



# Regional Ministry

## In the American Baptist Churches, USA

Orientation to American Baptist Life  
January 6–9, 2014

Regions emerged as a result  
of the Baptist principle of  
*associationalism*



The  
Philadelphia  
Baptist  
Association  
(organized in  
1707) was the  
first Baptist  
association in  
the USA.

A  
CONFESSIO  
N  
O F  
F A I T H,

Put forth by the  
*Elders and Brethren*  
Of many  
CONGREGATIONS  
O F  
*C H R I S T I A N S*  
(Baptized upon Profession of their Faith)  
In *London* and the *Country*.

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*Adopted by the Baptist Association*  
*met at Philadelphia, Sept. 25. 1742.*

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The SIXTH EDITION.

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To which are added,  
Two Articles *viz.* Of Imposition of Hands,  
and Singing of Psalms in Publick Worship.

Also  
A Short Treatise of Church Discipline.

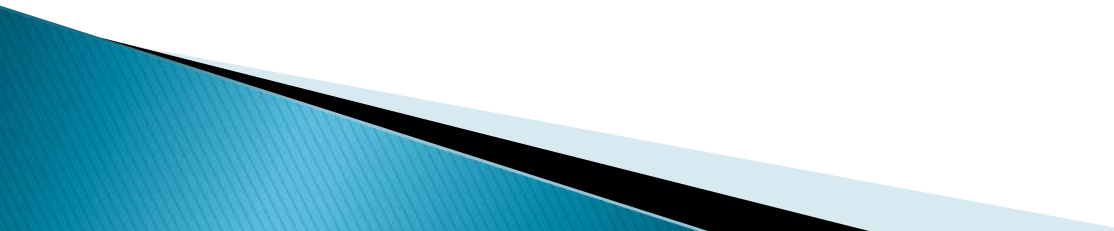
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*With the Heart Man believeth unto Righteousness, and with the*  
*Mouth Confession is made unto Salvation, Rom. 10. 10.*  
*Search the Scriptures, John 5. 39.*

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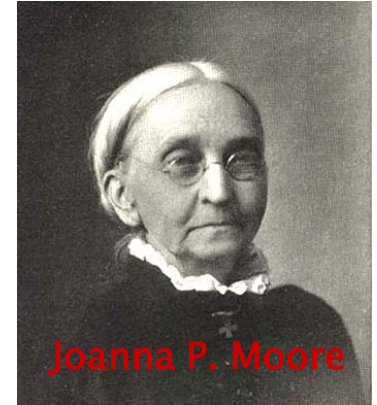
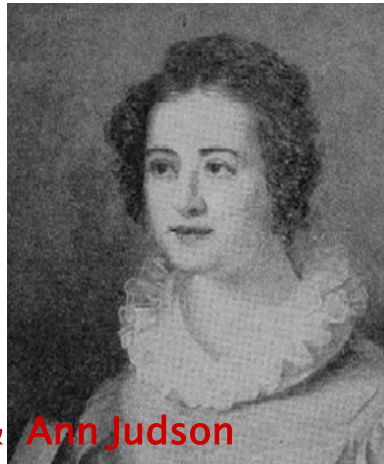
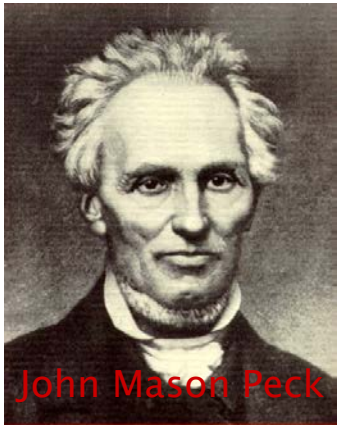
PHILADELPHIA: Printed by B. FRANKLIN.  
M,DCC,XLIII.

# The concerns of the earliest Baptist associations included:

- Fellowship and mutual encouragement
  - Clergy character and training
  - Internal church disputes
  - Theology and doctrine
  - Moral issues
  - Church Discipline
- 



# Later evangelism and mission became the driving forces to connect our associations of Baptist churches



Baptist associations began banding together to create larger groupings—typically state conventions.



# Concerns for greater organization and cooperation arose



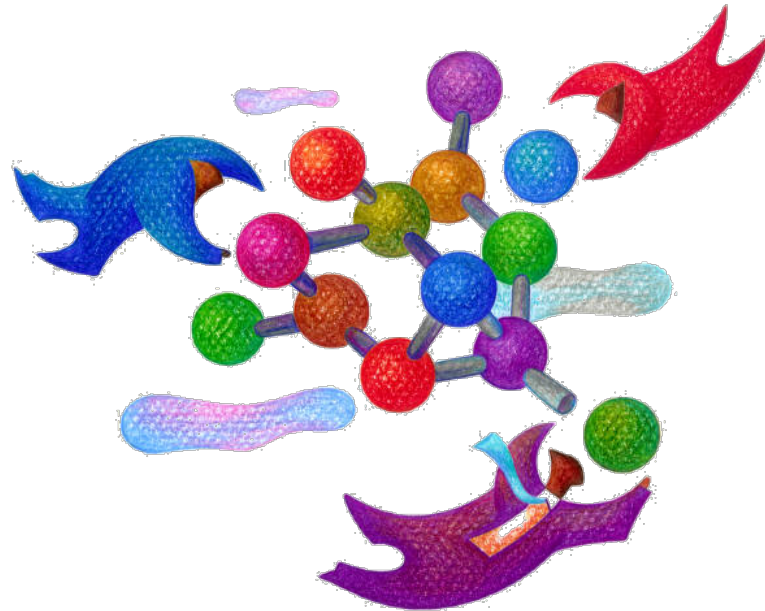
1961 SAAR

1972 SCODS

1976 SCOR

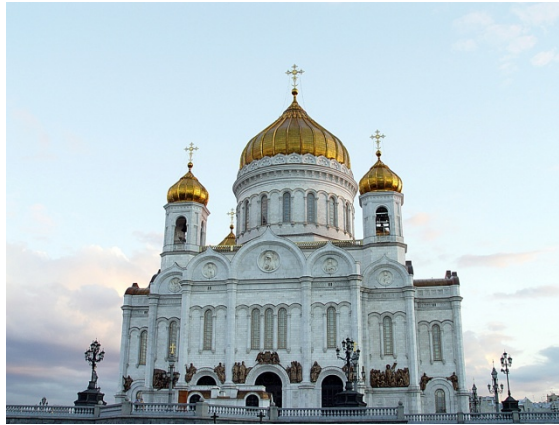
2011 Present

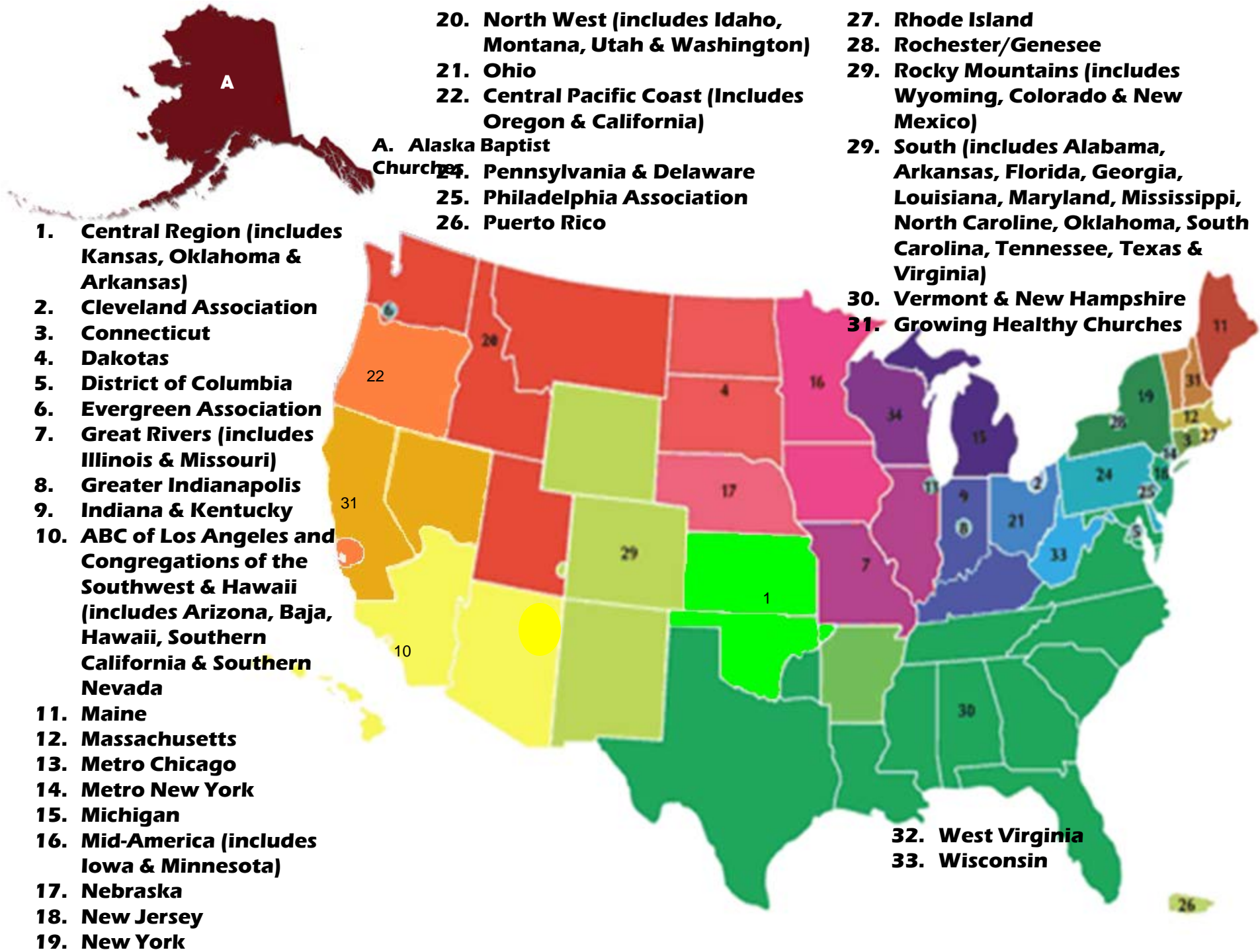
Today the 33 Regions, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, American Baptist International Ministries, Ministers & Missionaries Benefit Board and the Board of General Ministries are bound together by Covenants of Relationships





In the ecumenical world, American Baptist regions function like “middle judicatories”



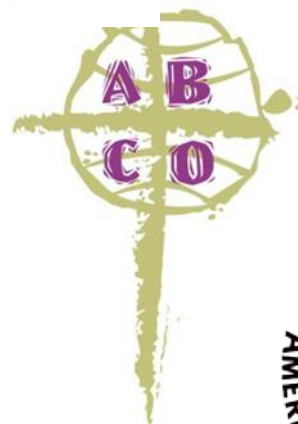




The mission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention is to **empower** local churches to be Christ honoring communities of faith and to help them fulfill their mission by **enabling** them to do together what they cannot do alone.



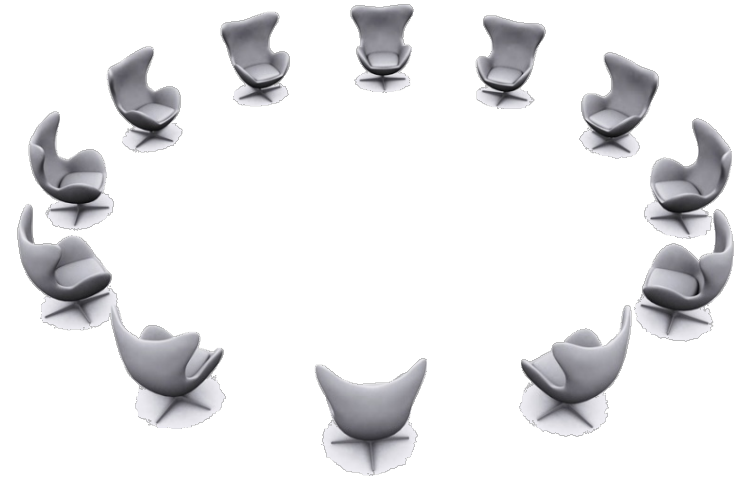
American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles and Congregations of the Southwest & Hawaii







# Regional Executive Ministers Council (REMC)



- **Attend to spiritual care**
- **Exercise leadership**
- **Promote fellowship**
- **Sharpen skills**
- **Conduct necessary business**



# Covenantal responsibilities of Regions



- Membership of churches
- Clergy credentials
- Promotion of ABC mission and institutions

# Regions working for churches



# Regions working for churches

## *Pastoral Search Assistance*



Personal Profile - Associate Single Churches

NAME AND ADDRESS  
Doe, John  
1234 N. 5th  
Anytown, KS

APPLYING FOR: PASTORAL SEARCH ASSISTANCE

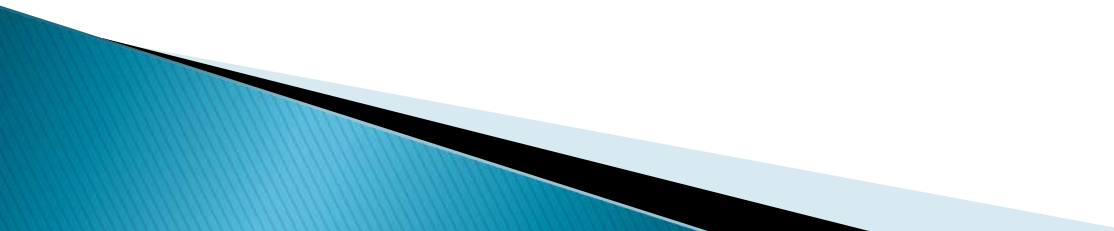
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE  
Pastor: ABC CHURCH, 1980-1985  
Pastor: DEF CHURCH, 1986-1990  
Pastor: GHI CHURCH, 1991-1995  
Pastor: JKL CHURCH, 1996-2000  
Pastor: MNO CHURCH, 2001-2005  
Pastor: PQR CHURCH, 2006-2010  
Pastor: STU CHURCH, 2011-2015  
Pastor: VWX CHURCH, 2016-2020  
Pastor: YZ CHURCH, 2021-Present

EDUCATION  
Bachelor of Divinity, 1980  
Master of Divinity, 1985  
Master of Theology, 1990  
Doctor of Ministry, 1995  
Doctor of Theology, 2000  
Doctor of Ministry, 2005  
Doctor of Theology, 2010  
Doctor of Ministry, 2015  
Doctor of Theology, 2020  
Doctor of Ministry, 2025

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- ❖ Pastoral Search Committee Training
  - ❖ “Church Reflections” resources
  - ❖ ABPS Profile resources
  - ❖ Regions make sure our churches do not have to walk alone in the discernment process
    - @ Region Staff Support
    - @ Interim Ministry
- 



# Regions working for churches

## *Healthy congregation- pastor relationships*





# Regions working for churches

## *Clergy Advocacy*



# Regions working for churches

## *Pastoral Continuing Education*



PRAIRIE PASTORS  
CONFERENCE

# Regions working for churches



## *Peer Group Connections*





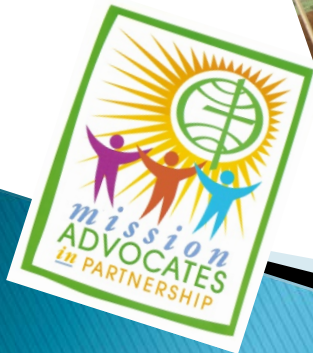
# Regions working for churches

***Congregational consultation  
for health and vitality***



# Regions working for churches

***Mission education & hands-on opportunities for service***





# Regions working for churches

***Conferences, events, and services***



# Regions working for churches

***“Family reunions” or Annual Gatherings***



# Regions working for churches

***Communication conduit***





# Regions working for churches

## *Special occasions*



# Regions working for churches

## *Care in times of crisis*





# Regions working for churches

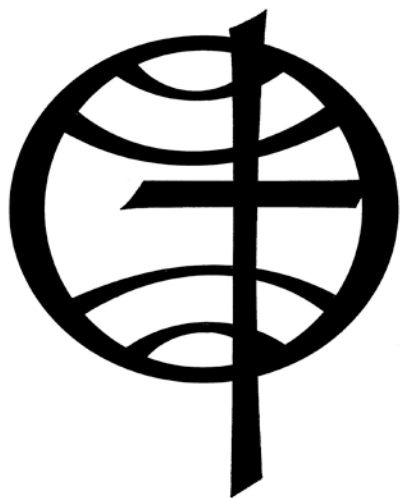
## *Organizational hub*

*ABWM, ABMen, ABY, Ministers Council,  
Clergy Spouses*



Join us in  
the effort to  
extend  
ministerial  
excellence





# Regional Ministry

A partner in working for the Kingdom of God