Regions emerged as a result of the Baptist principle of associationalism.
The Philadelphia Baptist Association (organized in 1707) was the first Baptist association in the USA.
The concerns of the earliest Baptist associations included:

- Fellowship and mutual encouragement
- Clergy character and training
- Internal church disputes
- Theology and doctrine
- Moral issues
- Church Discipline
Later evangelism and mission became the driving forces to connect our associations of Baptist churches.
Baptist associations began banding together to create larger groupings—typically state conventions.
Concerns for greater organization and cooperation arose

- 1961: SAAR
- 1972: SCODS
- 1976: SCOR
- 2011: Present
Today the 33 Regions, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, American Baptist International Ministries, Ministers & Missionaries Benefit Board and the Board of General Ministries are bound together by Covenants of Relationships
In the ecumenical world, American Baptist regions function like “middle judicatories”
1. Central Region (includes Kansas, Oklahoma & Arkansas)
2. Cleveland Association
3. Connecticut
4. Dakotas
5. District of Columbia
6. Evergreen Association
7. Great Rivers (includes Illinois & Missouri)
8. Greater Indianapolis
9. Indiana & Kentucky
10. ABC of Los Angeles and Congregations of the Southwest & Hawaii (includes Arizona, Baja, Hawaii, Southern California & Southern Nevada)
11. Maine
12. Massachusetts
13. Metro Chicago
14. Metro New York
15. Michigan
16. Mid-America (includes Iowa & Minnesota)
17. Nebraska
18. New Jersey
19. New York
20. North West (includes Idaho, Montana, Utah & Washington)
21. Ohio
22. Central Pacific Coast (Includes Oregon & California)
23. Pennsylvania & Delaware
24. Philadelphia Association
25. Puerto Rico
26. Central Pacific Coast (Includes Oregon & California)
27. Rhode Island
28. Rochester/Genessee
29. Rocky Mountains (includes Wyoming, Colorado & New Mexico)
30. Vermont & New Hampshire
31. Growing Healthy Churches
32. West Virginia
33. Wisconsin
The mission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention is to empower local churches to be Christ honoring communities of faith and to help them fulfill their mission by enabling them to do together what they cannot do alone.
Regional Executive Ministers Council (REMC)

• Attend to spiritual care
• Exercise leadership
• Promote fellowship
• Sharpen skills
• Conduct necessary business
Covenantal responsibilities of Regions

- Membership of churches
- Clergy credentials
- Promotion of ABC mission and institutions
Regions working for churches
Regions working for churches

Pastoral Search Assistance
Pastoral Search Committee Training

“Church Reflections” resources

ABPS Profile resources

Regions make sure our churches do not have to walk alone in the discernment process

Region Staff Support

Interim Ministry
Regions working for churches

Healthy congregation-pastor relationships
Regions working for churches

Clergy Advocacy

Advocacy

The act of pleading or arguing in favor of something, such as a cause, policy, or interests or active support of an idea or concept.
Regions working for churches

Pastoral Continuing Education
Regions working for churches

Peer Group Connections
Regions working for churches

Congregational consultation for health and vitality
Regions working for churches

Mission education & hands-on opportunities for service
Regions working for churches

Conferences, events, and services
Regions working for churches

“Family reunions” or Annual Gatherings
Regions working for churches

Communication conduit
Regions working for churches

Special occasions
Regions working for churches

Care in times of crisis
Regions working for churches

Organizational hub

ABWM, ABMen, ABY, Ministers Council, Clergy Spouses
Regional Ministry

A partner in working for the Kingdom of God