reserves.

Following a time for questions and discussion, and at the recommendation of the BGM Finance Committee, it was by consensus

VOTED: To adopt the proposed 2017 Estimated Income and the 2017 ABCUSA Budgets for ABCUSA, Representative Process and Mission Resource Development.

BGM 324 REPORT OF CHANGED RELATIONSHIPS

Josue Gómez-Menendez presented the Report of Changed Relationships. Following a time for discussion, a motion was made, seconded and it was by consensus

VOTED: To recognize the Report of Changed Relationships of Local Churches (document1205.1:11/16) dated June 4, 2016 through November 8, 2016.

BGM 325 YOUNG ADULT CAUCUS

Young Adult Caucus

Josue reported that the BGM Executive Committee, at its meeting earlier today, voted to recommend to the Board of General Ministries that the status of the Young Adult Caucus be changed from a BGM Caucus to an American Baptist Caucus. Ashley Whitaker and Tasha Wilson, both members of the Young Adult Caucus, provided history related to this request, noting that the caucus' goals for this new status is to turn an existing, informal but well-connected network, into an asset of the denomination and to improve and expand this network for the benefit of all young adults in the denomination. All young adults who meet the following criteria are invited to be a part of the caucus: American Baptists ages 19-39, laity and clergy, all regions, and all ethnicities.

Following a time for questions, and at the recommendation of the BGM Executive Committee, it was

VOTED: To approve the Young Adult Caucus as an American Baptist Caucus. with an allocated

budget of \$3,000 for 2017.

BGM 326 UM ADAPTIVE CHALLENGE

President Fackenthal reported that the Communicating ABC Identity Action Group continues its strong and active work. The creation of this Action Group was birthed out of the work of the UM Adaptive Challenge Team as a way for American Baptists to live into its identity. Judy requested that BGM keep our corporate “feet to the fire” to continue to make that a reality. It is anticipated that this work will go forward after the election of the new General Secretary.

BGM 327 2017 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

The 2017 Biennial Mission Summit is being planned as a celebration of who we are as American Baptists. Plenary speakers include Rev. Sharon Kho (Friday evening), Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray (Saturday evening) and the new General Secretary (Sunday morning). Sunday evening will include a light-hearted celebratory event, framed with a talk show format. There will be various workshops, multiple Bible Studies available, and Mission Table Conversations addressing the 7 denominational priorities and Learning Opportunities which will (with a couple of exceptions) also coordinate with the 7 priorities. There will be a pre-biennial Theologians Conference and the Orientation to American Baptist Life (OTABL) which will run in tandem with the Biennial Mission Summit. Judy expressed appreciation for the work of Holly Bean, who is coordinator for OTABL. BGM director Stephanie Commandest, who serves on the board of ABC of the Northwest, encouraged BGM directors to attend the biennial and expressed the region’s excitement in hosting this family event.

BGM 328 NEW BAPTIST COVENANT

There are currently three American Baptists serving on the New Baptist Covenant Board: Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Laura Alden and Judy Fackenthal. The New Baptist Covenant (NBC) was initiated by President Jimmy Carter in 2007 with the dream of pulling Baptists together to heal the divides across racial lines, to coordinate cooperative programs and to encourage churches to be intentional about having courageous conversations around race and to work cooperatively on community projects. One of the speakers at the New Baptist Covenant Summit, held in Atlanta in September, was Rev. Traci Blackmon, first woman pastor in the 156 year history of Christ the King United Church of Christ and also a member of President Barack Obama’s Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. NBC’s executive director, Hannah McMahan, will be hosting an exhibit at the biennial.

BGM 329 TASKFORCE ON RACE AND RACE-BASED VIOLENCE

BGM director Rev. Zina Jacque, also a member of the Taskforce on Race and Race-based Violence, reported that the taskforce work currently focuses primarily on the following areas: a pilot project for clergy, teaching churches how to respond after violence in their respective communities; the development of a “best practices library,” gathering resources for bringing discussions into local churches; and finding better ways to empower people to share their own stories. Zina, who is African American, ended her report by sharing her own powerful story of pastoring in a small 97% white community.

BGM 330 RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BOARD DIRECTORS

The following BGM directors were recognized for their generous gifts of time, talents and Christian love in service over the years to the board and to the American Baptist family:

Beryl Hornberger: 7 years of service (2 yrs., General Board; 5 yrs. BGM)
Jonathan Malone: 7 years of service (2 yrs. General Board; 5 yrs. BGM)
Vivan Martindale: 6 years of service (1 yr. General Board; 5 yrs. BGM)
Dean Parker: 5 years of service (all on BGM)
(Dean was not able to be at this session, and was recognized on Saturday.)

(Ashley Whitaker, who has served on BGM for 3 years, and is resigning as BGM director due to her move to a new ministry site.)

Each was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a copy of Rev. Dr. Kirk Byron-Jones' book, "Addicted to Hurry."

BGM 331 RECESS OF MEETING FOR BGM ACTION GROUPS

From 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., the BGM convened in the following Action Groups to focus its work in various areas.

BGM Finance Committee – Duportail 406 (Led by Paul Higgins, Alan Musoke)
Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations – DeKalb 206 (Led by June Totten, Jeff Woods)
Becoming a Beloved Community – Wayne (Led by Camille Brown, Pat Hernandez)
Communicating ABC Identity – Radnor (Led by Tasha Wilson, Susan Gillies, Al Fletcher, Bridget Lipin)

DINNER, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Independence South

Following dinner, Cathy Brubaker (Assistant to Interim General Secretary Susan Gillies and recorder for these meetings) was honored for 33 years of service to ABC. President Fackenthal and Past President Don Ng (who served with Cathy in the 1980s in the Board of Educational Ministries) provided tributes and she was presented with gifts of appreciation, including being named an "Honorary American Baptist."

Creation Justice Network Bible Study; 7:30 p.m – 9:30 p.m.; Independence North

Following dinner, co-chairs of the Creation Justice Network, Rev. Dr. Ian Mevorah and Rev. Tom Carr, with Rev. Dr. Owen Owens, author of "Spiritual Help in Hard Times: The Bible's Hope for Life on Earth", led a Bible Study from a chapter of Dr. Owen's book. Copies of Dr. Owens' book were gifted to members of the Board of General Ministries.

Saturday, November 19, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.; BGM Plenary; Independence North

BGM 332 CALL TO ORDER

President Judy Fackenthal reconvened the meeting of the Board of General Ministries and shared announcements related to shuttle pickup for departures and check out.

BGM 333 WORSHIP/LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Chaplain Kay Farley lit the Christ Candle and shared a brief devotional thought.

BGM 334 PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS – CONTINUED CONVERSATION

It was brought to the board’s attention that the new bylaws of International Ministries, use the title of “Chief Executive Officer” for Rev. Sharon Koh. In light of that, a motion was made by Paul Higgins, seconded by Bill Frederickson and it was unanimously

VOTED: To move to amend the motion related to proposed Bylaw changes adopted during BGM’s Thursday session by inserting in Article XII, Section 2 (line 960), the words “and/or Chief Executive Officer thereof” and striking (lines 961-962), the words “in the case of ABFMS, ABHMS, and WABHMS, and as Chief Executive Officer in the case of MMBB.”

BGM 335 ABCUSA OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Ken Marsenburg’s role as ABCUSA’s Director of Development is to develop a strategy as it pertains to American Baptist giving and particularly as it applies to the Office of the General Secretary. Ken reported on the work done through the Development Advisory Team (DAT), the committee chaired by David Gnirk. He reported increased giving, although he noted that we are not yet where we hope to be. He noted that BGM directors are key leaders to help carry out the mission work of ABCUSA and he challenged directors to not only give themselves, but to bring forth names of those who may have the ability to contribute significant funds.

Ken has been working with Pat Hernandez on the ABWIM “Access for Excellence” campaign. Pat shared information about the campaign, noting that the campaign booklet was included in BGM packets. Over 19 individual women and men engaged in strategizing this step of mission and vision through networking and resourcing regions and churches. The goal of the campaign is \$50,000, of which \$39,000 is currently realized, with a hope to meet the goal by Christmas.

BGM 336 CALL FOR PRAYER

There was a call for prayer for Rev. Dr. Judy Allbee, former executive minister of ABC of Connecticut, who had emergency surgery on Monday and for Rev. Dr. Ernest Jones, executive minister of ABC of Ohio, who faces a second upcoming surgery.

BGM 337 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMITS – 2017 & 2019

2017 Biennial

President Fackenthal reported that as an incentive for BGM directors to stay for the June biennial, ABCUSA will cover the expense of the first night at the hotel following the BGM meetings.

2019 Biennial

Annie Marcucci, Director of Travel & Conference Planning and Biennial Coordinator, is working on the venue for the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit. At the direction of the Executive Committee, she is currently exploring a number of possibilities.

BGM 338 MISSION RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (MRD)

Al Fletcher, Acting Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development, expressed his delight at serving the ABC family in this new role, noting what an “incredible staff” he has to work with and also sharing appreciation for the role of former Associate General Secretary for MRD, Leo Thorne, in “setting the course.”

Through a PowerPt. Presentation, Al reported that United Mission is very much alive and we need to remind churches that it is a family offering. He posed these questions: Are we a family working together to support the mission which God has called us to do? What do we have to do differently? How can we put together a plan that is healthy, innovative, and transforming?

President Fackenthal encouraged BGM directors to reflect on Al’s presentation, to take the challenge of looking on the bright side, a glass half full versus a glass half empty, and she encouraged directors to share feedback with Al by email.

BGM 339 BAPTIST TALK COMMISSION

Don Ng reported that the Baptist Talk Commission has had two meetings, one by conference call and a Friday morning breakfast meeting on November 18. Jonathan Malone and Vivan Martindale have been added as members to the Commission, comprising 8 members in total.

At its meeting on Friday morning, the Commission discussed the need to frame “Talk”—what does this word mean and what makes it “Baptist?” The commission’s goal is to coordinate a 2-hour Baptist talk session to be held during the Biennial (on Sunday afternoon) as a model for what Baptist Talk might look like and to provide skills for future sessions following the biennial. There are plans to set the climate/culture by including informational material in the registration packets, which will include guidelines for how Baptist Talk might take place. Currently, two future conference calls are scheduled and another face-to-face meeting will take place in sync with the November 2017 BGM meeting.

BGM 340 CALL FOR DIALOGUE AND ACTION-STANDING ROCK

Members of the ABC Creation Justice Network—Ashley Anderson, Karyn Bigelow, Dwight Davidson, Stacey Simpson Duke, Kathleen Moore, Jamie Washam, David Wheeler, Tom Carr, Ian Mevorach and Don Ng—met recently in Massachusetts. At this meeting, a decision was made to submit a Call for Dialogue and Action related to the Standing Rock effort to halt construction of the 1,170 mile Dakota Access Pipeline, which is being constructed to move thousands of barrels of domestic crude oil a day through four states. Protesters at the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota are actively engaged in efforts to protect native lands and waterways. (In early November, a member of the Network, Rev. Stacey Simpson Duke, joined hundreds of other clergy at Standing Rock in solidarity and reconciliation through a peaceful protest.)

The draft of the ABC/CJN statement was forwarded to BGM by the BGM Executive Committee. It was noted that this statement does not necessarily reflect the position of national boards, staff, ABC regions or local churches, but it is being shared for directors to take back at their discretion to present to their respective constituents, if for no other reason, to alert them to the developing situation at Standing Rock.

BGM 341 BGM MEETING DATES 2018

At its September meeting, the Executive Committee discussed the possibility of varying the days of the week for future meetings in order to better accommodate the schedules of both clergy and laypersons serving on BGM. In light of that, the following meeting dates were determined for June 2018 and November 2018:

June 13-15, 2018 (Beginning Wednesday; ending Friday at 12:00 noon)
The Nominating Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 12.

November 9-11, 2018 (Beginning on Friday; ending Sunday at 12:00 noon)

BGM 342 ACTION GROUP REPORT

Action Groups were given time to report about their work resulting from Friday's break-out sessions. Written reports will be posted on the BGM document page following the meeting and attached to the minutes filed in the General Secretary's office.

BGM 343 PRESIDENTS REPORT

Prior to this meeting President Fackenthal shared a written report of her travels on behalf of the ABC family, stating that these events provide a venue for relationship-building and for interpreting the value of United Mission. She reported on Acting Associate General Secretary Al Fletcher's work with one ABC region to design a personalized United Mission brochure to fit the specific needs of that particular region. She noted that if other region executive ministers are willing to work creatively with Al, UM might be personalized in other regions as well to explain how it benefits respective churches.

President Fackenthal also reported that there will be, if necessary as part of the development process, a future decommissioning service for the Mission Center building in celebration of what that sacred space has meant to so many. The Becoming a Beloved Community Action Group has expressed interest in being involved in the planning for that event, which may or may not be connected with a meeting of BGM.

In January 2016 there was a meeting of the presidents and vice presidents of the national organizations. At that meeting it was decided that when the Gathering of American Baptist National Organizations takes place on Wednesday, June 28, 2017, the evening will include dinner, with discussion questions placed at each table to encourage a deeper level of conversation among directors from each board. Directors will be seated in a way that ensures representation from all boards at each table.

BGM 344 ENDING EXERCISE

BGM directors met in table group discussion, engaging in conversation around the following questions, after which the full board shared together: What is stirring in your soul from this meeting? What will you be taking back with you? What are you feeling/experiencing right now?

BGM 345 MATTHEW 25 GRANT CHANGES

It was announced that the Matthew 25 Grant received 108 applications in 2016. Changes have been made in the process to: 1) limit eligibility to receive grants each year to once every 24 months and 2) administer grants once a year in the Fall instead of twice a year.

BGM 346 SPARROWK AWARD

Judy reminded BGM directors that the deadline for submitting nominations for the Cora & John Sparrowk Award is December 15, 2016 and she encouraged directors to pray about who they might nominate.

BGM 347 CLOSING WORSHIP – OFFERING - ADJOURNMENT

Chaplain Kay Farley, with the help of Manuel Luquin, Joyce Blandon, Stephanie Commandest and Vivan Martindale, led in closing worship through reading of scripture and the singing of “Amazing Grace.” As part of worship, an offering was collected for Belmont Baptist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, to restore its sanctuary following arson fires that destroyed part of the building.

BGM director Wesley Roberts shared an expression of thanksgiving and blessing on President Judy Fackenthal, Interim General Secretary Susan Gillies, and on others who provided leadership and wisdom throughout this meeting. BGM directors and staff gathered in a circle, and sang together a closing blessing: “Blest be the Tie that Binds.”

President Fackenthal adjourned the meeting of the Board of General Ministries.

LUNCH, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; Stirlings Restaurant

A Buffet Lunch was served in Stirlings Restaurant for those who did not have to rush to meet a shuttle to the airport.

Staff of the former Board of Educational Ministries met together for an annual reunion at 12:00 p.m. in the Wayne Rm. of the Crowne Plaza. (21 persons were in attendance.)

Future meetings of the BGM and BGM Executive Committee:

March 9-11, 2017 (Executive Committee) – Atlanta, GA

June 27-28, 2017 – Portland, OR (Nominating Committee will meet on June 26, if needed)

The BGM Executive Committee will begin meeting the morning of June 27, with the Board of General Ministries convening at 2:00 p.m., ending on June 28 with the American Baptist Gathering of Members of National Boards dinner and plenary in the evening.

June 29, 2017 – Pre-Biennial Events; June 30-July 2, 2017 – Biennial Mission Summit

September 14-16, 2017(Executive Committee) – Puerto Rico

November 16-18, 2017 – King of Prussia, PA (Nominating Committee will meet aft. of Nov. 15; Executive Committee dinner on Nov. 15)

Submitted by,

Dr. Susan E. Gillies
Interim General Secretary

SEG/cb

Documents attached:

BGM Integrated Schedule (1008:11/16)

BGM Proposed Agenda (1102:11/16)

BGM Worship Program

BGM Minutes- June, 2016 (1101:6/16)

BGM Executive Committee Minutes – September, 2016 (1002:9/16)

Role of BGM – Feedback from Table Group Discussion

Final Report: BGM Retreat, submitted by Erin M. Hawkins, consultant

Conflict of Interest Policy – Proposed Revisions

ABCUSA Bylaws – Proposed Revisions

Report of the Budget Review Officer, Paul Higgins

ABCUSA Budget

Financials YTD Through September 2016

Reports-BGM directors serving other boards: MMBB, Bill Frederickson; ABHMS, James Wolfe; IM, Vivan Martindale

Reports from Staff of ABCUSA & AMOs

New Baptist Covenant –Judy Fackenthal

National Ministers Conference–Debora Jackson

General Secretary Emeritus Ecumenical Report–A. Roy Medley

Transformed by the Spirit Update, Jeff Woods (1223:11/16)

Rhythms of the Spirit–Brad Berglund

ABC Creation Justice Network–Ian Mevorach, Tom Carr

Professional Ministries Team–Jeff Woods

Burma Refugee Commission–Florence Li

Emerging Theologians Commission–Jennifer Davidson

ABC President's Report (1201:11/16)

Report of Changed Relationships of Local Churches (1205.1:11/16)

Report on 2017 Orientation to American Baptist Life (OTABL)

ABHS Call to Meeting (2412:11/16)

Minutes - ABHS Corporate Meeting (9200.11:16)

Report from General Secretary Emeritus Roy Medley (0061.1:11/16)

Reports of the World Relief Officer, Lisa Rothenberger

Recognition of Retiring Board Directors – Programs

Action Group Assignments

Action Group Reports from June 2016

Creation Justice Network Call for Dialogue and Action – Standing Rock

Matthew 25 Grant Summary