

**From:** Reg Mills [mailto:regmills1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2013 10:20 PM  
**To:** MUSOKE, Alan  
**Cc:** MARCUCCI, Annie; maryellen@cbcchurchfamily.org  
**Subject:** Re: delegates

Alan,

Thanks. I understand what you have written and based on the documents you cited, I agree. We have no choice at this point. This may become an area of concern in years to come, given the changing face of charitable giving and denominational support. But for now, it is what it is.

I appreciate you having taken the time to carefully respond to my questions. I look forward to seeing you at the Mission Summit/Biennial.

On May 15, 2013, at 2:20 PM, "MUSOKE, Alan" <alan.musoke@abc-usa.org> wrote:

Reg,

The way the number of delegates is figured comes directly from the ABC Bylaws [Article IV, Section 2 (a)]. We also checked the Common Budget Covenant to see how it defines "United Mission". United Mission there is defined as including: United Mission Basics, United Mission Designations, and Love Gift. United Mission is one component of the United Stewardship Plan; the others are ISP, Specific, Directed and Designated Giving as a 2<sup>nd</sup> component, and Targeted giving is a 3<sup>rd</sup> component (CBC I. Plan Design – A. Basic Components a. – c. & Appendix i. Glossary of Term: "United Mission"). It means that the two other components (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>) are not part of United Mission.

We don't think we can use a different formula, regardless of what might seem to be fair, without a change in the Bylaws and/or the Common Budget Covenant. This is a process which has been in place for a number of years--not a new process because of new Bylaws. This was carried over from the previous Bylaws. Having said this, it isn't a question of "what has always been" but a question of what the foundational documents say.

Alan

**From:** Reg Mills [mailto:regmills1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2013 3:49 PM  
**To:** MUSOKE, Alan  
**Cc:** MARCUCCI, Annie; maryellen@cbcchurchfamily.org  
**Subject:** Re: delegates

Thanks, Alan. My question more specifically is as follows. Please understand that I am not lobbying for delegates per se, but for a fair sense of valuation of churches in ABC life.

Central Baptist Church in Springfield, IL, gives additional monies to the exact same entities who receive money from the United Mission Basic distribution. They make these gifts generously in support of American Baptist work in addition to any money marked "United Mission Basic." These monies go to OGS, ABHMS, GRR, IM, etc., via the region. Why are those monies not counted towards their delegate apportionment?

Is this because we only count gifts given to those entities when such gifts are marked United Mission basics and thus distributed by covenant agreement? I know we value the other gifts, and the other gifts are a solid expression of ABC support, so why not include them?

Reg

**ARTICLE IV**  
**DELEGATES TO BIENNIAL MEETING**

**Section 1. Qualifications.** In determining the qualifications of Delegates to each Biennial Meeting, ABCUSA acknowledges that the baptism of believers by immersion on their confession of faith in Jesus Christ is an historic and continuing practice among its Cooperating Churches and further recognizes that the independence of the local church is affirmed in the Declaration as voted May 7, 1910. (Printed above.) In accordance with these pronouncements, a Delegate shall be a person who is a member of a Cooperating Church and who has been duly elected by such church or the appropriate Regional Organization as a Delegate to such Biennial Meeting pursuant to these Bylaws and the Standing Rules. In addition, members of the Board of General Ministries and of the National Leadership Council shall be voting Delegates.

**Section 2. Election.**

(a) Cooperating Churches. Each Cooperating Church may elect from its membership:

- (i) two (2) Delegates;
- (ii) one (1) additional Delegate for every one hundred (100) members of such Church in excess of the first fifty-one (51) members;
- (iii) one (1) additional Delegate if (in the case of Churches within Regions that have elected the United Stewardship Plan or any successor thereto) such Church's per capita giving to the American Baptist "Total United Mission" (or any successor thereto) plus the four denomination wide offerings of America for Christ, Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering, World Mission Offering and One Great Hour of Sharing, or (in the case of Churches within Regions that have elected the Flexible Stewardship Plan or any successor thereto) such Church's per capita giving to the total of the General Ministries Option, the United Mission Option and the AB Women's Ministries Love Gift (or any successor thereto) plus the four denomination wide offerings of America for Christ, Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering, World Mission Offering and One Great Hour of Sharing, in each case in the calendar year preceding the Biennial Meeting equaled \$100, plus one (1) additional Delegate for each whole number multiple of \$50 of such per capita giving in excess of \$100 in such year; and
- (iv) one (1) additional Delegate for each whole number multiple of \$10,000 of (in the case of Churches within Regions that have elected the United Stewardship Plan or any successor thereto) such Church's total giving to the American Baptist "Total United Mission" (or any successor thereto) plus the four denomination wide offerings of America for Christ, Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering, World Mission Offering and One Great Hour of Sharing, or (in the case of Churches within Regions that have elected the Flexible Stewardship Plan or any successor thereto) such Church's per capita giving to the total of the General Ministries Option, the United Mission

Option and the AB Women's Ministries Love Gift (or any successor thereto) plus the four denomination wide offerings of America for Christ, Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering, World Mission Offering and One Great Hour of Sharing, in each case in the calendar year preceding the meeting. If any question shall arise with regard to the number of Delegates to which a Cooperating Church is entitled, the determination of the General Secretary shall be conclusive with respect thereto.

- (b) Regional Organizations. Each Regional Organization may elect five Delegates from the membership of the Cooperating Churches within its area.

### **Section 3. Biennial Meetings.**

- (a) Time and Place of Meetings. Delegates shall meet biennially in odd-numbered years at such time and place within or without the State of New York as shall be fixed by action of the Board of General Ministries. Such time and place shall be set forth in the notice of the meeting, which shall be published, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting, in the official publication of ABCUSA, designated as such in the Standing Rules, distributed to Cooperating Churches and Regional Organizations.
- (b) Action by Delegates. At each Biennial Meeting, one-third (1/3) of the Delegates registered with the General Secretary prior to convening the Delegates for the first order of business of the Biennial Meeting, present in person, shall constitute a quorum, provided that at least one Delegate is registered from each of at least two hundred (200) Cooperating Churches which are located within the areas of at least ten (10) Regional Organizations. Attendance by proxy will not be permitted. If at any Biennial Meeting there shall be no quorum present, the Delegates present shall have power to adjourn the Meeting from time to time until a quorum is present and no notice of any such adjourned Meeting need be given. At all Biennial Meetings each Delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote. Except as otherwise provided by applicable law or in Article XIX, a majority of the votes cast by the Delegates present, as provided in Article XVIII, Section 9, shall determine the vote of the Delegates.
- (c) Chair of Biennial Meeting. The President, or in the President's absence, the Vice President, or in the absence of both, a person chosen by the Meeting, shall preside at all Biennial Meetings.
- (d) List of Delegates. The General Secretary shall cause to be prepared by the close of the final session of every Biennial Meeting a list of names and addresses of the Delegates registered from each Cooperating Church and Regional Organization. Such list shall be designated for historical purposes as the official list of the Delegates for that Biennial Meeting.
- (e) Functions of Biennial Meeting. The functions of the Biennial Meeting shall include election of the President, the Vice President, and the Budget Review Officer; election of At-Large Directors to the Board of General Ministries pursuant to Article II