

**ABHMS  
Jim Wolfe**

**The American Baptist Home Mission Societies met June 21-23, in Valley Forge, PA.**

**Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray announced key goals of ABHMS' strategic plan which seek to:**

- **impact communities and neighborhoods with the Christian gospel by improving ABHMS' capacity to share and act on information gathered through collaboration and technology;**
- **identify significant movements and trends related to mission and ministry;**
- **equip Christian leaders through expanded partnerships and networks across diverse disciplines and organizations; and**
- **strengthen ABHMS mission engagement in the Southeastern and Southwestern geographic areas of the United States.**

**During the treasurer's report, Michael Birdsall, deputy executive director, treasurer and chief financial officer, discussed the Common Investment Fund (CIF) and ABHMS' Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) efforts, including dialoguing and corresponding with corporations, filing shareholder resolutions, and employing screens that indicate investments to be avoided.**

**The Rev. Jamaal Nelson, recently appointed director of "In Support of Excellence," provided an update on the Lilly Endowment Inc.-funded program that seeks to promote financial literacy among American Baptist pastoral leaders. He reported that, by late August to early September, three to four pilot curricula clusters will be established throughout the United States, with the goal of obtaining data-proven curricula and research for the national rollout in January.**

**The Rev. Dr. Marilyn P. Turner, associate executive director of Missional Life and Leadership, reported that ABHMS has provided more than a quarter of a million dollars in Justice for Children Initiative Children in Poverty (CiP) grants to various ministries since 2009, including \$51,000 this year. In attendance at the meeting to accept a \$4,000 2016 CiP check for Second Baptist Church of Germantown's ministry with the Children's Initiative of the Philadelphia Interfaith Housing Network were the Rev. Ernest Flores, pastor, and Bessie Jordan-Byrd, chair of the missions board.**

**Before presenting his report, the Rev. Dr. Eddie Cruz, associate executive director of Mission Advancement, shared with the board that a relative of his was among those killed in the tragic Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando. A Florida resident, Cruz said he attended several funerals and events for Orlando victims, telling bereaved citizens and family members that ABHMS stands in solidarity with the LGBTQ community. Afterward, board members laid hands on and prayed for Cruz and his family and for the LGBTQ and Orlando communities.**

**Cruz's Mission Advancement report focused on "friendraising versus fundraising," reiterating the importance of ABHMS' connection with partners and constituents.**