

Journey/Discovery/Renewal

*Transformed
by the Spirit*



"We worship a God of transformation."

Pastor Ed Rogers, South Parkersburg Baptist Church,
Parkersburg, West Virginia



For more information:

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A Cool Summer Experience, a ministry of First Baptist Church, Waukegan, IL, is a faith-based program that targets 4th-5th graders at serious risk. They match outdoor experiential learning with rigorous content, imparting a sense of spirituality and of awe of the mysteries of creation.



*“Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing
of your minds.” Romans 12:2a*



American Baptists are much more than our name implies. We have historically been risk takers in our country and in the international community. We have led the way in religious liberty, missions, social justice, racial equality and women’s rights. Today we are reclaiming our heritage as pioneers as we begin a new journey to rediscover the authority of the Scripture, to listen to the voice of the Spirit and to be reshaped by our participation in God’s mission.



Co-Pastor Vanessa Ward, Omega Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio, helped to take the congregation out into the community including work with youth in crisis, a VA hospice, and a women’s shelter.



Working as the hands and feet of Christ, Roy Medley gives aid to refugees in Malaysia, Thailand, and Burma.



Habitat for Humanity workshop showing us how to be the hands and feet of Christ in our own communities

American Baptists have been called by God to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world in new and powerful ministries. Yet we need to make “adaptive changes,” changes that are in response to a changed environment, changes that embrace the transformative work of the Spirit in the life of the church.

The Transformed by the Spirit discernment process asks 1) What is God up to in our community? and 2) How do we follow where the Spirit is leading? Together we will:

- Rediscover what it means to live as covenanted communities of disciples
- Commit ourselves to biblical literacy that lives deep within our communities and our lives
- Focus on discipleship that include spiritual practices that foster love of God and neighbor
- Become engaged in ministry to local communities with acts of compassion, service, justice and evangelism
- Dedicate ourselves to service beyond our own communities that includes earth-tending, interfaith relations, and response to world-wide mass migrations.

We invite you – every ABCUSA participant and member, every ABCUSA pastor and congregation, every ABCUSA regional minister and staff, every ABCUSA organization and staff – to join together in this process of discernment. We are a diverse denomination, and believe that in our diversity lies a great gift – a gift to see more clearly through the eyes of the “other” the future God has in store for us.

We invite everyone who believes in what American Baptist Churches USA represents and what we can become to join in this journey. We seek visionary individuals who understand the need for adaptive change and are able to provide support. Please join us.