

To Rev Dr. Woods and the Executive Committee of the Board of General Ministries,

Since my previous report, I have attended the virtual meeting of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies Board on June 7-9, 2021 and the virtual retreat, which was held from October 12-13, 2021.

ABHMS remains in robust financial health. While One Great Hour of Sharing, America for Christ, and the United Mission allocation came in under budget (though AFC was higher than last year), the Passionary Fund initiative (begun in 2019) generated significant income, with a major gift from a partner congregation in the past year. Publishing income has also increased this year and generated income over the budget.

In the past year, ABHMS launched the Center for Continuous Learning (CCL) as a site of ongoing formation for adults. Originally intended to be a location for in-person learning, the CCL ultimately soft-launched as an online platform through ministrElife due to changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Lilly Grant that funded the In Support of Excellence program ends this year, the CCL will take over providing programming on financial wellness. The pilot course was entitled "Starting the Money Conversation," with 75 people attending live. More courses are being developed. Rev. Rebecca Erwin-Diehl transitioned from Judson Press to lead the CCL.

Through the CCL and other initiatives, ABHMS continues to expand use of ministrElife. In the past year, the platform hosted the 2021 Samuel DeWitt Proctor conference, with several thousand people in attendance.

It continues to be a privilege to serve as liaison between these two Boards.

Warmly,

Rev. Kathryn Ray
Chicago, IL