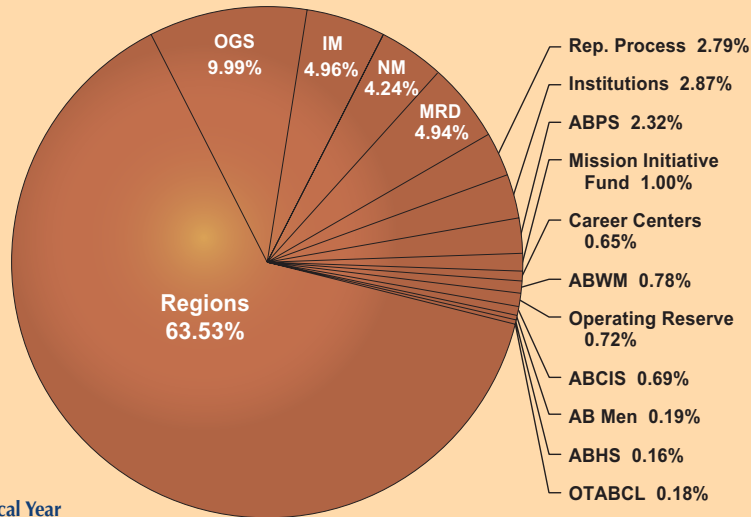


United Mission Distribution\*: \$13,975,904



\*Typical Year

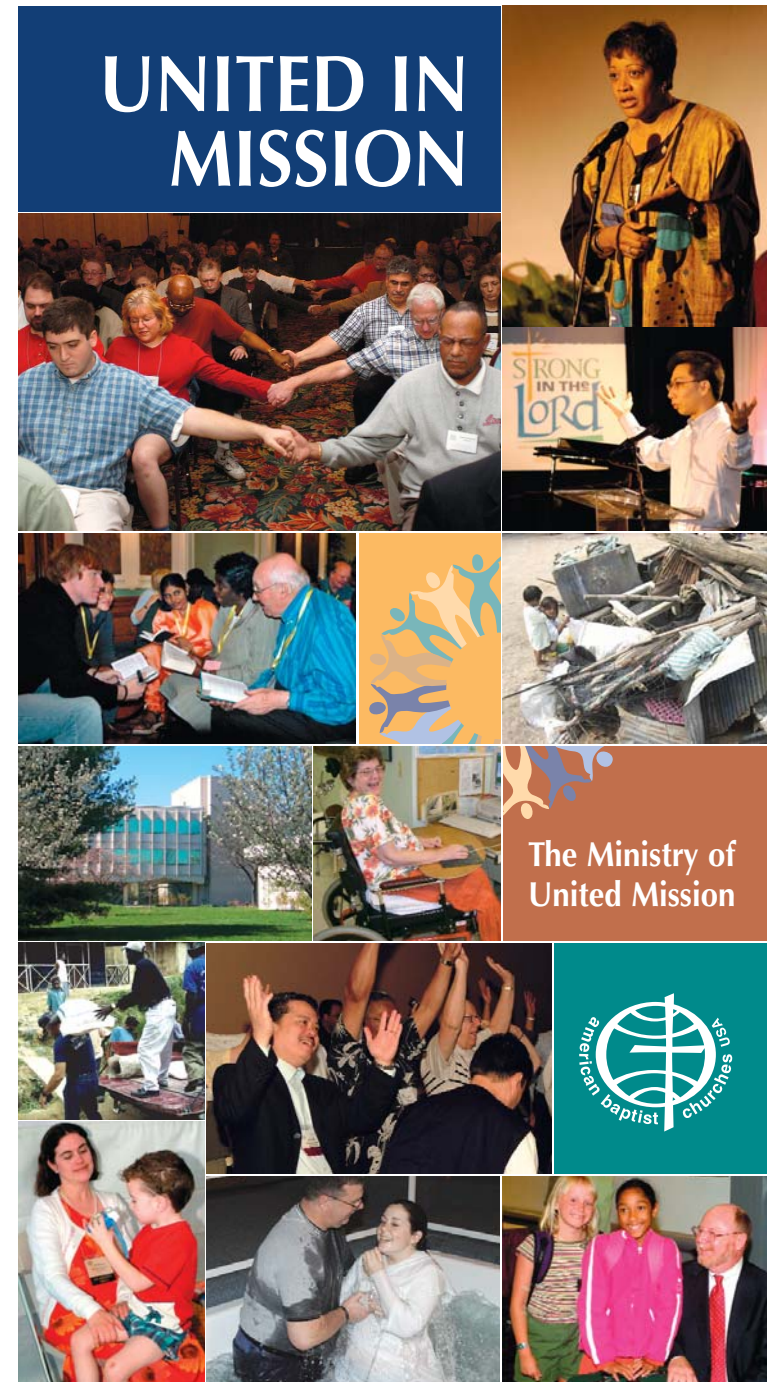


This ministry is made possible because of your generous gifts to United Mission.

THANK YOU for your support.



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA  
 Mission Resource Development  
 PO Box 851  
 Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851  
 1-800-ABC-3USA  
 www.abc-usa.org



The Ministry of United Mission





## United in Mission

Baptists in America have always been a people of mission. Mission describes who we are. Our United Mission contributions give concrete expression to this impulse and help us to be the hands and feet of Christ—from the local congregation to all parts of the world. The total of each congregation’s giving through the American Baptist Churches USA is known as American Baptist Mission Support. The largest category of that support is United Mission.



*“For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”*  
Ephesians 2:10

## The Region & United Mission

American Baptist Regions—composed of congregations that share a cause to serve Christ, often with a common geography like a state—receive 63.53% of United Mission dollars in a typical year. Your region is highly dependent upon United Mission giving. These gifts enable your region to provide more effective support for your church as it serves as the hands and feet of Christ and carries out its day-to-day ministries.

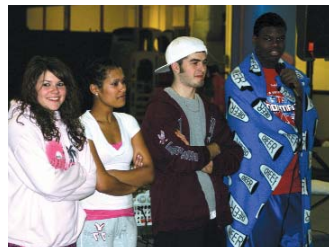
Specifically, with your United Mission giving, your region is able to provide:

- help with pastoral search committees;
- assistance with resolving church conflicts;
- resources to support your church in growth and spiritual health;
- education and training of pastors, youth and lay leaders in congregational empowerment;

• current information on American Baptist ministries at regional, national and international levels;

• regional gatherings for celebrations and sharing in the ministry.

Through United Mission giving, the Office of the General Secretary provides leadership support to regions through an Associate General Secretary



• *United Mission giving is broad-based.* It is a way for us to support major gatherings when we come together as an American Baptist family and helps us participate in ministry with other parts of the body of Christ.

• *United Mission giving is you.*



*“All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.”*  
Acts 2:44-45

## Your Church & United Mission

United Mission is part of your church’s mission budget as a cooperating partner of American Baptist Churches USA. Pastors and congregations generally plan your church’s budget in the autumn for the following year. It is our prayer that, as your church begins the budget process, the congregation will:

- joyfully come together to celebrate God’s grace and blessings among you;
- prayerfully consider how much your church can give to United Mission;
- earnestly seek to increase its financial contribution to United Mission.



*“I have come so that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”*  
John 10:1

## Our Church’s United Mission Worksheet

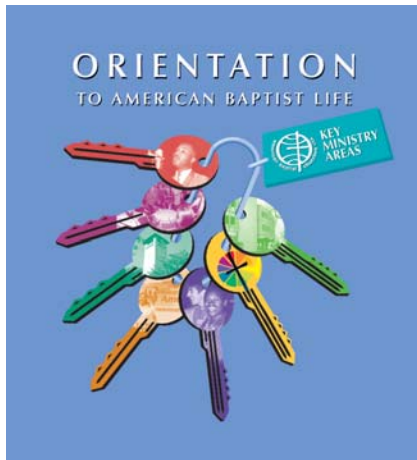
Name of our church \_\_\_\_\_.

Last year our church gave \_\_\_\_\_ to UM.

This year, with God’s help, we plan to give \_\_\_\_\_ to UM.

We will give  quarterly;  monthly;  annually;  other \_\_\_\_\_.

Please send your United Mission contributions through your normal remittance channels. For the address of your regional office and additional information regarding United Mission and American Baptist Mission Support, please visit [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org) or call Barbara Jarrett at (800)ABC-3USA, ext. 2145.



• **American Baptist Personnel Services & United Mission**

The American Baptist Personnel Services database holds profiles of people, their skills and experiences, that can be retrieved by local church search committees.

• **Orientation to ABC Life & United Mission**

Orientation to American Baptist Life provides pastors who are new to American Baptist Churches USA a thorough grounding on the history, aspirations and goals of the church.

**The Local Church & United Mission**

United Mission allows the local church to join with other American Baptist churches to do collectively what it cannot do on its own. Baptist churches enter into a cooperating relationship as a way to help us all do the ministry to which God has called us. The collective financial support from local churches funds United Mission and extends the ministry of those churches beyond their local communities.

• **United Mission giving is evangelism.** It helps us share our faith in Christ so that others will have the opportunity to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and be baptized.

• **United Mission giving is disciple-making.** It provides resources for churches and encourages us to be faithful disciples of Christ.

• **United Mission giving is congregational health.** It helps pastors and congregations grow in Spirit-driven faith through a variety of training experiences to more effectively serve their communities.

• **United Mission giving is stewardship.** It provides resources to teach each of us to grow in the grace of giving and to care for our environment as faithful stewards of God.

• **United Mission giving is the family.** It is a way for churches and individuals to give with confidence, knowing that their funds will be used for the whole ministry of American Baptist Churches USA.



for Regional Ministries—a major resource for regional staff and pastors. Practical principles from studies by the Lilly Foundation and other reputable religious agencies are made available through workshops in regional settings.



**The Office of the General Secretary & United Mission**

The General Secretary works to carry out the decisions made by representatives from all phases of American Baptist life. The General Secretary also provides vision setting and coordination, resources, training, administration and counsel for the whole denomination. Your giving to United Mission provides the funds this office needs to minister effectively. United Mission funds assist the General Secretary in representing the American Baptist family in national and international settings. A few examples demonstrate the positive impact of United Mission support to this important part of American Baptist ministry. The General Secretary:

- provides support for the American Baptist Representative Process and boards;
- maintains a close, collaborative relationship with local pastors, churches and regions to enhance the mission and ministry of American Baptist Churches USA as the hands and feet of Christ;
- works to strengthen relationships and ministries with our overseas partners;
- endeavors to forge greater cooperation with other Baptist entities such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, The National Baptist Convention, The Progressive National Baptist Convention, and the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention;
- collaborates with the Baptist World Alliance, Christian Churches Together, and a variety of other ecumenical organizations ministering around the world in cooperation with other Christians to work for the cause of religious liberty, peace and social justice.



*“You make a living by what you get.  
You make a life by what you give.”*  
Winston Churchill

**International Ministries & United Mission**

International Ministries serves more than 2,500 short-term and long-term missionaries annually, bringing United States and Puerto Rico churches together with partners in 76 countries in cutting-edge ministries that tell the good news of Jesus Christ while meeting human needs. The Xtreme Team is an example of how International Ministries exposes some of our young people to missionary work.

## National Ministries & United Mission

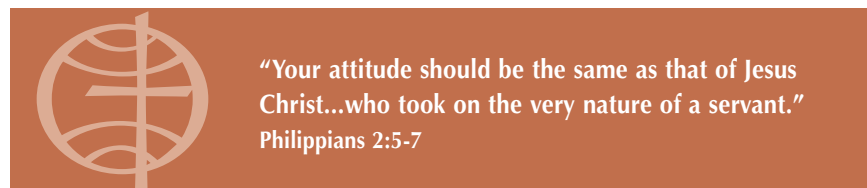
National Ministries answers God's call to live out Christian faith and transform individuals, congregations and communities by developing Christ-centered leadership, networks and programs committed to witness and evangelism, social justice, discipleship and mission work in the United States and Puerto Rico. More than 1,300 mission partners, working with National Ministries, minister to those in need—spiritually, emotionally, physically, and financially—every day as chaplains and pastoral counselors, refugee sponsors, directors of Christian centers, volunteers and new church planters.

## Mission Resource Development & United Mission

Mission Resource Development, a ministry within the Office of the General Secretary, offers resources on stewardship, tithing and fundraising to local congregations. This helps them to become healthy, missional churches and to provide critical support for many organizations within American Baptist Churches USA. Mission Resource Development also has a wide scope of responsibilities for communications, including the denomination's Web site.

## Representative Process & United Mission

The work of our General Board is vital in determining the direction of our denomination. The General Board, through our Representative Process, becomes the coordinating group for all of the autonomous organizations within American Baptist Churches USA. United Mission sustains this critical aspect of our ministry and mission.



## Other Areas of United Mission Support



- **Institutions & United Mission**

Several regions have opted to include support of institutions with their United Mission budget. More than 120 institutions—colleges, universities, seminaries, hospitals, nursing homes and more—benefit from this support.

- **Mission Initiative Fund & United Mission**

This provides funding for launching new ministries and denomination-wide

mission activities beyond normal operating budgets.

- **Career Centers & United Mission**

For those called to mission or ministry, American Baptist Churches USA offers continued career support with training centers, one-on-one career guidance and Web-based programs.



- **American Baptist Women's Ministries & United Mission**

American Baptist Women's Ministries provides vision, leadership training and resources for women and girls in American Baptist churches to worship God, grow spiritually, develop spiritual gifts, care for one another, and reach out to others. Women and girls lead the organization and its ministries

locally, regionally and nationally. Recognizing a long heritage of mission support, American Baptist women and girls partner with Baptist mission worldwide through White Cross, Mission Encounter Tour programs and project funding. Love Gift, handled by American Baptist Women's Ministries, is an important component of our total United Mission budget.

- **Operating Reserve & United Mission**

Prudent people and organizations always save for the future. Our reserve helps us to meet unexpected expenses.

- **American Baptist Churches Information Systems & United Mission**

American Baptist Churches Information Systems provides vast data on churches, pastors, giving and regions, which can be easily accessed online anytime by all American Baptist Churches USA member churches and regions.

- **American Baptist Men & United Mission**

ABMen strives to fulfill the Great Commission and to reach men and boys for Christ. American Baptist Men brings hope to those whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters in the United States and Puerto Rico. American Baptist Boys & Young Men is the mentoring ministry of American Baptist Men.

- **American Baptist Historical Society & United Mission**

Since its founding in 1853, American Baptist Historical Society has gathered the largest collection of Baptist materials, many irreplaceable, open to scholars for research.

