



## BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES

May 8, 2017

### MINUTES

**Meeting Site:** SpringHill Suites Chicago/O’Hare  
8101 Higgins Road  
Chicago, IL 60631

**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

### Monday, May 8, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; BGM Plenary; Constellation Room

#### **BGM 348      CALL TO ORDER**

Judy Fackenthal, ABC President, called the meeting to order and welcomed the BGM Directors. She also welcomed guests, Dr. Charles Revis, one of the three Executive Ministers who served on the General Secretary Search Committee and Dr. Lee Spitzer, candidate for the position of General Secretary. She shared regrets from Directors who were unable to attend this special meeting of the Board of General Ministries: Raimundo Barreto, Joyce Blandon, Danny Jack, C. Duh Kam, Manuel Luquin, Eh Bludoh May, Janice Fletcher, & Elmore Warren, Jr.

Judy introduced directors who are new to the board: Judith Christiansen, Janice Fletcher, Noemi Nunez-Sanchez, Bruce Van Der Beek, and Annie Svitavsky.

#### **BGM 349      ELECTION OF NEW DIRECTORS**

Janice Bell, At-large Director from ABC/New York State and Ashley Whitaker, At-large Director from Mid-American Baptist Churches resigned from the BGM because they moved from their regions. Jabulani McCalister, At-large Director from ABC/Rhode Island and Patricia Mitchell, At-large Director from the

Philadelphia Baptist Association were elected by the 2015 Biennial Mission Summit Delegates to begin their first term as directors in 2017. Both resigned earlier in the year. In addition, no one had been elected to fill the vacancy left when Ernest Jones, At-large Director from ABC/Metro New York resigned to become the Executive Minister of ABC/Ohio. The ABC Nominating Committee presented the following for election as At-large Directors to fill the vacancies:

Judith Christiansen – ABC/New York State  
Janice Fletcher – ABC/Rhode Island  
Cedric Jones – Philadelphia Baptist Association  
Noemi Nunez-Sanchez – ABC/Metro New York  
Bruce Van Der Beek – Mid-American Baptist Churches

It was moved, seconded, and

**VOTED**: to elect the nominees for the At-large vacancies

### **BGM 350      DEVOTIONS**

BGM Chaplain Kay Farley lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence. Kelly Legg read I Samuel 16:1-13, the account of the selection of David as the king of Israel. Wesley Roberts led in prayer. Kay spoke briefly about how Samuel was led by the Spirit of the Lord to select David. The Board prayed the Lord's Prayer in unison.

### **BGM 351      ELECTION OF GENERAL SECRETARY**

Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, the candidate presented by the Search Committee for the position of General Secretary made a presentation to the board, sharing his vision of the future, his view of the role of the General Secretary, and a list of ministry priorities. The board was invited to ask questions and Dr. Spitzer responded.

Dennis Johnson, Parliamentarian, explained the ABC Bylaw relative to the selection of a General Secretary. Election requires a simple majority.

Wesley Roberts, on behalf of the Search Committee, moved to elect Lee Spitzer as the General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches. Charles Revis and Dr. Spitzer left the room while the Board went into Executive Session. Marilyn Tyson was asked to remain.

By written ballot the board

**VOTED** to elect Lee Spitzer as the General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches.

Lee was invited back into the room for a time of prayer.

### **BGM 352      ADJOURNMENT**

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