

CHURCH MISSION SUPPORT

Along with your other support, please consider giving to United Mission. It is through United Mission, our one family offering, that each giver is able to participate in the *total ministry* of our American Baptist family.



CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any additional questions, you may contact your region or national staff:

1. **Regional Office:** To get the telephone number of your region, go to the ABCUSA website and click on Ministries/Regional Ministries and then click on the map.

2. **National Office:**

Email ABCISTeam@abc-usa.org, or call

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American Baptist Churches Information Systems

(ABCIS) Annual Report

What is Annual Report?

Annual Report is a tool used to collect information from each ABC church. Filling out this report helps keep the data current for each church within the denomination. This information is used collectively throughout the denomination in a variety of ways to support the work of American Baptist Churches.

A photograph of the 2015 ABCIS Annual Report form. The form is titled '2015 Annual Report' and includes various sections for church information, membership data, and financial information. It is dated 'March 31, 2016' and includes instructions for completion.

Overview – The information from Annual Report is used to:

1. Update the main ABCIS database with accurate information, including contacts, regional affiliation, current professional staff, membership, Worship Service attendance and financial data;
2. Generate the number of delegates for each church – delegates vote on issues at the Biennial Mission Summit;
3. Provide each church with proof of affiliation with ABC in the event of legal concerns: 501(c)(3);
4. Provide proof of total membership and ethnic diversity;
5. Provide accurate contact information that is fed into the *Find A Church* application;
6. Generate all kinds of denominational statistics and reports; and
7. Generate mailings.

(Details inside)

1. ACCURATE CONTACT INFORMATION

It is important that each ABC church provides accurate and current contact information, such as location and mailing addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. It is equally important that the churches provide their membership and financial data.

2. DELEGATES AT THE BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

ABC churches have voting rights at the Biennial Mission Summit. The number of delegates assigned to each church is based on the membership figures received through the Annual Reports.

3. 501(c)(3)

When a church provides their EIN and completes an application, ABC may add them under the Group Tax Exemption.

This becomes proof of affiliation with ABC and is often used in one form of legal concerns. It may also be needed for grants, donations, special purchases, etc.



4. PROOF OF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

The church membership counts are necessary to tabulate the total membership and ethnic counts. The final results help support the fact that American Baptist Churches USA is one of the most ethnically diverse Baptist denominations in the United States.

5. FIND A CHURCH APPLICATION

Every active ABC church becomes a part of the *Find A Church* application that is available through the ABCUSA website. This application allows people to find an ABC church based on state and city or by zip code and radius combinations.

When the resulting church list is displayed on your computer, tablet or smartphone, you may then click on a church's website to see its contact information, times of services, etc.

This is very useful when a person is new to an area or on vacation or business.



6. DENOMINATIONAL STATISTICS AND REPORTS

Every year, summarized statistics are generated and sent to several religious research organizations, where they are included in publications that show the latest religious trends in America. Every ABC church should be included in these summarized statistics so that the denomination is accurately reported.

Another benefit of reporting complete membership is that ABC earns more delegates and has a greater voice with worldwide ecumenical partners like the Baptist World Alliance (BWA).

Church profiles and a variety of financial reports may also be generated for ABC churches.

7. MAILINGS

ABC churches receive all kinds of mailings from their region and the national offices, including offering materials, newsletters, information on various ministries and programs, invitations to and reminders for upcoming events and more.