

BGM Item 5A:

Board of General Ministries Reports: ABCUSA/OGS and Associated Ministry Organizations

**Board of General Ministries Reports:
ABCUSA-Office of the General Secretary
and Associated Ministry Organizations**

TREASURER'S OFFICE – June 2022 to November 2022:

Highlights of Treasurer's Office, Accounting, American Baptist Churches Information Systems (ABCIS), Office of Travel and Conference Planning (OTCP), Associated Ministry Organizations (AMOs), and Building

ABCUSA:

- Prepared proposed 2023 Budget
- Annual insurance reviews/renewals
- Prepared and presented Analyses and Financial Statements to BGM/ABCUSA Finance Committees, BGM and BGM EC; staffed meetings
- Oversaw work of legal counsel in several areas including several recent lawsuits
- Preparing for 2023 Biennial Mission Summit
- Personnel supervision for Accounting, ABCIS, Office of Travel and Conference Planning, and Building
- In process of applying for employee retention credit
- Made presentation at First Baptist Church, Haddonfield NJ
Re: Role of The Office of The General Secretary; and United Missions
- Attended Space for Grace in Kansas

ABCIS:

ABCIS to Oracle NetSuite Conversion Update

Oracle NetSuite Data Migration Status

We are close to completing the conversion from ABCIS to NetSuite. The final steps involve ensuring receipts and reports are ready to go and all historical data is loaded. Training has been held so regions and partners are ready to use NetSuite. We should be able to go live in the next few days.

Imported over 230,000 records and subsets of data from ABCIS to NetSuite including national and region project codes, churches, donors, leadership records, church giving history and financial trial balances for four entities.

Oracle NetSuite Custom Scripting

Custom Scripting for Distribution Process

- Very complex script was completed for the distributions process and we have been testing it since August.

Custom Scripting for Giving Form

- Giving form script was completed for the regions, and is being modified for IM and ABHMS

Oracle NetSuite Training

- Provided nine training sessions for all ABCIS end-users as of the end of September. Users are able to test NetSuite prior to going live. Ninety-seven users in the Regions and National Partners were trained.

OFFICE OF TRAVEL & CONFERENCE PLANNING:

The Office of Travel & Conference Planning continues to support MMBB and International Ministries, as well as, meetings sponsored by ABCUSA/Office of the General Secretary.

The Hospitality Industry continues to evolve in a positive direction. OTCP has planned many successful in-person meetings. Hotels are open for business and ready to serve. In some cases when checking availability, depending on the time of the year and location, we are finding hotels to be sold out. Attendees want that in-person connection however, in some cases, Zoom or Hybrid meetings still need to be considered.

Planning for the Biennial Mission Summit in San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 23 – 25, 2023, is now in full swing. The Puerto Rico Convention Center will be the Venue.

The Board of General Ministries will be housed and will meet at the Sheraton Puerto Rico Hotel, just a short walk from the Convention Center.

Please continue to check your e-mails for Press Releases and details with regards to Registration, which will open soon. We will once again be using Cvent for your Registration, Housing needs, Meal Events, Workshops, etc. Stay tuned for more information.

In August, the Office of Travel & Conference Planning welcomed Christie Farquhar as an Event Coordinator & Biennial Registrar. Christie joins ABCUSA with many years of experience in Event Planning. We are very happy to have Christie join us. Christie's main focus for 2023 will be Registration for the Board of General Ministries Meeting and the Biennial Mission Summit.

REGIONS:

- Conferred with Regions and churches on financial and administrative issues
- Ongoing Receiving Units (collecting agency) responsibilities for 13 regions
- Providing Accounting Services for Philadelphia Baptist Association and Cleveland Baptist Association

ASSOCIATED MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS (AMOs):

(AB Historical Society, AB Women's Ministries)

- Prepared 2021 Audits
- Accounting functions, ongoing consultations, insurance reviews, renewals, re: financial and operational matters
- Planned and prepared converting from using MIP to NetSuite for financial reporting
- Represented ABCUSA/OGS and NEC at ABHS Board of Managers meetings

-- Alan Musoke, Associate General Secretary for Finance/CFO/Treasurer

American Baptist Women In Ministry (ABWIM) And Transition Ministries

American Baptist Women in Ministry (ABWIM)

ABWIM is a ministry of the Office of the General Secretary, which seeks the full partnership of men and women in ministry in which both women and men are able to fully utilize their God-given gifts and fully live out their God-given call.

Celebrating Ministering Women: Radical. Redeemed. Ready. June 15-18, 2022

After many years of preparing, planning and postponing due to covid, the Radical. Redeemed. Ready. Conference finally came to fruition! Nearly two hundred people of diverse ethnic, racial and cultural background from across thirty-three Regions came together to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of ABWIM and the rich legacy of ministering women. Ranging in age from 9 to 90(!) years old, we prayed together, sang together, worshipped together and, especially celebrated together!

With inspiring speakers, creative worship, and workshops ranging from exploring creative arts to celebrating the legacy of radical women leaders, the event was transformative for all. One young woman exclaimed, "I've never been in a situation where my call was so profoundly celebrated! It was life changing!"

This conference would not have happened without the support of each and every one of YOU as the Board of General Ministries, Rev. Dr. Jeff Woods as General Secretary, and the RRR Planning Team, co-chaired by Rev. Soozi Whitten Ford and Rev. Dr. Tom Wiles. Those who served on the team are: Rebecca Driscoll, Jeremy Fackenthal, Heather Henson, Atula Jamir, Nikita McCalister, Miriam Mendez, John Polite, Dee Dee Turlington and Betty Wright-Riggins.

Transition Ministries ABCUSA

The goal of Transition Ministries ABCUSA is to partner with regions in resourcing churches during times of transition in a way which enhances their ministry and empowers them to journey into the future as vibrant missional congregations.

Our mission is to provide intentional interim ministers who are adept and experienced in leading churches through times of transition. These interim pastors guide the congregation on a journey that involves celebrating their history, clarifying their identity, articulating their mission, and moving into a fruitful future.

Training – Rev. Dr. William Tatum, Transition Ministries Training Coordinator, led a training event for intentional interim ministry on August 26 & 27 and September 9 & 10. One participant commented, "***definitely needed.*** I learned a lot and feel that I am much better equipped to engage a congregation in a period of transition."

Given the positive response (about 40 registrants), we hope to plan more online trainings as well as in-person events as the situation with Covid-19 improves.

Especially in these extraordinary times, resources that strengthen our partnerships across our ABC regions are needed. **Transition Ministries** serves as the hands and feet of Christ, connecting with regions and congregations in ways that move mission and ministry forward.

American Baptist Spiritual Direction and Formation

Given the ongoing challenges with covid and the impact it has had on our lives, we have re-ignited an initiative that began as part of the Transformed by the Spirit movement. This initiative will be a way for those who are involved in the ministry of Spiritual Direction to resource, connect and network with each other as well as to invite people into practices that ground us in God, strengthen our interconnectedness, undergird our life together and deepen our faith.

To carry this out, a Spiritual Direction Team has been formed: Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins, Rev. Judy Fackenthal, Rev. Brad Berglund. I serve as staff liaison. All are certified spiritual directors.

At the Radical. Redeemed. Ready. conference we intentionally offered spiritual direction (Rev. Judy Fackenthal and Ruth Mangual) an “Illuminations” (prayer) room and guided Centering prayer (Rev. Betsy Perkins and Rev. Karen Gygax Rodriguez) each morning.

We have also been renewing and refreshing a website that includes resources for those seeking to deepen spiritual practices as well as for certified Spiritual Directors to connect. Check it out at: www.abspiritualformation.com You can also find a direct link to it on the ABCUSA home website.

In all of these ministry areas –ABWIM, Transition Ministries, and Spiritual Direction and Formation—I am thankful for the wisdom, grace, guidance and support of General Secretary Rev. Dr. Jeff Woods, the ABCUSA Leadership Team, the ABWIM Advisory Team and the Board of General Ministries—without whom none of this could happen. **Thank-you!**

Rev. Dr. Patricia P. Hernandez, AGS ABWIM & Transition Ministries ABCUSA

Report to the Board of General Ministries (November 2022)

I began serving as the Interim Associate General Secretary for Regional Ministries on May 15th of this year. What follows is an overview of the most significant involvements since that time.

- I attended the REMC/NLC meeting at Green Lake (May);
- I co-led the Radical.Redeemed.Ready conference at Green Lake (June) with Dr. Tom Wiles, and staffed by Dr. Patricia Hernandez;
- I participated in the leadership of the World Mission Conference at Green Lake (July) in my volunteer role as Chaplain for International Ministries and was responsible for designing the five evening worship sessions;
- In June, I began facilitating the ongoing bi-weekly Zoom calls with REMC on topics of general interest, utilizing AB partners;
- I've interacted in person with about half of the REMs, and have engaged with most of the rest by phone or video conversation;
- I participated in Rev. Mindi Walton-Mitchell's installation (Wisconsin) and, will represent ABCUSA at the retirement celebration for Rev. Jane Gibbons (Ohio) on November 5th.
- I am working with ABC Nebraska as they are in the very beginning stages of their search process, and am meeting with Greater Indianapolis as they have begun their search process.
- I attended ABCOFLASH's annual gathering in October which included facilitating their Women in Ministry luncheon, and provided a workshop on ABC identity.
- I facilitated the Saturday morning session for ABC of the Central Pacific Coast's annual meeting, which included a presentation on the benefits of being in association with American Baptists.

It is truly an honor and privilege to continue to serve with my wider ABC family, and support the ministry of my colleagues in regional ministry, at this stage in my career. I am grateful beyond words for the opportunity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Soozi Whitten Ford
Interim Associate General Secretary for Regional Ministries
ABCUSA

**American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM)
Update for the General Board of OGS, October 2022**

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***ABWM, 2021-2023 Ministry Focus: Let the Walls Fall Down
Mission Focus: Real Acceptance (2022) and Racial Justice (2023)***

OGS/General Board Support for American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM?)

ABWM representatives on the World Relief Committee were advised that it is within the General Board's discretion to include ABWM in the annual budget allocations for unrestricted funds. Therefore, we request an annual allocation of \$200,00.00 to be used for grants and scholarships, ecumenical projects, building beloved community, and reset and reimagine projects. We are eager to be treated in an equitable manner that respects and celebrates the contributions (past and present) of American Baptist women. For over 70 years ABWM has and will continue to support the denomination as well as serve as a catalyst for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Please follow up with Executive Director Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain (gina.jacobs-strain@abwomensministries.org) and National President Rev. Dr. Christine Smith (revcsmith1@cs.com) for additional discussion.

ABWM Events

- Women and Girls Conference, *Let the Walls Fall Down*, virtually and in King of Prussia, PA, July 2022
 - Hybrid event with women and girls, which included workshops and plenary sessions. Attendees participated online and in person.
- Webinars: *Let the Walls Fall Down* Fall and Winter Webinar,
- Sectional Gatherings What Up ABWM enables ABWM local and regional groups, national staff, and the board to stay connected. During these gathering, we discuss the ways the 2-year ministry theme and 1-year mission focus is realized in ABWM retreats, rallies, workshops, and conferences locally, regionally, and nationally.

ABWM support to OGS

Biennial Team: Staff planning and presenting multiple workshops for ABC-USA Biennials.
Antiracism Committee: OGS- Staff and board members serving on this committee.

Shared by Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, Executive Director, ABWM



In 2022, ABMen USA realized a somewhat “return to normalcy”; however, have continued to experience a reticence on the part of individuals to travel for mission projects. As I reported last year, despite these difficulties, ABMen USA has continued to serve where possible. Below is a summary of ministry activity since our last report.

The parsonage renovation and re-build mission project at Crow Community Baptist Church in Montana was completed in September 2022.

ABMen Disaster relief teams from the Great Rivers Region deployed to Brema, Kentucky to provide assistance home rebuilding in that area impacted by tornados. In addition, they responded to needs in East St. Louis performing mud-outs of homes impacted by flooding. Finally, work projects involving maintenance and renovation of dormitories were completed at Judson University and the University of Illinois.

ABMen from the West Virginia Baptist Convention completed an annual work project at the West Virginia Baptist Camp in Cowen, West Virginia on April 23, 2022. In addition, ABMen disaster relief teams deployed to Cameron, Huntington, War, Gilbert, Ripley and Smithers West Virginia providing work and materials in support of flooding in these areas.

ABMen USA shower trailers continue to be in high demand and are currently deployed to Kentucky to provide laundry and shower facilities to communities that continue to be without these services following the flooding in that region.

ABMen USA celebrated its 100th anniversary in ministry at the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center in Ripley, West Virginia on October 1, 2022. ABMen enjoyed a time of worship, testimony, prayer, music and fellowship in celebration of this significant ministry milestone. We were honored to have several past presidents in attendance for this event, who shared their past and ongoing experiences in men’s ministry.

ABMen will participate in the following disaster response and/or ministry projects in the coming year:

- Disaster response to Florida and other areas impacted by Hurricane Ian;
- Renovation and maintenance projects at the Murrow Indian Children’s Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma;
- A post-disaster work project in Edgard, Louisiana (postponed due to more high demand needs in the wake of Hurricane Ian).

Striving to be the hands and feet of Jesus,

Bill Morningstar
President
American Baptist Men USA



Kachin American Baptist Association

American Jinghpaw Wunpawng Hkalup Ninghtan Hpung
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Office of the Executive Minister



Date. October 12, 2022

To,
Rev. Dr. C. Jeff Woods
General Secretary of ABCUSA

Re: Submitting A Report of Kachin American Baptist Association (KABA).

I'm pleased to submit the report of the Kachin American Baptist Association.

1. First of all, thank you so much for sending Dr. James Wolfe, the president of ABCUSA, to the 3rd and 4th General Assembly of KABA held in Palacios, Texas. Dr. Wolfe delivered the keynotes based on the Assembly's theme, "Abide in Me" (John 15:4). We had a good conversation and fellowship with him. There were about 400 attendants gathered together there. The new leaders were elected to lead the KABA for four years during this meeting. The following are the new leaders for the term of 2022-2026:
 - (1) Rev. Dr. La Seng Labya (President)
 - (2) Rev. Seng Nan Sumhka (Vice President)
 - (3) Rev. Tu Lum Lamung (Executive Minister)
 - (4) Rev. James Naw Baw Menon (Associate Executive Minister)
 - (5) Mrs. Nanmon M. Maran (Treasurer)
 - (6) Mrs. Nangtsin Myihto (Assistant Treasurer)
2. We sent some portion of humanitarian financial support to the IDPs camp in the Waimaw and Myitkyina areas in Kachin State.
3. We celebrated the closing ceremony of the Ola Hanson Bible Institute's (OHBI) Second batch of Certificate of Ministry Studies Level (I) on June 25, 2022. And we also celebrated the opening ceremony of the OHBI's Second batch of Certificate of Ministry Studies Level (II) on July 30, 2022. Fifty-nine students are enrolling in this program.
4. The Senate of the Central Baptist Theological Seminary accepted our request to offer the Diploma program and named it "The Diploma in Kachin Christian Formation Program." And then, we celebrated the opening convocation of the Diploma program on August 6, 2022. The Provost and Dean of the faculty, Dr. Johnson, delivered the opening speech. Thirty-nine students are enrolling in this program.

In Christ,



Rev. Tu Lum Lamung
Executive Minister of KABA



Associated Ministry
Organization of
ABCUSA

