

Representative to Board of General Ministries

ZOOM!! The WORD of the Year!!

Board of General Ministries

As your representative to the BGM I participated in Zoom meetings. They were an interesting change to the way we do things.

At both meetings of the BGM, finances were reviewed, and it was noted that giving for United Missions was down about 12%. It was also noted that our costs were down, and hence we were holding our own. The 2021 budget that was approved in the fall reflects that 12% decrease.

Rev. Jeff Woods, the Interim General Secretary, reported that during 2020 his office and staff had been very active in the following areas:

- a) Helping churches reopen and continue to minister to their congregations during the Covid pandemic.
- b) Working with President Karen Posailiday, developing the "Call to Prayer Event," which has led to the creation of an Anti-Racism Task Force.
- c) Working with the National Insurance Program through Sovereign Insurance Group and Church Mutual Insurance to help ABC congregations save on their insurance costs.
- d) Hiring Weidenhammer to assess the technological needs of the regional and national users of ABCUSA technologies in order to upgrade and improve ease of access. The Mission Initiative gave a grant for \$118,000 for this upgrade.
- e) Rev. Marie Onbubuariri, the former Regional Executive for Wisconsin, was hired as General Secretary for Mission Resource Development. She will be working on ways to increase United Mission awareness and giving.

During executive session, the board reviewed the steps and processes necessary to move forward in the selection of a new General Secretary for ABCUSA. While the process continues, Rev. Jeff Woods will remain as the Interim General Secretary.

One Great Hour of Sharing–World Relief Committee

I continued to be one of the two representatives from the BGM to the World Relief Committee. The committee also met via Zoom. Throughout the year, Home Missions and International Ministries worked to raise monies to help with Covid relief. They have already distributed \$116,603 in U.S. relief and another \$115,800 for international relief. The committee approved redirecting another \$250,000 for Covid relief. During the fall meeting, the committee approved development grants for

International Ministries amounting to \$250,000. Grants for Home Mission were approved in the spring.

As I said last year, it continues to be a joy to serve as your representative to the BGM and World Relief. The opportunity to work with the many different faces of our American Baptist family is and continues to be a blessing for me. Thank you for the opportunity.

Jan Fletcher