



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY UNITED MISSION MATTERS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2026

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United Mission at Work in Nebraska

WRITTEN BY REV. DR. GREG MAMULA

EXECUTIVE MINISTER, AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NEBRASKA



Across the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska, United Mission giving tells a story of shared stewardship, deep trust, and faithful generosity. In recent years, that generosity has made meaningful ministry possible both in Nebraska and across the wider American Baptist family.

One of the most significant shared ministries in Nebraska is the Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center—a 570-acre sacred space where lives are shaped through camps, retreats, and gatherings for people of all ages.

In recent years, we completed a \$500,000 renovation of Weaver Hall, including a new kitchen, updated bathrooms, and essential infrastructure improvements.

These upgrades ensure that the facility can safely and effectively serve guests for many years to come. We also completed a multi-year well project, drilling a new 300-foot well at a cost of more than \$100,000—an unglamorous but absolutely essential investment in the camp's long-term sustainability.



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In ABC Wisconsin, Next Generation Ministries are a regional priority. This means that we expect youth (ages 13-17) and young adults (ages 18-30) to be present and active in our region and to be included in leadership when possible.

Not only does this mean our Nominating Committee has young adult representation to assure young adults are included on our Board of Managers and committees; it means that we offer scholarships for Baptist related events.

This is part of our budgeted spending using United Mission giving. We budget for scholarships to attend our Annual Gathering, the ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit, camps, retreats, and other events related to ABC life.

“PRIORITIZING THE NEXT GENERATION”

WRITTEN BY REV. MINDI WELTON-MITCHELL
EXECUTIVE MINISTER,
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF WISCONSIN

We even sent two young adults to the Baptist World Alliance gathering in 2025, and have continued to have a strong youth and young adult presence at our regional events. In 2025, we increased our Next Generation Ministries (which includes campus ministries) from 7% to 10% of our entire budgeted expenses.

Our Outdoor and Camping ministries is another 37% of our budget and often focuses on children, youth, and families—so almost half is focused on ministry to families and next generations!

We encourage our youth and young adults to participate in leadership and decision-making as part of their discipleship in Christ, and as part of the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin, and we budget for them to do so. We know that children and youth are not only the future of the church—they are the church today!



How United Mission Fuels Innovation Through the Mission Initiative Fund

Every gift to United Mission is an investment in God's work. While many people recognize that United Mission supports the ongoing ministries of American Baptist Churches USA, fewer realize that it also helps launch new ideas and strengthen emerging ministries through the Mission Initiative Fund (MIF).

Under the United Stewardship Plan, 1% of United Mission gross receipts are designated for the Mission Initiative Fund (MIF). This intentional commitment reflects ABCUSA's desire not only to sustain existing ministries, but also to encourage innovation by investing in new opportunities for mission and ministry across the denomination.

The Mission Initiative Fund provides grants to ministries that seek to respond creatively to emerging needs and opportunities. MIF has supported initiatives such as new church planting, leadership development, community outreach, discipleship, creation care, justice ministries, and other projects that strengthen the witness of American Baptist churches and organizations.

Innovation has always been part of the Church's mission. As communities evolve and new challenges emerge, ministries need the flexibility to develop fresh approaches to sharing Christ's love and serving others. Through the Mission Initiative Fund, churches and ministry partners are equipped to turn faithful ideas into meaningful action.

Every congregation that faithfully gives to United Mission plays a role in this work. By supporting United Mission, churches not only sustain the ministries that serve our denomination today—they also help make tomorrow's ministries possible. The 1% designated for the Mission Initiative Fund is a tangible reminder that together we are investing in the future of God's mission.



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Thank you for your faithful partnership through United Mission. Your generosity helps cultivate new ministries, strengthen communities, and expand the impact of Christ's love throughout American Baptist Churches USA.



Mission Initiative Fund Grant



abc usa.org



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How to Participate in United Mission:

United Mission Basics are undesignated contributions from local churches to the vital mission and ministry of American Baptists. Basics provide support for the extensive foundation of American Baptist missions.

United Mission Love Gifts are contributions from American Baptist women in support of American Baptist ministry, given over and above United Mission Basics.

Whether congregations and individuals give to United Mission via regularly scheduled contributions throughout the year or annual one-time gifts, through church budgets or special offerings, your faithfulness shows your commitment to being United in Christ, Together in Mission as an entire American Baptist denominational family.

Explore the Resources at the Lake Institute

We have had several of our Regional Executive Ministers as well as pastors and leaders attend the Religious Fund Raising cohort. Check out what resources they offer. (used with permission from The Lake Institute)

<https://lakeinstitute.org/>



United in Christ
Together in Mission

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