

Regional Ministries Report to the BGM from Jeff Woods

Activity Highlights from July 1 to November 15, 2024

Search Committees and Orientations for New Executive Ministers

- ABC of Vermont-New Hampshire completed its search process and is in the process of presenting their Executive Minister candidate to the board.
- ABC Mission Northwest is in the early stages of their search process following the retirement of Rev. Charles Revis.
- The Philadelphia Baptist Association is designing the Interim Executive Minister job description following the retirement announcement of Dr. James McJunkin.
- ABC of New York State has formed their search committee and is conducting listening sessions for their Executive Minister search following the retirement announcement of Dr. James Kelsey.
- I conducted exit interviews with Dr. James McJunkin and Dr. James Kelsey.
- I provided the charge to the region for the installation of Rev. Dr. TaNikka Sheppard.

Regional Consultations and Events

- I led a region board retreat for the ABC of Greater Indianapolis.
- I preached and led workshops at the GRR Annual Meeting.
- I participated in the Cleveland Baptist Association Annual Meeting.
- I participated in the IN-KY Annual Meeting.
- I met with the Executive Committee for PBA and the Executive Committee for NYS.
- I co-hosted 10 sessions of listening opportunities with the incoming REMC officers interviewing current Executive Ministers regarding their hopes and struggles.
- I assisted the REMC Planning Team with their continuing education event scheduled for December 10-13 in Phoenix called "Streams in the Desert."
- I shared the results of the REMC survey looking at continuing education needs, trends, and tasks with the REMC and other groups.
- I led a seminar for region officers and leaders highlighting findings from the REMC survey.
- I held several Executive Minister consultations.

REMC Calls - Highlights of recent REMC calls include:

- A presentation from Dr. Earl Thorpe on the new "MMBB Cares Program."
- A presentation from ABHMS Chaplaincy Director Pat Murphy regarding the newly developed 3 pathways to ABC chaplaincy endorsement.
- A presentation from ABHMS Lisa Harris-Lee and Rothangliani Chhangte on OGHS funds.
- A presentation from Jeff Woods highlighting findings from the REMC survey.
- A presentation and conversation with the ABC Ministers Council.
- A presentation on Community Health Resources from... Merle McJunkin, Suleima Rosario-Diaz, and Scott Pegues.

Professional Ministries Team

- I facilitated a meeting of the Professional Ministries Team as they explored recommended skill sets for pastors and discussed findings from the recent REMC survey.

Other Activities

- I presented professional papers at the Religious Research Association Annual Meeting and attended several helpful sessions containing new information on congregational research and trends.
- I delivered a presentation on “The 7 Elements of Harmony” during an Everyday ABC Conversation.
- I assisted Pat Hernandez with the scheduling of webinars in October.
- I participated in all 7 National Leadership Council Mission Table Conversations offering insights and research updates as well as follow-up assistance.
- I participated in a meeting with “Faith Communities Today” (FACT) to plan the distribution of a large “church attender” survey as a part of the “Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations” (EPIC) study. This is the largest national survey of congregations since the year 2000.
- I have continued to assist with ABCUSA legal issues.