

The following summary was gleaned from a letter written on May 28, 2007 to the churches of the ABC of Los Angeles by their Executive Minister, Rev. Samuel S. Chetti.

In April, 2007, the Regional Executive Ministers and leadership of the ABCUSA (GEC) met in Tucson Arizona to draft a preliminary reorganization of ABCUSA especially addressing the issue of homosexuality and the implementation of the General Board resolution. They yielded their minds, hearts and spirit of Christian discipleship to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. They prayed and reflected on the Holy Scriptures, argued and prayed again. In the end it was evident that God was present through the entire process.

- The GEC agreed a “Federation Model” of organization best captures the parameters that have set for the “Adaptive Change Process” for the ABCUSA. The timeline of the “Adaptive Change Process” is:
 - June 2007 – Writing team reports to the General Board. Delegates to the Biennial get the first look at the emerging model.
 - July 2007 – October 2008 – Regional focus groups will review and offer their feedback. Legal entities will also review and report.
 - April 2009 – Final document will be sent to the 2009 Biennial delegates.
 - June 2009 – Final vote on the new structure will be taken at the Biennial in Pasadena.
- The progress on the reorganization discussions was predicated on finding a way to address the resolution against homosexuality and its implementation. The GEC spent two major sessions with significant time for reflection and prayer. They unanimously declared that: **“We covenant as General Executive Council (GCE) members to give due consideration to all ABC Policy Statements and Resolutions as we recommend persons to serve at denominational levels.”**

This means:

- all persons who serve on the General Board are charged with adopting, approving and implementing the ABC Policy Statements and Resolutions, including the resolution against homosexuality.
- all General Board members, staff of the ABCUSA, and the office of the General Secretary must implement the policies and resolutions regardless of whether or not they agree with the decision. While the General Board members have the right to dissent, **they are not released** from the responsibility of implementing all policies and resolutions.
- covenanting Regional Boards and National Program Boards (NM & IM) will implement the policies and resolutions in the areas of their assigned functions related to the General Board.

GEC is Regional Executive Ministers, General Secretary, Executives Directors of National Ministries, International Ministries, Minister & Missionaries Benefit Board, their senior staff, Director of the American Baptist Women’s Ministry, Ministers Council and the ABC Historical Society.