

MINISTERS COUNCIL UPDATES

Fall 2017

Annual Meeting (June 28-29, 2017) -- "Seek God First and Do Not Worry"

Chapter representatives (collectively called the "Ministries Team") and members of the Board met prior to the Mission Summit for worship, fellowship and business. Attendees shared chapter news, approved a provisional budget for 2018, elected board members and confirmed appointees.

We also discussed a proposed paradigm shift in our national level/focus, which had been described as a "Becoming a Foundation" proposal in the Winter and Spring 2017 visioning conversations. (This recommendation had been under review by the 30 chapter reps and the subject of a survey filled out by 290 nationwide respondents.)

Throughout our conversation at our Annual Meeting, there was a unity of spirit as we discussed the possibility of approving the concept by vote, in order to establish a task force and "put the flesh on it." We first came to consensus, and then by unanimous vote affirmed the need to further review this idea with the attendees' feedback in mind.

While the need for a paradigm shift was affirmed, we remain committed to ensuring also that our enduring commitments -- such as advocacy for ministers, a national ABC presence and witness for professional accountability and excellence -- not get lost. The Board will build on the deliberations of this meeting and bring a revised proposal to our chapter representatives sometime this Fall.

Board Members:

President: Douglas Harris (Chicago) through 2017; DeeDee Turlington (Florida), 2018

Secretary: Shane Kinnison (Glendale, CA bound)

Budget Review Officer: Randolph T. Miller (Medford, OR)

Development Director: DeeDee Turlington, 2017; Greg Vigne (Vermont-New Hampshire, 2018)

Coordinator of Ministries Team: Jacki Belile (Metro Chicago)

Members-at-Large: Dan Hopkins (IN/KY) and Ivan Marable (Rochester Genesee)

WIM Representative: Patricia Hernandez (in absentia)

Interim Management Team:

Interim Office Manager: Randall Harris

Interim Operations Manager: Jabulani McCallister

MOVING FORWARD FROM ANNUAL MEETING

The Board of Governors discussed the feedback received at the Annual Meeting and charged President Harris with creating a next-generation summary. In a memo dated August 8, 2017, he proposed a draft of a proposal seeming to capture the salient points of the June meeting. What follows does not use the word "foundation," a vocabulary found to be a stumbling block in June conversations. To date, the Board of Governors has responded affirmatively. The following is an outline version of this memo.

A. Four ongoing mission areas to address (as captured in June feedback)

- 1) office operations (membership, communications etc)
- 2) national programming (affirmed as we have heard the importance of gatherings, retreats etc.
- 3) national presence/advocacy/communications
- 4) national grants to local groups (the value of grassroots empowerment we named in the Winter)

B. Current Revenue: \$70-75K/year

C. A Possible Allocation of Funds

- 1) Part-time Office Staff -- \$45,000 (from dues and donations) for office and operation functions and maybe a part time "statesperson". The exact staffing needs going forward are under review this month by the Board, as we have completed the work of getting through the 2017 Annual Meeting and Biennial. Ongoing functions would necessarily and primarily include #1 and # 3 above.
- 2) National Programming Events -- \$25,000 from endowment income.* (We will explore possible collaborations with the national caucuses in order to deepen ties and use resources with best synergy. We might want to have a ministers council event at each Biennial/mission summit? Each off-Biennial year we could support the activity of a specific caucus program?) ***The idea is that the national program money is used to support already existing groups that are supporting the various cultural groups that make up ABCUSA.***
- 3) TIM-style support groups, especially for new clergy -- \$5,000 (approximately) per year, which is income from the capital campaign already set aside to support TIM groups.

This approach is sustainable financially.

*Would it be able to accomplish what the Ministers Council stands for?
If we are blessed with more resources then we could do more in the future.*

*The Ministers Council shares a \$20,000 grant with the Office of the General Secretary to support any joint program for ministers. We also share with a variety of ABC groups around \$12,000 that was left after the 2016 Ministers Conference in Chevy Chase.