



**BGM Executive Committee  
March 9-11, 2017**

**MINUTES**

**Meeting Site:** Hilton Garden Inn Downtown Atlanta  
275 Baker Street NW  
Atlanta, GA 30313  
Ph: 404-577-2001

**Housing:** Hilton Garden Inn

**Officers:** Judy Fackenthal, President  
Josue Gómez-Menendez, Vice President  
Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer  
Don Ng, Past President  
Susan E. Gillies, Interim 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

**BGM EC 446      CALL TO ORDER**

ABC President Judy Fackenthal called the meeting to order. Judy gave words of welcome and each person shared where they experienced grace in their lives.

**BGM EC 447      DEVOTIONS**

Kay Farley, BGM Chaplain, lit the Christ Candle as a reminder of the powerful presence of Christ in our meeting. She led in devotions focusing on Genesis 37 and focusing on our Biennial Mission Summit theme of “connections.”

**BGM EC 448            CONSENT AGENDA**

*A motion was made by Zina Jacque and seconded by Tasha Wilson to adopt the proposed agenda dated March 9-11, 2017 and to approve the minutes of the November 16-17, 2016 meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Valley Forge, PA.*

Motion passed.

**BGM EC 449            REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

President Fackenthal reported the ABC Officers Nominated for the 2018-2019 Biennium are

1. Josue Gómez-Menendez, President
2. Dean Parker, Vice President.

**BGM EC 450            PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

See attached document.

**BGM EC 451            REPORT OF INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY**

See attached document.

**BGM EC 452            REPORT OF BUDGET REVIEW OFFICER**

1. OVERALL
  - a. the year-to-date financials show a net loss of (\$153K) primarily due to Development Office which had a loss of (\$261K). [Note: See item 2 below.]
  - b. Net revenue compared to last year is down (\$352K). The primary reason for the decrease in revenue is ABCUSA Departments which had a decrease of (\$284K) and Denominational Emphasis which had a decrease of (\$77K). Net revenue is determined by subtracting the Biennial from last year since there was no Biennial in 2016.
2. DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The Development office had a loss of (\$261K). Revenues realized by this department flow through other departments. Example: The Development Office has played a major role in the Women In Ministry campaign. Results show in that department.
3. WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Revenue is up \$44K. This increase is 25% above last year.
4. UNITED MISSION

Total UM is \$8,218,950. This is a decrease of (\$616,607) from the prior year. This represents a reduction of 6.97%.
5. 588 ASSOCIATES, LP

The balance sheet reflects the dissolving of 588 Associates, LP at the end of September. ABCUSA’s 35% share of the building partnership was reclassified as a fixed asset. Depreciation expense, for the building, was booked for the three months remaining in the calendar year.

**BGM EC 453            REVIEW OF ROLE OF BGM AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

See attached document of updates made during the meeting.

## **BGM EC 454            UPDATES**

### **1. ABC CREATION JUSTICE NETWORK**

A call for dialogue and action on climate change presented.

There was also a discussion that ensued regarding the protocol for task forces to distribute “think pieces”

***A motion was made by Zina Jacque to empower Don Ng to work with the staff to create protocol for distribution of think pieces, seconded by Paul Higgins.***

Motion passed.

### **2. EMERGING THEOLOGIANS CONFERENCE**

The commission is working on the conference for Thursday as part of the pre-biennial events. A call for papers has been sent out.

### **3. TRANSFORMED BY THE SPIRIT/JOURNEY TEAM**

Virginia Holmstrom will be leading the NEC in “Dwelling in the Word” during the April-May meetings to familiarize them with the process. The Journey Team will meet in May.

### **4. COMMUNICATING ABC IDENTITY ACTION GROUP**

The group is working on ways to get people involved (the connecting piece) as a new way to do advertising for United Mission, which would explain what United Mission is all about. One idea is to have a screen to catch your focus on United Mission at the Biennial Mission Summit worship service before they begin the services and could include something regarding ABC identity and the making of our stories.

### **5. CALVARY BAPTIST IN DENVER, CO**

Calvary Baptist Church in Denver wrote to ask if there is a way a person’s ordination can be accepted in the broader ABC family if the local region does not recognize the pastor’s ordination (in this case because the pastor is an openly practicing homosexual).

The church presented three suggested options:

- a. Calvary could join with another region on ordination. This did not satisfy the church which does not want to leave the Rocky Mountain region.
- b. Could the church be dually aligned with two regions. This option is not viable at this time. Both region execs (Rocky Mtn and Evergreen) feel we do not have ways to handle this.
- c. Find a way for ABC polity to ordain a qualified candidate to be recognized in ABCUSA nationally. We do not have one ABC ordination recognition – we only have guidelines.

***A motion by Don Ng and seconded by Felipe Candelaria was made in support of sending a letter to Calvary Baptist in Denver in response to Calvary Baptist regarding the understanding that it is not within ABCUSA polity to use the suggestions offered.***

Motion passed.

**BGM EC 455            2017 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT**

1. BAPTIST TALK COMMISSION

Jeff Woods, working with the commission, created the design for the Baptist Talk workshop Sunday afternoon.

2. CORA AND JOHN SPARROWK PRESIDENT’S AWARD

There are two recommendations for this year to receive the award, Newton Old Crow and Emilie Ballard.

*A motion was made by Tasha Wilson and seconded by Felipe Candelaria to recommend that the Cora and John Sparrowk President’s Award be given to Newton Old Crow and Emilie Ballard.*

Motion passed.

3. BGM BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT INCENTIVE

The BGM incentive to encourage BGM members to stay for Biennial Mission Summit is to cover the cost of tickets for BGM members to attend ABHMS and IM luncheons.

4. BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT NOTES

- a. Jeff Woods, Al Fletcher, Paul Higgins, and David Knipel have worked on a document, “How to be Heard at the Biennial.” This document will be included in the BMS registration packet.
- b. Susan Gillies encouraged the Executive Committee to stay through Sunday night service when our new General Secretary will be leading communion.
- c. Executive Committee members are asked to pray for our staff as we move toward the BMS (especially with the demands of the new CVent software).
- d. This year there will be a wide variety of Bible studies and workshops being offered with various perspectives which helps to broaden connections.
- e. The exhibits this year will be color coded by whether it is ABC connected or a non-connected organization.

**BGM EC 456            EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Committee met in Executive Session with Human Resource Director Laura Miraz for a portion of the meeting. Reports of 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 457            STRATEGY FOR 2018 CONFERENCES**

It was noted that ABHMS will hold a second “Space for Grace” Conference in 2018. There will not be a Ministers’ Conference in 2018. Some Region Executives are strategizing to have regional cluster events.

**BGM EC 458            EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

1. BGM AND BGM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES/LOCATIONS 2017

- a. June 27-29, Portland Oregon
- b. September 14-16, San Juan, Puerto Rico (Executive Committee)
- c. November 16-18, Valley Forge, PA

2. BGM AND BGM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES/LOCATIONS 2018

- a. March 8-10, Meet at the 2019 Biennial location (Executive Committee)
  - b. June 13-15, Green Lake
  - c. September 13-15, Omaha, NE (Executive Committee)
  - d. November 9-11, Valley Forge, PA
3. BGM AND BGM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES/LOCATIONS 2019
- a. March 14-16, St. Louis or Springfield, IL (Executive Committee)
  - b. June (Biennial – TBD)
  - c. September 12-14, Denver, CO (Executive Committee)
  - d. November 13-16, Valley Forge, PA

**BGM EC 459            OTHER BUSINESS**

- 1. Don Ng asked the Executive Committee for prayer and support of the North East Christian University.
- 2. Susan Gillies reported that the NEC will bring to the finance committee in June a proposal on the redistribution of the national portion of United Mission.
- 3. Tasha Wilson raised a concern for the need for more funds for the American Baptist Historical Society and the need for the BGM Executive Committee to support them.

**BGM EC 460            ADJOURNMENT**

The Vice-President Josue Gómez-Menendez adjourned the meeting of Executive Committee.

**Next meeting of the BGM Executive Committee:** June 27-28, Portland Oregon

Submitted by



Dr. Susan E. Gillies  
Interim General Secretary

SEG/kj

Documents attached

*BGM EC Proposed Agenda: March 9-11, 2017*

*BGM Survey Results (agenda attachments)*

*BGM EC Roster: March 2017*

*BGM EC Minutes: November 16-17, 2016 (1002:11/16)*

*ABC President's Report*

*Interim General Secretary's Report*

*Year to Date Financials*

*New Board Member Orientation, Board Member Exit Interview Protocol, and BGM Survey Data Responses*

*Revised notes on Orientation, Exit Interview and Survey Data Results*

*A Call for Dialogue and Action on Climate Change*  
*Mission Resource Development Report*  
*ABC Creation Justice Network Report*  
*Report of the Emerging Theologians Commission*  
*Communicating ABC Identity Action Group*  
*Baptist Talk*