

2017 Biennial Mission Summit - Comments from Attendees

Kudos to the planners. You did a great job. Loved the location in Portland and the easy access of the light rail to and from the airport and between convention center and my hotel. Thanks for the free transportation pass, too.

More interaction within caucuses and regions.

I believe the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit demonstrated great leadership in the context of embracing the needs and support systems of ABCUSA diverse community. I appreciated the ability and leadership of our President during the business meeting, the financial transparency, and the prophetic vision and inclusive leadership of our new General Secretary. I am excited about our path as we move towards the future.



Biennials are good meeting ground for ABC members and churches. Continue to provide national and international resource persons to help refresh ABC participants in worship and workshops.

It was so inspiring to see so many young people in leadership positions with excitement & confidence in their faith & commitment to mission thru the church, from overseas mission fields to ministries here at home.

I would appreciate greater use of inclusive language (of God and of us), especially in the music

Integrate your chaplains and pastoral counselors

Have a cause! Have prophetic statements on current events that we can rally around and explore

What a blessing the musicians were! When you get that right, worship is surely rich, textured, and accessible.

I tend to be partial toward bringing in top recognizable persons to provide the sermon for the worship services. Although the top tier staff did very good in the worship services.

I was pleasantly surprised at the Hall of Ministries. People manned the booths and were engaging in conversation. Loved having times that the missionaries were in the IM booth. Got lots of good and helpful information...and pens...and glasses cleaning wipes...and post it pads...

I was pleased to see AWAB included, and the diversity of smaller ministries with exhibits.

Make things accessible for all. It felt like there was a lot of things for the big pastors but not much for the pastors who are quietly serving God in their church/community.

Choose a nationally know author/speaker type who can really communicate and preach strong, biblical, spiritual message with passion.

What topics would you like to see covered at future Biennial Mission Summit events?

- *Immigration*
- *Continue anti-violence workshops/topics*
- *More creation care discussions/workshops*
- *After Retirement: Opportunities to Minister; How to raise money; Funding outreach ministries*
- *More stuff for young adults*
- *I would like to see a support group for pastor's of small churches (under 100) congregations. I have a membership of 63 with average Sunday worship of 28.*
- *Evangelism, Discipleship, Church Health, Church Planting, Multi-ethnic congregations, Bi-vocational pastorates*
- *Small Church Big Impact (80% of our churches are small yet many are doing big things).*
- *Ask Small Church pastors who are thriving and making huge impact in the community to lead workshop, teach and mentor.*
- *Clergy burnout, ministry transitions, alternate retirement issues like income and relocation resources.*
- *Clergy sabbatical - its impact on clergy AND the church*
- *Racial Reconciliation, Eco-Justice, Economic Justice, how we can fully live and flourish as a minority-majority denomination.*
- *Youth Ministry*
- *I would like to see more on networking as was discussed by Home Missions at a meeting this Spring at Linfield College. I think this subject presents a beautiful opportunity for ABC to grow into the future.*
- *Mass incarceration. Racism. Links between incarceration, race and poverty.*
- *Fundraising and Stewardship 101 - 301*
- *Technology, Social Media. I think there was a presentation in SanJuan on Social Media.*
- *Back to basics, less social activism emphasis.*
- *Dialogue with actual Muslims, Engaging dialogue with persons living in poverty. Overall, less talk about and more dialogue with.*
- *Racism, ministries with immigrants, peace-making, new church plants*