



**BGM Executive Committee  
September 12-14, 2019  
Denver, CO**

**MINUTES**

- Meeting Location:** La Quinta Inn & Suites  
Denver International Airport  
6801 Tower Road  
Denver, CO 80249  
Ph: (303) 371-0888
- Officers:** Josué Gómez-Menéndez, President  
Dean Parker, Vice President  
Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer  
Judy Fackenthal, Past President  
Lee Spitzer, General Secretary
- Committee:** Cedric Jones, PBA  
Jose Manuel Magana, CPC  
Annie Svitavsky, VNH
- Chaplain:** Zina Jacque, CHI (absent)
- Parliamentarian:** Dennis Johnson, WV (absent)
- Staff:** Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary/Treasurer/CFO  
Kathy Jachowski, Administrator

**Thursday, September 12, 2019, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.: Meeting Room A**

*Lunch served during the meeting.*

**BGM EC 626          DEVOTIONS**

ABCUSA President Josué Gómez-Menéndez welcomed ABCUSA President Elect Karen Podsiadly and Vice President Elect Jim Wolfe.

Jose Manuel Magana lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and led the committee in prayer.

**BGM EC 627          CALL TO ORDER**

ABCUSA President Josué Gómez-Menéndez called the meeting to order.

**BGM EC 628          CONSENT AGENDA**

*The agenda items dated September 12-14, 2019 and the minutes of the June 17-18, 2019 meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Virginia Beach, VA. were approved with no objections.*

**BGM EC 629          REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

The theme for the summer has been “bearing witness to Christ in a broken world.” Lee signed on to two significant ecumenical letters. (1) The Evangelical Table of the National Association of Evangelicals regarding the inhumane conditions for children in custody of the federal government and advocates for specific recommendations for a more just and humane treatment of people attempting to enter our country. (2) Church World Alliance calling for the strengthening of the U. S. Refugee Admissions Program in cooperation with religious organizations.

At the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) meetings held July 8-12, 2019 in Nassau, Bahamas, Lee composed the original draft of the BWA *Resolution on Current Manifestations of Religious Intolerance and Religiously-Motivated Violence*. It was the first BWA statement opposing anti-Semitism in several decades. *A Resolution on Recognizing and Affirming the Calling of Women in the Church*, was also passed.

***Responsive Action by Lee:***

Political and Social Turmoil in Puerto Rico - In response to the political and social turmoil in Puerto Rico, Lee encouraged the ABCUSA regions to express support for their brothers and sisters, and for the welfare of the island.

Against Christian Nationalism - Lee endorsed the Baptist Joint Committee’s *Christians Against Christian Nationalism* statement.

Plight of Kachin Baptists in Myanmar - In cooperation with the Burmese Refugee Commission Lee corresponded with officials of the United Nations, US Government and Myanmar’s leadership in support of Rev. Dr. Hkalam Samson. On September 4, an appeal was issued to the churches to offer prayers for safety before Dr. Samson’s court hearing. The case was dropped.

Poor in American Society - Lee added his name to the ecumenical *Circle of Protection* campaign, which seeks to encourage all presidential candidates to “produce a three-minute video telling the American people what you would do as president to offer help and opportunity to hungry and poor people in the United States and around the world.”

***Initiatives:***

**Fresh Expressions** - On August 23, Mission Northwest Executive Minister Charles Revis and Lee visited Junction Church's Dinner Church Outreach in West Seattle, Washington, who hosted 53 community residents at the meal.

**Golden Rule 2020** – Partnering with NICD, Marsha Scipio is spearheading an initiative with Christian leaders across the theological and political spectrum to come together on Sunday, November 3, 2019, a year before the 2020 elections, to pray for healing of our country and to emphasize the need to apply Jesus' teachings to our current politics.

**Hopevale Commemoration**: In cooperation with the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches, International Ministries, the American Baptist Historical Society, Green Lake Conference Center, and the Office of the General Secretary is launching the Hopevale Commemoration in December 2019. The Hopevale section of the abc-usa.org web site is under construction, and will feature articles, bulletin inserts, videos and photos related to the Hopevale story. A mass mailing with a bulletin board poster will be sent to churches in November 2019.

**Mission Table** – Jeff Woods will be in charge of implementing the Mission Table with the board.

*Please see the Report of the General Secretary for the rest of Lee's report regarding the building transition and personnel matters.*

**BGM EC 630            588 PROPERTY UPDATE**

Currently remaining in the building is the Office of the General Secretary (OGS), American Baptist Foundation (ABF) and Kay Eland of American Baptist Historical Society (ABHS). Presser moved out last month. The plan is to auction off furniture and fixtures left in the building after everyone has moved out. The auction items are estimated to be \$500,000 and includes the sale of the stairs materials, copper pipes, and mechanical systems. Items being auctioned will need to be negotiated with the buyer and demolition manager by December 2019. The buyer received approval by the township to build on the property. March 2, 2020 is the latest close date and at that time the first payment will be received in the amount of \$8,250,000. ABCUSA owns 35% of that amount and then ABCUSA will receive installments for ten years. After the ten year installments \$9.75 million will be paid to ABCUSA. Before the demolishing of the building in March of 2020, Environmental issues amounting to \$500,000 will need completing.

**BGM EC 631            ROBLEE BUILDING UPDATE**

The move date is scheduled for October 17. All of the storage and cabinet cleaning out will be completed by the end of September. The latest projected cost of the AV equipment is much lower than previously expected as more realistic options have been discussed with the contractor for the needs of the office.

**BGM EC 632            EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**

The BGM Executive Committee will review and discuss using Google Docs. After the manual is reviewed by the BGM Executive Committee, the next step would be for David Knipel, Esq. to review and then share at the November Board meeting. The Personnel Manual should be reviewed and revised each Biennial..

**BGM EC 633          PERSONNEL TRANSITIONS**

Annie Marcucci retired June 30, 2019 and Ken Marsenburg's last day of employment is September 30, 2019. Evon Moody's position is secure and does not change. Ken provided a list of his duties which will be helpful for the future new fundraiser. During 2020 there will be a search for a new ABCUSA Fundraiser. The new fundraiser position would be an entry level grant writer working for Tina (Turner) Kiernan. In the meantime the plan is to work with ABF as a partner. The fundraiser position would then work in addition to United Mission. Rebecca Driscoll is working on a three term grant while morphing her work as Minister of Environmental Justice. There is no need at this time for any more staff transitions or changes.

**BGM EC 634          BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT 2019 AND OTABL EVALUATION**

Some repeat comments from the evaluation:

- (1) Worship was too long.
- (2) Worship time became a time for partner commercials not worship.
- (3) Lacked a presence of women clergy preaching/speaking.
- (4) Presentations and recognitions by the partners did not feel like worship.
- (5) Like the themes and variety of the tracks and the ability to choose which ones to attend.
- (6) Wanted more variety in meals and food options.
- (7) Childcare was inadequate.
- (8) Too much distance between the hotels and convention center.

Note: The Biennial Academy got high marks. Meals brought down the numbers.

Some thoughts for planning the Biennial Mission Summit 2021 in Puerto Rico:

- (1) Include the partners without commercials.
- (2) Jeremy was superb!
- (3) Lee was proud of the youth track despite internal problems. (Almost 100 kids)
- (4) Lee believed that God wanted us in VA Beach so that we could be a witness to them.
- (5) Judy regrets not spending more time praying for VA Beach and for not inviting the Mayor.
- (6) Move business session to Saturday (Many pastors need to preach on Sunday)
- (7) Worship needs to express the diversity of the denomination
- (8) The EXPERIENCE is important.

OTABL had less numbers than in past years. Lee discussed some of the internal problems that led to difficulties in planning.

**BGM EC 635          COORDINATING FOR FUTURE BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMITS**

Lee presented two possible options in handling Biennial Mission Summit (BMS) coordinating.

The first option would have three people involved. (1) Professionals for non-profits that do conference planning and hire a part-time staff coordinator. (2) Have the local region coordinate hotels and logistics for on-site. (3) Have the General Secretary plan the leaders and speakers and be responsible for the Biennial.

The second option would be to hire an outside agency to handle the Biennial coordinating with conference center and hotels.

It was noted that in past Biennials the Biennial Planning Team is not involved with the Staff

Advisory Group (SAG) causing the Planning Team's original work to get lost and ideas of the Planning Team are not implemented.

A venue for 2023 needs to be selected. The next location for the Biennial is the Midwest.

One of the concerns of the NEC is "why is staff putting out so much work for so few people; as well as, the cost involved." Need to answer in 2021 why would the partners want to come?

Lee suggested that the BMS in 2023 be held at a large hotel to have cheaper price points and to save money and work since a hotel comes with an event planner.

A suggestion was made that the Interim General Secretary serve as the Biennial Coordinator for BMS 2021. Josue would serve as the contact person until IGS begins in January 2020. More discussion was tabled until the next day.

#### **BGM EC 636      ROBLEE FUND**

At the June 2019 Board of General Ministries (BGM) meeting in Virginia Beach, the board voted to politely and lovingly decline the request from International Ministries (IM) to replenish the Roblee Fund with monies received from the sale of the Mission Center. IM has not yet been informed of this decision as Lee had wanted to speak with Sharon Koh in person at the ABC of the Rocky Mountain Region Annual Gathering, as they are both speaking at that event. Lee plans to ask for a compromise to offer something since the board voted not to replenish the fund.

#### **BGM EC 637      YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS**

##### **Overall Financials Excluding Biennial**

Overall the year-to-date financials show a net loss of \$378,000. The loss was primarily due to the Development Office which had a loss of \$152,000, and Information Technology which had a loss of \$152,000.

Revenue compared to last year is up \$192,000. The primary reason is due to Denominational Emphasis which had funds released from restriction.

Expenses are higher this year as compared to the previous year by \$443,000. The primary reason for the increase in expenses was due to the funds released from the restriction in the Denominational Emphasis department and Information Technology, which was only part of ABCUSA for six months in 2018.

##### **Biennial Mission Summit**

The Biennial Mission Summit had a loss of \$164,000. Hotel, meal, and shuttle costs were the primary reasons for the loss. There were not enough meals in each of the meeting rooms to offset the cost. Also, running the shuttles all day each day between the hotels and conference center created some of that loss.

##### **American Baptist Mission Support**

Total United Mission (UM) is down 2.9% from the previous year; however, general UM distributed to ABCUSA is down by 11%. World Mission Offering (WMO) is down 13.16%.

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) is down 6.01% and Region Offering (RO) is down 12.34%

**DINNER 5:30 PM**

*The Executive Committee gathered for dinner at DiCicco's Italian Restaurant.*

**Friday, September 13, 2019, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.: Meeting Room A**

**BGM EC 638      DEVOTIONS**

Judy Fackenthal lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and led the committee in a devotion based on John 21:1-6.

**BGM EC 639      UNITED MISSION (UM)**

*Judy Fackenthal made a motion and seconded by Jose Manuel Magana to recommend to the ABCUSA Finance Committee to restructure the national portion of UM line 12 down, Common Services (see appendix 1) be combined as one line item and cutting line 14, ABHMS Personnel Services, in half and the remainder of the section would then go to OGS.*

**VOTED: Motion Approved**

At the November board meeting the board will need to vote on the use of the funds in 2020.

*Paul Higgins made a motion and seconded by Dean Parker to authorize Alan Musoke to prepare a budget to bring to the November 2019 BGM Meeting to use a portion of the 2020 building sale proceeds for the 2020 budget.*

**VOTED: Motion Approved**

**BGM EC 640      EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Committee met in Executive Session. 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**

*The BGM Executive Committee and local clergy and guests met for lunch at DiCicco's Restaurant.*

**BGM EC 641      KACHIN AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION AMO REQUEST**

*Paul Higgins made a motion and seconded by Dean Parker to accept the AMO request for the Kachin American Baptist Association to become an Associated Ministry Organization (AMO).*

**VOTED: Motion Approved**

Lee will make arrangements for the leaders of the Association to appear at the November BGM Meeting.

**BGM EC 642                    NICD TRAINING REQUEST OF BELOVED COMMUNITY**

At the June 2019 board meeting in Virginia Beach, Judith Christiansen, on behalf of the Beloved Community Action Group, recommended to the BGM Executive Committee to add to their agenda in the September meeting a discussion about including an NICD workshop in the November BGM meeting. This would include deciding on one of two options to add to the November agenda; a two hour module training or a train the trainer training of four hours. Also, a standing agenda item at all BGM meetings that would include a short training or video on civility.

The Golden Rule 2020 initiative is currently underway and since there is not a lot of time to have a training at the November 2019 BGM meeting it seems best to hold off on the training. The Executive Committee would also like a list of the costs to decide if this is something that the board could provide at the June 2020 BGM meeting.

**BGM EC 643                    UPCOMING MEETING LOCATIONS**

BGM Executive Committee Meetings:

March 19-21, 2020 Charlotte, NC

June 14-15, 2020 Green Lake, WI

September 10-12, 2020 Fort Worth, TX

November 12-13, 2020 King of Prussia, PA

BGM Meetings:

June 15-17, 2020 Green Lake, WI BGM Meeting

November 13-15, 2020 King of Prussia, PA

**DINNER 5:30 PM**

*The Executive Committee gathered for dinner at Ruby Tuesday*

**Saturday, September 14, 2019, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: Meeting Room A****BGM EC 644                    EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Committee met in Executive Session (prior to the meeting time). 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 645                    DEVOTIONS**

Jose Manuel Magana lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and led the committee in a devotion.

**BGM EC 646                    BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT COORDINATOR**

Jeff Woods will be the Biennial Mission Summit Coordinator. The General Secretary will be responsible for giving guidelines to the partners regarding the amount of time each partner will be given during the worship time and should not be a long commercial. Jeremy Fackenthal will be asked to serve as a liaison and to assist with convention center work. Jeremy's role can be expanded if needed. The General Secretary will set the tone and direction of the Biennial and invite the plenary speakers. Jeff will be tasked with creating a Biennial Handbook to the committees and coordinators to record Biennial planning steps

and procedures.

**BGM EC 647 CREDENTIALS & CAUCUS COMMITTEE**

Discussion continued from the June 2019 meeting of the Executive Committee regarding caucus funding and the role caucuses play in denominational life.

*Jose Manuel Magana made a motion and seconded by Judy Fackenthal to approve the amount of \$5,200 be allocated for the Black Caucus for 2019 and the amount of \$5,360 be allocated for the Hispanic Caucus for 2019 bringing the total proposed allocation to the caucuses as \$37,565.*

**VOTED: Motion Approved**

**BGM EC 648 ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting of BGM Executive Committee: November 7-8 in King of Prussia, PA

Submitted by,



Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer  
General Secretary

LBS/kj

Documents attached

*BGM EC Integrated Schedule (1008:09/19)*

*BGM EC Proposed Agenda (1101:09/19)*

*BGM EC Roster September 2019*

*BGM Executive Committee Minutes: June 2019 (1002:06/19)*

*Roblee Building Update*

*ABCUSA Financial Report Through July 2019*

*Request for AMO Status (KABA)*

*Mission Table Overview*

*Personnel Manual Draft*

*Personnel Bands Proposal*

*ABC President's Report (1201:09/19)*

*Report of the General Secretary*

*Regional Ministries Report*

*Biennial Evaluation*

*OTABL Evaluation*

*Caucus Funding Guidelines*

*Caucuses and Caucus Funding Questions*

*Black Caucus*

*Proposed caucus allocations for 2020*



2020 - 21 United Mission Projected Distribution

	2017 Actual	Percent Total Income	2018 Actual	Percent Total Income	2019 Estimated UM Allocation	Percent Total Income	2020 Estimated UM Allocation	Percent Total Income	2021 Estimated UM Allocation	Percent Total Income
1 UNITED MISSION	7,627,711		7,244,723		6,880,964		6,536,916		6,210,061	
2 INSTITUTIONS - Kansas/ABCW	244,057	3.20%	230,834	3.19%	220,191	3.20%	202,630	3.10%	190,670	3.07%
3 UM Less Institutions	7,383,654	96.80%	7,013,889	96.81%	6,660,773	96.80%	6,334,286	96.90%	6,019,391	96.93%
4 15% LOVE GIFT - ABWM	49,119	0.64%	45,365	0.63%	53,830	0.78%	50,750	0.76%	47,670	0.77%
5 UM Less Love Gift	7,334,535	96.16%	6,968,524	96.19%	6,606,943	96.02%	6,283,536	96.12%	5,971,721	96.16%
6 1% MISSION INITIATIVE FUND	76,277	1.00%	72,447	1.00%	68,810	1.00%	65,369	1.00%	62,101	1.00%
7 UM Less Mission Initiative Fund	7,258,258	95.16%	6,896,077	95.19%	6,538,133	95.02%	6,218,167	95.12%	5,909,620	95.16%
8 REGIONS RETURN PERCENTAGE	4,871,264	63.86%	4,727,002	65.25%	4,465,746	64.90%	4,242,458	64.90%	4,030,413	64.90%
9 UM Less Region Returns	2,386,994	31.29%	2,169,075	29.94%	2,072,387	30.12%	1,975,709	30.22%	1,879,207	30.26%
10 1% NET UM TO ABCUSA (BA & ROC)	1,446	0.02%	1,473	0.02%	1,440	0.02%	1,025	0.02%	950	0.02%
11 UM Less 1% Net UM to ABCUSA	2,385,548	31.27%	2,167,602	29.92%	2,070,947	30.10%	1,974,684	30.21%	1,878,257	30.25%
12 COMMON SERVICES										
13 ABC Information Systems	159,788	2.09%	168,006	2.32%	168,006	2.44%	168,006	2.57%	168,006	2.71%
14 Amer. Bapt. Personnel Services	316,985	4.16%	316,565	4.37%	316,565	4.60%	316,565	4.84%	316,565	5.10%
15 Mission Resource Dev./Core	581,763	7.63%	618,200	8.53%	618,200	8.98%	618,200	9.46%	618,200	9.95%
16 Orientation to AB Life	69,008	0.90%	20,000	0.28%	20,000	0.29%	20,000	0.31%	20,000	0.32%
17 Representative Process	397,831	5.22%	394,083	5.44%	394,000	5.73%	394,000	6.03%	394,000	6.34%
18 TOTAL COMMON SERVICES	1,525,375	20.00%	1,516,854	20.94%	1,516,771	22.04%	1,516,771	23.20%	1,516,771	24.42%
19 UM Less Common Services	860,173	11.28%	650,748	8.98%	554,176	8.05%	457,913	7.01%	361,486	5.82%
20 GENERAL										
21 ABCUSA	764,423	10.02%	624,721	8.62%	526,677	7.65%	430,413	6.58%	333,986	5.38%
22 ABCUSA Operating Reserve		0.00%		0.00%		0.00%		0.00%		0.00%
23 TOTAL GENERAL	764,423	10.02%	624,721	8.62%	526,677	7.65%	430,413	6.58%	333,986	5.38%
24 UM Less General Ministries	95,750	1.26%	26,027	0.36%	27,499	0.40%	27,500	0.42%	27,500	0.44%
25 NATIONAL										
26 AB Historical Soc.	1,237	0.02%	2,079	0.03%	2,500	0.04%	2,500	0.04%	2,500	0.04%
27 AB Men	1,483	0.02%	2,079	0.03%	2,500	0.04%	2,500	0.04%	2,500	0.04%
28 ABHMS	32,950	0.43%	8,383	0.12%	10,000	0.15%	10,000	0.15%	10,000	0.16%
29 Career Centers	5,074	0.07%	2,079	0.03%	2,500	0.04%	2,500	0.04%	2,500	0.04%
30 International Ministries	38,540	0.51%	8,383	0.12%	10,000	0.15%	10,000	0.15%	10,000	0.16%
31 TOTAL NATIONAL	79,284	1.04%	23,003	0.32%	27,500	0.40%	27,500	0.42%	27,500	0.44%
	7,611,245	99.78%	7,241,699	99.96%	6,880,965	100.00%	6,536,916	100.00%	6,210,061	100.00%