

President Report March 2025

What an amazing year we have had together in 2024. Last year I promoted the motto *“risk love.”* I have found that this is not only an invitational quest but also a model of discipleship for our denomination. ***Love is the answer!*** I look forward to sharing the love of Christ with all our constituencies as we prepare for an amazing time of fellowship together at the Biennial this summer.

My priorities for this year include:

1) I continue 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. It has been apparent to me that the work of reconnecting, reestablishing and reconciling relationships is paramount for our continued growth as a denomination;

2) I continue to emphasize this through presence, deep listening, and investing in relationships. I have held numerous correspondence and conversations regarding developing practices of meaningful dialogue throughout the denomination; The hope is to strengthen and reconcile partner relationships. To that end, I have taken action to resolve and collection of OGHS offerings (i.e. requested NLC Review, held multiple conversations with others); and

3) to design and prepare strategic priorities for the General Secretary in order to conduct a growth development plan for this position.

The following details are some of my activities from **November through March 2025.**

Local Church Life (6) MI, HI

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| • November 1 | Greetings | Second Ebenezer Baptist Church, Detroit, MI |
| • November 24 | Preached | Chilson Hills, Howell, MI |
| • December 8 | Preached | Greater Christ Baptist Church, Detroit, MI |
| • December 29 | Greetings | The Room Church, Detroit, MI |
| • February 2 | Preached | Michigan Avenue Baptist Church, Saginaw MI |
| • February 23 | Preached | First Baptist Church of Honolulu, HI |

Regional Engagement

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| • November 9 | Greetings | <i>233rd Annual Gathering</i>
American Baptist Churches of Metro NY |
| • December 10-13 | Presenter | Streams in the Desert Phoenix, AZ
Regional Executive Minister Council - (20) |
| • February 22- | Greetings | 13 th Annual Honolulu Association Meeting
ABCOFLASH |

Denominational, Program Partners, and beyond

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| • February 7 | National ABCUSA Prayer Call |
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The aforementioned activities highlight some of the opportunities I had to deepen our relationships throughout the ABC family. Jim Wolfe and I have been in discussion with Rev. Dr. Patricia Hernandez regarding developing and revamping the Intentional Transition Minister training format. In closing, my prayer is that the love of God continues to draw us together as the beloved community.

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Nikita McCalister, President, ABC-USA