

BOARD of GENERAL MINISTRIES

ANNUAL REPORT

Janice Fletcher, Representative for the Rhode Island Region

During this past year the Board of General Ministries of the American Baptist Churches USA has been very active. The Board had two formal meetings, one in June in Green Lake , Wisconsin and the second in November in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

The meeting in June entailed a comprehensive review by Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer of his first year as the head of our Denomination. He stressed that work was ongoing in the following areas:

- A) ABCUSA Information systems were being updated to make them more easily accessible
- B) United Missions Materials were also being updated
- C) New Work with National Partners involving:
 - a. National Institute for Civil Discourse
 - b. Eco America
 - c. Developing “Local Church and Global Moral Issues: Resources for the Pastoral Leadership” in coordination with AB Historical Society, DC Baptist convention and the Holocaust Museum
- D) Work with our National Partners
 - a. The Puerto Rico Sister Church Initiative
 - b. The Burma Task Force
- E) Working with Ecumenical Partners
 - a. The third Baptist-Muslim Dialogue
 - b. Participation in the ACT 50th Anniversary of Martin Luther Kings’ death
 - c. Working with the Baptist World Alliance

At the June Meeting the Board also discussed concerns about Border Issues involving separation of families. After the discussion the Board asked the General Secretary to write to the Attorney General voicing our concerns about this policy. The letter was written that weekend.

At the November meeting a full day program was presented by the National Institute for Civil Discourse.

Throughout the year there have been conversations concerning the selling of ABC-USA property at 588 Gulph Road and the purchase of a new property about a half mile away. The process continues forward. The new facility for the Office of General Secretary and the Baptist Historical Society should be ready soon. The sale of the current building is nearing completion.

In June, I was also able to attend the World Relief Committee Meetings in Valley Forge. I serve on the committee as a representative of the General Board. The WRC works with the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering that is not designated for Disaster Relief. Baptist Home Missions and International Ministries both gave presentations and recommendations for new and ongoing projects.

I would continue to encourage you to remember our United Missions and special offerings throughout the year.

Janice