

## **AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA ASSOCIATED MINISTRY ORGANIZATION**

While most people are aware ABCUSA includes The Office of the General Secretary, the Ministers and Missionaries Benefits Board, International Ministries and the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. But did you know there is another segment of our denominational family that provides breadth and depth to our Baptist Identity?

Associated Ministry Organizations (AMO's) are organizations that have been granted AMO status by the Board of General Ministries. This status allows the organization to use the name "American Baptist," claim American Baptist status and use the American Baptist logo.

AMO's must be a national or sectional American Baptist or other religious organization that indicates its willingness: to support the statement of purpose in the Bylaws of ABCUSA, to cooperate whole-heartedly in such relationships and projects at all levels of denominational life which seem advisable, and to be identified as an organization related to and participating in the life of ABCUSA by use of name and/or logo." Though autonomous organizations, AMO's share in the ministry of God under the name of ABCUSA, strengthening and extending our reach into the world.

Several of the current AMO's prepared statements for the 2021 OTABL participants. An asterick following the name of an AMO connotes the inclusion of a report. If you are interesting in learning more about any of the AMO's, please go to, <https://www.abc-usa.org/how-we-serve/all-abc-ministries/>

- American Baptist Assembly
- American Baptist Historical Society
- American Baptist Men\*
- American Baptist Women's Ministries\*
- Chin Baptist Churches USA
- Green Lace Conference Center
- Kachin American Baptist Association
- Kachin Baptist Churches USA\*
- Karen Baptist Churches USA
- Ministers Council\*
- Rainbow Acres\*
- The Center for Career Development and Ministry
- The Center for Ministry
- The Midwest Ministry Development Service

# ABMEN USA PRESIDENT MINISTRY REPORT

## Greetings

- It is a great time to be an American Baptist Man and I bring you greetings from MEN all over the country.
- I am so encouraged to share just a few highlights of our National ministry and the work of so many men.

## A Brief History

- Following the 1<sup>st</sup> world war, in 1918, the Northern Baptist Convention contacted an *ad hoc* group of men and asked them to raise 1,000,000.00 dollars for its Mission Budget. Successful in their efforts, less than a year later they were asked to raise 6,000,000.00 dollars more representing the entire Missionary Budget for 1919. Again they were successful.
- This *ad hoc* group of men believed there was a stirring in men following the war. That the men were looking for a way out of the pews and into the mission fields. And in 1922 they ultimately organized what we today, some 99 years later, known as American Baptist Men USA.
- ABMen USA in cooperation with other members of the American Baptist USA family, seek to encourage men to develop a vital relationship with Jesus Christ and to fulfill their mission to men.

## Purpose of ABM USA

- **To strengthen the spiritual life of men through shared fellowship, caring, study and prayer.**
- And we try to encourage this through efforts including;  
Assisting with the creation and training of service programs and projects that

utilize men's spiritual gifts in ministry.

Encouraging men to yoke with their Pastors in shared ministry

Help develop and train basic skills that men can use in their ministries.

To encourage and strengthen the roles and identities of a Christian man in today's world.

## Ministry Mission Review

Last year was a very challenging year. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic caused us to postpone our scheduled mission projects; we well as in-person meetings and conferences. However, ABMen throughout the nation remained steadfast in their commitment to mission and ministry of ABMen by conducting virtual conferences, prayer breakfasts, Bible studies, etc. In addition, ABMen focused on local and regional projects that fell within the pandemic travel and other restrictions.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, ABMen were able to provide a limited disaster relief response to the flooding in Lake Charles, Louisiana; as well as assist a homeless community in Wheeling, West Virginia through the use of our shower and laundry trailer.

Finally, 2020 culminated in a virtual ABMen National Conference held in December.

### **What Lies Ahead**

In 2021 we have once again scheduled those work projects that were postponed in 2020. These include a fall work project at the Green Lake Conference Center; as well as an extensive rebuilding project at Crow Community Baptist Church in Crow Agency, Montana.

### **We Can Do More Through Your Support**

- Our mission is rock solid - but as with most, our ministries are volunteer ministries and generally what we do is funded by the men doing the work themselves, men who use vacation time, their own personal tools, resources and money to serve as the hands and feet of Christ.
- And we do rely on the prayers and support of annual gifts to our ***ABMen USA Key Contributor Campaign*** and our ***ABMen Faithfull Servant Endowment Fund*** (American Baptist Foundation) to provide many of the resources needed to maintain these important ministries. Please ask any of our national board members for more information on either of these two opportunities to support our ministry of mission.

*May we always be up to HIS challenge,*

*American Baptist Men USA*

*Bill Morningstar Bob Slechta President Executive Director*

# MINISTERS COUNCIL



The Ministers Council of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.  
Founded 1935

## Mission Statement

The Ministers Council is an autonomous, professional, multi-cultural organization of ordained, commissioned and lay Christian leaders within the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. We are women and men who advocate for and covenant with each other to deepen our spiritual journey and to increase our effectiveness as persons who are accepting the call of God and the church for the advancement of the Gospel mission of the church of Jesus Christ and to proclaim His truth in a prophetic voice as led by the Holy Spirit.

## Purpose

The purpose of this body is to build up the church of Jesus Christ by sustaining and improving the ministerial leadership of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. Rooted in the core values of Collegiality, Centeredness and Competence, the Ministers Council seeks to achieve this purpose by:

- a. Establishing and maintaining professional and ethical standards of the Christian ministry;
- b. Supporting members of this body and advocating for them in their professional associations;
- c. Interpreting the appropriate roles of ministerial leadership to the constituent parts of our denomination and to local American Baptist Churches;
- d. Encouraging the recruitment and nurture of candidates for various church vocations,
- e. Providing a means for expression and debate by members on issues that affect the professional leadership of the American Baptist Churches.
- f. Cooperating with other facets of the American Baptist Churches in matters of mutual interest and concern, including:
  1. Standards for ordination or other ministerial status
  2. Recruitment
  3. Search and Call
  4. Compensation
  5. Continuing Education
  6. Counseling and Spiritual Direction

## THE MINISTERS COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

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Westchester, PA 19382  
[www.ministerscouncil.com](http://www.ministerscouncil.com)  
[info@ministerscouncil.com](mailto:info@ministerscouncil.com)  
610-314-7837

*Find us on Facebook and MinistrElife!*

Rev. Dr. Randolph T. Miller  
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Rev. Jacki Belile  
Vice President of the Leadership Team  
[jacki@livingwellministries.net](mailto:jacki@livingwellministries.net)

Primary Staff: Program Administrator (part-time position beginning May, 2021)

### Other Information:

The Ministers Council ABCUSA is governed an eight-person Leadership Team elected by representatives from local and regional chapters (approximately 25 currently). Our present primary programs include:

- “MC Live” a monthly virtual gathering of clergy for learning and fellowship.
- Together in Ministry (TIM) Clergy Groups – small grants for collegial groups.
- Excellence in Ministry Chapter Grants - financial support for local chapter-sponsored retreats, conferences and/or seminars.
- The Covenant and Code of Ethics is a document developed by the MC ABCUSA that articulates professional standards for ministry and maintaining ordination standing in ABC life.

The priorities and programs of local chapters vary and are shaped by the needs of the local ABC clergy. Connect with your local chapter representative or visit [www.ministerscouncil.com](http://www.ministerscouncil.com) for further information.

## AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

1. **Name of Associated Ministry Organization**

American Baptist Women's Ministries

2. **Date Founded**

1951

3. **Mission and Vision**

Mission: AB Women's Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God.

Vision: Every American Baptist church shall have a vital women's ministry program that empowers women and girls to become and develop as God's person, build God's faith community, and serve God's world.

4. **Contact information –**

American Baptist Women's Ministries  
1075 First Ave STE C-210  
King of Prussia, PA 19438  
[info@abwomensministries.org](mailto:info@abwomensministries.org)  
[www.abwomensministries.org](http://www.abwomensministries.org)  
(610) 768-2288

5. **Primary Staff: Name, title and contact information**

Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain

Executive Director  
[Gina.Jacobs-Strain@abwomensministries.org](mailto:Gina.Jacobs-Strain@abwomensministries.org)  
(610) 768-2284

Wendy Clemmer  
Project/Business Manager  
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(610) 768-2288

6. **Information important to the knowledge base of pastors new to ABCUSA and seminarians.**

American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) creates and sustains communities of passionately faithful, Christ-centered women, young adult women, and girls. ABWM encourages and empowers women, young adult women, and girls to be God's witnesses and leaders in our communities. Together

we engage in ministries, worship, service, leadership, and friendship. Our intergenerational ministries enable women and girls to connect within their peer groups while being encouraged and affirmed by mentors and prayer partners. ABWM's mission is activated through our innovative and relevant programming, workshops, retreats, camps, and conferences. During Women's History Month, Iron Sharpens Iron (ISI) Table Talk invited leaders, partners, and friends, to share an ISI experience and advice.

ABWM's mission is focused on several critical core issues that impact women and girls: immigration, cross-cultural relationships, building beloved community, economic empowerment, prevention and education of domestic violence and sex trafficking, and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2030). ABWM often collaborates with regional and national partners within the American Baptist family and local and regional community partners to achieve its mission.

Please visit our website at [www.abwomensministries.org](http://www.abwomensministries.org) to learn more about American Baptist Women's Ministries.

## **KACHIN AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION (KABA)**

**Date Founded:** June 21, 2014

**Mission and Vision:** KABA seeks to promote the Christian missions at home and abroad encompassing, such areas as sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ, Christian education, and charitable and development services, which it may deem proper and advisable for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God.

**Vision Statement:** Whereas proclaiming and living out the Good News of Jesus Christ under the direction of the power of the Holy Spirit, KABA seeks to create a bond of unity among the Kachin Americans of common confession of faith in Jesus Christ, to support, encourage, and strengthen one another.

### **Vision Calls:**

1. KABA calls for renewal in Christian unity, worship, mission, and charitable and development services.
2. KABA calls its member churches to engage in the ministry of Christian education, charitable work, and development services, which it may deem proper and advisable for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God without neglecting the basic mission of the church, namely evangelism and practicing Christian living in the unity of the love of God.
3. KABA calls its member churches to support and encourage one another to have the type of unity where there is unity in diversity, so that the Kachin people of Baptist faith can offer a united encouragement to the ministry of the local churches and to participate in the local and global mission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Mission Statement:** KABA seeks to build the unity of Kachin Baptist Churches in the USA, making every effort to work together in one body under the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the bond of peace. As a result, it may be able to promote more effectively the spiritual fellowship, service, cooperation, networking, and partnership among its member churches and other churches at home and abroad.

4. **Contact information:** 3264 Townsend Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32277

### 5. **Primary Staff:**

Rev. Tu Lum Lamung

Executive Minister

Tel: (904) 612-1054

Email: [lamung23@gmail.com](mailto:lamung23@gmail.com)

Address: 1678 Spring Branch Dr. E

Jacksonville, FL 32221

## **Rainbow Acres**

2120 W Reservation Loop Road  
Camp Verde, AZ 86322  
928-567-5231

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Rainbow Acres, a Christian Community with heart, empowers persons with developmental disabilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose.

### **VISION STATEMENT FOR RAINBOW ACRES**

The Vision of Rainbow Acres is to be a model of Christian Community based upon unconditional love, excellence in care and life-long program and service to persons with developmental disabilities, their families and persons with critical needs, while maintaining a strong position of financial support.

### **CORE VALUES FOR PERSONS WE SERVE**

#### **MINISTRY**

We honor the Christian principles on which Rainbow Acres was founded, that all people are created in God's image worthy of dignity and respect.

#### **INDIVIDUALITY**

We respond to each individual's preferences to meet the ever-changing needs of those we serve.

#### **DIGNITY**

We treat everyone with respect, patience and unconditional love.

#### **DIVERSITY**

We encourage freedom of choice by offering diverse programs and opportunities for growth, to thrive and discover one's purpose in life.

#### **QUALITY**

We prepare ourselves to serve as professional staff to serve the individual and his/her families knowledgeable of their unique developmental needs.

#### **SIMPLICITY**

We value communication, common sense and simplicity.

Founded by Reverend Ralph D. Showers, an accomplished American Baptist pastor, in 1974, Rainbow Acres is a Christian Assisted Living organization that provides housing, life enriching programs and care using principles of the Golden Rule. Residents, known as Ranchers, live in one of several housing options on the 50-acre campus, and participate in various activities, vocational training, and volunteerism on campus and in the local community. Rainbow Acres provides freedom of choice combined with opportunities for growth in a community that is welcoming and inclusive of individuals of all faiths. Please visit the Rainbow

Acres webpage: [rainbowacres.com](http://rainbowacres.com)

Rainbow Acres is the only remaining residential community and ministry actively engaged within the American Baptist Churches of the USA.

Contact Information:

Gary W. Wagner, President & CEO

Susan Hall, Director of Legacy Planning

Dawn Jones, Donor Relations and Volunteer Coordinator

Paul Higgins, Chief Financial Officer

(All are lifelong American Baptists)

Rainbow Acres is supported by American Baptist Churches across the United States with Volunteer Individuals and Teams, referrals of prospective Ranchers, and with women and men who are gifted leaders. We seek to be the hands, feet and voice of Jesus for the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Rainbow  
Acres

Rainbow Acres  
2120 W Reservation Loop Road  
Camp Verde, AZ 86322

All across the Ranch, there is renewed hope that the COVID 19 pandemic is behind us! We look forward to a brighter future in the Promises of God.

Heroic employees in action and prayer implemented every possible precaution to “stop the virus at the gate!” Despite our best efforts and CDC precautions, Rainbow Acres had nine cases of COVID among the Ranchers. However, the symptoms were mild! No one was hospitalized.

We were blessed with the highest levels of cooperation from Rancher Families. We Celebrated Christmas in the midst of the pandemic with Chaplain Mitch Koonce reading the Christmas Story over our Rainbow radio station KOTR; mountains of gifts under the Christmas Tree on Christmas Morning and a traditional Christmas Dinner for over 80 Ranchers and their Caregivers.

The Rainbow Acres Academy Team maintained quality educational and enrichment activities as the precautions increased and Ranchers remained confined to their homes. The Academy Team modified their teaching approaches four or five times to help everyone through that stressful time.

The Ranchers’ attitudes and acceptance of the precautionary measures were beyond our expectations. When the COVID vaccine became available in Arizona, the Ranchers were patiently waiting for Rainbow’s turn to host a Vaccination Clinic. Over 89 percent of the Ranchers completed the vaccination process. They also have a 99 percent participation with the Seasonal Flu Vaccination.

Rancher life has nearly returned to familiar activities; Academy Classes of 12-15 Ranchers per class session, nearly perfect attendance in 33 different Classes and Arts & Crafts. Ranchers are returning to employment opportunities on Ranch and in Sedona and the Verde Valley where safety practices are in place. Most important of all, they are enjoying being outdoors and walking Hoover Circle with their friends.

Other good news since our last report includes, the completion of the new covered patio at the Worden Taber Center that provides the Ranchers a pleasant fresh air gathering place. Prayer Circle and Sunday Worship are held on this patio. Attendance is the highest since COVID.

The Greenhouses yielded nearly 7,000 pounds of fresh produce for use in the Palmer Center Kitchen, with plenty to share with Senior Centers in Sedona and the Verde Valley. An automated irrigation system has been installed in the outdoor garden to increase production and efficiency of water.

We are in the midst of planning for renovation of Frese House, now 20 years old to improve the comfort for the Ranchers and more efficient utilization of energy.

There is always excitement with the arrival of new Ranchers, several admissions are pending for this summer.