

New Baptist Covenant Report



The **New Baptist Covenant** is an activist movement begun by former President, Jimmy Carter. Now in its eighth year, New Baptist Covenant seeks to bring various Baptist entities together for ministries of racial reconciliation and justice. American Baptists have been at the heart of the New Baptist Covenant since its inception. Rev. Drs. Roy Medley and Aidsand Wright-Riggins have been actively involved since the beginning.

The focus claimed by New Baptist Covenant in recent years intends to pull Baptists together in covenant relationships across racial barriers. For example, in Macon, Georgia, there are two “First” Baptist churches; one Eurocentric and one African-American. They were separated by slave holders who desired not to worship with their slaves. Today these two congregations are in covenant relationship. They are listening to the concerns raised by the African American community regarding the racist activity in our nation. Together, these congregations are forging relationships, engaging in deep difficult conversations, and seeking ways to proclaim equality and justice in their community.

American Baptists continue to be active in the New Baptist Covenant. In September a board structure was formalized for the first time. Currently, Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Laura Alden, Sumner Grant, and Judy Fackenthal represent ABCUSA on the board. ABHMS Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, is passionate about the New Baptist Covenant. American Baptist, Tony Campolo, spoke at the recent New Baptist Covenant gathering.

At the gathering, held in Atlanta, Georgia on September 14-16, several members of the American Baptist Race and Race-Related Violence Taskforce attended the gathering. They will carry back to their constituents a commitment and desire to find ways for American Baptist congregations, regions, and other entities to covenant across racial boundaries to seek transformation of individuals and communities.

It is my hope that BGM will continue to support and affirm the value and worth of the New Baptist Covenant.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Fackenthal, President ABCUSA 2016-2017