

**American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.**

**BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES: March 16-17, 2012**



**Hyatt Place  
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Lombard, IL 60148  
630-932-6501, ph; 630-932-6502, fax**

**Ruth Clark, President  
Donald Ng, Vice President  
Jim Ratliff, Budget Review Officer  
Frank Christine, Jr., Past President**

**“American Baptists Serving as the Hands and Feet of Christ”**

**Scripture Focus:** *“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.” Colossians 3:12-16*

**Friday, March 16, 2012, 12:00 p.m., Meeting Room A**

**Members of the Executive Committee met at 12:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A of the Hyatt Place.**

**Present:** Ruth Clark (ABC President), Donald Ng (ABC Vice-President), James Ratliff (Budget Review Officer), Frank Christine Jr. (Past President), Beryl Hornberger, Jonathan Malone, Wesley Roberts, A. Roy Medley (General Secretary); **Observers:** Dennis Johnson (Parliamentarian), Jeffery Savage (Chaplain); **Staff present:** Alan Musoke (ABCUSA Treasurer), Cathy Brubaker (Recorder)

**BGM EC 15 WELCOME AND PRAYER**

ABC President Ruth Clark welcomed the Executive Committee and opened the meeting with prayer.

## **BGM EC 16 SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

The Executive Committee shared both concerns and celebrations, committing to hold one another in prayer.

## **BGM EC 17 NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### Special Director to MMBB

Steven Case was approved as Special Director to MMBB by the Board of General Ministries at its meeting in Orlando. However, due to his recent resignation from the Board, President Ruth Clark and General Secretary Roy Medley, in consultation with MMBB Executive Director Sumner Grant and MMBB President George Tooze, recommended Bill Frederickson to fulfill the role as Special Director.

A motion was made by Beryl Hornberger, seconded by Jonathan Malone, and it was

**VOTED:**        *To recommend to the Board of General Ministries the election of Bill Frederickson as Special Director to MMBB.*

### Standing Rules Committee

Standing Rule 14.1.1: “*Except where otherwise provided by the Bylaws or these Standing Rules, the chairperson of each committee or group of the ABCUSA shall be appointed from the membership of the Board of General Ministries serving on the respective committee or group by the President in consultation with the General Secretary and shall serve until the expiration of the term of the appointing President....*”

Due to the resignation of the current Chair of the Standing Rules Committee, Steven Case, a motion was made, seconded and it was

**VOTED:**        *To recommend to the Board of General Ministries the election of Alan Rudnick as the new Chair of the Standing Rules Committee.*

### Nominating Committee

Standing Rule 14.2.1: *There shall be an ABCUSA (National) Nominating Committee consisting of the ABCUSA President, the ABCUSA Immediate Past President, three persons appointed by the Regional Executive Ministers Council (“REMC”), the intercaucus president and six representatives from the Board of General Ministries (three clergy and three laity). Members of the Committee shall be elected or appointed, in accord with the above, during the year of each Biennial Meeting of Delegates for a term of two years commencing on January 1 next following the date of their election or appointment. A vacancy in the membership of the Committee shall be filled by the Board of General Ministries for the remainder of the term vacated. When the Nominating Committee is acting to submit a nominee for the position of General Secretary, one additional member selected by the Special Members of ABCUSA shall be added to the Committee for that specific nomination process.*

In order for the Board of General Ministries to elect regional directors to the Board, we must have a new nominating committee in place. A motion was made, seconded, and it was

**VOTED:**        *To recommend to the Board of General Ministries the election of the following members of the Board of General Ministries to the ABCUSA Nominating Committee:*

*Julia Bebeau  
Bill Frederickson  
Elmore Warren  
Nancy O'Neill  
Dean Parker  
Tasha Wilson*

At the request of the Executive Committee, recording secretary Cathy Brubaker will generate a date scan as soon as possible to determine the best date/time for a special telephonic meeting of BGM for the purpose of taking action on the Executive Committee's recommendations, as noted above. The election of the Special Director to MMBB prior to the June meeting will permit this person to attend MMBB's May board orientation; the elections of the chair of the Standing Rules Committee and the members to the Nominating Committee will permit both committees to commence work prior to June.

### **BGM EC 18 REQUEST FOR AN ABC WOMEN'S CAUCUS**

At its January 20, 2012 meeting in Orlando, the BGM Executive Committee discussed a request from Sharon Gober, on behalf of the transitional steering committee of the Women's Caucus, for recognition as a national caucus of ABCUSA through due process by the new Board of General Ministries' Credentials and Caucus Committee. (The Women's Caucus is currently a General Board caucus.)

This request from the Women's Caucus was brought back to the Executive Committee for further discussion at this meeting. General Secretary Roy Medley reminded members of the Executive Committee that it is this body which, acting as the Credentials and Caucus Committee, is charged with monitoring membership of ABC caucuses. Vice President Don Ng, who served on the Credentials and Caucus Committee during the time the Women's Caucus was established several years ago, shared history of the establishment of both the Young Adult and the Women's caucuses. The Executive Committee reviewed the criteria for the establishment of caucuses (Standing Rule 14.1.2) and discussed precedence, process and funding.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Jonathan Malone, seconded by Beryl Hornberger, and it was, following a friendly amendment

**VOTED:** *That an invitation be extended to 4 representatives from the Women's Caucus Steering Committee to meet with the Executive Committee in June to address questions for clarification, bringing with them 4 letters of support (2 from laity/2 from clergy) which address specific questions submitted to them by the BGM EC, and*

*That General Secretary Roy Medley meet with staff of the Women's Caucus (Pat Hernandez and Virginia Holmstrom) to ask clarifying questions regarding the origin of the proposal.*

### **BGM EC 19 LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

The Executive Committee paused its work as BGM Chaplain Jeff Savage lit the Christ candle as symbol of the Executive Committee's commitment to Worshipful Work.

## **BGM EC 20 PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

ABC President Ruth Clark reported on her representation of ABC since the January BGM Orientation meeting in Orlando. In her report, she spoke of: The Orientation to AB Life and Minister’s Retreat, held directly following the BGM meetings in Orlando; the General Secretary’s February 12 visit to Judson Baptist Church in Kansas City, KS (Ruth’s home church), where, among other things, he helped celebrate Ruth’s new role as ABC president for the 2012-2013 biennium; the February 18-20 Bicentennial Judson Anniversary celebration in Massachusetts, which included scholarly presentations hosted by seminaries, a bus tour of significant historical sites and a reenactment of the Judson sailing; progress with *Transformed by the Spirit*; and the March 14-15 meetings of the ABC Officers and ABC Intercaucus, as well as the American Baptist Association of Seminary Administrators (ABASA) and American Baptist Association of Colleges and Universities (ABACU) at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. Ruth also noted that, in an effort to continue strong connections and to honor region executives, she has been, and will continue this year, to send letters of appreciation to each on their respective birthdays.

## **BGM EC 21 REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

General Secretary Roy Medley also reported on his work on behalf of the denomination since the January meetings in Orlando. The Ministers Conference and Orientation to ABC Life were well received, and the planning committee recommends that the same joint meeting pattern in Orlando be continued. He noted that there “was a good spirit reflective of and contributing to the sense that ABC is moving forward.” Roy attended several pastors gatherings in January and February--the Asian Colloquium, the Colloquium for pastors of the top UM giving churches, and the African American Leadership Conference.

ABCUSA has two *Transformed by the Spirit* Adaptive Challenge teams at work, one on ABC Identity and the other on the role of ABCUSA in developing the Beloved Community. Leo Thorne serves as process leader for ABC Identity with Don Ng, Vivian Martindale and Felipe Candelaria participating. Jeff Woods serves as process leader for the Beloved Community with Ruth Clark, Kay Farley and Wesley Sun participating. With the help of Mary Hulst and David Gnirk, Roy has made funding calls in Southern California, the Bay Area, Nebraska and Arizona. Alan Rudnick has made an important funding call to a possible major donor in Texas. Gifts continue to be received and there remains strong endorsement for *Transformed by the Spirit*.

In addressing his work with Baptist-Muslim dialogue, Roy reported that in early February he and June Totten attended the first of three upcoming regional dialogues sponsored by AB-related seminaries, this one at ABSW. He is currently exploring two overseas trips related to Baptist-Muslim dialogue, one in January 2013 in conjunction with ABWMinistries and another, a joint Church of the Brethren-ABC visit to the Middle East, possibly in early December 2012.

ABC continues significant ties with the World Council of Churches and Baptist World Alliance. Rothang Chhange has just been elected as the new BWAid officer, transitioning from ABHMS staff to BWA staff. Roy has written to BWA General Secretary Neville Callam, requesting that Rothang be able to continue as ABC representative to the WCC and as a member of the Central Committee through the 2013 WCC General Assembly.

A small gathering of religious leaders was held in February to discuss the future of ecumenism in the U.S. and there are plans to meet again in 2013. Roy noted that ABC also has several possible partnering opportunities with the American Bible Society in 2013-2014. He also spoke of his new role as president-elect of the NCC, noting that the Council has begun a full-fledged review of its life, function and structure.

Emphasizing the opportunities ABCUSA realizes with the establishment of the BGM finance committee, he emphasized the importance of a comprehensive review of long-range finances, investments and endowment policies and agreements.

The General Secretary ended his report in celebration that there are “several signs of the Spirit at work opening us to a new day in our life as ABC.”

## **BGM EC 22 PRAYER**

Following the reports of the President and General Secretary, Chaplain Jeff Savage led in prayer for Ruth’s and Roy’s work on behalf of the ABC family, as well as for Roy’s work as president-elect of the National Council of Churches.

## **BGM EC 23 2013 MISSION SUMMIT BIENNIAL PLANNING**

The 2013 Biennial is scheduled for June 21-23, 2013 in Overland Park, KS. The following significant celebrations will take place in conjunction with the Biennial:

- 1) The anniversary of the arrival of the Judsons in Burma in 1813. There will be an invited special speaker from Burma. The planning committee includes a representative from both the Chin and the Karen groups. This committee is currently looking for families who are willing to open their homes to assist with housing for our Burmese guests.
- 2) The 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of The First Baptist Church, Providence, RI.
- 3) The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Ruth Clark appointed Rev. Dr. Reg Mills, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Springfield, IL as chair of the 2013 planning committee. He has been appointed for a four-year term. The venue for the 2015 Biennial will also be Overland Park.

## **BGM EC 24 BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES**

The ABC officers met prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee to begin planning the schedule for the June 2012 BGM meeting. President Clark reviewed the proposed schedule and led in a time of further discussion. The meeting dates for June, September and November 2012 are noted below.

June 14-17, BGM Executive Committee and BGM—Green lake  
(*New member orientation, June 14*)

September 14-15, BGM Executive Committee—Atlanta

November 8-10, BGM Executive Committee and BGM—Valley Forge

The Executive Committee identified the following six sub-groups, to be called “Response Groups”, with the objective of permitting members of BGM to concentrate on more focused work during its meetings:

1—Missional Response [Burmese]

Roy Medley, Perla Belo, Shirley Fair, Danny Jack, Ray Jepson, Duh Kam, Jim Thomason, Tasha Wilson

2—Congregational Renewal [*Transformed by the Spirit*]

Jeff Woods, John Duckworth, Elisai Echevarria, Kay Farley, Bill Fredrickson, Don Ng, Nancy O'Neill, Dean Parker

3—Professional Church Leadership [WIM, Ministers Council]

Pat Hernandez, Andy Arndt, Julia Bebeau, Felipe Candelaria, Mercy Johnson, Jeff Savage, Diane Steelman, Wesley Sun, Amaury Tañón-Santos

4—Committee on Christian Unity [Baptist Muslim Dialogue]

Ruth Clark, Ernest Jones, Mo Khan, Jonathan Malone, (Hopeton Scott), June Totten

5—Finance

Jim Ratliff, Alan Musoke, Paul Higgins, Beryl Hornberger, Charity Matic, Wesley Roberts

6—Mission Resource Development

Leo Thorne, Frank Christine Jr., Robin Crouch, Dennis Johnson, Vivan Martindale, Alan Rudnick, Elmore Warren

It was reported that there remain two former General Board members who have not yet officially resigned from the General Board. If no response is received prior to June, their names will be included on the Board of General Ministries roster. It is anticipated that four new members—from ABC of Pennsylvania and Delaware, ABC of Great Rivers, ABC of Maine and Cleveland Baptist Association--will be elected by the June 2012 meeting.

## **BGM EC 25 STANDING RULES**

ABCUSA legal counsel David Knipel, Esq. has consulted with New York counsel related to the proposed Standing Rules. Suggestions were made and there are several issues which continue to need to be addressed. David will be working with the Standing Rules Committee to address these issues with the intention of having the document ready for the Executive Committee's review before the June meeting of the Board of General Ministries.

## **BGM EC 26 FINANCES AND DEVELOPMENT**

### ABCUSA Financial Statement

Budget Review Officer Jim Ratliff presented the ABCUSA Statement of Revenues and Expenditures from January 1, 2012 through February 29, 2012. The financial statements are attached to the minutes.

### 588 Associates, LLP

588 Associates, LLP is the partnership that was formed in 2009 when the Office of the General Secretary sold the Mission Center building. Members of 588 Associates include OGS (35% ownership), MMBB (25% ownership), IM (5% ownership) and ABHMS (35% ownership). The building was sold for \$20,000,000 and money paid was added to the endowment.

Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary for Finance/CFO, reviewed with the Executive Committee the 588 Associates Strategic Real Estate Report, which was prepared and presented by CSG Urban Partners,

LLC (consultants) to the NEC at its March 8 meeting. This report provides an executive summary, which addressed CSG's advisory objectives, an overview of the national real estate environment, local real estate environment challenges and opportunities, a list of unique site elements, recommendations and next steps. A copy of this report is attached to the official minutes filed in the General Secretary's office, ABCUSA.

The questions that continue to be considered are: Do the partners require 55,000 square ft. of space, taking into consideration deployed staff? Would it be most feasible to own or lease? There are benefits and shortcomings for both scenarios. The Treasurers Council meets monthly and continues to work on these issues as they are tasked with bringing a proposal back to the Executive Committee for further action.

#### Updates

Leasing of space: ABC awaits word from Palmer Theological Seminary (working to obtain a variance for a possible build on the university campus) as to whether they are able to move forward to become a temporary tenant of the Mission Center (possibly for the next 3-4 years), using 20,000 sq. feet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Mission Center. Confirmation is anticipated as of April 16.

Surety Agreement for Mission Center Cooling Equipment: Alan Musoke reported that a resolution will be presented to the Executive Committee tomorrow for action related to a surety agreement between ABCUSA and TD Equipment Finance, Inc. (Lessor) for the extending of credit to 588 Associates, L.P. for replacement of the Mission Center chiller.

Proposal for New Auditors: It is recommended as best practice to change auditors every five years. Proposals for a new auditing partnership are being considered and it is anticipated that a proposal will be forthcoming to the Executive Committee.

### **BGM EC 27 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS**

The General Secretary will be meeting with Leith Anderson, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, on April 27 in Valley Forge to explore possible areas of cooperation between ABC and the NAE. There was discussion related to how this might be a fit for ABC. The General Secretary requested that the Executive Committee advise him as to any parameters they feel strongly about related to such a relationship.

### **BGM EC 28 ABC OF METRO CHICAGO**

At the invitation of ABC President Ruth Clark and the BGM Executive Committee, executive minister Dr. Larry Greenfield, ABC of Metro Chicago, and four region ministers—Rev. Alan Ragland, Third Baptist Church; Rev. Shakespeare Osorio, Central Spanish Baptist Church and Latino Coordinator for the region; and Rev. Carol McVetty and Rev. Douglas Harris, North Shore Baptist Church--shared reports of ministry within their local congregations, communities and in the region.

The Metro Area is a community of neighborhoods where one can transition from one ethnicity to another, which creates its own sets of challenges and problems, as well as benefits. The function of the region is to bring churches together to do ministry better, but to also empower churches with their own specific ministries as well. Metro Chicago seeks to invest in what is identifiable and transforming, reviving the associational principle, assisting churches to become vital (not huge) congregations, finding ways to connect congregations (internationally and nationally) for ministry and dealing with the challenges brought about by environmental justice and how it impacts the poor, the immigrant and the environment itself.

The session ended with a time of questions/discussion and a time of small group prayer for our partners in ministry.

**Saturday, March 17, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Meeting Room A**

### **BGM EC 29 DEVOTIONS**

BGM Chaplain Jeff Savage led the Executive Committee in a time of silent reflection on the words of Scripture in the New Testament passage Luke 9:51-62. Members later shared responses to the questions: What spoke to you in these Scriptures? What is God calling you—us—to be and do now, in response?

The Christ candle was lit as sign and symbol of God's presence.

### **BGM EC 30 COMMON COVENANT: FORUM FOR COLLABORATIVE WORK**

President Clark posed the question: How do we bring into our conversations a time to really hear and understand concerns that we either experience personally or that others share with us? How do we structure our time to provide a forum in which we can work collaboratively to carry out God's mission on behalf of ABC?

The Executive Committee agreed to covenant together to prioritize a time to be built into future agendas to address issues of concern.

Ruth opened the floor for any such issues to be addressed at this meeting. Frank Christine asked the questions, "How might we prevent the Mission Table from becoming a situation where it can be seen as a "we win/you lose" issue? How is the decision made as to what concerns move forward, and what becomes of concerns that do not move forward?"

Continuing discussion raised several comments and further questions: Instead of viewing the Mission Table as having "winners and losers", can we facilitate linkage, reclaiming the associational principle that the life of our church does center on congregational life? Can we entertain/foster that in our congregations? If there is real passion for a mission/ministry in the church, might that church empower its congregants to go forward? How do we together bless the initiative of congregations in our corporate name? We need to shift how we think of the denomination and our life together. This is an adaptive challenge. How do we rethink this? We would hope that we invest into the denomination a different sense of identity; we are a family. Might we reframe our language and speak of the emerging priorities that do get chosen for denominational focus as "Here's where the majority of our voices came together, but we want to connect you." We cannot move through this process with a set of Robert's Rules, and we cannot set ourselves up for failure by thinking that everyone will be happy with what priorities are chosen.

### **BGM EC 31 SITES AND DATES FOR 2013 MEETINGS**

The Executive Committee was asked to hold the following dates for meetings in 2013:

March 14-16, BGM EC (14-15 or 15-16, to be determined)--Kansas City

June 17-20, BGM EC & BGM (Joint meeting with National Boards on 6/19)

June 21-23, Mission Summit/Biennial—Kansas City

September 12-14, BGM EC—San Francisco

November 14-16, BGM EC & BGM—Valley Forge

### **BGM EC 32 FINANCIAL RESOLUTION-SURETY AGREEMENT**

588 Associates, L.P. has borrowed \$552,000 from TD Equipment Finance, Inc. for purchasing cooling equipment for the Mission Center. The length of the loan is 8 years.

A resolution was prepared by the Treasurers Council at TD's request for guaranties from three of the partners--ABCUSA and ABHMS (which both have accounts at TD Bank) and MMBB. The equipment has been delivered, and the parties are anxious to conclude the paperwork. The Surety Agreement came to the Executive Committee for action at this meeting.

Upon motion by Jim Ratliff, seconded by Beryl Hornberger, it was

***VOTED: To approve the agreement as presented, authorizing the ABC Officers, the General Secretary and the Associate General Secretary for Finance/CFO/Treasurer to sign the agreement.***

(A copy of the signed agreement is attached to the official copy of the minutes filed in the General Secretary's office.)

### **BGM EC 33 ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Committee joined in closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session. If any agreements are made during this time, those agreements are recorded, sealed in an envelope and filed with the official minutes filed in the office of the General Secretary.

Submitted by,

Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley  
General Secretary

ARM/cb

*Documents attached:*

*Agenda*

*Roster: BGM EC*

*Roster: BGM*

*Minutes of the January 20, 2012 BGM EC Meeting, Orlando*

*Minutes of the January 20-23 BGM Orientation and Business Session, Orlando*

*Report of the ABC President*

*Report of the General Secretary*

*Transformed by the Spirit Ministry Adaptive Challenges*

*Consultants' Memo: Regional & National Leaders re: Transformed by the Spirit Adaptive Challenge Teams*

*Financial Reports: ABCUSA and Transformed by the Spirit*

*CSG Urban Partners Strategic Real Estate Report*

*Worship Bulletin: March 17, 2012*

*Surety Agreement Resolution: 588 Associates, L.P. & TD Equipment Finance, Inc.  
Non-Profit Boards: Taking Governance Seriously*