

Dear Karen and Jeff,

I hope this note finds each of you well. As requested, I'm following up with clarification regarding the World Relief Mission Committee and American Baptist Women's Ministries' limited participation.

American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) is requesting staff representation on the World Relief Mission Committee. Currently, staff representatives, who are non-voting members, from International Ministries, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, and the American Baptist Churches, USA attend the World Relief Mission Committee meeting in addition to the board members representing each of these organizations. Each organization has two votes; however, ABWM only has one vote. Even with this inequity, ABWM is still willing to support the work of the committee.

ABWM staff representation is important for continuity and equal representation but not permitted. We desire an equitable seat at the table. During a meeting in which ABWM staff was present, staff from an ABC Family entity advocated for an applicant. The voting staff member even took the time to email the applicant for clarification of their proposal. The proposal was passed. This is one example of the importance of staff representation. Moreover, members of the NEC noted that it is staff that is dedicated to the needed due diligence to prepare board members for upcoming meetings.

Lastly, please note that this request has been pending for over a year. We hope for a favorable outcome.

Peace and Joy,

Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain
Executive Director, American Baptist Women's Ministries

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