

Report from Special Director to American Baptist Home Mission Societies
June 2, 2023

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

I was unfortunately unable to attend the most recent meeting of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies Board as it conflicted with my brother's wedding. I am providing this report based on written documents submitted to the Board.

The ABHMS entered its final quarter with a net expense of \$1.7 million, with total operating expenses at \$9.7 Million. The main areas of variance from the previous year were Passionary Mission Support (\$764K lower) and Grant Income (\$516K lower). However, the America for Christ offering increased 10% from the previous year. The Board reviewed a proposed budget of \$13.9 Million, a budget which reduced expenses by 30%. With anticipated decreases in fees for service income as well as income from Judson Press, the total budget has a deficit of \$1.2 Million.

ABHMS saw a significant number of long-term staff retire over 2020 and 2021. As a result, 2022 was a time of filling roles and equipping new staff to work together cohesively. All vacancies have since been filled, and the Program Directors and Corporate Staff have convened with a strategic planning consultant to align all units with the mission of ABHMS. During this time, evaluation tools were developed to measure the effectiveness of mission efforts. These tools began to be implemented in 2023. ABHMS continues to make and equip disciples of Christ for mission through the program areas of Leadership Empowerment, Healing & Transforming Communities, Intercultural Ministries, and Continuous Learning.

In my time as Special Director, I have worked to improve communication and mutual understanding between the two Boards. One piece of feedback from ABHMS I received was that it would be helpful to explain the Special Director role in writing. The by-laws prescribe the role, but do not enumerate its responsibilities. After conveying this feedback to the Executive Committee, I was tasked with drafting a list of responsibilities for them to review, which I completed and submitted to the EC in January 2023.

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

Warmly,

Rev. Kathryn Ray
Chicago, IL