



**BGM Executive Committee  
September 29 – October 1, 2022  
Charlotte, NC**

**MINUTES**

<b>Meeting Site:</b>	Hilton Charlotte Airport 2800 Coliseum Centre Dr. Charlotte, NC 28217
<b>Officers:</b>	Jim Wolfe, President Michelle Nickens, Vice President Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer Jeff Woods, General Secretary
<b>Committee:</b>	Cedric Jones, PBA Karen Podsiadly, Past President
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Cedric Jones, PBA
<b>Parliamentarian:</b>	Bill Frederickson, NJ
<b>Staff:</b>	Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary/Treasurer/CFO Kathy Jachowski, Administrator

*Prior to the meeting, Judith Christiansen sent her intentions to no longer serve on the Board of General Ministries and BGM Executive Committee. Bill Frederickson was not in attendance.*

**Thursday, September 29, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Noda Room**

**BGM EC 793          WELCOME AND DEVOTIONS**

Michelle Nickens allowed for a time of reflection and sharing. Cedric Jones lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and shared a devotion written by Dr. Ricky Woods, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church – West, Charlotte, NC.

**BGM EC 794          CALL TO ORDER**

ABCUSA President Jim Wolfe called the meeting to order.

**BGM EC 795          CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Cedric Jones made a motion and seconded by Karen Podsiadly to accept the agenda items dated September 29-October 1, 2022 and to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2022 BGM Executive Committee Meeting in Green Lake, WI.

**Approved with no objections.**

**BGM EC 796          REPORT FROM THE ABCUSA PRESIDENT**

ABCUSA President Jim Wolfe shared highlights of his report since last meeting in June at the Green Lake Conference Center, which included attending the Radical. Redeemed. Ready. 40 Years American Baptist Women in Ministry. Jim Wolfe also attended the Annual Meeting of the Kachin American Baptist Assembly, the Annual Gathering and General Council Meeting of the Baptist World Alliance, the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Baptist Church of Woodstown, NJ, and the 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the World Council of Churches. For more details on Jim Wolfe's Report, please reference the "Report from the ABCUSA President."

In addition, Jim announced that Benjamin Jacuk will be speaking to the board directors at the November meeting about his work with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Ben helped edit the apology the Presbyterian Church made at the 2016 Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention for its past treatment of Alaska Native people, and especially for abuses in boarding schools.

The General Secretary Search Committee is continuing its work. A recent update has been posted on the ABCUSA Website.

**BGM EC 797          REPORT FROM THE ABCUSA GENERAL SECRETARY**

Jeff Woods shared highlights of his report since the last meeting in June at the Green Lake Conference Center, which included attending the Radical. Redeemed. Ready. 40 Years American Baptist Women in Ministry. The planning team spent time debriefing the event and how ABCUSA's values were reflected in the event. Jeff noted that there are a variety of events throughout our family and our planning, as the Office of the General Secretary, is by the whole, for the whole. More on this and other highlights can be found in the "Report from the ABCUSA General Secretary."

Some additional notes, (1) Sovereign Insurance/Church Mutual will be presenting a check at the November board meeting since the threshold for ABCUSA congregations has been met for receiving rebates. (2) Jeff updated the Executive Committee about a church in Metro NY that was dismissed. (3) Jeff noted that he is continuing with depositions.

## **BGM EC 798            2023 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT UPDATE**

Jim shared an update on the planning for the 2023 Biennial Mission Summit, referring to the “2023 Biennial Mission Summit Update,” as submitted by Tina Kiernan, Biennial Coordinator. Jim referenced the speakers and workshops are listed in the report. It was noted that the Biennial is not threatened at this time by the recent hurricane.

The committee discussed possible incentives for the board directors to attend the Biennial.

**MOTION:** Paul Higgins made a motion and seconded by Cedric Jones for board directors that choose to stay as delegates receive free lodging on June 22, 2022, the evening between the board meeting and the start of the Biennial.

**Approved with no objections.**

## **BGM EC 799            REVIEW OF BIENNIAL DELEGATE PROCESS**

Due to the concern for establishing a quorum for the Biennial Business Session, the request was made for the consideration of decreasing the number of cooperating churches for purposes of determining a quorum.

**Current wording** from Article 4, Section 3, Paragraph b:

(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.

**Suggested wording** Article 4, Section 3, Paragraph b:

(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 one hundred sixty (160) 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.

**MOTION:** Paul Higgins made a motion and seconded by Cedric Jones to recommend to the Board of General Ministries a Bylaw change in article 4 section 3 paragraph b of the bylaws to change the number of cooperating churches from 200 to 160 for purposes of determining a quorum.

**Approved with no objections.**

**BGM EC 800            ORIENTATION TO AMERICAN BAPTIST LIFE (OTABL)**

OTABL will now be called, “Engage 2023!” The goal is to explore what it means to Connect, Equip, and Belong as American Baptists!

**BGM EC 801            REPORT OF THE BUDGET REVIEW OFFICER**

Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer, deferred to Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary for Finance/CFO/Treasurer to give the report.

The year-to-date financials show a surplus of \$749,000. The following activity is based on the financials excluding the Biennial. There was a Biennial in 2021 and there is not a Biennial in 2022.

- Net revenue compared to last year is up \$386,000. Revenue is primarily due to the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Loan.
- Expenses as compared to last year are higher by \$409,000. This is primarily due to NetSuite implementation, NetSuite consulting fees, and legal fees.

ABCUSA received an additional PPP Loan in 2021 in the amount of \$744,802. This loan has been forgiven and the funds were moved to an income account in 2022.

Total United Mission is \$3,364,207. This is a decrease of \$244,140 from the prior year. This represents a decrease of 6.77%.

**BGM EC 802    RECESS/CREDENTIALS AND CAUCUS COMMITTEE/RECONVENE**

Jim Wolfe called to order the meeting of the Credentials & Caucus Committee. Judith Christiansen is no longer chair. A new chair will be appointed. Jim noted that the caucuses met at Space for Grace. ABCUSA Caucus President, Abner Cotto-Bonilla will ask the caucuses to submit reports for the BGM Executive Committee meeting in November.

**BGM EC 803            ABWM REQUEST/WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE**

American Baptist Women’s Ministry (ABWM) is not a principal distributor of funds for disasters. Recently the board voted to include ABWM staff on the World Relief Committee (WRC). ABWM raised concerns regarding their inclusion as a partner to receive funding as a principal distributor through One Great Hour of Sharing.

Such questions arose as:

How does everyone help to bring in the money?

What are the expectations; how do we think about the purpose and scope?

What is the historic background?

How does the money get distributed and used?

How do the different channels factor into that?

How are people giving?

The committee decided it would be helpful to invite World Relief Officer, Lisa Rothenberger, to meet with the BGM Executive Committee in November to receive clarity before making a

decision on ABWM's request.

After the discussion, the suggestion was made for the Standing Rules Committee to meet over breakfast at a table together during the board meetings beginning in November to review the Standing Rules.

**BGM EC 804            SPECIAL DIRECTOR TO OTHER BOARDS**

The question has been asked as to why the Board of General Ministries has a special director on the other boards and other boards do not have a special director on the Board of General Ministries. The committee requests more information on the history of the Special Director to the Other Boards.

**BGM EC 805            BURMA REFUGEE COMMISSION**

Leslie Turley, member of the Burma Refugee Commission, will be retiring from her position in International Ministries and is willing to stay on the Burma Refugee Commission as a volunteer once she retires.

**MOTION:** Jeff Woods made a motion and seconded by Cedric Jones to accept Leslie Turley's offer to remain on the Burma Refugee Committee as a volunteer once she retires.

**Approved with no objections.**

**BGM EC 806            RECESS FOR DINNER**

The meeting was recessed and the committee gathered for dinner in the Midwood Room.

**Friday, September 30, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Noda Room**

**BGM EC 807            RECONVENE AND DEVOTIONS**

Cedric Jones lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and shared excerpts from a collection of daily devotions based on a book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Following the devotions, David Ball, Esq. shared his Bio and met with the committee.

**BGM EC 808            RECESS FOR LUNCH**

The meeting was recessed and the committee gathered for lunch in the Midwood Room. Local clergy were invited. Dr. Ricky Woods shared some historical background about First Baptist Church – West, Charlotte, NC.

Following lunch the committee took a tour of First Baptist Church – West, Charlotte, NC. The Executive Committee had the opportunity “to witness a Southern urban church that’s been in ABCUSA for many years. Moreover, it’s the oldest Black Baptist church in Charlotte, NC. It’s founding year was 1867 with the genesis for its formation following the typical regrettable story of racism/exclusion heritage in our beloved nation.” This is a quote from BGM Executive Committee member Cedric Jones. First Baptist Church - West is the childhood home church in which Cedric's family belonged. ABCUSA President Jim Wolfe presented Dr. Ricky Woods with a gift thanking him for “serving as the hands and feet of Christ.”

The committee gathered for dinner at a local restaurant, Nellie's Southern Kitchen.

**Saturday, October 1, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Noda Room**

**BGM EC 809 RECONVENE AND DEVOTIONS**

Cedric Jones lit the Christ Candle in recognition of Christ's presence and shared another excerpt from a collection of daily devotions based on a book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

**BGM EC 810 ABCUSA ENGAGEMENT LETTER**

The BGM Executive Committee reviewed the Engagement Letter with Rosenberg & Ball Co., LPA.

**MOTION:** Karen Podsiadly made a motion and seconded by Michelle Nickens to accept the agreement with the lawyer David Ball (see agreement).

**Approved with no objections.**

**BGM EC 811 MEMBERS TRUST**

**MOTION:** Paul Higgins made a motion and seconded by Cedric Jones to adopt the Corporate Resolution for Members Trust Company in connection with the Marilyn Landis Trust.

**Approved with no objections.**

**BGM EC 812 BRANDYWINE PROPOSAL**

Alan shared a recent proposal from Brandywine which expires October 2 (see proposal).

**MOTION:** Cedric Jones made a motion and seconded by Karen Podsiadly to not accept the offer at this time.

**Motion Withdrawn**

Decision not to respond to proposal.

**BGM EC 813 ANTI-RACISM CONVENING TABLE UPDATE**

The goal of the convening table is to come up with a proposal as to, "What do we do around racism in the denomination, world, etc." The convening table will meet at the end of October for a retreat online.

**BGM EC 814 ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,



Dr. C. Jeff Woods  
General Secretary

CJW/kj

Documents attached

*BGM EC Proposed Agenda (1101:09/22)*  
*BGM EC Roster September 2022*  
*ABCUSA Financial Report through July 2022*  
*ABCUSA Nominating Committee Report*  
*2023 Biennial Mission Summit Update*  
*Prospectus Draft 09272022*  
*2023 Biennial Mission Summit Budget DRAFT*  
*Report from the ABCUSA General Secretary*  
*ABCUSA President's Report*  
*September BGM EC Integrated Schedule*  
*March 2022 BGM Executive Committee Roster*  
*BGM Executive Committee Minutes: June 2022 (1002:06/22)*  
*ABCUSA engagement letter with Rosenberg & Ball Co., LPA*  
*Brandywine Proposal*  
*General Secretary Search Committee Update*  
*Special Director Language*  
*WRC Policy Manual*  
*Functions of the World Relief Committee*  
*ABWM Request*  
*Review of Biennial Delegate Process*