



**BGM Executive Committee  
September 13-15, 2018**

**MINUTES**

**Accommodations:** Hilton Garden Inn Burlington-Downtown  
101 Main Street  
Burlington, VT 05401  
Ph: (802) 951-0099

**Meeting Location:** First Baptist Church of Burlington  
81 St. Paul Street  
Burlington, VT 05401  
Ph: (802) 864-6515

**Officers:** Josué Gómez-Menéndez, President  
Dean Parker, Vice President  
Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer  
Judy Fackenthal, Past President  
Lee Spitzer, General Secretary

**Committee:** Cedric Jones, PBA  
José Manuel Magana, Central Pacific  
Annie Svitavsky, VNH

**Chaplain:** Zina Jacque, Metro Chicago

**Parliamentarian:** Dennis Johnson, West Virginia

**Staff:** Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary/Treasurer/CFO  
Kathy Jachowski, Administrator

*Lee Spitzer and Dennis Johnson were excused due to health reasons.*

**Thursday, September 13, 2018, 1:00 PM; FBC Burlington**

**BGM EC 557 DEVOTIONS**

Chaplain Zina Jacque lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and shared a meditation.

## **BGM EC 558 CALL TO ORDER**

ABC President Josué Gómez-Menéndez called the meeting to order.

## **BGM EC 559 CONSENT AGENDA**

The general consent agenda items dated September 13-15, 2018 and the minutes of the June 12-13, 2018 meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Green Lake, WI were approved with no objections.

## **BGM EC 560 588 PROPERTY UPDATE**

The Tenants in Common (TIC) Members continue to move the process forward for the ultimate sale of the Property. Over the last few months, continued negotiation of: 1) the legal documents for the transaction, and 2) the necessary early termination of two existing long-term leases at the property have occurred. To that end, it appears that the parties have reached agreement on all of the terms of the legal documents. Proposed final versions of the documents have been issued for final review and approval by the TIC Members, its legal counsels and advisors.

Further, the TIC has reached a definitive agreement for the early termination of one of the two long-term leases (Agora Charter School) and made progress on negotiation of acceptable terms for the early termination of the other long-term lease (Presser).

The purchase price is Twenty-Four Million Dollars. The payment schedule is Nine Million Dollars (\$9,000,000) at Closing, Ten (10) annual Installment Payments of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000), and a final Installment Payment in Year Ten (10) of Nine Million Dollars (\$9,000,000).

## **BGM EC 561 1015 W. 9<sup>th</sup> AVENUE PROPERTY UPDATE**

The end of the first quarter of 2019 is ABCUSA's expected relocation to the new property 1015 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue in King of Prussia. The Ministers Council relocated at the end of December 2017. International Ministries relocated in February 2018. American Baptist Home Mission Societies, American Baptist Extension Corporation and American Baptist Women's Ministries will relocate to 1075 First Avenue by late October 2018.

The tenant in 1015 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be moving out soon. The roof will need to be replaced before anyone can move into the offices. The plan is to add a main entrance with handicap access, signage that says American Baptist Churches USA, and a plaque will hang in the lobby to honor the building's namesake.

The five star plan presented previously by Lee Spitzer is the model for the layout of the floor plan. The Executive Committee requests adding a site visit to the November BGM agenda to visit and pray.

## **BGM EC 562 YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS**

### **Overall**

Overall the year-to-date financials show a net loss of (\$140K) primarily due to the Development Office and Women in Ministry which had losses of (\$147K) and (\$41K) respectively. Net revenue compared to last year is down (\$129K). Expenses as compared to last year are lower by \$225K. Net revenue and expense are determined by subtracting the Biennial from this year and last year since there is no Biennial in 2018.

## **Development Office**

The Development Office had a loss of (\$147K). Revenues realized by this department flow through other departments.

## **Information Technology Department**

Information Technology Department was created in 2018. This was the result of the dissolution of the American Baptist Computer Center (ABCC) an Associated Ministry Organization (AMO). The approved 2018 budget does not include the IT Department. The IT Department is projected to have a net deficit of (\$42K) for the second half of 2018.

## **United Mission**

Total UM is \$4,042,625. This is a decrease of (\$249,852) from the prior year. This represents a reduction of 5.82%. These figures include the “Love Gift.” Without the “Love Gift,” UM would be down by 5.69% for the year.

After the report was given, a letter from June Totten, chair of Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations (CCUIR) was discussed regarding her concerns for the 10% budget cut in the CCUIR. Paul Higgins will be following up with June Totten by sending a letter of response.

## **BGM EC 563            2019 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT UPDATE**

The Biennial scripture Text is taken from 1 Chronicles 16:32, “Let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them!”

American Baptist Home Mission Societies will host Friday evening, June 21 “From Sea to Sea” with plenary guest speakers Dr. Howard Stevenson and Bryan Stevenson to be confirmed. International Ministries will host Saturday evening, June 22 with plenary guest speaker Rev. Elijah Brown, Baptist World Alliance (BWA) General Secretary. There are plans to have a Sunday Sunrise Service on the beach on Sunday morning June 23 for those who can attend. American Baptist Women’s Ministries will host “Sunday Morning Sunday School” with a lesson on “Navigating Choppy Seas” presented by plenary guest teacher Jolene Erlacher, followed by Sunday Morning Communion Worship Service “Worship by the Sea” which will be hosted by the Office of the General Secretary and MMBB with plenary guest preacher Rev. Ngwedla Paul Msiza, BWA President. The Biennial will close that evening with an American Baptist Churches of the South (ABC of the South) 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration hosted by the Regional Executive Ministers (REMC) and ABC of the South. The theme will be “A Sea of Witnesses.” The plenary guest preacher and individuals sharing testimonies will be selected by the ABC of the South Executive Minister and the General Secretary for the closing celebration.

The Biennial Academy scheduled for Saturday of the Biennial features two morning and two afternoon sessions. This one day programming is a continuing education event for ministers and lay people, focusing on themes to help pastors in their vocation and lay people to become better leaders as disciples. A Certificate of Attendance will be given to those who participate in a whole track. Here is a list of the tracks:

1. **Multiple Language Bible Studies on the Book of Jonah** – A 90 minute session looking at the whole narrative from a missiological perspective.
2. **Social Media, Technology and Ministry** – Biblical study and sermon preparation for the 21<sup>st</sup> century pastor using the Bible software, Accordance.

3. **21<sup>st</sup> Century Options for Church Planting and Renewal** – two parallel tracks: Fresh Expressions and Transforming Traditional Churches each focusing on spiritual renewal, visionary pastoral leadership, changing the culture of the church, and clarifying mission values and strategies of the church.
4. **The Money Track** – Issues churches and pastors face regarding money such as indebtedness, financial planning, fund raising, stewardship, etc.
5. **Being the Hands and Feet of Jesus in Society** – Social witness topics.
6. **Practical Resources for Churches and Leadership** – Topics will include fair compensation for clergy, pastoral relations board, searching for a new pastor, safety and security, policies related to children’s ministry, empowering laity, consensus and worshipful work, grant writing, how to create a 501 (c) (3), etc.
7. **Expressing our Passion, Changing our World for Christ** – A mini “Hearing the Call” workshop.
8. **“Faith and Climate – a Creative Conversation”** – a program of the ABCUSA Creation Justice Task Force.
9. **Transitional Ministry Training**

The Biennial Business Session will take place again on Saturday morning of the Biennial. The 2019 Biennial Mission Summit Programs on Sunday afternoon will feature an Innovators Hall Program coordinated and hosted by ABHMS. Mission Summit Priorities/Baptist Talk Conversations, which includes a presentation by the National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD), will be coordinated by Jeff Woods and Marsha Scipio.

**BGM EC 564                    UNITED MISSION UPDATE (MRD)**

Leo Thorne asked Central Pacific Coast, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin to participate as pilot regions for the United Mission (UM) Adaptive Challenge presented to the Board of General Ministries in November 2014. The three regions were to work with the UM Adaptive Challenge Team. Technology Therapy Group (TTG) was contracted in June 2015 as the primary marketing firm and worked with the UM Adaptive Challenge Team members to develop materials for the first year of UM promotion. Upon beginning his role as General Secretary, Lee Spitzer decided to continue the work that had been started by working with the regions to promote what United Mission giving strengthens and supports within the regions.

Alan Musoke will send a report with the intention of answering, "What did we learn" and the question, "Is Lee's approach of visiting each region as frequent as possible making a difference in UM, especially in the pilot regions?"

**BGM EC 565                    RECESS OF MEETING FOR DINNER**

The committee went for dinner at Leunig’s Bistro. Jeri Higgins, Paul’s wife joined the Executive Committee for dinner.

**Friday, September 14, 2018, 9:00 AM; FBC Burlington**

**BGM EC 566                    RECONVENING/ OPENING MEDITATION**

Chaplain Zina Jacque lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ’s presence and shared a meditation.

**BGM EC 567 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Committee met in Executive Session. Actions taken during this meeting will be placed in a sealed envelope and filed with the official minutes in the General Secretary's office.

**LUNCH, 12:00 PM**

BGM Executive Committee and special local guests met in the fellowship hall for lunch catered by New Moon Café. Local guests included:

- Dale Edwards, Executive Minister for Vermont and New Hampshire
- Stephanie Allen, Pastor Middlebury Memorial Baptist Church
- Larry Detweiler, Pastor Starksboro First Baptist Church and Huntington United Baptist Church
- Karen Mendes, Pastor Burlington First Baptist Church (hosting the meetings)
- Tyler Smith, Pastor Georgia Plain Baptist Church
- Dave Wood, Recently retired Pastor from Lincoln United Church
- Todd Goodyear, Pastor Bristol VT First Baptist Church
- Russ Willis, Pastor Colchester United Church
- June Totten, BGM director from ABCOFLASH visiting in Vermont
- Craig Ray, Pastor Barre First Baptist Church
- Libby Ivens, Wife of Dan Ivens, Pastor Lincoln United Church

**BGM EC 568 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Committee met in Executive Session. Actions taken during this meeting will be placed in a sealed envelope and filed with the official minutes in the General Secretary's office.

**BGM EC 569 BANKING RESOLUTION TO OPEN NEW ACCOUNT WITH CCCU**

The Finance Committee requested more information to make a decision regarding the possibility of switching banks to the Christian Community Credit Union (CCCU). 1.) CCCU will honor the account maintenance fee waiver as long as the compensating balance remains at the minimum of \$150,000.00. 2.) CCCU is not able to guarantee helping pay for lockbox costs without knowing the actual cost for the lockbox. 3.) An estimated cost of \$6,882 for the three or more years would be spent on mailing to inform 1,400 churches of the new lockbox address. 4.) The level of deposit insurance offered by CCCU is up to \$250,000.00 per account. By members' choice the Credit Union is not federally insured, and if the Credit Union fails, the Federal Government does not guarantee that depositors will get back their money. Accounts with the Credit Union are not insured by any state government

The benefit of switching to CCCU would be \$25,000.00 would be given to the "Sister Church Initiative" if ABCUSA agrees to bank with CCCU.

The BGM Executive Committee will let the Finance Committee know that it is not in favor of ABCUSA switching banks to CCCU.

**BGM EC 570 DISTRIBUTION OF LEASEHOLD PROCEEDS**

Discussion put on hold until the November meeting.

**BGM EC 571 REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

Lee Spitzer submitted his written report to the BGM Executive Committee. Lee recently had heart surgery and was therefore unable to attend the September BGM Executive Committee Meeting. Lee began his report stating, "A pastoral vision of ministry necessarily and inevitably leads to

complex conversation between disciples who follow Christ and their culture and its historical unfolding. This theme has been very real to me as General Secretary throughout this summer.”

Lee’s report highlighted his work from June to September 2018.

- 1.) Pastoral/Prophetic Responses to Political and Cultural Developments:
  - Letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions
  - Letter to the Nicaraguan Government
  - Met with State Department Officials in Washington D. C. regarding violence and oppression in Myanmar
  - Attended the Baptist World Alliance Board Meetings in Zurich
  - Holocaust Seminar (cancelled)
- 2.) Ecumenical Relationships:
  - Appointed Dr. Shane Kinnison to represent ABCUSA in NCCC Conversations with Buddhist and Hindu Leaders
  - submitted nomination Dr. Jim Menninger for serving as representative on Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) board
  - Attended the Progressive National Baptist Convention Annual Meeting
  - Met with Hannah McMahon, New Baptist Covenant Executive Director
  - Attended the First International Conference of Jewish Disciples of Jesus Christ in Dallas
- 3.) ABCUSA Family Unity and Common Ministry:
  - 2019 Biennial Mission Summit planning
  - The National Leadership Committee (NLC) met by “Go to Meeting” in July
  - Finalizing the formation of a United Mission Task Force
  - Attended the Board Meeting as OGS representative at Green Lake Conference Center
- 4.) Office of the General Secretary:
  - 1015 building purchase and move
  - Changes to Information Technology for Mission Communication
  - ABCUSA/OGS Internship changes
  - Personnel Manual
- 5.) Pastoral Ministry to the ABCUSA Family:
  - Continued regional visits
  - Attended the Holy Spirit Renewal Movement Conference
- 6.) Associate General Secretary Updates.

More information on these updates can be found in the Report of the General Secretary in the documents attached.

## **BGM EC 572 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Committee met in Executive Session. Actions taken during this meeting will be placed in a sealed envelope and filed with the official minutes in the General Secretary’s office.

**BGM EC 573 RECESS OF MEETING FOR DINNER**

The committee went for dinner at The Farmhouse Tap and Grill. Jeri Higgins, Paul's wife joined the Executive Committee for dinner.

**Saturday, September 15, 2018, 9:00 AM; FBC Burlington**

**BGM EC 574 RECONVENING/ OPENING MEDITATION**

Chaplain Zina Jacque lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and shared a meditation.

**BGM EC 575 CAMP LAKE LOUISE AMO STATUS REQUEST**

The BGM Executive Committee and American Baptist Churches of Michigan (ABC-MI) Region Executive Mike Williams met via conference call to get more information regarding the request for AMO status of Camp Lake Louise. Camp Lake Louise needs evidence of an association with ABCUSA without being part of the ABCUSA group exemption. The camp is in the process of applying for its own 501 (c) (3) exemption as an independent organization, but would like to be able to show evidence of its continuing association with American Baptist Churches USA.

Paul Higgins will ask David Knipel to prepare a report for the November BGM Meeting. The AMO status request will be added to the November BGM agenda for the board to decide.

**BGM EC 576 YOUNG ADULT CAUCUS BUDGET**

Don Ng is being asked to mentor the Young Adult Caucus. No budget has been approved to date for the Young Adult Caucus to allow time for Don to talk with Ashley Whitaker and then for the Young Adult Caucus to come back to the November meeting with a budget to submit.

**BGM EC 577 ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY**

Josue will be writing a letter "After communicating with Dr. Spitzer, taking into consideration his recommendations and under the authority that gives us our guiding documents (Standing Rule 15.5.3), we are calling Rev. Jeff Woods as our Acting General Secretary for USA and Puerto Rico until Dr. Spitzer can return to his work." Dean Parker will visit the Mission Center to have an informal meeting with OGS staff regarding the temporary changes.

**BGM EC 578 ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting of BGM Executive Committee: November 8-9, 2018 in King of Prussia, PA

Submitted by,



Rev. Dr. C. Jeff Woods  
Acting General Secretary

CJW/kj

Documents attached

*BGM EC Integrated Schedule (1008:09/18)*

*BGM EC Proposed Agenda (1101:09/18)*

*BGM EC Roster September 2018*

*BGM Executive Committee Minutes: June 2018 (1002: 06/18)*

*ABCUSA Financial Report*

*Report of the General Secretary*

*ABC President's Report (1201:09/18)*

*United Missions Report*

*Banking Resolution Answers*

*Banking-Resolution*

*Update from OTACP*

*List of AMOs*

*Purchase and Sale Agreement*

*Resolution on Sale of 588 Property*

*Update on Sale of Mission Center*

*1015 ABCUSA – OGS Robert A. Roblee Ministry Building New Front (South)*

*1015 ABCUSA – OGS Robert A. Roblee Ministry Building North Side*

*1015 Layout by Staff Name*

*1015 Layout by 5 Star Plan*

*ABC YA Caucus Budget Request 2019*

*United Mission Report, September 2018*

*ABC Group Exempt IRS ABC AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS*

*ABC Group Exemption ExecComm030614*

*CLL Annual Report*

*Standards for Group Exemption*

*Camp Lake Louise ABCUSA AMO Status Request Letter*