

American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

**BOARD OF GENERAL MINISTRIES
MINUTES: June 18-20, 2013**

**Sheraton Overland Park Hotel
6100 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66211
913-234-2100**



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

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

Those present: A roster of members of the Board of General Ministries is attached to the minutes. Directors not able to attend this meeting: Beryl F. Hornberger, Mo Khan, Charity Matic, Dianne Steelman, Elmore Warren

Guests who attended part of the meeting: Molly T. Marshall, president of CBTS; Dr. Stephen Jones, interim pastor of Prairie Baptist Church, Prairie Village, KS; Brad Berglund, Mission Summit/Biennial Manager/Consultant; and Executive Ministers: Frank Frischkorn, ABCOPAD; Marcia Patton, Evergreen Baptist Association; Riley Walker, ABC of the Dakotas; and John Williams, ABC of the Central Region.

Tuesday, June 18, 2013: 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Leatherwood 3 Meeting Room

BGM 81 WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

ABC President Ruth Clark welcomed directors of the Board of General Ministries and called the meeting to order. She thanked Nancy O’Neill (ABC of Wisconsin) for ministering through her gift of music during the BGM plenary sessions and Camille Brown (Cleveland Baptist Association) and Dean Parker (Philadelphia Baptist Association) for serving as Tellers. She also conveyed regrets from BGM directors: Beryl Hornberger, Mo Khan, Charity Matic, Dianne Steelman and Elmore Warren

BGM 82 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Clark welcomed new BGM director Dr. James O. Wolfe (Great Rivers Region) to his first meeting of the BGM. Rev. Bill Frederickson, a long-time friend of Dr. Wolfe, introduced him.

BGM 83 WORSHIP

Jeff Savage, BGM Chaplain, lit the Christ Candle as a symbol of Christ's presence and BGM's commitment to Worshipful Work. He led in worship through song and small group meditation focusing on the New Testament passage of Colossians 3:12-17, addressing the questions: What speaks to you in this text? What is God calling you—us—to be and do now in response?

BGM 84 TEAMBUILDING/ABCUSA IDENTITY EXPERIMENT

Prior to this meeting, BGM directors received a document titled "ABCUSA Identity Experiment" for review. This document resulted from the work of ABCUSA's Identity Action Learning Team (Stacy Emerson, coach; Leo Thorne, facilitator; Felipe Candelaria; Pat Hernandez; Robert Johnson; Vivian Martindale; Don Ng) and it was presented as a proposal in March to the BGM Executive Committee to engage the BGM in an experiment of ABC identity at this June meeting.

Vice President Don Ng reported that the Action Learning Team's work concluded that the only way to have ABC identity is to live it out and that identity will only emerge from the life of the Board of General Ministries. When BGM met in January 2012 for its first meeting under the new ABC bylaws, it was a positive experience. BGM directors had time to interact and get to know one another. The ALT group concluded that if we practice an incarnational approach on a regular basis through face-to-face experiences/interaction, a new identity will evolve.

Don explained that there will be team-building experiences during this BGM meeting, including a time of ministry visits on Wednesday, June 19, in which he hopes directors will have "Jesus sightings." During this time, Pat Hernandez and Felipe Candelaria, members of the ABCUSA Identity ALT, led in a team building experience, inviting directors to address the following questions around their respective tables:

- What has happened to you in the past 6 months that you would like us to know about?
- What challenging situation did you leave behind to be able to come to Kansas?
- What word would you use to describe your ABC identity?
- What would make you happy?

The following responses to the last two questions were identified within the larger group and recorded on newsprint:

Words to describe ABC identity: inclusive, diverse, hopeful, history, mystery, mosaic, innovative, liberty-loving, messy, open, daring, autonomous, passion, adventurous, scrappy, mission

What would make you happy: Ribs, barbeque, jazz, experiencing culture of region, experiencing the Negro League Hall of Fame, fellowship, ministry visits, major financial gift, reconnecting face-to-face, continuing unity about the future of BGM/ABC, inclusive language, ending meeting with a spirit of joy as we began

BGM 85 CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Koreen Villars, seconded by Bill Frederikson, and it was

VOTED: **To approve the June 18-20, 2013 Proposed Agenda and to approve the November 8-10, 2012 minutes of the Board of General Ministries (held in King of Prussia, PA)**

BGM 86 REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Election of At-Large Directors of the Board of General Ministries

The Board of General Ministries is composed of At-Large Directors, Special Directors and Ex Officio Directors. There are 33 At-Large Directors, one from each ABCUSA Region, elected by the Biennial Delegates. Any vacancy for an At-large Director “may be filled by a majority vote of the Board of General Ministries on nomination of the ABCUSA Nominating Committee.”

Upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee, it was

VOTED: **To elect the following At-Large Director, as nominated, to the Board of General Ministries: Mr. Richard Hanson, ABC of Maine, class of 2016**

BGM 87 DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

General Secretary Roy Medley introduced ABCUSA’s new Director of Development, Kenneth C. Marsenburg, Jr. Mr. Marsenburg is filling a position new to ABCUSA, and in this role will be responsible for setting the strategic direction for the overall development initiatives of ABCUSA. He brings to this position 25 years of experience, including having been part of ABC’s *Alive in Mission* initiative in the mid-1980s.

BGM 88 REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Clark shared a PowerPoint Presentation which detailed her work on behalf of ABC since the November 2012 meeting. In her report, she spoke of the Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations partnering with Central Baptist Theological Seminary on April 20, 2013 to host a conversation between Baptists and Muslims at Prairie Baptist Church in Prairie Village, KS. This conversation was one of three dialogues held by ABC-related theological schools to create an atmosphere where faith communities can live in peace and respect with one another and promote the common good in the society in which we live and in the broader world. President Clark conducted a panel interview about this April event with guests, Dr. Molly T. Marshall, president of CBTS and Dr. Stephen Jones, interim pastor of Prairie Baptist Church, Prairie Village, KS.

Ruth also spoke of ABC’s relationship with Church of the Brethren (COB) and with the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC) and reported to BGM the Executive Committee’s action at its March 2013 meeting to further explore what a relationship with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) might look like as we move forward to join hands with those who claim Judson as our common heritage.

She also reported that she and General Secretary Roy Medley, Jim Ratliff and Alan Musoke were recently involved in a phone conference with 588 Associates, LP related to ongoing conversations with consultants who are working with partnering organizations (ABCUSA, ABFMS, ABHMS, MMBB) to determine the future of the Mission Center building. A report will be brought to BGM at a later date.

President Clark’s full report, which was transmitted to BGM following the meeting, has also been attached to the official minutes filed in the General Secretary’s office.

BGM 89 REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

General Secretary Roy Medley's report to BGM began with an expression of deep appreciation for the work of the ABCUSA management team (which includes only 3 other executive programmatic staff) and talented and committed support staff who together make possible an impressive list of programmatic and administrative tasks. He also acknowledged the tremendous amount of work accomplished by Reg Mills, Brad Berglund, and the MS/BPC Planning Team in preparing for the Board and Mission Summit/Biennial meetings.

Transformed by the Spirit is undergoing transformation as ABC shifts this initiative from being a somewhat limited and controlled experiment to a viral movement of experimentation in ministry and mission among ABC churches. Planning has begun for the second two-year phase of the initiative, which will mark a shift from high dependency upon consultants. A grant of \$10,000 has been received from First Baptist Church of Phoenix Foundation and the Great Rivers Region has submitted a request for \$25,000 from the Palmer Grant to fund the continuing work of the Journey Team. At this meeting, Roy noted that BGM will be participating in, as a result of the ABCUSA ACT/ALT on American Baptist Identity, ministry visits to three American Baptist ministry sites, and at its November meeting, BGM will be participating in an experiment based on the work of the ACT/ALT focused on Becoming the Beloved Community. *Transformed by the Spirit* continues to branch out to the wider ABC family as well, with The American Baptist Association of Seminary Administrators (ABASA) and The American Baptist Association of Colleges and Universities (ABACU) considering their roles in how to prepare future leaders for Christ's Church.

During the General Secretary's report he called Leo Thorne, Associate General Secretary for MRD, forward to speak about the work of MRD staff, in consultation with consultant Mary Roach Bailey, to prepare a visual detailing the various ministries of ABCUSA. This identity piece will function as an information tool to be used with boards, donors and local churches.

Roy also shared updates related to planning for the November 2013 Mission Table, human rights/religious liberty issues in Burma, the third Baptist-Muslim dialogue that Central Baptist Theological Seminary held, Professional Ministry, ABCUSA's new Director of the Office of Development, communication, stewardship, ecumenical work, ministry partnerships with ABC-related seminaries and theological schools. The General Secretary ended his report by providing an extensive list of ministry visits/speaking engagements he completed since the Executive Committee last met and several visits scheduled through the end of the summer. His full report was distributed prior to the meeting and is attached to the official minutes filed in the General Secretary's office.

BGM 90 EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of General Ministries met in Executive Session.

The ABC Bylaws, Article X, Section 4 (xii), specifies that the Board of General Ministries shall: elect the General Secretary; and evaluate the performance of the Office of the General Secretary biennially.

The ABC Bylaws, Article XV, Section 1 also states: Upon nomination by the ABCUSA Nominating Committee (which, for purposes of this nomination, shall include one additional individual chosen by the National Boards), the General Secretary shall be elected by the Board of General Ministries for a term of four (4) years (or such shorter term as the Board of General Ministries may specify) and may thereafter be reelected to such office by the Board of General Ministries for any number of additional terms.

During Executive Session the Board of General Ministries heard the report from the Executive Committee

on the appraisal of General Secretary A. Roy Medley and the recommendation from the ABC Nominating Committee regarding his reelection for the 2014-2017 term.

Other items were also discussed in Executive Session. If any actions are such that need to be recorded during this session, those minutes will be sealed in a confidential envelope and attached to the official copy of the minutes filed in the General Secretary's office.

BGM 91 BREAK OUT SESSIONS

From 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., the Board of General Ministries met in Response Groups to focus its work in various areas. Note: Members of Response Groups noted below include full membership; not all were able to be present for this meeting.

- **Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations—Presidential Suite**
June Totten, Ruth Clark, Ernest Jones, Mo Khan, Jonathan Malone, (Hopeton Scott)
- **Congregational Renewal—Hospitality Room 1524**
Don Ng, Jeff Woods, John Duckworth, Elisai Echevarria, Kay Farley, Bill Frederickson, Nancy O'Neill, Dean Parker, Koreen Villers, James Wolfe
- **Finance—Birch Room**
Jim Ratliff, Alan Musoke, Paul Higgins, Beryl Hornberger, Charity Matic, Wesley Roberts
- **Mission Resource Development—Willow Room**
Frank Christine Jr., Leo Thorne, Robin Crouch, Dennis Johnson, Vivan Martindale, Alan Rudnick, Elmore Warren
- **Missional Response—Hospitality Room 1024**
Duh Kam, Roy Medley, Perla Belo, Shirley Fair, Danny Jack, Ray Jepson, Jim Thomason, Tasha Wilson
- **Professional Church Leadership—Leatherwood 3**
Jeff Savage, Pat Hernandez, Andy Arndt, Julia Bebeau, Camille Brown, Felipe Candelaria, Mercy Johnson, Dianne Steelman, Wesley Sun, Amaury Tañón-Santos

DINNER

At 6:00 p.m. the Board of General Ministries and staff enjoyed dinner together in the Maple Room of the Sheraton. The following guests were present: Brad Berglund, Frank Frischkorn, Marcia Patton, Riley Walker and John Williams.

BGM 92 BIENNIAL PREVIEW

Immediately following dinner, Brad Berglund, Mission Summit/Biennial Manager/Consultant and John S. Williams, Executive Minister of ABC of the Central Region, shared greetings on behalf of the Mission Summit Biennial Planning Committee and the host region. Their reports provided a foretaste of the American Baptist family celebration to come.

BGM 93 2014 MINISTERS CONFERENCE AND OTABL (“EMERGE”)

Vice President Ng reported that the 2014 Ministers Conference and Orientation to American Baptist Life (OTABL) will be held on January 6-9, 2014 at the SeaWorld Doubletree Resort in Orlando, FL. He encouraged BGM directors to attend. Vice President Ng (coordinator for the Ministers Conference) and Dr. David Laubach (coordinator for OTABL) are serving as co-chairs for the event. The 2014 event theme is:

“Emerge: Baptist Witness in the 21st Century”, based on Acts 1:8. Two different tracks are being planned, however with more flexibility than at past conferences with seminarians and new ministers able to elect to attend Ministers Conference workshops and ministers able to attend Orientation sessions. Also new to this event is the inclusion of Women in Ministry, led by Rev. Patricia Hernandez. Rev. John Polite is coordinating worship, and will invite seminarians to plan and lead worship.

BGM 94 REPORT OF THE BUDGET REVIEW OFFICER

At 7:30 p.m. Vice President Don Ng officially reconvened the meeting of the Board of General Ministries in the Leatherwood 3 Meeting Room of the Sheraton.

Jim Ratliff, Budget Review Officer, presented the following reports:

- YTD Financials through April 2013

Overall the year-to-date financials show a net loss of \$167,000, primarily due to the Denominational Emphasis which has a loss of \$105,000 and ABCUSA departments that have a combined loss of \$50,000.

Net revenue compared to last year is up \$386,000. This is primarily a result of Biennial revenues of \$146,000 and the addition of Transition Ministries’ (formerly an Associated Ministry Organization known as Interim Ministries-ABC) revenue of \$195,000 to ABC/USA. A reserve balance of \$77,000 will help offset any losses incurred in the current year for Denominational Emphasis.

Transition Ministries has a negative balance of \$6,000 due mostly to legal fees. Women In Ministry has a net loss of \$24,000. This loss will be offset by additional quarterly contributions from the endowment. There are no anticipated fiscal problems to report at this time.

- Revisions to Mission Initiative Fund Guidelines

The Mission Initiative Fund provides funds for launching new ministries and denomination-wide mission activities that are beyond normal operating budgets. Under the newly adopted ABC Bylaws, the ABCUSA Finance Committee now oversees the Mission Initiative Fund Guidelines, and therefore, the “Guidelines for the Use of the Mission Initiative Fund” has been revised to include reference to the ABCUSA Finance Committee.

Upon recommendation of the BGM Executive Committee, it was

VOTED: To approve the revised Mission Initiative Fund Guidelines, as proposed

- 2012 ABCUSA Audited Financial Statements

The Audited Financial Statements were transmitted to BGM prior to the meeting for review. ABCUSA’s new Independent Certified Public Accountants, Tait, Weller & Baker, LLP, reported a clean audit and an unqualified opinion.

Following discussion and questions, and upon recommendation of the BGM Finance Committee, it was

VOTED: To receive the 2012 ABCUSA Audited Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, as reported.

BGM 95 TRANSFORMED BY THE SPIRIT

General Secretary Medley shared an update and a report of next steps and donor funding related to the denominational initiative, *Transformed by the Spirit*.

He explained that we begin a new phase at this Mission Summit/Biennial as we launch a wide-spread Mission Summit conversation. The NEC is addressing how to work more collaboratively with one another in this new structure and how to incorporate discipleship into this collaborative work. ABASA and ABACU are beginning to ask the questions, “How does *Transformed by the Spirit* affect our work? How do we fit in?”

When the planning group met in March in Chicago to talk about what the second phase of this initiative might look like, an important component seemed to be a “reconstituted” Journey Team. Since coaches are important, another necessity is to assist regions by having training modules available to help orient coaches to their role. A third factor is the continued collaboration of regions and national organizations.

Sumner Grant has been recruited as a volunteer to work with and manage the Journey Team on behalf of BGM. Jeff Woods will begin to function in the role that consultants were handling, asking the important questions: Do you need help? How might we assist you? How do we expand this?

A Journey Team meeting is being planned for September 17-18, 2013 in Chicago. Fundraising has continued, now with Ken Marsenburg, ABCUSA’s new Director of Development, at the helm.

BGM 96 MINI MISSION SUMMIT TABLE CONVERSATIONS

Jeff Woods, Associate General Secretary for Regional Ministries, and the ABCUSA staff person tasked with heading up the Mission Summit conversations at the MS/Biennial, led the BGM in a Mini Mission Summit Table conversation, somewhat of a model for the opportunity that will be presented at the Mission Summit on Saturday, June 22 and Sunday, June 23. He distributed a list of 32 conversation topics, identified through the *Transformed by the Spirit* process, and provided each table with 10 minutes to choose one of the adaptive challenge topics to address. Following table group work, a representative from each table reported the adaptive challenge worked on and the respective adaptive change/s.

Wednesday, June 19, 2013: 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

BGM 97 RECONVENE/BGM MINISTRY SITE VISITS-ABCUSA IDENTITY EXPERIMENT

An informal reconvening of the Board of General Ministries took place as directors gathered (and divided into three groups) outside of the Maple Room of the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel at 8:15 a.m. for bus transportation to the following ministry sites for visits planned as part of ABCUSA’s ACT/ALT ABC Identity group experiment:

- Bethel Neighborhood Center, 14 S. 7th Street Trafficway, Kansas City, KS 66101; 913-371-8218
(Host: Rev. Mang Sonna, Director of Bethel Center)
- Central Baptist Theological Seminary, 6601 Monticello Rd., Shawnee, KS 66226; 913-667-5700
(Host: Dr. Molly Marshall, President and Professor of Theology & Spiritual Formation)
- Judson Baptist Church, 8300 State Ave., Kansas City, KS 66112; 913-299-8335
(Host: Rev. John Clark, Pastor)

BGM 98 BREAK OUT SESSIONS

Immediately following the ministry visits, at 11:00 a.m., the BGM directors convened in Response Groups to continue focused work which was begun on Tuesday, June 18.

Following these sessions, The Board of General Ministries enjoyed a buffet lunch together at the 1906 Patio and had a brief break prior to the beginning of the Joint Plenary session.

JOINT PLENARY (ABCUSA/ABHMS/IM/MMBB): 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Courtyard Room 1&2, Overland Park Convention Center

The Board of General Ministries, the Board of International Ministries, the Board of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies and a representative from the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board met together at 2:00 p.m. in a combined plenary session for the first “family meeting” since the new ABC Bylaws were passed in June 2011. ABC President Ruth Clark and ABC Vice President Don Ng chaired the meeting.

Following a welcome by President Clark, she announced that Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley was re-elected to serve a two-year term as general secretary for the American Baptist Churches USA. The length of term was honoring the General Secretary’s request to conclude his service by December 31, 2015. President Clark noted that this will allow two more years of continued work under the General Secretary’s leadership to ensure that the *Transformed by the Spirit* initiative will spread throughout the denomination, becoming part of our mission DNA. The General Secretary will continue to serve during this time with full energy, commitment and passion for this denomination and its representation in the life of the church ecumenical. A standing ovation was shared in gratitude for General Secretary’s past and continued work on behalf of the denomination.

BGM Chaplain Jeff Savage led in a time of devotion, followed by reports from each organization’s president: Hopeton Scott, IM; Clifford Johnson, ABHMS; Louis Barbarin (in place of George Tooze), MMBB and Ruth Clark, ABCUSA.

At 5:00 p.m., Board Directors of the organizations, Spouses and Staff enjoyed dinner together in Courtyard Rooms 4&5 at the Overland Park Convention Center and the Joint Plenary was reconvened at 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, June 20, 2013: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Courtyard Rm. 1, Overland Park Convention Center

BGM 99 CALL TO ORDER

President Clark reconvened the meeting of the Board of General Ministries, lighting the Christ Candle and making a few brief announcements before adjourning for an ABHS corporate meeting.

BGM 100 CONVENING OF THE CORPORATE MEETING OF ABHS

Deborah Van Broekhoven, Executive Director of the American Baptist Historical Society, convened the corporate meeting of ABHS. She reported on the upcoming “Judson200” celebration, an ongoing project (2012-2014) to commemorate the role of Ann and Adoniram Judson together with that of Burmese Baptists and missionaries in the launching of a modern cross-cultural Baptist mission movement. The Judson200 web project brings together “a rich collection of historical missionary correspondence, journals, photographs,

printed materials, and artifacts from the broad collections of the American Baptist Historical Society.” She invited directors to visit the project online at: Judson200.org

She also reported that July 14 is celebrated in Burmese churches as “Judson Sunday.” She invited directors to talk with her about the context of how their own respective congregations might be celebrating.

The new ABHS slate of officers will be presented next year. There are several people leaving the board and this is a time of rebuilding for ABHS. She encouraged directors to forward to her or to Shirley Fair or to Jonathan Malone, recommended names of those they feel might be good to serve as either officers of ABHS or to be part of ABHS’ “Circle of Friends.”

The meeting of the Board of General Ministries was reconvened.

BGM 101 ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MMBB AS A NATIONAL SECRETARY OF ABCUSA

The ABC Bylaws, Article XV, Section 1: The Executive Director of the corporation managed by each National Board, elected or appointed by such National Board in accordance with Article XIII, Section 2 of these Bylaws, shall be elected by the Board of General Ministries as a National Secretary of ABCUSA to serve for a term which is concurrent with such person's term as such Executive Director; provided that the General Secretary serves as a member of the advisory search committee of such corporation which recommends the appointment of such Executive Director and the corporation remains a party to the Covenant of Relationships.

At the recommendation of the BGM Executive Committee, it was

VOTED: To elect Mr. Louis P. Barbarin, Executive Director of MMBB, as a National Secretary of ABCUSA to serve for a term which is concurrent with his term as Executive Director.

BGM 102 TRANSITION MINISTRIES ABCUSA

Pat Hernandez, National Director of ABWIM and Transition Ministries, shared an update related to the work of Transition Ministries. She noted that Transition Ministries continues to explore possibilities of how this will be lived out and how to best be a resource to regions. They are seeking the input of several executive ministers.

She also reported that ABWIM has a new initiative, “Celebrating God’s Gift”, which advocates supporting women in ministry. There is a letter posted on the ABCUSA website that invites signatories.

BGM 103 JOINT BOARD MEETING REFLECTIONS

BGM was invited by Vice President Ng to share feedback related to the Joint Board Meeting on Wednesday afternoon/evening. Meeting in table groups, directors addressed the questions:

Where did you find common ground or similarities?
Who did you get to know or become acquainted/reacquainted with?
How might we strengthen the “ties that bind?”

The table groups were asked to submit notes from their discussions. These notes will be posted on the BGM document page of the ABCUSA website and attached to the minutes filed in the General Secretary's office.

BGM 104 REFLECTION ON MISSION SITE VISITS

Vice President Ng also led in a time of reflection related to Wednesday's Mission Site Visits, requesting that directors meet in triads, with two other persons who visited sites other than the site they visited. The following questions were addressed as they learned from one another:

- What do you like about Kansas that you may not have back home?
- Was there an "aha" learning or discovery?
- What was your "Jesus sighting"?
- How have you changed as the result of your visit?
- When you think about Kansas in the future, what may be your lasting impressions?

The Board viewed a video presentation of photos from each of the ministry site visits.

BGM 105 BUSINESS SESSION

Response Group Proposals for BGM Action

The full Board of General Ministries received oral reports of Response Group work. Presenters of each report are noted below. If there were proposals or actions brought from Response Groups to the full BGM, these are also noted below, but brief written summaries will be received from each Response Group and transmitted to BGM directors following the meeting.

Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations—June Totten, presenter

VOTED: To approve Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle as an ABC representative to the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches.

Congregational Renewal—Dean Parker, presenter

Mission Resource Development—Robin Crouch & Alan Rudnick, presenters

VOTED: To approve the Matthew 25 Fund Proposal (copy attached)

BGM Finance Committee—Jim Ratliff, presenter

The Mission Resource Development Response Group and the BGM Finance Committee met together in a joint meeting on Wednesday, June 19 and together proposed to explore the possible initiation of a 2-year *Transformed by the Spirit* process to address the lack of funding as it relates to United Mission, to communicate the full scope of the issues to churches in an attempt to grow UM. General Secretary Medley encouraged these committees as they engage in the ACT/ALT process to receive input from the full BGM.

Missional Response Group—Shirley Fair, presenter

Professional Church Leadership Response Group—Wesley Sun, presenter

BGM 106 BUSINESS SESSION

World Relief Committee – Election of New Member

Standing Rule 14.7.1, which pertains to membership of the World Relief Committee, stipulates that the WRC will consist of 10 members, two of those 10 members to be “persons nominated by the Board of Directors of ABFMS from among its membership.”

Upon recommendation of the IM Nominating Committee, it was

VOTED: To elect Danica Keefe as an At-Large Director as nominated by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

Credentials and Caucus Committee

The Board of General Ministries received a report (oral and written) of changed relationships of local churches from the BGM Executive Committee, which convened as the Credentials and Caucus Committee at its meeting on June 18. Wesley Roberts, Chair of the Credentials and Caucus Committee, presented the report and entertained questions. Following a noted correction related to the dates under “Final Tally of Churches,” and upon recommendation of the Credentials and Caucus Committee, it was

VOTED: To recognize the changed relationships of local churches as recorded, and amended, in the Report of Changed Relationships of Local Churches dated November 5, 2012 to June 7, 2013.

BGM 107 RECOGNITION OF NOMINEES FOR ABC OFFICERS 2014-2015 BIENNIUM

BGM recognized and celebrated the following nominees for ABC Officers for the 2014-2015 Biennium. General Secretary Medley expressed great regard for this gifted slate of nominees who encompass together many years of experience in local church, region and national ministry. Once elected, their service will begin as of January 1, 2014.

Rev. Dr. Don Ng – ABC President
Rev. Judy Fackenthal – ABC Vice President
Mr. Paul Higgins – ABC Budget Review Officer

Appreciation was also shared for the years of service for both outgoing Budget Review Officer Jim Ratliff, who has served in this role since January 2007 (and as a board member for 6 years prior to 2007) and for Past President Frank Christine, Jr. who served for the past 12 years as board member, Vice President, President and now Past President.

BGM 108 BGM OFFERING

As an act of worship, an offering was collected to be sent to the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development (LSESD) for assistance in its work with Syrian refugees. \$620.50 was collected.

BGM 109 CLOSING WORSHIP

BGM Chaplain Jeff Savage led the Board in personal meditation and in table group sharing focusing on the New Testament passage Acts 11:19-30, followed by a worshipful song.

BGM 110 ADJOURNMENT

President Ruth Clark adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting: November 14-16, 2013 in Valley Forge, PA

Submitted by

Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley
General Secretary

ARM/cb

Documents attached

Schedule

BGM Proposed Agenda

BGM Roster

BGM Minutes: November 8-10, 2012 (1001:11/12)

Kenneth C. Marsenburg Bio

Report of the ABC President

Report of the General Secretary

Staff Reports to BGM from ABCUSA and AMO

ABC Identity Experiment

YTD Financials Through April 2013

2012 ABCUSA Audited Financial Statements

Mission Initiative Fund Guidelines

Mission Summit Conversation Topics – June 2013

Resources for the Transformed by the Spirit Journey

ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant: Information, Application

Report of Changed Relationships (Nov. 5, 2012-June 7, 2013)

ABCUSA News Releases