

MISSION IMPACT REPORT

2025

# AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA



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# REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rev. Nikita G. McCalister



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# REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT

## BOUND TOGETHER IN LOVE: REFLECTIONS FROM THE ABCUSA PRESIDENT

“Beyond all these things put on and wrap yourselves in [unselfish] love, which is the perfect bond of unity [for everything is bound together in agreement when each one seeks the best for others]” -Colossians 3:14 (AMP)

The year 2025 continued to provide opportunities for me to share and model the unrelenting, unconditional, and incarnational love of Jesus Christ. In February, we gathered as a denomination for a National ABCUSA Prayer Call, and later in July, we came together in Omaha, Nebraska, for the Come Seek Living Water Biennial Mission Summit. During the Biennial, we immersed ourselves in the Living Water of Christ through worship, workshops, and fellowship. Many of us were refreshed, revitalized, and reinvigorated as we experienced the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

As in the first year of my term, my work in 2025 remained focused on visiting and encouraging our leaders, congregations, and regions. I was blessed and privileged to bring greetings, preach, and worship in more than fifty local churches across Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maine, New York, Colorado, and Hawaii.

During my tenure, I have engaged more than eighty local congregations and countless pastoral leaders through retreats, luncheons, conferences, and gatherings. Through these experiences, I can boldly affirm that the presence of God is palpable throughout American Baptist Churches USA.

Regionally, I joined gatherings across the country—from west to east and north to south—to greet, preach, present, or simply be present. These gatherings included Honolulu, Hawaii (ABCOFLASH); Canyon City, Colorado (ABC of the Rocky Mountains); Dubuque, Iowa (Mid-American Baptist Churches); Chicago, Illinois (ABC of Metro Chicago); Mattapan, Massachusetts (TABCOM); Brooklyn, New York (ABC of Metro New York); Ocean Park, Maine (ABC of Maine); West Bloomfield, Michigan (ABC of Michigan); Norristown, Pennsylvania (ABCOPAD); Indianapolis, Indiana (ABC of Indiana & Kentucky); and San Antonio, Texas (ABC of the South).

Beyond our local and regional contexts, I represented our American Baptist family in national and ecumenical spaces, including at Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Northern Seminary, Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board meetings, the National Leadership Council Meeting, gatherings of American Baptist Women at the national, regional, and local levels, the North American Baptist Fellowship Annual Meeting and Leadership Retreat, and the Baptist World Alliance Congress in Brisbane, Australia.

To maximize our mission impact, it remains imperative that we continue to reconnect and strengthen our relationships with one another while deepening our appreciation for our American Baptist identity and heritage. My active engagement has allowed me to build relationships not only with the Board of General Ministries but also with leaders across the breadth of our denominational family.

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## BOUND TOGETHER IN LOVE: REFLECTIONS FROM THE ABCUSA PRESIDENT

In this spirit, I created a Task Force for Meaningful Dialogue to deepen our shared understanding of our American Baptist identity—rooted in the autonomy of the local church, the priesthood of the believer, biblical authority, and the separation of church and state. These core principles embody a spirit of freedom, inclusion, and belonging that defines us as a unique people “United in Christ, Together in Mission.”

The Colossians passage reminds us of an unselfish love—a perfect love that seeks the best for others. This is the kind of love to which we are called: a love that listens deeply, seeks reconciliation, and honors the dignity, identity, perspective, and humanity of all God’s beloved children. For more than fourteen generations, our God-stories continue to proclaim God’s abiding presence among us.

As we navigate challenges, we affirm our hope in Christ, whose love binds us together in unity and harmony. I continue to be inspired by the faithful, relevant, and courageous ministry of American Baptists across the United States, including Puerto Rico.

In a joint letter published on December 11, 2025, entitled “Stronger Together,” General Secretary Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain and I expressed our deep gratitude for those offering prophetic witness and advocacy for refugees and immigrants living with fear and isolation. We also reaffirmed our bold commitment to justice, joining in 2025 with several denominations in sacred space litigation to protect the freedom and safety of worship.

I cherish the remarkable racial, ethnic, and theological diversity of our denomination and am proud to have embodied this sacred legacy during my tenure. As I have shared with the Directors of the Board of General Ministries, my prayer is that American Baptist Churches USA will continue to be a beacon of light, love, justice, and inclusiveness for generations to come.

To that end, it has been one of the greatest joys of my life to “risk love”—to live out God’s affection with courageous faith and outrageous joy—alongside each of you.

In Christ’s Service,  
Rev. Nikita McCalister  
President,  
American Baptist Churches USA



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# REMARKS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strainy



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# REMARKS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

## COME SEEK LIVING WATER: REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR OF RENEWAL AND HOPE

As I reflect on 2025, I do so with deep gratitude for the faithfulness, resilience, love and generosity of the American Baptist family. We started the year with a denomination-wide prayer for our country lead by our region and national leaders. Building on efforts begun in 2024, I along with staff from the Office of the General Secretary joined regional partners at annual and bi-annual gatherings, conferences, and special events. These shared experiences strengthened relationships, expanded our fellowship, and equipped us to serve more effectively together. We traveled across twenty-six regions throughout the year, worshipping with congregations, listening to clergy and lay leaders, and sharing sacred moments of both joy and concern. We initiated a new Clergy Disaster Relief Grant and continued to strengthen our interfaith and ecumenical relationships by hosting gatherings at our headquarters in King of Prussia.

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22–23). This promise is visible in the life and witness of our churches, regions, and partners. Even amid uncertainty and challenge, American Baptists continue to respond with courage, compassion, and hope.

The 2025 Biennial Mission Summit, “Come Seek Living Water” in Omaha, Nebraska was a highlight of the year and a powerful testimony to God’s faithfulness when we gather with our hearts centered in prayer. From the moment, attendees checked in onsite, filling the summit with worship, learning, fellowship, friendship and focused conversation about mission and ministry.

Programming that was historically grounded, informative, and contextually relevant deepened the spiritual experience, while “Engage” effectively introduced participants to the distinctive mission, values, and ministries of the American Baptist denomination. Children and youth participated in camp-style programming, service projects, and worship, reminding us that God’s plans for our lives begin early.

Throughout the year, we also created intentional space for essential conversations. Our Everyday ABC Conversations, continued with the theme of Harmony, grew in both participation and impact. We held Domestic Violence and Mental Health Awareness webinars, and virtual Wellness Leadership Workshops, which culminated with the Renew and Lead Workshop for Ministry Wellness held in our headquarters in King of Prussia, PA. The Transition Ministries training sessions, scheduled to resume in 2026, along with new programming for American Baptist Women in Ministry and the reimagined Generosity Project; all of these opportunities evidence our commitment to holistic wellness, leadership development, clergy engagement and faithful stewardship.



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## COME SEEK LIVING WATER: REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR OF RENEWAL AND HOPE

As a denomination, ABCUSA joined other faith partners in sacred space litigation to protect the freedom of worship and the safety of our congregations amid shifting immigration and refugee policies. We listened carefully to the fears, hopes, and experiences of pastors and congregations. We continue to seek responses that are both faithful and courageous, rooted in justice and love.

I am deeply grateful for the many ways American Baptists supported our shared mission with their time, talent and treasure. These resources blessed our caucuses, support disaster relief, provide scholarships, and sustain ministries that connect us across regions, cultures, and generations.

Finally, I offer heartfelt appreciation for the staff of ABCUSA, whose dedication, creativity, and care is unmatched. Together we honor a sacred commitment to share the gospel, build strong ministries and faithfully serve with humility, joy, and a clear sense of call.

As we look ahead, I remain confident that God is calling us forward—together. We do not walk this path alone. We are bound by covenant, sustained by grace, and sent in love. May we continue to seek the living water Christ offers, trusting that God will use our holy imagination, our prophetic voices, and our common witness to share healing and hope in the world.

Prayerfully submitted,  
Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain  
General Secretary,  
American Baptist Churches USA



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# Top 100 United Mission Giving Churches - 2025

The American Baptist Churches USA Office of the General Secretary is pleased to recognize and celebrate the Top 100 United Mission Giving Churches of 2025. These congregations have demonstrated exceptional commitment to shared ministry through their faithful support of United Mission—sustaining the vital work of American Baptists across our regions, national partners, and global mission efforts. We extend heartfelt gratitude for their generosity, partnership, and dedication to advancing the mission of Christ together.

Primera Iglesia Bautista, Carolina, PR  
North Shore Baptist Church, Chicago, IL  
Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, Huntington, WV  
New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, Renton, WA  
New Community Church, Menlo Park, CA  
Calvary Baptist Church, Newark, DE  
First Baptist Church, Seattle, WA  
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Palmer, PR  
First Baptist Church, Chanute, KS  
First Baptist Church, Topeka, KS  
Brewster Baptist Church, Brewster, MA  
First Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN  
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Caguas, PR  
Chesterfield Baptist Church, Chesterfield, NJ  
United Church, Canandaigua, NY  
First Baptist Church, McLouth, KS  
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Yauco, PR  
Indiana Chin Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN  
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Canovanas, PR  
Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Hill, WV  
Primera Iglesia Bautista de Rio Piedras, San Juan, PR  
Trinity Baptist Church, North Canton, OH  
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Juncos, PR  
First Baptist Church, Salina, KS  
Iglesia Bautista de Mamey, Gurabo, PR  
First Baptist Church, Madison, IN  
First Baptist Church, Ottawa, IL  
Iglesia Bautista de Humacao, Humacao, PR  
First Baptist Church, Bloomfield, IN  
Central Baptist Church, Hartford, CT  
First Baptist Church, McPherson, KS  
First Baptist Church of Greater Des Moines, Johnston, IA  
Bethel Baptist Church, Powers Lake, ND  
Iglesia Bautista de Metropolis, San Juan, PR

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# Top 100 United Mission Giving Churches - 2025

First Baptist Church, McMinnville, OR  
First Baptist Church, West Hartford, CT  
First Baptist Church, Woodstown, NJ  
First Baptist Church, Portland, OR  
First Baptist Church, Ames, IA  
Iglesia Bautista Bethel, Canovanas, PR  
Iglesia Bautista de Jerusalén, Luquillo, PR  
First Baptist Church, Rainelle, WV  
Tuxedo Park Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN  
Prairie Baptist Church, Prairie Village, KS  
Wakefield Baptist Church, Wakefield, RI  
Iglesia Bautista de Hato Nuevo, Gurabo, PR  
Tabernacle Baptist Church, Utica, NY  
First Baptist Church, Manhattan, KS  
First Baptist Church, Carrollton, IL  
First Baptist Church, Emporia, KS  
Iglesia Bautista de Luquillo Mar, Luquillo, PR  
First Baptist Church, Redlands, CA  
Selma Baptist Church, Festus, MO  
Iglesia Bautista de Barrazas, Carolina, PR  
Benson Baptist Church, Omaha, NE  
Trinity Baptist Church, Bronx, NY  
Madison Baptist Church, Madison, WV  
First Baptist Church, Mattoon, IL  
Iglesia Bautista de Las Cruces, Caguas, PR  
Arthur Baptist Church, Arthur, NE  
First Baptist Church, Herington, KS  
Charleston Baptist Temple, Charleston, WV  
First Baptist Church, Stilwell, KS  
First Baptist Church, Fairfield, IA  
First Baptist Church, Greenville, IL  
First Baptist Church, Fremont, NE  
First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, IL  
First Baptist Church, Atchison, KS  
Iglesia Bautista de Puerto Nuevo, San Juan, PR  
First Baptist Church, Parsons, KS  
First Baptist Church, New Martinsville, WV  
First Marion Baptist Church, Commiskey, IN  
Niantic Baptist Church, Niantic, CT  
First Baptist Church, Gardner, KS

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# Top 100 United Mission Giving Churches - 2025

Central Baptist Church, Wayne, PA  
First Baptist Church, Washington, IN  
Federated Church, Wauconda, IL  
Second Baptist Church, Suffield, CT  
Providence Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD  
First Baptist Church in America, Providence, RI  
Union Baptist Church, Mystic, CT  
Iglesia Bautista de Country Club, San Juan, PR  
Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, Cranston, RI  
First Baptist Church, West Allis, WI  
Bethel Baptist Church of Leota, Scottsburg, IN  
Shuck Memorial Baptist Church, Lewisburg, WV  
Lake Avenue Baptist Church, Rochester, NY  
First Baptist Church, Sistersville, WV  
Iglesia Bautista de Aguas Buenas, Aguas Buenas, PR  
First Baptist Church, Olathe, KS  
First Baptist Church, Bloomington, IL  
First Baptist Church, Westwood, MA  
First Baptist Church, Horton, KS  
Iglesia Bautista Luz del Mundo, Quebrada Grande, Trujillo Alto, PR  
Summersville Baptist Church, Summersville, WV  
First Baptist Church, Beverly, MA  
First Baptist Church, Littleton, MA  
Mount Pleasant Church, Indianapolis, IN  
Saint Rest Baptist Church, Fresno, CA  
Hilton Baptist Church, Hilton, NY

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# GATHERING THE DENOMINATION

## AMERICAN BAPTISTS GATHER IN OMAHA FOR 2025 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT: “COME SEEK LIVING WATER”

From July 3–6, 2025, American Baptists from across the United States and Puerto Rico gathered in Omaha, Nebraska, for the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit. Centered on the theme “Come Seek Living Water,” the event offered four days of worship, learning, fellowship, and Spirit-led renewal. Attendees explored ministry resources, strengthened their faith, and deepened connections across the denomination.

### Highlights from the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit:

- Inspiring worship services led by ABCUSA leaders, including Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, General Secretary; Rev. Dr. TaNikka Sheppard, Executive Minister of the Cleveland Baptist Association; Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska, and Rev. Dr. Zau Sam Lahtaw, Senior Pastor of First Kachin Baptist Church of America.
- A closing worship service featuring a Kachin youth choir, offering a powerful celebration of God’s presence and the call to share Christ’s love.
- Networking and mentoring opportunities for seminarians and new ministers through Engage.
- Workshops addressing youth empowerment, peacemaking, mental health, creation care, discipleship, and the distinctives of American Baptist life.
- Mission Summit Conversations small-group discussions following the documentary A Case for Love, engaging participants in practical dialogue on mission priorities.
- Celebration of women’s leadership in ministry, including a special session highlighting the stories and voices of women discerning a call to service.
- Recognition of retiring leaders, including Dr. Louis Barbarin of MMBB Financial Services, honoring decades of faithful service.
- Community fellowship through breakfasts, picnic, social gatherings, and the Taste of Nebraska Dinner.
- Citywide recognition, with Omaha Mayor John Ewing Jr. proclaiming July 3 “American Baptist Churches Day.”
- Official business session approving the 2025 slate of Directors, officers for the 2026–2027 Biennium, and two bylaws changes to strengthen ABCUSA’s structure.
- Celebration, learning, and spiritual renewal that left participants inspired to live out Christ’s call to “come, seek, and drink deeply” of God’s living water.



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# GATHERING THE DENOMINATION

## AMERICAN BAPTISTS GATHER IN OMAHA FOR 2025 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT: “COME SEEK LIVING WATER”

We offer heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the Biennial possible: volunteers, members of the Biennial Mission Summit Planning Team, liturgical team members, American Baptist Churches of Nebraska as our hosting region, American Baptist partners and staff, sponsors, exhibitors, workshop leaders, worship leaders, worship band members, and AV and technical teams as well as our Office of the General Secretary staff. Your dedication, service, and gifts of time and talent were essential to creating a meaningful and Spirit-filled gathering.

We are excited to announce that the next Biennial Mission Summit will be held in **Rochester, New York, June 10–13, 2027**, where the American Baptists family will gather again for worship, learning, fellowship, and Spirit-led renewal.



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# GATHERING THE DENOMINATION

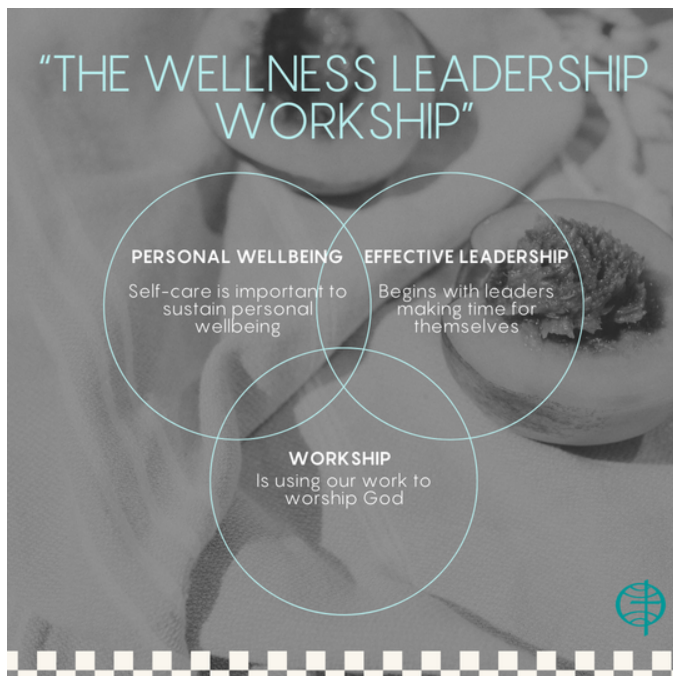
## WELLNESS LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

In February 2025, American Baptist Churches USA hosted a two-part Wellness Leadership Workshop, providing church leaders with a virtual space to strengthen personal well-being and cultivate sustainable leadership practices. Framed around the concept of “workship”—using one’s work as an expression of worship—the gatherings encouraged participants to reflect on how intentional care, rest, and spiritual grounding support faithful ministry over the long term.

Each session included small-group conversation and dialogue with the presenter, allowing participants to share experiences, build supportive relationships, and integrate insights into their ministry contexts. Together, the Wellness Leadership Workshop events equipped leaders with tools for resilience, encouraged healthier rhythms of ministry, and affirmed ABCUSA’s commitment to caring for those called to lead in the life of the church.

The Workshop featured two sessions:

- “The Gifts of Wellbeing, Self-Care, and Soul-Care for Leaders,” was led by Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil, an ordained American Baptist minister and experienced ministry coach and retreat facilitator. The session offered practical and spiritually rooted approaches to nurturing resilience and wholeness in ministry.
- “Reimagining Sabbath,” led by Kara Martin, author of *Workship* and *Workship 2* and adjunct professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, invited leaders to reclaim rest as a life-giving practice essential to flourishing and faithful leadership.



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# GATHERING THE DENOMINATION

## RENEW AND LEAD: A WORKSHOP FOR MINISTRY WELLNESS

American Baptist Churches USA hosted “Renew and Lead: A Workshop for Ministry Wellness” in September as a one-day, in-person gathering focused on the holistic well-being of clergy and ministry leaders. Held at the ABCUSA Offices in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, this event served as the third Workshop in the 2025 ABCUSA Workshop Series and as part of the broader Leadership Wellness Series. Designed as an integration of workshop and worship, the gathering offered sacred space for spiritual renewal, intentional reflection, and meaningful connection.

Participants engaged in worship, explored spiritual direction as a resource for wellness, and reflected on practices that support sustainable leadership. Through guided conversation and shared learning, leaders were invited to rest, reconnect with God, and strengthen relationships with peers committed to leading from a place of joy, health, and wholeness.

### Presenters and Leaders

- Rev. Dr. Patricia Murphy, Ecclesiastical Endorser for ABCUSA and Director of Spiritual Caregivers at American Baptist Home Mission Societies
- Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins, Chaplain and Director of Religion and Spiritual Life at Ursinus College
- Valoria L. Cheek, Esq., President and CEO of the American Baptist Extension Corporation
- Lianne Quaynor, Program Coordinator for Emerging Leaders and Scholarships, American Baptist Home Mission Societies

The Workshop affirmed ABCUSA’s ongoing commitment to the care, sustainability, and spiritual vitality of those called to lead.

Join Us At  
**RENEW AND LEAD:**  
A WORKSHOP FOR MINISTRY WELLNESS

Our Speakers Will Be:

Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins  
Chaplain and Director of Religion and  
Spiritual Life at Ursinus College

Rev. Dr. Patricia Murphy, BCC, GRMS  
Board Certified Chaplain,  
Director of Spiritual Caregivers, Ecclesiastical  
Endorser for American Baptist Home Mission  
Societies (ABHMS)

This event is an extension of our leadership  
wellness workshop series

ABCUSA  
1015 W. 9<sup>TH</sup> AVE.  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
Saturday, September 13, 2025  
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

For more information visit: [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org)

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# GATHERING THE DENOMINATION

## OCTOBER WEBINAR SERIES

Our 2025 October Webinar Series offered faith-centered insights on domestic violence, emotional healing, and the power of language, with two distinguished speakers addressing critical issues affecting individuals and congregations. Designed for clergy and lay leaders, the series created space for courageous conversation and thoughtful reflection on how faith communities can respond with compassion, accountability, and care. Together, the series affirmed ABCUSA's commitment to justice, healing, and the creation of safer faith communities.

The October Webinar Series included



“When Silence Hurts: Breaking the Stigma of Domestic Violence in Faith Communities,” led by Irina Sorrels, founder and director of Tu Refugio Seguro and neurocoach and psychotherapist, explored the impact of silence and stigma and highlighted trauma-informed responses within faith settings.



“Unclean Lips: The Language of Violence in Our Faith and Culture,” led by Rev. Michelle Nickens, pastor, author, and activist, examined how theology and cultural narratives shape responses to violence, calling leaders toward greater awareness and transformation.

A graphic for the October Webinar Series. It features a red background on the left and a purple/orange background on the right. The text on the left reads: "OCTOBER WEBINAR Series", "When Silence Hurts: Breaking the Stigma of Domestic Violence in Faith Communities", "Tuesday, October 14, 2025", "8:00pm EDT Zoom", "Presenter: Irina Sorrels", "&", "Unclean Lips: the Language of Violence in our Faith and Culture", "Tuesday, October 28, 2025", "8:00pm EDT Zoom", "Presenter: Rev. Michelle Nickens", and "abc-usa.org" with a logo. On the right, there are two portraits: Irina Sorrels (Presenter: Irina Sorrels, Director of Tu Refugio Seguro) and Rev. Michelle Nickens (Presenter: Rev. Michelle Nickens, Sr. Pastor of Washington Plaza Baptist Church).

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# SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS, REGIONS AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

We empower and engage our regions, congregations, clergy, and national partners through comprehensive support and dynamic, relevant resources that strengthen ministry at every level of our shared life. We walk alongside clergy while providing specialized training and resources for interim ministers. We also equip congregations with practical guidance in stewardship, tithing, and sustainable church leadership to ensure long-term vitality and impact.

In partnership with our national and regional leaders, we provide strategic event planning and seamless logistical coordination that enables ministry to thrive. We further invest in the future of the church by offering grants to seminarians, funding for new ministry launches, and financial support for denomination-wide mission initiatives—advancing our collective witness and deepening our commitment to God’s mission throughout the American Baptist family.

## **ABCUSA SUNDAY**

ABCUSA Sunday 2025 invited American Baptist congregations to gather in shared purpose, celebrating our life together and renewing our commitment to God’s mission. Centered on the theme “Serving with Love, Transforming through Mission,” this celebratory Sunday lifted up the ways American Baptists live out Christ’s call through faithful discipleship, generous service, and transformative ministry.

Congregations across the country marked ABCUSA Sunday in February—on February 9 or 16, or on another Sunday that best suited their context. Through worship, prayer, storytelling, and giving, churches reflected on our rich Baptist heritage while looking ahead with hope to the work God continues to do among us.

Drawing inspiration from Jesus’ words in Matthew 28:19–20, ABCUSA Sunday 2025 reminded us that we are not sent alone. United in Christ and Together in Mission, American Baptists celebrated the collective impact of our shared ministries—locally, nationally, and globally—and affirmed our ongoing call to serve with love for the healing of the world.

## **VISITING ABCUSA REGIONS: A FOCUS ON PRESENCE**

In 2025, ABCUSA staff renewed their commitment to visiting American Baptist Regions with a refreshed focus: simply being present. Beyond delivering greetings or attending meetings, staff sought to build authentic connections, listen, and engage directly with regional leaders and congregations. This emphasis on presence reinforces ABCUSA’s dedication to nurturing relationships across the denomination and fostering a deeper sense of shared mission.

By prioritizing relational engagement over formal agendas, these visits highlighted the value of showing up, listening, and celebrating the life and ministry of American Baptist communities in every region.

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# SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS, REGIONS AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

## OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

In 2025, the Communications Department at ABCUSA expanded its scope to include consistent, high-quality video production. This included the “What Is the Biennial?” video series promoting the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit, as well as pre-recorded content for Everyday ABC Conversations, workshops, webinars, and other key initiatives.

Under the leadership of the General Secretary, the department has evolved into a comprehensive marketing and communications hub. A strategic emphasis on the use of photos and graphics has significantly enhanced the visual appeal of our news releases, resulting in increased visibility and engagement across our platforms.

We also developed a cohesive, branded visual identity for several major annual events, including:

- “Renew and Lead” in-person wellness Workshop for leaders
- “Power of Sisterhood Women in Ministry” luncheons/brunches
- “Joy of the Journey” March Webinar Series
- October Webinar Series

In addition, Transition Ministries and American Baptist Women in Ministry have both received refreshed visual branding to align with this updated look and feel.

At the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit, the Communications Department provided comprehensive promotion and photo/video documentation of the event. We were also instrumental in securing a formal proclamation from the Mayor of Omaha to the General Secretary, recognizing ABCUSA’s presence and impact. This type of municipal proclamation will now be pursued as a standard practice, highlighting ABCUSA’s economic and community impact in the cities that host future Biennial Mission Summits.

In support of deeper engagement with the American Baptist family, we have also increased our social media presence through regular posts, polls, and video content, strengthening both visibility and connection across our constituencies.

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# SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS, REGIONS AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

## THE GENEROSITY PROJECT

In 2025, ABCUSA revitalized the Generosity Project to help pastors lead conversations about stewardship in new ways. The first cohort of the updated program was set to begin in January 2026.

The Generosity Project is a free program designed to help pastors shift the focus of giving from obligation or scarcity to joy, gratitude, and faith. Participants join monthly virtual gatherings with fellow pastors, guided by trained facilitators, to learn, share, and explore practical strategies for cultivating generosity in their congregations. Each cohort also receives resources such as books, articles, and webinars with national leaders in stewardship and church leadership.

The program is open to pastors, church leaders, and stewardship teams. Regional cohorts meet online, and if there aren't enough participants locally, pastors can connect with peers from other regions. Generosity Project participation is made possible through support from United Mission.

For more information, visit [www.abc-usa.org/generosityproject](http://www.abc-usa.org/generosityproject) or email [GenerosityProject@abc-usa.org](mailto:GenerosityProject@abc-usa.org).



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# CREATING SPACE FOR LOCAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Historically and in this present moment, ABCUSA is committed to creating meaningful spaces for courageous and faithful conversation through webinars, conferences, workshops, and training opportunities—both virtual and in person. These gatherings reflect who we are as a people shaped by core Baptist convictions: the Lordship and atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, believers' baptism, the competency of every believer to relate directly to God and interpret Scripture, the centrality of the local church, freedom in worship and conviction, and our shared calling to bear witness to Christ in society.

Grounded in the Gospel and guided by its mandates, American Baptists have long engaged the pressing issues of our day, partnering with societal institutions to advance holistic, redemptive, and healing change. With faithfulness to our heritage and hope for the future, we continue to explore innovative ways to strengthen our collective mission and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in a changing world.

## EVERYDAY ABC CONVERSATIONS

Continuing the theme of “Harmony,” the 2025 Everyday ABC Conversations brought American Baptists together to engage in dialogue rooted in unity, listening, and mutual respect. Grounded in our Baptist principles of soul liberty and the priesthood of all believers. These conversations affirm that every voice matters and that wisdom grows when we seek understanding together.

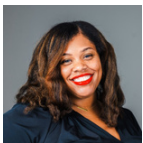
The Everyday ABC Conversations foster meaningful dialogue, strengthen connections, and help American Baptists to grow in our life together in Christ.



**Rev. Trevor Hyde** – Pastor, Berean Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY



**Rev. Michele Turek** – National Coordinator for Asian Ministries, American Baptist Home Mission Societies



**Rev. LaThelma Armstrong** – Executive Director, American Baptist Women's Ministries



**Rev. Kay Farley** – Co-Pastor, Faith Community Baptist Church, Denver, CO



**Min. Matthew Rivera** – Executive Director, The Dream Support Network



**Rev. Dr. Patricia Hernandez** – former Associate General Secretary for Women in Ministry and Transition Ministries, ABCUSA



**Rev. Dr. Steven Van Ostran** – Executive Minister, American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains



**Min. Dr. Chantá Barrett** – Director of Communications, ABCUSA

The series continued to foster meaningful dialogue, build intergenerational and intercultural connections, and strengthen the life of the church, affirming that every voice matters and that wisdom emerges when we listen and discern together in Christ.

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# CREATING SPACE FOR LOCAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES

## 2025 CAUCUS REPORT SUMMARY

American Baptist Churches USA continues to live into covenantal relationships with eight recognized caucuses, each bringing a distinct and essential voice to our shared denominational life. Through collaboration, mutual accountability, and ongoing engagement, the caucuses work alongside ABCUSA leadership to advance mission, ministry, and advocacy across the denomination. We are grateful for the partnership of all eight caucuses and the ABCUSA Intercaucus, whose collective wisdom and cooperative efforts strengthen our witness. Together, they provide leadership, strategic guidance, and ministry that deepens our common life and furthers our shared mission in Christ.

### **ABCUSA Intercaucus**

President: Rev. Julia Bebeau

Vice President: Rev. Dr. Michael Woolf

### **Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches (AAABC)**

President: Rev. Angeline Lau

Moderator: Katharine Hsiao

### **American Baptist Haitian Caucus**

President: Rev. Renaud Dumont

### **American Baptist Hispanic Caucus**

President: Pastor Felipe Candelaria

### **American Baptist Indian Caucus**

President: Brenda Sullivan

### **American Baptist National Black Caucus**

Collaborative Interim Leadership: Rev. Dr. Harry Riggs, Rev. T. Scott Pegues,  
Rev. Dr. Don Darius Butler, Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley, Rev. Dr. Victoria Carr-Ware

### **American Baptist National Portuguese Speaking Caucus**

President: Rev. Elizabeth Pinto

### **American Baptist Women's Caucus**

President: Rev. Julia Bebeau

### **American Baptist Young Adult Caucus**

President: Rev. Dr. Michael Woolf

Treasurer: Roshely Quinones

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# CREATING SPACE FOR LOCAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES

## ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS

In 2025, American Baptist Churches USA continued its active engagement in ecumenical and interfaith work, deepening relationships and strengthening our shared Christian witness both nationally and globally. ABCUSA focused on collaboration, dialogue, and shared advocacy rooted in our commitment to unity in Christ and the pursuit of justice and peace.

In 2025, staff, board directors, and volunteers have represented American Baptist Churches at:

- 24 Hours of Prayer event, National Council of Churches (NCC)
- Baptist Member Body Meeting, Baptist Joint Committee (BJC)
- Baptist World Alliance Annual Meeting, (BWA)
- Central Committee Meetings, World Council of Churches (WCC)
- Church World Service (CWS) Annual Convening
- Covenant Member Heads of Communion, CWS
- Governing Board Meetings, National Council of Churches
- Impact Week, National Council of Churches
- Jewish-Christian Dialogue Group 2025, National Council of Synagogues
- National Sikh-Christian Dialogue, National Council of Churches
- National Council of Churches 75th Celebration
- North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF) Leadership Roundtable
- North American Baptist Fellowship Retreat
- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)
- The Religious Nationalisms Project (TRNP), National Council of Churches
- United Nations visit with Baptist World Alliance

Throughout the year, ABCUSA welcomed partners from across the global church to our national offices. These visits provided meaningful opportunities for conversation, collaboration, and shared witness in ministry. The Office of the General Secretary hosted:

- Church World Service President and CEO Richard Santos, staff, and board
- General Secretaries, Rev. Dr. Biak Lian Thang from Chin Baptist Association of North America, Rev. Dr. Tu Lamung, Kachin American Baptist Association and Rev. Lakang Dau Qae (Ah Le), Kachin Baptist Churches USA.
- World Council of Churches General Secretary Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay

The Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations presented the 2025 Luke Mowbray Ecumenical Award, honoring Dr. Raimundo César Barreto, Jr., Associate Professor of World Christianity at Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Barreto was recognized for his leadership in advancing Baptist-Muslim dialogue and his longstanding advocacy for justice and unity, which reflect the values central to ABCUSA's ecumenical witness. He was honored during the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit in Omaha, Nebraska.

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# GRANTS

## CHESTNUT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Chestnut Street Baptist Church Endowment Fund supports the ministries of Pennsylvania American Baptist churches that serve immigrants, refugees, and persons of Asian descent. Administered by the American Baptist Churches USA Office of the General Secretary, this fund honors a legacy of faithful witness by investing in congregations and initiatives that strengthen communities and advance the Gospel.

The Chestnut Street Baptist Church Endowment Fund exists to encourage, sustain, and expand ministry among Asian American communities through Pennsylvania American Baptist churches.

The fund supports efforts that:

- Strengthen congregational life and worship
- Equip leaders and congregants for ministry
- Foster collaboration and connection across Asian American Baptist communities
- Respond to the needs of immigrants and refugees



## CLERGY DISASTER RELIEF GRANT

In 2025, American Baptist Churches USA opened the application process for the Clergy Disaster Relief Grant, reaffirming our steadfast commitment to supporting clergy in times of crisis. This initiative reflects our dedication to providing compassionate, tangible assistance to ministers facing hardship due to natural disasters and other unforeseen emergencies, ensuring that those who faithfully serve others receive meaningful care and support when they need it most.



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# GRANTS

## MISSION INITIATIVE FUND

Also in 2025, American Baptist Churches USA invited applications for the Mission Initiative Fund (MIF), continuing our commitment to fueling creativity and innovation across the American Baptist family. Through this vital resource, we invest in bold new ministries and denomination-wide mission projects that strengthen and expand the reach of our shared mission.

The Mission Initiative Fund provides seed funding for up to three years to launch new or emerging ministries that explore fresh and creative approaches to ministry. It supports initiatives authorized by the Board of General Ministries with broad, denomination-wide impact, assists special task forces and commissions in carrying out specific assignments, and offers limited emergency support to ministries navigating unexpected challenges beyond their control.



# Financial Update

## Statement of Activities

For the years ending December 31, 2025 and 2024

|                                                                                    | 2025               | 2024             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Revenues, gains and other support:</b>                                          |                    |                  |
| American Baptist Support Retained by ABCUSA                                        | \$ 1,577,054       | \$1,622,173      |
| Donations and other revenue                                                        | 864,712            | 1,420,46         |
| Biennial                                                                           | 562,886            | 1,394,212        |
| Endowments returns designated for current operations                               | 1,369,788          | 105,290          |
| Other Investment Income Designated for Current Operations                          | 165,900            |                  |
| <b>Total revenues, gains and other support</b>                                     | <b>4,540,340</b>   | <b>4,542,142</b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                                                    |                    |                  |
| Program Expenses                                                                   | 3,608,071          | 2,822,168        |
| Management and General                                                             | 1,779,136          | 1,391,608        |
| Fundraising Activities                                                             | 258,886            | 202,496          |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                                                              | <b>5,646,093</b>   | <b>4,416,272</b> |
| <b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue and support over expenses</b>                    | <b>(1,105,753)</b> | <b>125,870</b>   |
| <b>Other Changes</b>                                                               |                    |                  |
| Investment return in (deficit) excess of amounts designated for current operations | 2,433,071          | 828,965          |
| Other investment (loss) income, lease revenue & credits                            | 426,161            | 161,084          |
| <b>Total Other changes</b>                                                         | <b>2,859,232</b>   | <b>990,049</b>   |
| <b>Change in net assets</b>                                                        | <b>1,753,479</b>   | <b>1,115,919</b> |

## American Baptist Mission Support

American Baptist Churches USA received \$23,620,058 in 2025 through American Baptist Mission Support. ABCUSA retained \$1,577,054 for operations and distributed \$22,043,003.

## American Baptist Mission Support Distributed

