

## **REPRESENTATIVE TO GENERAL BOARD OF MINISTRY (ABCUSA) ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

As ABCORI's new appointee to the ABC/USA Board of General Ministries I have faced a steep learning curve over the last ten months.

During that time period I have attended a Special Meeting of the Board where the group was introduced to the recommended candidate for General Secretary. At that meeting the Board voted to approve the candidate and invited Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer to become the new General Secretary of ABC/USA. In June I attended the Board Meetings and the Biennial Gathering in Portland Oregon. These meetings were an orientation to the business of the Board and an opportunity to interact with the other Board members. The General Board met again in November in Valley Forge, Pa. During these meetings:

- The Board attended the celebration ceremony of "The Holy Doughnut."
- There was an official Installation Service for Rev. Dr. Spitzer.
- ABHM gave a detailed report concerning the relief efforts for Puerto Rico.
- The Baptist Heritage Society presented an extensive report.
- Officers were elected for the upcoming year and committee appointments were approved.
- I was appointed to the World Relief Committee that works with the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

As I said previously it has been a steep learning curve with a great deal going on. It has been a joy to meet and begin to know my fellow Board members. Their dedication to this committee and the work of the American Baptist Churches is awe inspiring.

As Rev. Malone encouraged you last year in his report, I would also encourage you to remind your churches about the importance of supporting United Missions. Your contributions go toward the denomination on the regional, national, international levels, and is the most effective way to support the ministries God is doing through our American Baptist family.

Janice Fletcher