

## Report from the ABCUSA the President - June 2024

Since being installed as the President I have spent my time actively inviting people to share their ABCUSA “God Stories.” I have intentionally sought to gather, support, preach, and engage with local congregations, regional entities, other ABCUSA denominational partners, affiliates, and ecumenical organizations. My goal is to re/introduce, re/connect and re/committed them to our shared core value of being **“United in Christ, Together in Mission.”**

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 tells us to “Go.” Therefore, I am going into all the world by preaching and/or offering greetings in local churches, regions and partners. I have performed my denominational responsibilities in person and virtually.

The Presidential March Report provided to BGM Executive Committee outlined engagements from **July 2023 through February 2024.** (See March Report EC BGM Report for specifics.)

Some highlights from that March Report included:

Local Church Life: Preached or brought greetings to (8) local churches:  
(5) MI, (1) San Antonio, TX, (1) Brewster, MA, and (1) Charlotte, NC.

Regional Engagement: Participated in meetings.

The Cleveland Baptist Association’s Ministers Council and American Baptist Churches of Michigan.

Denominational Impact & Beyond: Preached

Preached for Michigan Progressive Baptist Convention and Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School with Post-Chapel Conversation Forum.

I met the staff ABCUSA; attended the Appreciation Celebration for Rev. Dr. Jeff C. Woods; and acknowledged Mrs. Kathy Jachowski’s many years of service to ABCUSA. I connected with the following (5) *Board of General Ministries (BGM)* Directors, their congregations and/or regions during this timeframe: ***BGM Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Doug Scalise; BGM Director(s), Rev. Dr. Robert Jemerson; Rev. Dr. Clifford Matthews Jr.; Rev. Dr. Tamara Scott and Rev. Dr. Thomas Gilmore.***

The following details my activity from **March through May 2024.**

March 7-9<sup>th</sup>; The EC BGM visited Berkley School of Theology, hosted (30) person lunch with local clergy and other ABCUSA constituents in San Francisco, CA including ***BGM Director Mrs. Katharine Hsiao and Past ABCUSA President, Rev. Dr. Don Ng***

Local Church Life (20) MI, (2) PA, (2) IN, (1) MA

March 10 Greetings Mt Zion Baptist Church of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA  
***BGM Director and Pastor, Rev. Cedric Jones***

March 10 Greetings First Baptist Church Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

March 17 Greetings Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church, Detroit, MI

March 22 Greetings Metro Detroit Association (MDA) of American Baptist Churches  
Women’s Event (15) MDA churches - Greater Christ Baptist Church, Detroit, MI

April 7 Preached New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Pontiac, MI

April 21 Greetings Alpha Baptist Church, Livonia MI

May 5 Greetings Tuxedo Park Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN

May 5 Greetings Iglesia Bautista Betesda, Inc., Indianapolis, IN

Rev. Nikita McCalister  
President, ABCUSA

May 12 Preached Covenant Baptist Church, West Bloomfield, MI (**my home church**)  
May 19 Greetings Concord Baptist Church, Milton, MA  
May 26 Preached Bethany Baptist Church, Detroit, MI

Regional Engagement (9)

March 19-20 Preached -Prairie Pastors Conference, Omaha, NE  
(4) Regions: ABC-Nebraska, ABC-Dakotas, ABC Central (Kansas/Oklahoma), &  
ABC- Mid-America (Iowa/Minnesota)  
**BGM Director(s): Rev. Joy Martinez-Marshall, Rev. Dwayne Williams, Orin  
Clinger, William Poland, and Bruce Van Der Beek.**  
April 23-24 Greetings -The Great Lakes Leadership Retreat, Cedar Lake, IN comprised of (4)  
Regions: ABC-Michigan, ABC-Ohio. ABC-Indiana/Kentucky, & Great Rivers.  
**BGM Director(s) Patrick Embley, Rev. Dr. Jim Wolfe, Rev. Dr. Tamara Scott, and  
Rev. Dr. Daryl Ward.**  
May 5 Participant -Annual Gathering & Installation Service Executive Minister,  
Rev. Dr. Michael Friday Indianapolis, IN, American Baptist Churches of Greater  
Indianapolis **BGM Director, Shawna Simmons**

Denominational, Program Partners, and beyond

February 22 Advisory Board Member American Baptist Churches Women in Ministry  
March 10-11 Board Participant Ministers and Missionary Benefits Board (MMBB) Re:think, view,  
invest, Financial Conference, Philadelphia, PA  
March 11-13 The National Leadership Council (NLC) Meeting, Orlando FL  
March 26 Preached Detroit Council of Baptist Pastors, Detroit, MI (Ecumenical Group)  
April 4 Denominational Prayer, ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary Open House  
Welcomed - General Secretary Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, King of Prussia, PA  
**BGM Director, Douglas Hill**  
April 10-11 Greetings & Call to Worship Space for Grace & Spiritual Caregivers Conference  
King of Prussia, PA, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, American Baptist Home Mission  
Society  
April 12 Greetings-The Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches (AAABC)  
Convocation, King of Prussia, PA **BGM Director, Katharine Hsiao**  
April 25-26 Biennial Planning Team meeting, King of Prussia, PA  
**BGM Director, John Campbell**

I am especially delighted to have been able to connect and establish relationships with additional  
(13) *BGM Directors*, their congregations and/or regions during this timeframe.

In addition to the aforementioned activities, I have been in communication with the staff. I have  
had meeting with leaders from the Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists (AWAB),  
Baptist World Alliance (BWA), and several regional executives and/or regional board  
representatives.

All of these God encounters have reaffirmed my belief and pride in being an American Baptist. Our  
ABCUSA banner and distinctive is represented in not only our cherished diversity (i.e. ethically,  
racial, theologically, etc.) but also in our embodied witness of being **“United in Christ, Together in  
Mission.”**

I am so privileged and humbled to be able to share the love of Christ with all of God’s people.

Rev. Nikita McCalister  
President, ABCUSA

I pray that incarnational, unconditional, matchless love of Christ continues to transform the hearts and minds of God's people and our ABCUSA family.  
In Christ's Service,

Rev. Nikita McCalister  
President, ABCUSA