

**Report of Special Director to American Baptist Home Mission Societies
Jim Wolfe**

The American Baptist Home Mission Societies' (ABHMS) Board of Directors, met concurrently with the Board of General Ministries, prior to the Biennial Mission Summit in Portland, OR. The board voted to add four new members and affirmed a Socially Responsible Investing Advisory Council. Board members also were introduced to a new technology platform designed specifically for religious professionals.

President Dr. Clifford Johnson opened the meeting, noting “with a deep sense of satisfaction and celebration the great things that God has done and is doing through ABHMS.”

Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, ABHMS executive director, introduced a state-of-the-art technology platform currently under development that will provide opportunities for building networks and relationships among American Baptist partners and religious professionals.

The yet-to-be named platform, being developed to incorporate American Baptist Personnel Services (ABPS), will connect diverse Baptist professionals through profiles, ministry interests, affinity groups, webinars, virtual meeting rooms and additional programming features that will enhance and encourage professional growth.

Board members unanimously approved four candidates to fill current vacancies:

- **The Rev. Karen Yee, New Life Christian Fellowship & Mien Friendship, American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast;**
- **The Rev. Dr. Conley Hughes Jr., Concord Baptist Church of Boston, American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts;**
- **The Rev. Jamie Washam, First Baptist Church in America, American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island; and**
- **The Rev. Dr. Leon Runner, Lowville Baptist Church, N.Y., American Baptist Churches of New York State.**

In other business, the board affirmed recommendations of three members to serve on a newly created Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) Advisory Council that will supplement and complement the work of the Finance Committee:

- **The Rev. Aundrea Alexander, associate general secretary, Action and Advocacy for Justice and Peace, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA;**
- **Thomas L. Bowen, director, Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs, Executive Office of the Mayor, Washington, D.C.; and**
- **Wynn Davis, retired, former budget director, Wisconsin's Human Services Agency.**