



**BGM Executive Committee  
September 14-16, 2017**

**MINUTES**

- Meeting Site:** First Baptist Church of Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico  
1085 Calle Brumbaugh, Río Piedras  
00921 San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Housing:** Hampton Inn & Suites San Juan  
6530 Isla Verde Avenue  
Carolina, PR 00979  
Ph: 787-791-8777
- Officers:** Judy Fackenthal, President  
Josue Gómez-Menendez, Vice President  
Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer  
Don Ng, Past President  
Lee Spitzer, General Secretary
- Committee:** Felipe Candelaria, Puerto Rico  
Zina Jacque, Metro Chicago  
Tasha Wilson, Rochester/Genesee
- Chaplain:** Kay Farley, Rocky Mountains
- Parliamentarian:** Dennis Johnson, West Virginia
- Staff:** Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary/Treasurer/CFO  
Kathy Jachowski, Administrator

### **Wednesday, September 13, 2017**

The BGM Executive Committee gathered for dinner in the lobby of the Hampton Inn at 5:45 PM and took the church van (First Baptist Church of Rio Piedras) to dinner at El Patio de Sam (Old San Juan). Joining the Executive Committee for dinner:

Joy Shih, Don's wife  
Sheila Cardona, Felipe's wife  
Myladys Gomez, Josue's wife  
Jerri Higgins, Paul's wife  
Fred Fackenthal, Judy's husband

### **Thursday, September 14, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m**

#### **BGM EC 474            DEVOTIONS**

Judy Fackenthal, ABC President gave words of welcome and asked everyone to share about their lives since the last time the committee met. Kay Farley, BGM Chaplain, lit the Christ Candle as a reminder of the powerful presence of Christ in our meeting and led devotions, sharing what a blessing it is to be in Puerto Rico and showing up in faith.

Felipe Candelaria shared that the Red Cross is asking for funds to assist those affected by hurricane Irma and the Puerto Rico Baptist Region Mission Board is volunteering to assist the Red Cross with hurricane relief efforts. The Executive Committee discussed interest in volunteering with relief efforts if the agenda and time permitted.

#### **BGM EC 475            CALL TO ORDER**

Judy Fackenthal called the meeting to order.

#### **BGM EC 476            CONSENT AGENDA**

*A motion was made by Zina Jacque to adopt the proposed agenda dated September 14-16 and to approve the minutes of the June 26-27, 2017 meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Portland, OR*

Motion passed.

#### **BGM EC 477            BAPTIST TALK**

Don Ng discussed the importance of Baptist Talk continuing to be a place for open discussion without reservations to reflect the Baptist distinctive of freedom of thought and in the planning of future Biennial Mission Summit Table Conversations allowing for Baptist Talk to serve as a place to identify new topics for conversation.

#### **BGM EC 478            NORTHEAST CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY (NECU)**

Friends of NECU, the US-based group supporting NECU in Dimapur/Kohima, Nagaland, will be hosting Rev. Solomon Rongpi, the General Secretary of CBC-NEI later in September. He will be traveling to the Dakotas, Great Rivers, Central and Rocky Mountains Regions, and the Bay Area to promote NECU, as well as, to build prayer support. Don Ng will be hosting Solomon on September 24-26 in Berkeley; as well as, traveling with him to Denver to meet American

Baptists. Don is planning to lead an ABC group to Northeast India to support NECU in February 2018.

**BGM EC 479                    CREATION JUSTICE NETWORK**

The steering committee's annual face-to-face meeting on November 9-11 will be at Rolling Ridge, North Andover, MA where ABC minister, Larry Jay, is now the director.

**BGM EC 480                    2017 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT REVIEWS**

The BGM Executive Committee is concerned about the lack of emphasis on cradle to college at the Biennial Mission Summit and wants to explore ways to create a more kid friendly and with youth involvement. Before the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit, plans will be discussed about how to give more emphasis on cradle to college attendance.

**BGM EC 481                    EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Committee met in Executive Session for a portion of the meeting. 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, 12:30 PM**

BGM Executive Committee met in the fellowship hall for lunch prepared by members of First Baptist Church of Rio Piedras.

**BGM EC 482                    OTABL EVALUATIONS**

See report. Lee Spitzer was reminded of his role to appoint a coordinator and to also share the evaluation report with the NEC.

**BGM EC 483                    BIENNIAL LOCATION PROPOSALS**

A motion was made by Paul Higgins and seconded by Zina Jacque to hold the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit in Puerto Rico.

Vote: 2 yes, 2 no, 3 abstentions

Motion failed

Reviewed the pros and cons of having the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit in Puerto Rico,

A motion was made by Don Ng and seconded by Paul Higgins to hold the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit in Puerto Rico.

Vote: 3 yes, 1 no, 3 abstentions

Motion Failed

A motion was made by Don Ng and seconded by Paul Higgins to postpone the vote on a location until the next morning to allow time to consider all options.

Motion Passed

**BGM EC 484                    INVESTMENT POLICY**

The purpose of the Investment Policy is to guide the American Baptist Churches USA Board of General Ministries, the BGM Finance Committee, the ABCUSA Treasurer's Office and any Investment Suppliers in effectively managing, monitoring and evaluating the investment of funds held by the Corporation not including program-related assets. This proposed policy will be added to the agenda of the November BGM Meeting for approval.

**BGM EC 485 BUILDING ISSUES**

Lee Spitzer showed the diagram of the office layout where OGS and its staff will be in the new building. OGS offices will be centrally located at the main entrance. There will be a shared copier room for OGS and ABHMS. Lee explained that the ABCUSA computer center has been added to the space. The Traffic Department will not be included in the new building.

A formal letter to the ABHMS Board from the BGM Board will be sent with an offer to begin conversation about co-ownership of the 1075 property.

Alan Musoke updated the committee on the current status of the joint venture in which PPG will have 15 acres. The other parcel is 8 acres and no partner has been identified yet.

**BGM EC 486 FRESH EXPRESSIONS**

Lee Spitzer introduced Fresh Expressions as an integral aspect of his hopes for *Transformed by the Spirit*. Fresh Expressions is an innovative church planting and ministry creation international movement which originated in the United Kingdom's Church of England. The Executive Committee encourages Lee to recommend Fresh Expressions as a congregational resource. but chose not to officially endorse Fresh Expressions.

**BGM EC 487 RECESS OF MEETING FOR DINNER**

The committee went for dinner at Metropol. Joining the Executive Committee for dinner:

Joy Shih, Don's wife  
Sheila Cardona, Felipe's wife  
Myladys Gomez, Josue's wife  
Jerri Higgins, Paul's wife  
Mary Barbee, Kay Farley's sister  
Fred Fackenthal, Judy's husband

**Friday, September 15, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m**

**BGM EC 488 RECONVENING/ OPENING MEDITATION**

BGM Chaplain Kay Farley Lit the Christ Candle and shared a meditation on miracles.

**BGM EC 489 BIENNIAL LOCATION PROPOSALS (CONT.)**

The Executive Committee wants to direct staff to find locations, preferably on the East Coast and including resort type cities by November 15. The rotation list of regions for upcoming biennials should be shared with OTACP: East coast, Puerto Rico, Mid- west, and West Coast. Allowing for resort convention center hotels give more options. The Executive Committee wants two viable choices to select from. Josue Gomez strongly suggests finding a place in northeast and going to Puerto Rico for the biennial in 2021.

**BGM EC 490 REPORT OF BUDGET REVIEW OFFICER (See Report attached)**

### Overall

Overall the year-to-date financials show a net loss of (\$247K) primarily due to Representative Process, and the Development Office.

Net revenue compared to last year is down (\$211K). The primary reason for the decrease in revenue is ABCUSA Departments which had a decrease of (\$188K). Net revenue is determined by subtracting the Biennial from this year and any activity for the Biennial last year.

### Development Office

The Development office had a loss of (\$154K). Revenues realized by this department flow through other departments.

### Women in Ministry

Revenue is up \$26K. This increase is 25% above last year.

### United Mission

Total UM is \$4,292,476. This is a decrease of (\$188,649) from the prior year. This represents a reduction of (4.21%).

## **BGM EC 491                    UNITED MISSION DISTRIBUTION ALLOCATION**

See report – 2018 United Mission Proposed Distribution

### **LUNCH, 12:00 PM**

BGM Executive Committee and special local guests met in the fellowship hall for lunch prepared by members of First Baptist Church of Rio Piedras. Local guests included:

Rev. Dr. Roberto Dieppa-Báez, ABCUSA Interim Executive Minister for Puerto Rico

Rev. Doris Garcia Rivera, President Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico

Rev. Cesar Mauraz, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Caguas

Rev. Edgardo Caraballo, Pastor and Region Representative on the Hispanic Caucus

Rev. Laura Ayala, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Rio Piedras

Yarilis Hildago, Executive Admin. Assistant to the Interim Executive Minister for Puerto Rico

Margarita Ramirez, ABCUSA region president

## **BGM EC 492                    VISION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

Lee reviewed the “5 Star Structure:” Pastoral Mission, Mission Communication, Conference and Planning, Development, and Administration and Finance. All five stars work together. Staff changes would include Tina Turner becoming the United Mission Coordinator and Bridget Lipin would be working in Communications with IT. In terms of affording the new position for the second Assistant General Secretary, Marilyn Tyson’s position will not be filled after she retires. The reason for two Assistant General Secretary positions is to show that ABCUSA cares about pastors and churches. With additional staff, OGS will be able to support regions, offer creative strategies and helpful resources, and provide greater diversity of assistance. Lee asks that the BGM Board be 100% behind what the Office of the General Secretary (OGS) is doing. In order for OGS to be successful – the board needs to part of the solution.

## **BGM EC 493                    NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL DISCOURSE (NICD)**

NICD is a non-profit, non-partisan institute based at the University of Arizona that is dedicated to addressing incivility and political dysfunction in American democracy. Lee Spitzer wants to join the movement to publicly endorse the Initiative to Revive Civility, to share information about the initiative with members of the denomination, and to encourage interested members and churches to be involved in community conversations to promote civility and respect. Possible guest speaker on this could be brought to the BGM November meeting to share more about NICD.

**BGM EC 494                    UNITED MISSION (CONT.)**

Give Lee and new Assistant General Secretaries some grace time to say that United Mission is for the whole family and then review again in 2018. The BGM Executive Committee gives permission to Paul Higgins to take a \$20,000 adjustment proposal to the ABCUSA finance committee. Empower the General Secretary to forewarn the NEC of the shift in United Mission funding allocations after Finance committee comes up with the final decision.

**BGM EC 495                    UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM (USHMM)**

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 a 2-3 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 or November 2018. ABHMS has continuing education funds that could assist with the costs. One possibility would be to include the National Museum of African American History and Culture as part of the possible event with DC Baptist Convention.

**BGM EC 496                    ECOAMERICA**

Lee Spitzer has been in conversation with the BGM's Creation Justice Network; as well as, in dialogue with Ryan Burge regarding statistics of where American Baptists are in relation to the issues of the environment.

**BGM EC 497                    RECESS OF MEETING FOR DINNER**

The committee went for dinner at Restaurante Raices, Hato Rey. Joining the Executive Committee for dinner:

Joy Shih, Don's wife

Myladys Gomez, Josue's wife

Keysha, Sheika and Yariel Gomez, Josue's children and guests – Carlos Martinez and Jorge Villafaña

Jerri Higgins, Paul's wife

Kyle Wilson, Tasha's husband

Fred Fackenthal, Judy's husband

Mary Barbee, Kay Farley's sister

**Saturday, September 16, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m**

**BGM EC 498 RECONVENING/ OPENING MEDITATION**

BGM Chaplain Kay Farley lit the Christ Candle and shared a meditation on Napoleon Hill's book, "Outwitting Satan."

**BGM EC 499 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Committee met in Executive Session for a portion of the meeting. 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 500 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

**Future BGM Dates:**

**November 16-18, 2017** – King of Prussia, PA (Executive Committee dinner on Nov. 15)

**November 16, 2017** – Celebration Service for the Mission Center 2:00 PM

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

**November 8-10, 2018** - King of Prussia, PA (Executive Committee dinner on Nov. 8)

**Future BGM Exec. Comm. Dates:**

**November 15-16, 2017** – King of Prussia, PA

**March 8-10, 2018** – TBD (Location of 2019 Biennial)

**June 12-13, 2018** – Green Lake, WI

**September 13-15, 2018** – Omaha, NE

**November 7-8, 2018** - King of Prussia, PA

**March 14-16, 2019** – TBD

**June 2019** (Biennial TBD)

**September 12-14, 2019** – Denver, CO

**BGM EC 501 ADJOURNMENT**

**Next meeting of the BGM Executive Committee:** November 15-16, 2017 – King of Prussia, PA

Submitted by,



Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer  
General Secretary

LBS/kj

Documents attached

*ABCUSA Integrated Schedule*

*BGM EC Proposed Agenda: September 14-16, 2017*

*BGM EC Roster: September 2017*

*BGM EC Minutes: June 26-27, 2017(1002:6/17)*

*Hope and Dreams: List compiled at BGM June 2017 Meeting*

*Year to Date Financials*

*Mission Resource Development Report*

*ABC President's Report*

*General Secretary's Report*

*Summary Report: Baptist Talk Commission, Creation Justice Network Task Force, FNECU*

*Mission Summit Conversation Evaluations, July 2017*

*2017 Biennial Mission Summit Feedback Survey*

*2017 Biennial Mission Summit – Comments for Attendees*

*2017 Orientation to American Baptist Life, Report and Recommendations*

*2019 Biennial Mission Summit Proposal: Hartford, Connecticut*

*2019 Biennial Mission Summit Proposal: Green Lake Conference Center*

*2019 Biennial Mission Summit Proposal: Puerto Rico*

*ABCUSA Investment Policy (Draft) May 28, 2017*

*Rationale for New Investment Policy*

*National Institute for Civil Discourse*

*ABCUSA Naming and Policy Recommendations Draft*

*2018 United Mission Proposed Distribution*