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**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA
MISSION IMPACT REPORT**

24

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Remarks from the President of ABCUSA



Risk Love: Reflections on 2024

by Rev. Nikita G. McCalister, President

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” —Matthew 28:19-20

The year 2024 for me was marked by connection, witness, and hope across our American Baptist family. Since my term as President began on January 1, 2024, I have been intentional about gathering and sharing our “God Stories”—testimonies that point to the Spirit’s movement in our midst. These encounters have continually reminded me of our core identity as a people “United in Christ, Together in Mission.” Much of my work this year has centered on visiting and encouraging our congregations and regions. I have had the privilege of preaching or bringing greetings in more than thirty local churches in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New York, and beyond. Each setting has offered a glimpse into the vitality of our ministries, the diversity of our contexts, and the unity we share in Christ.

Regionally, I joined gatherings across the country, from Puerto Rico to Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Metro New York. I was grateful to worship alongside pastors and leaders, to hear their hopes and challenges, and to affirm the covenant ties that bind us together. These visits also provided opportunities to strengthen relationships with members of our Board of General Ministries, deepening our shared leadership for the mission of ABCUSA.

Beyond our local and regional contexts, I have represented our family in national and ecumenical spaces, including the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board RE-THINK RE-INVEST Financial Conference, the National Leadership Council, American Baptist Home Mission Societies' Space for Grace, The Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, American Baptist Women's Ministries' events (nationally, regionally, and locally), the North American Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist World Alliance Annual Gathering held in Nigeria, Africa. In each space, I was reminded of the gift we bring to the wider body of Christ through our cherished diversity—racially, ethnically, and theologically.

In 2024, I carried the theme **“risk love.”** I believe that in moments when our differences feel wide, Christ calls us to lean even more deeply into love—an incarnational, unconditional love that transforms hearts and minds. As American Baptists, may we continue to risk love, embody unity, and live faithfully in mission together.

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Nikita McCalister
President, American Baptist Churches USA

Remarks from the General Secretary of ABCUSA



A Year of Grace, Growth, and Gratitude: Reflecting on 2024

by Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain, General Secretary

As I reflect upon the year 2024, my heart overflows with deep gratitude and abiding joy. On February 1, 2024, I humbly began my tenure as General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA. The outpouring of love, prayers, and encouragement from our American Baptist family has been both humbling and inspiring. That sacred day marked not only the beginning of a new chapter in my ministry but also the continuation of a shared journey of faith, hope, and service—a year abundant with God’s blessings, meaningful engagement, and treasured memories.

Throughout 2024, as I traveled across our regions and gathered with clergy, lay leaders, and congregations, I was continually reminded of the steadfast faith, boundless generosity, and unyielding commitment of our denomination. Everywhere I went, I witnessed the unmistakable movement of God among us—guiding, sustaining, and renewing our fellowship as we serve together as the hands and feet of Christ.

For the first time, ABCUSA staff joined regional partners at annual and biannual gatherings, conferences, and special events, deepening relationships and strengthening our collective witness. In the spirit of ecumenical relationships, President Nikita McCalister and I were blessed to represent American Baptist Churches USA at the 23rd Baptist World Congress of the Baptist World Alliance in Lagos, Nigeria.

It was a profound honor to share in worship with believers from around the globe and to proclaim God's Word during the preaching symposium. Alongside General Secretary Emeritus Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley and our faithful team, we also continued our ministry through the Burma Advocacy Group and joyfully participated in the 10th Anniversary of the Kachin Baptist Convention.

The year was filled with moments of sacred significance and joyful celebration. I was privileged to speak at the opening of the MMBB Financial Conference, to preach at the Space for Grace & Spiritual Caregivers Conference, and to host our first Open House at the ABCUSA offices in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Welcoming friends, colleagues, and partners into our denominational home was a tangible reminder of the unity and hospitality that define us as a family of faith. We look forward with great anticipation to continuing such gatherings in 2025.

I also give thanks for new initiatives that strengthened our shared ministry. Among them were the launch of our October Webinar Series on Domestic Violence Education and Awareness and Wellness and the Everyday ABC Conversations series focusing on Harmony—a theme that continues to guide our spiritual reflection and collective work. Our Communications team expanded to include a videography and social media ministry, enhancing how we share stories of God's movement among us. We also opened registration for the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit and began connecting with seminary students through Engage, ensuring that the next generation of leaders is nurtured and encouraged.

Throughout this year of grace, I was blessed to join in clergy installations, church anniversaries, and milestone celebrations. In June 2024, I was formally installed as General Secretary at the Federated Church of Green Lake in Green Lake, Wisconsin—an American Baptist congregation rich in history and faith. Surrounded by colleagues in ministry, directors of the Board of General Ministries, friends, family, and church members, we gathered in worship, praise, and thanksgiving to celebrate the generous Spirit of God at work in and through our denomination. It was a holy moment—a reminder that when the people of God unite in purpose and harmony, there is no limit to what the Spirit can accomplish among us.

I remain profoundly aware of the sacred responsibility entrusted to me in this calling. With God’s help, I am committed to faithfully fulfilling the mission of the Office of the General Secretary—to gather our denominational family in unity; to support our clergy, congregations, regions, and national partners; to nurture our ecumenical relationships; and to create spaces for prayerful dialogue and shared discernment.

Above all, I seek to lead with humility, compassion, and unwavering faith in the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

As I look forward to the journey ahead, I am reminded of the words of 1 Peter 4:11:

“If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

With hearts full of gratitude and spirits lifted by hope, let us look back with thanksgiving and lean forward with holy anticipation. Thank you, American Baptist family, for an extraordinary year of ministry, fellowship, and faithfulness. I look toward 2025 with joy and humility, confident that the God who has begun a good work in us will bring it to completion.

Together, let us continue to encourage one another, engage in the good work of ministry, and gather joyfully in the name of Jesus Christ—our source, our strength, and our peace.



Top 100 United Mission Giving Churches - 2024

The American Baptist Churches USA Office of the General Secretary is pleased to recognize and celebrate the Top 100 United Mission Giving Churches of 2024. These congregations have demonstrated exceptional commitment to shared ministry through their faithful support of United Mission—sustaining the vital work of American Baptists across our regions, national partners, and global mission efforts. We extend heartfelt gratitude for their generosity, partnership, and dedication to advancing the mission of Christ together.

Primera Iglesia Bautista, Carolina, PR
North Shore Baptist Church, Chicago, IL
New Community Church, Menlo Park, CA
Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, Huntington, WV
New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, Renton, WA
United Church, Canandaigua, NY
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Palmer, PR
First Baptist Church, Topeka, KS
First Baptist Church, Seattle, WA
Calvary Baptist Church, Newark, DE
Brewster Baptist Church, Brewster, MA
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Caguas, PR
First Baptist Church, Madison, IN
The Riverside Church, New York, NY
First Baptist Church, Chanute, KS
First Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN
Chesterfield Baptist Church, Chesterfield, NJ
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Yauco, PR
First Baptist Church, McLouth, KS
First Baptist Church, Manhattan, KS
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Juncos, PR
First Baptist Church, Ottawa, IL
First Baptist Church of Greater Des Moines, Johnston, IA
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Canóvanas, PR
First Baptist Church, West Hartford, CT
Prairie Baptist Church, Prairie Village, KS
Central Baptist Church, Hartford, CT
First Baptist Church, Woodstown, NJ
First Baptist Church, Mattoon, IL

Top 100 United Mission Giving Churches - 2024

Iglesia Bautista de Mamey, Gurabo, PR
Iglesia Bautista de Luquillo Mar, Luquillo, PR
First Baptist Church, McPherson, KS
West Shore Baptist Church, Camp Hill, PA
Wakefield Baptist Church, Wakefield, RI
First Baptist Church, Salina, KS
Oak Hill Baptist Church, Oak Hill, WV
First Baptist Church, Ames, IA
Iglesia Bautista de Jerusalén, Luquillo, PR
First Baptist Church, Redlands, CA
Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Hill, WV
First Baptist Church, Bloomfield, IN
Iglesia Bautista de Humacao, Humacao, PR
Primera Iglesia Bautista de Rio Piedras, San Juan, PR
First Baptist Church, Rainelle, WV
First Baptist Church, McMinnville, OR
First Baptist Church, Portland, OR
First Baptist Church, Emporia, KS
First Baptist Church, Carrollton, IL
Tabernacle Baptist Church, Utica, NY
Central Baptist Church, Wayne, PA
First Baptist Church, Warren, IN
Iglesia Bautista de Puerto Nuevo, Puerto Nuevo, PR
Madison Baptist Church, Madison, WV
Bethel Baptist Church, Powers Lake, ND
Charleston Baptist Temple, Charleston, WV
Benson Baptist Church, Omaha, NE
University Heights Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
First Baptist Church, Fairfield, IA
Trinity Baptist Church, Bronx, NY
First Baptist Church, Fremont, NE
Iglesia Bautista Bethel, Rio Grande, PR
Iglesia Bautista de Barrazas, Carolina, PR
First Baptist Church, Plainfield, IN
First Baptist Church, Greenville, IL

Top 100 United Mission Giving Churches - 2024

Iglesia Bautista de Hato Nuevo, Gurabo, PR
Selma Baptist Church, Festus, MO
Tuxedo Park Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN
Iglesia Bautista de Metropolis, Carolina, PR
First Baptist Church, Hays, KS
First Baptist Church, Pella, IA
Noank Baptist Church, Groton, CT
First Marion Baptist Church, Commiskey, IN
First Baptist Church, New Martinsville, WV
Friendship Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY
Niantic Baptist Church, Niantic, CT
Arthur Baptist Church, Arthur, NE
Lake Avenue Baptist Church, Rochester, NY
First Baptist Church, Atchison, KS
First Baptist Church, Horton, KS
First Baptist Church, Dover, DE
First Baptist Church, West Allis, WI
Westover Baptist Church, Des Moines, IA
Second Baptist Church, Suffield, CT
First Baptist Church in America, Providence, RI
Union Baptist Church, Mystic, CT
First Baptist Church, Beverly, MA
First Baptist Church, Sistersville, WV
Iglesia Bautista de Las Cruces, Caguas, PR
First Baptist Church, Chadron, NE
Madison Avenue Baptist Church, New York, NY
First Baptist Church, Washington, IN
Trinity Baptist Church, Canton, OH
Iglesia Bautista de Country Club, San Juan, PR
Iglesia Bautista Luz del Mundo, Quebrada Grande Trujillo Alto, PR
First Baptist Church, Paola, KS
Iglesia Bautista de Aguas Buenas, Aguas Buenas, PR
First Baptist Church, Bloomington, IL
Primera Iglesia Bautista, Cayey, PR
Calvary Baptist Church, Hopewell, NJ

The ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary

The ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary serves as a vital hub, connecting American Baptists to build networks and collaboratively pursue a shared mission. We foster relationships and facilitate partnerships.

Leaders, worshipers, and denominational staff from across the American Baptist family come together through meetings and conferences designed to encourage collaboration and connection, including the Biennial Mission Summit, Engage (an orientation to American Baptist life), the National Leadership Council (NLC), National Executive Council (NEC), caucuses, and other special events throughout the year.

The Office of the General Secretary also supports local congregations and regions by managing the American Baptist Churches' group tax-exemption, maintaining the denomination's comprehensive database of congregations, and assisting with financial audits.

In addition, ABCUSA provides a space for vital conversations on local and global issues that shape our shared ministry. These include the Mission Table, Everyday ABC Conversations, webinars, wellness workshops, and other denominational gatherings.

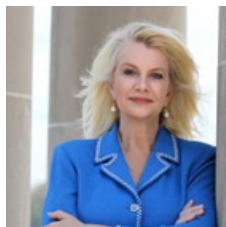
For more information about the Office of the General Secretary and available resources, visit www.abc-usa.org.

Gathering the Denomination

ABCUSA hosts significant events, including the Biennial Mission Summit, leadership trainings, gatherings that include orientation for clergy and seminarians, as well as opportunities for conversations through webinars, workshops, conferences and retreats. Our Office of the General Secretary is responsible for developing and implementing these gatherings to explore relevant topics and trends while sharing the Gospel and fostering spiritual growth and well-being.

October Webinar Series

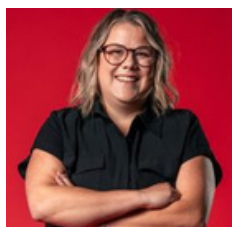
The October Webinar Series offered valuable insights on mental health, emotional healing, and holistic wellness, with three distinguished speakers addressing critical issues through a faith-centered lens.



Charlene D. Quint, J.D., founder of Abuse Care and certified domestic violence professional, shared guidance on supporting survivors of domestic abuse and equipping congregations to respond with compassion and practical tools.



The **Rev. Earl Thorpe, Ph.D.**, Financial Wellness Director at MMBB, explored financial wellness and clergy care, offering strategies to strengthen ministers and congregations through wise stewardship and support.



Tara Aday, Senior Director of Programs at Safe Haven Ministries, provided perspective on community-based approaches to prevent violence and support survivors, emphasizing the collective role of faith communities in creating safer, more resilient spaces.

The series created a meaningful space for learning, reflection, and equipping leaders to address challenging realities with the love and grace of God while promoting healing and wholeness in the church and community.

View recordings of these sessions at www.abc-usa.org/october-webinar-series-archive.



Supporting Congregations, Regions, and National Organizations

We empower and engage our regions, congregations, clergy, and national partners with comprehensive support and dynamic and relevant resources. We support clergy—with a special emphasis on Women in Ministry—provide training and resources for interim ministers, and offer guidance on tithing and church stewardship programs to equip congregations.

We support national and regional partners through event planning and the coordination of logistics. In addition, we offer grants for seminarians, as well as funding for new ministry launches and denomination-wide mission initiatives.

ABCUSA Sunday

“Mission is at the Heart of What We Do” was the theme for 2024 ABCUSA Sunday, a time for American Baptist congregations to come together in unity and purpose, celebrating who we are as a family of faith. Rooted in our shared mission and commitment to ministry, this special Sunday reminded us of our calling to serve faithfully in Christ’s name—locally, nationally, and globally.

Churches across the country observed ABCUSA Sunday in February, choosing either February 11 or 18—or another Sunday that best fit their schedules. Together, congregations celebrated our rich history, our ongoing work in mission and ministry, and our shared hope for the future.

Mountain Prairie Youth Conference

The 2024 Mountain Prairie Youth Conference brought together over 120 youth and adult leaders from the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska, the Central Region (Kansas, Oklahoma), the Rocky Mountains (Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico), and Mid-America (Iowa, Minnesota) for a weekend of worship, fellowship, and faith formation. Held at the YMCA of the Rockies, the conference created a vibrant space for young people to explore their relationship with Christ, connect with peers across regional lines, and deepen their commitment to Christian service. The American Baptist Churches USA Office of the General Secretary was proud to serve as a sponsor and to have staff members attend.

Centered on the theme “Rooted and Rising” (Colossians 2:6-7), the event featured powerful worship led by youth and a praise band from First Baptist Church of Gardner, Kansas, dynamic keynote messages by Pastor Jonathon Malone, CEO of Wilderness Journeys, and small groups led by sponsors from across the regions. Breakout sessions focused on discipleship, leadership, and social justice from a faith-based perspective.

Workshops addressed real-life issues facing youth today—mental health, digital boundaries, identity, and calling—all through a biblical lens. Students also participated in local mission projects, emphasizing the importance of hands-on faith in action.



Adult leaders and regional staff collaborated in mentoring and guiding youth through spiritual conversations and leadership development. The spirit of unity and shared purpose was especially evident during shared meals, evening worship, and campfire gatherings, where testimonies and laughter filled the air.



Burma Refugee Commission

In 2024, the Burma Refugee Commission (BRC) of the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) continued its vital work supporting Burmese communities impacted by ongoing conflict and displacement. Coordinated through the ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary, the BRC includes representatives from American Baptist Home Mission Societies, International Ministries, regional executive ministers, and ethnic Baptist associations such as the Chin, Karen, and Kachin churches.

A significant highlight of the year was the "Day of Action for Burma" held on October 30 at the United Nations in New York City. Organized by the Burma Advocacy Group—a subcommittee of the BRC—the event featured prominent voices advocating for democracy and human rights in Burma, including UN Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews and representatives from Burma's National Unity Government. The gathering aimed to draw global attention to the ongoing human rights crisis in Myanmar and to urge international support for democratic movements.

Throughout the year, the BRC also focused on advocacy efforts, including campaigns to support the implementation of the BURMA Act, which was signed into law in late 2022. This legislation aims to provide humanitarian aid and support for democratic governance in Burma. The BRC mobilized American Baptist congregations to engage in letter-writing campaigns and other advocacy initiatives to ensure continued U.S. support for the Burmese people.

In addition to advocacy, the BRC provided resources for prayer and worship, encouraging American Baptists to lift up the people of Myanmar in prayer within their congregations. These resources included prayer guides, liturgies, and updates on the situation in Burma, fostering a sense of solidarity and spiritual support within the ABCUSA community.

Through these efforts, the Burma Refugee Commission reaffirmed its commitment to standing with the people of Burma, advocating for justice, and providing spiritual and practical support to those affected by the ongoing crisis.



Video Production

This year, the Office of the General Secretary launched a video production arm within its Communications Department to support Mission Resource Development, and it has been an exciting and successful addition. The video production unit has produced multiple videos since its inception. The first was the 2024 Christmas video, which served as a visual Christmas card in which all the staff present were able to participate.

The video production unit also planned a video campaign to promote the upcoming 2025 Biennial Mission Summit, taking place July 3-6 in Omaha, Nebraska.



Creating Space for Local and Global Issues

Historically and currently, ABCUSA is proud to create space for essential conversations through webinars, conferences, workshops, and training opportunities, both online and in person. Our Baptist beliefs emphasize the Lordship and atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, believers' baptism, the competency of all believers to be in direct relationship with God and to interpret Scripture, the importance of the local church, the assurance of freedom in worship and opinion, and the need to be Christ's witnesses within society. Guided by the Gospel mandates, American Baptists have consistently engaged with societal institutions to promote holistic and healing change. We are continually exploring new ways to enhance our collective mission and to share the Gospel!

Everyday ABC Conversations

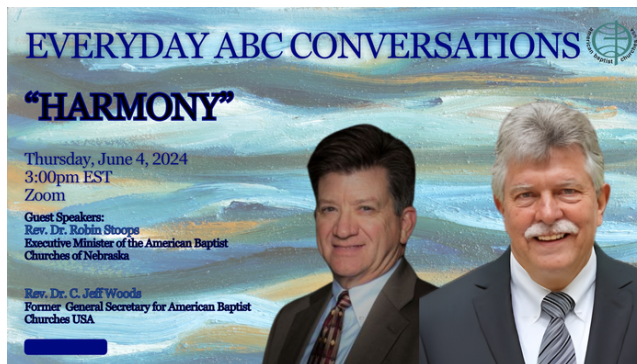
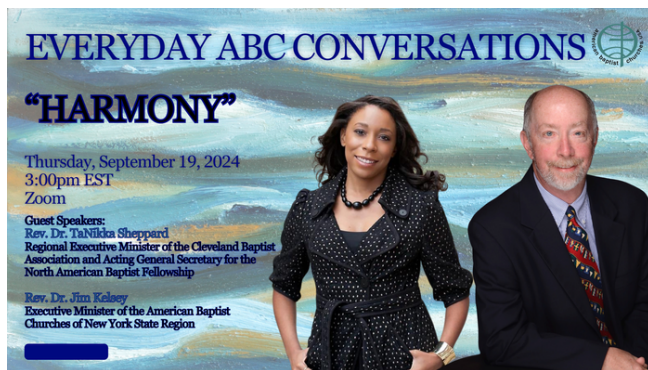
Rooted in the 2024 theme of 'Harmony,' the Mission Summit Conversations invite American Baptists to come together in a spirit of unity, listening, and mutual respect. These conversations create space for participants to share, reflect, and discern together how God is moving among us—celebrating both our diversity and our shared mission.

Grounded in our Baptist principles of soul liberty and the priesthood of all believers, these dialogues affirm that every voice has value and that wisdom emerges as we seek understanding together.

The Everyday ABC Conversation Series continues this spirit of Harmony beyond the Biennial Mission Summit, offering opportunities throughout the year to engage in meaningful dialogue, build connections, and strengthen our life together in Christ.

2024 Everyday ABC Conversations speakers included:

- **Rev. Dr. Jim Kelsey** – Executive Minister, American Baptist Churches of New York State
- **Rev. Dr. TaNikka Sheppard** – Regional Executive Minister, Cleveland Baptist Association; Acting General Secretary, North American Baptist Fellowship
- **Rev. Dr. Valerie Andrews** – Senior Pastor, Eternal Life Missionary Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA; Program Administrator, Ministers Council of ABCUSA
- **Rev. Dr. Jeremy Myers** – Lead Pastor, First Baptist Church of Seymour, Indiana
- **Rev. Dr. C. Jeff Woods** – Associate General Secretary for Regional Ministries
- **Rev. Dr. Robin D. Stoops** – Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development



2024 Caucus Report Summary

American Baptist Churches USA maintains covenantal relationships with eight recognized caucuses, each serving as an important voice within our denominational life. Each caucus continues meaningful engagement within the life of the denomination and continued advocacy for the communities they represent. ABCUSA remains grateful for the leadership and contributions of all eight caucuses, and the ABCUSA Intercaucus, and affirms their ongoing role in strengthening the witness and mission of the American Baptist family, offering vital leadership, strategic initiatives, and ministry as we pursue our shared mission in Christ.

ABCUSA Intercaucus

President: Katharine Hsiao

Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches (AAABC)

President: Rev. Angeline Lau

American Baptist National Black Caucus

President: Rev. Dr. Trinetta V. McCray

American Baptist Haitian Caucus

President: Rev. Renaud Dumont

American Baptist Hispanic Caucus

President: Pastor Felipe Candelaria

American Baptist Indian Caucus

President: Brenda Sullivan

American Baptist National Portuguese Speaking Caucus

President: Rev. Elizabeth Pinto

American Baptist Women's Caucus

President: Rev. Julia Bebeau

American Baptist Young Adult Caucus

Co-Coordinator: Rev. Michael Woolf and Roshely Quinones

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships

In 2024, American Baptist Churches USA continued its active engagement in ecumenical and interfaith work, deepening relationships and strengthening our shared Christian witness both nationally and globally. ABCUSA focused on collaboration, dialogue, and shared advocacy rooted in our commitment to unity in Christ and the pursuit of justice and peace.

Throughout the year, American Baptists participated in conversations that addressed global concerns such as religious freedom, immigration, and humanitarian response. Representatives joined gatherings of global Baptist and ecumenical bodies, contributing to discussions that emphasized faith-based action and mutual understanding among Christian and interfaith partners.

The Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations continued its work in preparing for the presentation of the 2025 Luke Mowbray Ecumenical Award, honoring Dr. Raimundo César Barreto, Jr., Associate Professor of World Christianity at Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Barreto's leadership in advancing Baptist-Muslim dialogue and his longstanding advocacy for justice and unity reflect the values central to ABCUSA's ecumenical witness. He will be recognized at the Committee's dinner on July 3, 2025, during the Biennial Mission Summit in Omaha, Nebraska.



American Baptist Churches USA gives thanks for the many ways God's people worked together in 2024 to build bridges of understanding and cooperation across faith traditions, living out our shared call to be one in Christ's love.

Financial Update

Statement of Activities		
For the years ending December 31, 2024 and 2023		
	2024	2023
Revenues, gains and other support:		
American Baptist Support Retained by ABCUSA	\$1,622,173	\$1,751,972
Donations and other revenue	1,420,467	1,479,978
Biennial		878,966
Endowments returns designated for current operations	1,394,212	1,365,056
Other Investment Income Designated for Current Operations	105,290	106,118
Total revenues, gains and other support	4,542,142	5,582,090
Expenses		
Program Expenses	2,822,168	4,289,548
Management and General	1,391,608	1,512,205
Fundraising Activities	202,496	215,392
Total expenses	4,416,272	6,017,145
Excess (deficiency) of revenue and support over expenses	125,870	(435,055)
Other Changes		
PPP SBA Grant Revenue		
Investment return in (deficit) excess of amounts designated for current operations	828,965	2,436,317
Other investment (loss) income and lease revenue	161,084	275,554
Total Other changes	990,049	2,711,871
Change in net assets	1,115,919	2,276,816
American Baptist Mission Support		
American Baptist Churches USA received \$23,737,155 in 2024 through American Baptist Mission Support. ABCUSA retained \$1,622,173 for operations and distributed \$22,114,982.		

Financial Update

American Baptist Mission Support Distributed

