

President Report November 2024

BGM EC Item 5
BGM Item 6
ABCUSA President Report

I have continued to emphasize our American Baptist Identity, connectivity, and shared value of being “**United in Christ together in mission**” throughout the breath of our American Baptist family. The following details my activity from **September through November 2024**.

Local Church Life (3) MI, MA, NY

- September 22 Greetings Bethesda Baptist Church, Muskegon, MI
- October 13 Preached *Women’s Conference*
Concord Baptist Church of Boston, Milford, MA
- October 18 Greetings *Women’s Conference*
Hartford Baptist Church, Detroit, MI
- October 26 Greetings Lenox Road Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY

Regional Engagement (14) MI, NE, Metro-NY, Puerto Rico, WI, IN/KY, VT, WV, OH, ME, DAK, CPC, & Flash

- August 30-31 Greetings *16th Mission Symposium (not previously reported)*
American Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico
- September 6 Greetings *Regional Luncheon with local Pastors*
American Baptist Churches of NE
- September 17 Greetings *ABCMI Retired Ministers Luncheon*
American Baptist Churches of MI
- September 18 Meeting *American Baptist Great Commission Fellowship*
ABC:MI; CPC; Dak; ME; VT; OH; IN/KY; FLASH; WV; MNW
- October 11 Preached *180th Annual Gathering*
American Baptist Churches of WI
- October 12 Greetings *Annual Gathering*
American Baptist Churches of MI
- November 9 Greetings *233rd Annual Gathering*
American Baptist Churches of Metro NY

Denominational, Program Partners, and beyond

- September 5-7 Executive Meeting BGM Omaha, NE
- October 9 North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF) Annual Meeting
- October 28-30 Board of Manger; Ministers & missionary Benefit Board (MMBB)
- December 10-12 Chaplain Regional Executive Minister Council (REMC) Conference

The aforementioned activities highlight the fact that I continue to seek to deepen our relationship with all ABC family members. One example was having the extraordinary opportunity to hear the hearts of the leaders from the American Baptist Great Commission Fellowship. The purpose of our meeting was to discuss ways that we can amplify our American Baptist Identity.

To that end, we met to support and assist our congregations in understanding the tension between the associational principle, local church autonomy and the covenantal ties among us.

We also reiterated ways to collaborate and help churches have a stronger witness of being distinctively American Baptist. We were able to hear one another, respect one another, and remain proud to be American Baptists “united in Christ, together in mission.”

President Report November 2024

This year's motto has been ***“risk love.”*** We need to allow love in every sphere of our lives. In order to truly love and appreciate one another we must be willing to spend time together, listen deeply, and then lean into love. Thus, I will continue to model how to have meaningful communications with many constituents within our ABCUSA family.

In moments when it appears that our divides and differences have grown too wide to overcome, I implore each of us to ***lean into the love*** of Christ. The ultimate goal is focusing on ways to love one another in the midst of our myriad levels of diversity. We are not a creedal people, but we are family by choice. Therefore, I urge all of us to choose to love again. Just as we have received the incarnational love of Christ for ourselves; we are called to share this amazing unconditional, unrelenting, love of God with each other.

We are all Imago Dei (made in the image of God). We are all God's beloved children. You are loved. You are appreciated. You are valued. Let us be a beacon of light showing the world, what it means to love as Christ loves us.

Finally, I express my extreme joy, honor, and delight in being able to serve as your President, fully loving God all my heart, soul, and mind, and each one of you (God's people). May God continue to bless the beautiful diverse ABCUSA family.

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Nikita McCalister
President, ABC-USA