

June 4, 2024

To Rev Dr. Jacobs-Strain and the Executive Committee of the Board of General Ministries,

Since the June 2023 Biennial Mission Summit, ABHMS has hosted a variety of events and projects in the areas Dr. Haggray identified as “training leaders, networking and capacity building, experiential learning, and cultivating leaders in the areas of children, youth, and young adult ministry.” In August, they hosted a meeting of young Asian Christian leaders from South Korea to learn more about mission in the US. They also convened a meeting of undergraduate and seminary scholarship recipients to connect young members of the denomination and develop their leadership. They have begun a consulting process to evaluate the effectiveness of some of their core programming. This includes the Co-Creators Incubator, which provides mentorship and funding for new ministry initiatives, as well as ongoing continuing education for chaplains and other ministers.

In April, I was privileged to attend the Space for Grace conference ABHMS held in King of Prussia, PA. It featured a variety of speakers focusing on the theme of intergenerational ministry. This conference was offered in hybrid format, with attendees participating both in person and online. The day before the meeting, the Board was invited on a trip to the Carlisle Indian School in Carlisle, PA. We learned about the history of the boarding school at that site- the first created in the nation. Native American members of our ABC family led the tour and facilitated a time of prayer, story, and reflection at the cemetery where children who had died at the school were buried. There was an especially powerful moment when several attendees named family members buried there, and the local guide assured them that members of local tribes gathered regularly to care for the graves and honor their loved ones.

At the end of September, ABHMS Finance Committee recorded a net income of \$182,311, with operating income 2% higher than budget and expenses 10% lower than budgeted. Total America for Christ offering was \$479,000- 14% lower than budgeted. At this meeting, the Board passed a proposed budget of \$14.3 million, with a deficit of \$761,000.

Warmly,

Rev. Kathryn Ray  
Chicago, IL