



**BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES**  
November 16-18, 2017

**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  
Lee B. Spitzer, General Secretary

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

**Thursday, November 16, 2017**

*The Board of General Ministries gathered in the American Baptist Churches Mission Center dining room, 588 North Gulph Road, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania at 2:00 p.m. with colleagues and denominational and ecumenical partners to celebrate 55 years of ministry in the American Baptist Churches Mission Center. This hour-long Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving included worship, singing, reflection, and fellowship.*

**BGM 372      CALL TO ORDER, 3:45 p.m.**

ABC president Judy Fackenthal welcomed BGM directors and ABCUSA staff, called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. in the Independence North Room. She expressed appreciation to Robin Crouch and Charity Matic for agreeing to serve as tellers and to Nancy O'Neill for providing music during the meetings. Judy opened the meeting by saying:

“A roller coaster of experiences, conversations, and emotions describes this Board of General Ministries gathering. The entire board shuttled from our meeting place to the ABCUSA Mission Center, shared in the celebration of a historic building, fondly referred to as the ‘holy donut.’ Hearing remembrances of days gone by brought both joy and bittersweet feelings to the surface. The Mission Center has been both the physical and the symbolic unifying edifice for the coordination of American Baptist related ministries.”

**BGM 373 WORSHIP**

BGM Chaplain Kay Farley lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ’s presence. During the devotion Kay asked everyone to pause for a moment to reflect on what the American Baptist Churches Mission Center means to them. During this time of reflection, Nancy O’Neil sang “Thank You Lord.”

**BGM 374 ABCUSA FOCUS STATEMENT**

The ABCUSA Focus statement was shared in unison.

*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.*

**BGM 375 DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY TEAM (DAT) UPDATE**

David Gnirk, Development Advisory Team Chairperson, shared some of the campaign history of how the Development Advisory Team was formed by Roy Medley and the future strategic plan. The development plans for the future include: (1) a newly developed gift category to list donors in the ABCUSA Budget, (2) an ABCUSA brochure that emphasizes all the major giving areas within ABCUSA with outcomes, (3) online planned giving stories, (4) new software focused on individual prospects, matching gifts, and ABC Affinity Foundations, (5) marketing resources to target prospects, (6) recruit two to three pilot regions for special case appeal, (7) Annual Report published six months after the close of the calendar year.

**BGM 376 CONSENT AGENDA**

June Totten asked to amend the minutes of the June 27-29, 2017 Board of General Ministries meeting for the Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations Action Group (BGM 369) to read, “June Totten shared that the Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations Dinner at the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit will feature Baptist and Muslim co-speakers engaged in interfaith work in the Portland area. A third National Baptist Muslim Dialogue is planned for April 2018 to be held at Green Lake to which young Baptist and Muslim leaders are invited, who will then return to work together in their communities on common efforts. Nominations of such leaders are welcomed.

Upon this correction, June Totten made a motion to approve the General Consent Agenda: Written Reports posted prior to the meeting and the Proposed Agenda and Minutes of the BGM’s June 27-29, 2017 meeting held in Portland, Oregon.

**No objections, motion approved.**

**BGM 377 RECESS OF MEETING FOR BGM ACTION GROUPS**

From 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., the BGM convened in the following Action Groups to focus its work in various areas.

***BGM Finance Committee - Devon  
Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations –Freedom Ballroom II  
Becoming a Beloved Community – Freedom Ballroom I  
Communicating ABC Identity – Radnor***

*Dinner - At 6:00 p.m., the BGM directors, spouses, special guests, and Office of the General Secretary (OGS) staff gathered in the Independence South Room to enjoy dinner and fellowship together. ABCUSA OGS staff was invited to the dinner with the BGM directors to be recognized for their service to the Office of the General Secretary.*

**Friday, November 17, 2017**

*At 7:00 a.m., the BGM directors and staff enjoyed breakfast in Stirlings Restaurant of the Crowne Plaza. At 7:30 a.m. the BGM Finance Committee met for a breakfast meeting in the Wayne Room.*

**BGM 378 RECONVENING/WORSHIP**

ABC Vice President Josue Gómez-Menéndez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Independence North Room. Chaplain Kay Farley led a devotion.

**BGM 379 RECESS BGM/CONVENE AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY (ABHS)**

ABC Vice President Josue Gómez-Menéndez 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. ABHS Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Priscilla Eppinger described 2017 as year of transition for ABHS as she is new to ABHS and also the archivist of six years resigned in December of 2016. After a search committee screened applicants and interviewed candidates, Jill Sweetapple joined the staff in May of this year.

ABHS is committed to enriching the Body of Christ. Their mission includes fostering and promoting a knowledge and appreciation for Baptist history through the ongoing collection, preservation, and interpretation of the work of the diverse family of Baptists. Central to the mission is the preservation of the records of ABCUSA and the advancement of the high value of the traditions of Baptist religious life. Serving a God who works within history, Priscilla shared a myriad of ways ABHS is dedicated to the work of telling the Gospel according to Baptists and inspiring spiritual and social transformation.

The nominating committee met electronically on Friday, November 10. Nominees for the class of 2021 are Douglas Avilesbernal, Jim Wolfe, Travis Norvell, Mark Harden, and Melva Gray. Currently serving terms on the board and continuing are Mitch Homma, Joe Stoner, and Shirley Fair.

Dianne Steelman made a motion, seconded by Manuel Luquin to elect the nominees as members to serve on the American Baptist Historical Society Board.

**VOTED: Motion Approved**

### **BGM 380 RECONVENE BGM/HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS**

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) staff members Victoria Goff, Associate Director of Mission Advancement and Passionary Movement and Director of Disaster Recovery for Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico and Rev. Salvador Orellana, National Coordinator of Latino Ministries and Deputy Director of Logistics and Relationships for Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico gave an update on the “Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico,” initiative as a multi-layer response to the devastating one-two punch leveled at Puerto Rico first by Hurricane Irma and most recently by Hurricane Maria, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), is doing work in partnership with American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA). “Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico” seeks to raise \$1 million within the next three to six months through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) to support rebuilding the homes, churches and lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ. They will deliver additional supplies, provide encouragement and support to ABHMS partners in Puerto Rico, and continue to assess the damage in an effort to adequately respond to constantly changing needs. Information on what has been shipped to Puerto Rico and the response effort are available on the ABHMS website. Ways to help include: giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, joining the roundtable, answering the call to go to Puerto Rico, and prayer. ABCUSA General Secretary Lee Spitzer will be traveling to Puerto Rico in the end of January 2018 for a pastoral visit.

*The BGM offering for One Great Hour of Sharing totaling \$4,600 was collected to assist in the hurricane relief efforts.*

### **BGM 381 NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL DISCOURSE (NICD)**

The National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD) was established in May of 2011 after the tragic Tucson shooting that killed six people and wounded thirteen others including former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. All were participating in a “Congress on Your Corner” event, a fundamental act of democracy.

In response to the tragedy, the Tucson community came together to create NICD, a non-partisan organization based at the University of Arizona that would promote healthy and civil political debate. NICD is devoted to the same principles that motivated Congresswoman Giffords: that people with different values and political preferences can discuss their differences in a civil and productive manner. Ironically, just days before the shooting Representative Giffords had begun discussions about the possibility of setting up a center to study how to improve the quality of civil conversation. NICD is proud to be leading this work.

Presenter Theo Brown shared his role in working with churches in the “Initiative to Revive Civility.” Brown explained that partnering with NICD includes endorsing the effort on the website, [www.revivecivility.org](http://www.revivecivility.org), sharing information with regions and congregations about local programs or how to partner with other denominations, and encouraging people to host programs.

NICD and more than 80 national and local partner organizations are urging Americans to make a special effort during the Holiday Season to do two things – pause and reflect on the need to heal the divisions in our country; and take some action to help increase civility and respect between our fellow citizens.

Dianne Steelman made a motion and seconded by Marijane Kiley to endorse a working partnership with the National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD).

**VOTED: Motion approved.**

**BGM 382 YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS**

Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer, presented the YTD Financials through September 2017. 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.

Overall the year-to-date financials show a net loss of (\$266K) primarily due to the Development Department which had a loss of (\$199K), and the ABCUSA Departments which had a loss of (\$55K).

Net revenue compared to last year is down (\$273K). The primary reason for the decrease in revenue is ABCUSA Departments which had a decrease of (\$244K). Net revenue is determined by subtracting the Biennial from this year and last year since there was no Biennial in 2016.

The Development office had a loss of (\$199K). Revenues realized by this department flow through other departments.

Women in Ministry revenue is up \$34K. This increase is 29.8% above last year.

Total United Mission (UM) is \$5,388,902 as of September 2017. This is a decrease of (\$424,648) from the prior year. This represents a reduction of 7.3%. The sharp decrease of UM from 4.21% at the end of the second half to 7.3% at the end of the third quarter is due to the numerous disasters that occurred in the third quarter of 2017. Contributions to "One Great Hour of Sharing" have increased by 24% from last year in response to disaster relief.

The proposed United Mission distribution for 2018 reviewed by the ABCUSA Finance Committee recommends changing the following...

- Reallocating \$5000 for American Baptist personnel services
- Reallocating \$5000 for Orientation to ABC Life
- Reallocating the amount given to national partners

Upon the recommendation of the ABCUSA Finance Committee, it was

**VOTED to approve the proposed UM distribution for 2018, as presented.**

President Fackenthal recessed the Board of General Ministries. The Board enjoyed lunch together in the Stirlings Restaurant of the Crowne Plaza.

**BGM 383 REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

Lee Spitzer announced two new ministry team members who will join the staff of the ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary in January 2018. Rev. Marsha Scipio will serve as Associate General Secretary for Missional Initiatives and Partnerships, and Rev. Dr. Kevin Walden will serve as Associate General Secretary for Congregational and Pastoral Effectiveness. In addition to adding Marsha and Kevin to the team, in 2018 three internal promotions are planned. Rev. Dr. Patricia Hernandez, who has been serving as National Director for Women in Ministry and Transition Ministries, will be promoted to Associate General Secretary status for these ministries.

Bridget Lipin will serve as Team Lead for the Missional Communications Team, and Tina Turner will serve as United Mission Coordinator.

Lee announced the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit will be held in Virginia Beach, VA., June 21-23, as we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Baptist Churches of the South, calling it “The Summit by the Sea.” Lee’s goal is for no less than 1600 people in attendance.

He also announced that in 2021, American Baptist Churches USA plans to return to San Juan, Puerto Rico for the Biennial Mission Summit. The goal of this event will be to celebrate the resurrection and restoration of the Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico and its churches, and the island itself. Lee’s goal for 2021 is to top 2000 people in attendance.

Since the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit, the Office of the General Secretary has focused on creating a strategy and new materials in support of United Mission. We believe it is possible to reverse the decades-long decline through creative communication about compelling ministries that are “powered by United Mission.”

EcoAmerica has been in conversation with the BGM’s Creation Justice Network, and is eager to partner with ABCUSA so that we can encourage our congregations to integrate faith with environmental responsibility.

June Totten made a motion, seconded by Bill Frederickson for American Baptist Churches USA to cooperate with EcoAmerica in partnership.

### **VOTED: Motion Approved**

Two new collaborative relationships as resources for our regions, clergy and churches are being developed.

- 1) The **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)** is our country’s official memorial to the Holocaust. The USHMM provides for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holocaust history. It is dedicated to helping leaders and citizens of the world confront hatred, prevent genocide, promote human dignity, and strengthen democracy. USHMM has offered to provide free specialized training to ABCUSA clergy who wish to help their congregations understand the Holocaust, foster positive ecumenical relations, oppose prejudice (such as anti-Semitism and Islamophobia), and fight for human rights. The proposal involves two to three days of workshops for groups of 20-24 clergy and leaders. The DC Baptist Convention has offered to co-host an additional day for ministry discussions in light of their unique setting. The hope is to hold the first “retreat” in October/November 2018.
- 2) **Fresh Expressions** Fresh Expressions is an international movement of missionary disciples cultivating new kinds of church alongside existing congregations to more effectively engage our growing post-Christian society. Around the world, Christians are stepping out in faith and beginning *fresh expressions of church*, new or different forms of church for a changing culture. Our world is rapidly changing. It needs a church, rooted in scripture, orthodoxy and tradition; but fluent in the language and culture of the world today. What sets Fresh Expressions apart is a focus on forming faith communities especially for those who have

never been involved in church (un-churched) or who have left the church (de-churched). But this doesn't mean giving up on the established church. Nine ABC regions have expressed interest in partnering with Fresh Expressions and have received a Palmer grant to work with OGS on this initiative.

**BGM 384 BGM EXECUTIVE SESSION (INDEPENDENCE NORTH ROOM)**

Judy Fackenthal recessed the meeting of the Board of General Ministries for an Executive Session with staff present to discuss a letter of response from the Executive Board of ABHMS. 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.

**BGM 385 REPORT OF CHANGED RELATIONSHIPS**

Josue Gómez-Menéndez presented the Report of Changed Relationships.

Dianne Steelman made a motion, seconded by Zina Jacque to recognize the Report of Changed Relationships of Local Churches (document1205.1:11/17) dated June 15, 2017 – November 8, 2017.

**VOTED: Motion Approved**

**BGM 386 REPORT OF ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Josue Gómez-Menéndez, ABC Vice President, reported the actions taken by the BGM Executive Committee at its September 14-16, 2017 meeting held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

After the report, Josue expressed his gratitude to the BGM for their “extraordinary support expressed by all the Board for Puerto Rico.”

“The last meeting of the year of the Board of General Ministries closed this biennium With nostalgic feelings and joy. We celebrate the leadership of Judy Fackenthal, our outgoing president; as well as, Don Ng, past president. Their contributions to our family have been invaluable. We embrace the future through the installation service of General Secretary Lee Spitzer, and welcome our new vice president, Dean Parker, who will serve for the next biennium (January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2019).”

**BGM 387 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 – DeKalb 206***  
***Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations – Van Steuben 306***  
***Becoming a Beloved Community – Wayne***  
***Communicating ABC Identity – Radnor***

*Dinner - At 5:30 p.m., the BGM directors, spouses, special guests, and staff gathered in the Independence South Room to enjoy dinner and fellowship together. During the dinner Marilyn Tyson, OGS Staff Member, was recognized for her years of service with the BGM upon her retirement.*

*At 7:00 p.m. the BGM directors and guests gathered in Independence North for Vespers and for the Installation Service of the Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer as the sixth General Secretary. Lee and his ministry team gathered together; along with the board directors who were led in prayer of renewal and commitment. Six regional Executive Ministers and members of the National Executive Council participated in the ceremony.*

**Saturday, November 18, 2017**

*At 7:00 a.m., the BGM directors and staff enjoyed breakfast in Stirlings Restaurant of the Crowne Plaza.*

**BGM 388 RECONVENING/WORSHIP**

ABC President Judy Fackenthal called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Independence North Room. Chaplain Kay Farley led in devotion. Following the devotion was a time of sharing joys and concerns that were lifted in prayer.

**BGM 389 PRESIDENT’S NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS: 2018-2019**

President Judy Fackenthal, following prior consultation with President-Elect Josue Gómez-Menéndez, presented to the BGM for action the 2018-2019 Presidential Nominations.

A motion was made by Zina Jacque, seconded by Jim Wolfe, and it was

**VOTED:** To elect the President-Elect’s Nominations for the 2018-2019 biennium as listed below:

For service on the BGM Executive Committee:

Cedric Jones  
Manuel Magana  
Annie Svitavsky

For service on the World Relief Committee:

Janice Fletcher  
Wesley Roberts

For service on the Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations:

June Totten  
Andy Arndt  
Raimundo Barreto  
Cecilia Dachtler  
Eh Bludoh May

As Chair of the Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations:

June Totten

For service on the Standing Rules Committee:

Kay Farley  
Tom Roberts  
Wesley Sun

As BGM Director to the ABHMS Board:

Bruce Van Der Beek

As BGM Director to the International Ministries Board:

Marijane Kiley

As BGM Director to the MMBB Board:

Bill Frederickson

Presidential Appointments

President Judy Fackenthal, in consultation with President-Elect Josue Gómez-Menéndez, presented to BGM for action the 2018-2019 Presidential Appointments.

A motion was made by Zina Jacque, seconded by Jim Wolfe, and it was

**VOTED:** To receive the following appointments of the President-Elect Josue Gómez-Menéndez for the 2018-2019 biennium as listed below:

For service on the ABCUSA Nominating Committee:

Manuel Luquin (clergy)  
Kay Farley (clergy)  
James Wolfe (clergy)  
Tasha Wilson (laity)  
Judith Christiansen (laity)  
Tom Ross (Laity)

For service on the BGM Finance Committee:

Mark Harvey  
Cedric Jones  
Kelly Legg  
Noemi Nunez-Sanchez  
Tom Ross

For service on the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team:

Felipe Candelaria (Vice Chair)  
Shirley Geisler  
Julio Gonzalez Paniagua

As Chair of the Credentials and Caucus Committee:

Manuel Magana

As Chair of the Standing Rules Committee:

Tom Roberts

As Chair of the World Relief Committee:

Wesley Roberts

### **BGM 390 INVESTMENT POLICY**

In June of 2017, the BGM Finance Committee approved a new investment policy for ABCUSA. The new policy reflects the changes required by NYPMIFA, while still giving ABCUSA flexibility in using other American Baptist partners as investment advisers.

The Executive Committee recommends that the policy be adapted by the Board of General Ministries and seconded by Zina Jacque.

### **VOTED: Motion Approved**

### **BGM 391 2018 BUDGET**

The 2018 Budget includes \$726,092 of income from the Building Proceeds Endowment. This represents a drawdown of 4.5% from the Building Proceeds Endowment for operations.

The Development department is expected to raise \$240,000 toward the operating budget.

UM general funding for ABCUSA is expected to decrease by \$43,000 in 2018 after decreasing by \$42,000 and \$53,000 respectively in 2017 and 2016.

Salaries in the proposed 2018 budget reflect a 1.9% increase. The Human Resources consultant provided the data and made recommendations for salary increases. The data used is specific to non-profit organizations. The formula for the salary adjustments: CPI increase (1.9%), clergy salary (2.5%), world at work (3.0%), and Non CEO employee salary as reported by PRM Consulting (3.2%). Salaries increased by 2.23%, 2.17%, and 3.0%, in 2017, 2016, 2015, and 2014 respectively.

Medical costs for the 2018 budget are increasing by 13% for ABCUSA and the AMO's. Medical costs increased for 2017 by 9.9%, as compared to 2016, and increases by 2.3% in 2016 as compared to 2015.

Office Relocation Costs: The 2018 budget includes estimated relocation costs of \$65,000.

Information Technology - \$45,000 is budgeted to cover the additional costs for ABCUSA to provide IT services for the second half of the year when American Baptist Computer Center (ABCC) services discontinue at the end of June 2018.

**VOTED:** To adapt the proposed 2018 Estimated Income and the 2018 ABCUSA Budget.

### **Motion carries, budget accepted.**

### **BGM 392 STATEMENT CASE TEAM**

Zina Jacque was asked by the BGM Executive Committee to form a team of BGM and OGS staff to create a case statement to identify who ABCUSA is and what ABCUSA is an effort to create measurable goals that name where ABCUSA is going and clear understanding about why ABCUSA exists.

### **BGM 393 ACTION GROUP REPORTS**

Finance Committee Action Group:

- The committee reviewed the ABCUSA Treasurer’s Report in more detail.
- The committee voted to again retain Tait Weller to perform the 2017 financial audit.
- At the request of the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee reviewed a proposed update to the Whistleblower Policy. The Finance Committee approved the proposed updated policy, but asked that Paul Higgins review with legal counsel the wisdom of including deadlines within the policy.
- The committee met separately with Dave Moore from ABHMS and Perkin Simpson from ABF regarding ABCUSA’s investments with each organization. The two organizations gave presentations that focused on their investment strategies, suppliers of investment services, investment philosophy and historical returns. The meeting with ABHMS also included considerable discussion about socially-responsible investing and ABHMS’s advocacy efforts.
- Alan Musoke proposed an update on progress with the joint venture partner regarding the current Mission Center property. Alan also shared projections for cashflows from the project and from the resulting investment in our endowment.

Beloved Community Action Group:

The Beloved Community sent out letters to the Executive Ministers of each region to let them know that the board appreciates all that they do and to schedule a time for Lee to visit, talk, worship, and listen amidst all of the amazing work God is doing in their region. The Beloved Community will be sending letters to the churches in Puerto Rico to let them know that they are being prayed for. The team members then passed out UNITY cards to the BGM to remind everyone that there are many parts of the body all with different roles: “Understanding, Nurturing, Inviting, Transforming, You and Me Together. You are part of the ABCUSA Beloved Community.”

Communicating ABC Identity Action Group:

- The Communicating ABC Identity Action Group discussed what materials were historically used in the past and writing new materials.
- Need materials for children in churches to know who we are as Baptists.
- Bulletin inserts For United Mission are being prepared for local churches to use. United Mission campaign includes new UM materials in packets communicating to local churches what UM is. The group discussed the possibility of UM as a separate offering.
- The next steps are to create digital materials in the future.

Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations:

A third National Baptist Muslim Dialogue is planned for April 2018 to be held at Green Lake. There is a concern about not having enough support from other Baptist and Muslim Groups. Any suggestions of names to contact can be given to Jeff Woods.

**BGM 394 588 PROPERTY REPORT**

The letter of intent (LOI) to form a joint venture entity to redevelop a portion of the mission center property into a top golf facility was finalized and executed by PPG and the Tenants in Common (TIC). The Letter of Intent (LOI) is not a binding agreement. The LOI details the terms and conditions of the operating agreement for the Joint Venture (JV) Entity (LLC Agreement). The parties will be bound by the LLC agreement containing the provisions of the LOI. The TIC will own 30% of the entity. PPG made a deposit of \$41,667. The LOI requires that all of the definitive legal agreements get negotiated and executed by November 30, 2017.

The JV redevelopment will be restricted to parcel 1. Parcel 1 will be determined by the space needed to develop at about 15-16 acres. Parcel 2 will consist of the balance of the property not included in parcel 1 estimated at about 8 acres.

Once the ABC organization moves from the Mission Center, two external tenants will be in the Mission Center. They are Presser Company and Angora Charter School. Presser needs one year notification and we will be mindful to notify Angora to move by the end of the school year. We estimate paying approximately \$450,000 to relocate the two long term tenants. The relocation costs will be reimbursed to the TIC from the construction loan of the JV.

### **BGM 395 REPORT OF THE ABCUSA PRESIDENT**

Since the June BGM and Biennial Mission Summit, Judy attended a portion of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ General Assembly where she participated in their ecumenical dinner and evening worship. Judy was most impressed by the involvement of teens participating in the worship service and assisting in the communion by fully integrating young people. It is her hope that in future Biennials this will be a way to say to young people that they are important and there is a need to lift them up.

There was time devoted to working out communications with ABHMS regarding relocation to 1075 property.

Judy also participated in a Rhythms of the Spirit Retreat August 14-18 at Camp Canonicus in Rhode Island. This was a time to listen to the Holy Spirit and she explained that the retreat allows you to listen to silence for 10 minutes, “it is amazing what God can say in ten minutes of silence.” Judy is grateful to Lee Spitzer for continuing to support the two retreats across the country.

After giving words of thanks, Judy said that she is reminded of a song “Beautiful Things” when she thinks of the BGM Board. “You make beautiful things out of the dust, you make beautiful things out of us. You are all beautiful. . . You bring intentionality ready to dig in and to do the hard work that you meet because your hearts are open and you listen to God and the creative energy goes wild. I am so thankful for who you are and what you have done in the past two years as a board.”

### **BGM 396 RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BGM MEMBERS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Retiring Board Members were recognized. Robin Crouch, Shirley Fair, C. Duh Kam, Charity Matic, Dianne Steelman, Don Ng, and Kenneth Koh were all presented with the book, “Baptist Roots.” President Fackenthal adjourned the meeting of the Board of General Ministries expressing thanks to the board for their work over the past two years, along with continued prayers for General Secretary Lee Spitzer and for the incoming president Josue Gómez-Menéndez and vice president Dean Parker.

**LUNCH, 11:30 a.m., Stirlings Restaurant**

**Future BGM Dates:**

**June 13-15, 2018 – Green Lake, WI (Executive Committee dinner on June 12)**

**November 9-11, 2018 – King of Prussia, PA (Executive Committee dinner on Nov. 8)**

Submitted by,



Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer

General Secretary

LBS/kj

Documents attached

*BGM Integrated Schedule (1008:11/17)*

*BGM Proposed Agenda (1102:11/17)*

*BGM Worship Program/Installation Service)*

*BGM Minutes – June 2017 (1001:06/17)*

*BGM Executive Committee Minutes: September 2017(1002:09/17)*

*Report of the Budget Review Officer, Paul Higgins*

*ABCUSA Budget*

*Financials YTD Through September 2017*

*Reports- BGM directors serving on other boards: MMBB, Bill Fredrickson; ABHMS, James Wolfe; IM, Marijane Kiley*

*Reports from Staff of ABCUSA & AMO*

*Rhythms of the Spirit Report*

*Summary Report: Green Lake,, Creation Justice Network Task Force, FNECU*

*Professional Ministries Report*

*Transformed by the Spirit Update (1223:11/17)*

*Burma Refugee Commission*

*Report of the General Secretary (0061.1:11/17)*

*ABC President's Report (1201:11/17)*

*Report of Changed Relationships June 15, 2017 – November 8, 2017 (1205.1:11/17)*

*Minutes – ABHS Corporate Meeting (9200:11/17)*

*ABCUSA (DRAFT) Investment Policy June 2017*

*Rationale for New Investment Policy*

*National Institute on Civil Discourse information*

*A Celebration of Thanksgiving Service ABCUSA Churches Mission Center Program*

*Action Group Assignments Nov. 2017*