

Orientation to American Baptist Life (OTABL) update
ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit
Virginia Beach, Virginia – June 2019

By: Kevin Walden

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the Orientation to American Baptist Life 2019



OTABL is scheduled to begin with the MMBB lunch on Friday, June 21st and conclude with the Sunday evening service celebrating ABC of the South, June 23rd.

The OTABL budget is based upon 150 registrants for the 2019 event. There are two groups of ministerial leaders that will be invited to participate in OTABL: 1) New Ministers to ABC and 2) Seminarians.

I have been working with representatives from the REMC: Robert Cochran (DC Baptist Convention), Harry Riggs (ABC of Connecticut) and Mary Day Miller (ABC of Massachusetts). These have been the key people helping me to connect with the other regional executives. We will be working on recruiting regional staffers to be mentors at the Biennial Mission Summit. Each mentor will have 8 new ministers/seminarians who will travel together at BMS events.

The New Ministers are recommended by their Executive Ministers. We have been working through Joan Friesen who is the President of the Regional Executive Ministers to get information from the regions. We currently have heard back from 16 of our 33 regional executives with 196 current recommendations. We do not expect all of those invited to be able to attend. However, we are already thinking that we may have to revise our budget to allow for more attendees. (A great problem)

The Seminarians must self register. I have been working with Dr. Marilyn Turner Triplett at ABHMS to reach out to the Seminaries and request that they reach out to their students. I have also been building contacts at our ABC Seminaries to make additional requests for their assistance, while encouraging that they stay connected to ABHMS who are wonderful to provide scholarships. I am currently working on a SurveyMonkey survey that the seminarians will use to show their interest.

I'm also working with our Travel and Conference Planning office who have designed registration pages for both new ministers and seminarians.

Lastly, I would like to highlight that we are working on three webinars in March, April and May that will highlight our ministry partners and programs. Each webinar will be 90 minutes long and will be recorded. The attendees will interact with the webinars and by participating, they will earn their lunches from the program boards.

Kevin Walden
October 25, 2018