

ABC+CPC



The Central Pacific Coast B•a•p•t•i•s•t

American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast . . .
resourcing, empowering and equipping congregations to discover and fulfill
their unique mission in their neighborhood . . . and around the world.

Volume 79 No. 1

Summer 2016

Save The Dates!

October 14-16, 2016

2016 Annual Gathering

Hosted by First Baptist Church, Orosi, California

***Obeying The Great Commission . . .
Making Disciples
Who Obey The Great Commandment!***

***"Go therefore and make disciples . . . teaching them to
observe all things that I have commanded you."
- Jesus (Matthew 28)***

**Coming together as the American Baptist family in
Oregon and Northern California for a FULL weekend of**

- ❖ **Worship and Celebration**
- ❖ **Challenging Messages**
- ❖ **Great Food and Fellowship**
- ❖ **Practical Classes and Workshops**
- ❖ **Missions and Ministry Updates**

Featuring Special Speakers —



Rev. Lisa Harris Lee
National Coordinator
Justice for Children Initiative
Christian Center Relations
American Baptist Home Mission Societies



Rev. Gregg Sneller
Assistant Director of Development
American Baptist International Ministries



Rev. Dr. Al Fletcher
Associate General Secretary
Mission Resource Development
ABC-USA

People Don't Hate Change . . . They Hate Loss

Rev. Steve Bills, Executive Minister

Seven years ago I wrote an article about transitions that seems as relevant to our life together today as it ever has. I am adapting it for this issue of the CPC Baptist.

Many have said that, as a rule, people hate *change*. I'm not so sure that is completely accurate. I think that what most people genuinely hate is *loss*. If we could get the new thing(s) without giving up the old, change would be no problem.

When I arrived here from Nebraska in 2009 I was greeted by a great office team that has served me and our Region well through some significant changes. Some of you have seen this recent email from Judy Flora, our Office Manager:

Hi Everyone,

Nancy Duke has retired from her position as Bookkeeper for the American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast effective immediately. We will miss her as she has been a volunteer or employee for over 15 years. While we are happy she is able to retire, please remember the staff in your prayers as we adjust to a new employee. We will make plans to honor Nancy later in the summer.

I am pleased to announce that Anne Marie Lowe will become our new part-time bookkeeper. As many of you know, Anne Marie is my daughter and has a heart for this ministry as she has helped and volunteered behind the scenes many times. Anne Marie's background includes 20+ years as a bank officer and several non profit board positions in which she served as Treasurer (4 different organizations over the years), Vice Chair, and President. Anne Marie currently works part-time for Youth For Christ as Development Officer and is busy with her 18 month old daughter, Olivia and the rest of her family.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers during this transition.

I actually love adding Ann Marie to our team; but I do lament the *loss* of Nancy. She has been an invaluable partner in the ministry of the Gospel for many years. Many of our churches are transitioning pastor leadership and may be feeling some angst through the process. For an excellent commentary on one church's experience, please see the article on Page 7 of this newsletter.

When I think about transitions I am reminded of the story of Abram and Sarai responding to the call of God in Genesis 12, *Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* So Abram went, as the LORD had told him . . . and Abram journeyed on by stages . . .

The Hebrew verb here means "to journey". More specifically it means to "pull up the tent and move to another place." The construction here stresses the activity of traveling. It also stresses that the traveling was continually going on. Thus "Abram continually journeyed by stages." Each of us is on a journey that we are taking by stages. We are picking up the tent stakes and moving on to new stages in our lives.

As I move from stage to stage in my journey through life I am encouraged by the stories of God's faithfulness to the saints of old, like Abram and Sarai, who pulled up their tent stakes and moved on, often not knowing where they were going or what their new stage would look like. I am also encouraged by passages like Isaiah 43:18,19 where God says,

"Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old.

Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth Shall you not know it?

I will even make a road in the wilderness, And rivers in the desert. "

If I focus on "the former things" I risk becoming paralyzed by my past failures or stuck trying to relive my past successes. If I am dwelling on "the things of old", I may well miss the "new thing" that God is doing!

Being open to the new things that God is doing often marks the difference between embarking on an exciting new adventure and being mired in the past, pining for "the good old days." Sometimes the most difficult part of being alert to God's new thing is our fear of pulling up the tent staked near the stream or well and leaving the known and proven source of God's supply and provision, even as it might be drying up.

Sometimes the new thing seems unlikely because it appears to require us to forge a new path through thickets, briars, and brambles that are too dense to even see through.

Sometimes the new thing is scary because the path God is calling us down seems clear before the resources for that stage of the journey appear.

But the God who has a plan, the God who asks us to be alert to a new thing, the God who asks us to pick up our tent stakes and journey on by stages is the same God who promises, "I will even make a road in the wilderness. I will make rivers in the desert."

At the same time we are to be alert to the new thing, we are to anticipate the provision for that stage of the journey. Our path and our provision are promised by Him who has "plans to prosper, not harm, and to give us a hope and a future."

Don't be afraid of transitions. As bikers like to say, "It's about the journey, not the destination!"



Transitions

In addition to the changes we are feeling here on the Regional level, our national partners continue to transition to new leadership. Last year at our Annual Gathering we had the privilege of hearing from Rev. Dr. Jeff Haggray, who had just been selected to lead the American Baptist Home Missions Societies (our home missions agency). Since then both the Office of the General Secretary and the American Baptist Foreign Missions Society (International Ministries) have experienced changes in their top levels of leadership.

Susan Gillies – Interim General Secretary



Susan Gillies began serving as Interim General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA on December 1, 2015. She retired in 2010 after serving ten years as Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska. During that time, she also served a term as President of the Regional Executive Ministers Council.

Prior to that, she served as Deputy Executive Director of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), then National Ministries. She also served the organization as Manager of the Ministry of the Laity in the Workplace Program, working with ABHMS for 13 years in total. She was also commissioned by them as a home missionary.

She was a faculty member at the University of North Dakota (UND), Eastern Kentucky University (EKU), and the University of Sioux Falls (USF), and also worked in public radio at each university. She directed the building of the first broadcast station at USF, hosted programs in both radio and television at EKU and served in North Dakota as News Director, then Program Director and General Manager for two NPR stations licensed to UND. She also served as Executive Director of the North Dakota Broadcasters Association. At KFJM, licensed to UND, she produced numerous news and music programs, documentaries, live coverage of political and community events. She contributed to NPR's "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered."

She received North Dakota Associated Press awards for agricultural reporting and documentary production.

Gillies has served on a number of Boards including: Central Baptist Theological Seminary, American Baptist Women's Ministries, Green Lake Conference Center (American Baptist Assembly) and Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska.

She is the co-author of two books: *Renewing God's People*, published by ABHMS, and *Empowering Laity Engaging Leaders*, part of the Judson Press Living Church series. In addition to other international travel, Susan was part of the first Baptist Peace Fellowship tour of the (then) Soviet Union, traveling to Siberia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

She received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Sioux Falls and a Master's degree from the University of Memphis. Dr. Gillies recently received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Central Seminary. She holds a certificate in non-profit management from the University of Wisconsin.

In retirement, she has done local church consulting and has recorded 144 audio podcasts for the ABHMS website. She writes a weekly newspaper column for the Bridgeport, NE, *News-Blade*. She expresses her artistic side as a silversmith. She currently lives in her hometown, Omaha, Nebraska, and is a member of Benson Baptist Church.

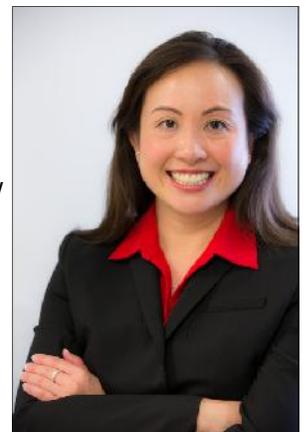
Sharon Koh — Executive Director, International Ministries

The Rev. Sharon T. Koh, Senior Associate Pastor of Mission and Community Life for Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles, was recently elected to the position of Executive Director.

An ordained American Baptist minister, Koh has deep roots in mission, the cause that brought Baptists in America together in 1814 to launch the agency now known as IM.

Koh was born to missionary parents in Singapore, where they began a long and continuing career with Cru (known outside the U.S. as Campus Crusade for Christ, International). She grew up in Singapore, the Philippines, Korea and the U.S. (California and Ohio). After completing undergraduate majors in Biology and Religious Studies at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, Koh went on to complete two master's degrees at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California: a Master of Divinity that emphasized Youth, Family and Culture; and a Master of Arts in Theology degree that emphasized Global Mission and Hermeneutics. Koh is currently working on a third degree at Fuller, a Doctor of Ministry degree in Leading Change.

Current IM Executive Director Dr. Reid Trulson comments, "On April 3, 1871, two hundred American Baptist women gathered in Boston to create the Woman's Baptist Foreign Mission Society. Their courageous action was powerfully used by God to transform the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, with which it merged after many years of working together. I am thrilled that on that very date, one hundred and forty-five years later, another courageous American Baptist woman announced to the congregation she loves that she would be responding to God's call to serve as executive director of this same mission society. Sharon Koh brings a love of Jesus, a sensitivity to the Spirit, and a knowledgeable commitment to the mission of God that will enable her to give wise and creative guidance to IM in the years ahead."



Special Interest Missionaries

Don Watson (donjw@comcast.net) is the coordinator of the Ministry of Missions Team of the ABC of the Central Pacific Coast Board of Ministry. He has provided this summary of the current activities of the ABC International Ministries Missionaries of special interest to our Region. Please contact Don if you would like more information about scheduling a Missionary Speaker.

Bruce & Ann Borquist ~ S.E. Asia



Ann and Bruce Borquist are now serving as Regional Missionaries to S.E. Asia, and since mid-December are living in Wellington, New Zealand. Ann is working on a new edition of a short-term mission-team training guide for International Ministries, and preparing to speak at a pastors' gathering in the U.S. in April. Bruce is taking a doctoral program from Massey University in which the research focuses on "faith-based social entrepreneurship." Both Ann and Bruce are busy arranging their travel and training schedule with five conventions in S.E. Asia. They especially ask for prayer as they begin Bahasa, Indonesia as well as Burmese language classes! They write to all of their friends: "Let's walk together into 2016 always seeing new ways to faithfully serve the Lord with joy!"

<http://www.internationalministries.org/teams/51-borquist>

Mylinda Baits ~ Iberoamerica and Carribean

Rev. Mylinda Baits walks alongside of at risk women and children and the people who minister with them. Using her artistic and pastoral gifts, she has most recently ministered in Nicaragua and Chile with our partners there. Mylinda employs visual arts, music, dance, and participatory scripture study to remind wounded women that they are beautiful, beloved, and have great gifts to offer. On her most recent trip to the Philippines, she partnered with the Jonathan and Thelma Nambu in Manila, leading an Expressive Arts Self-Care Workshop and with Dan and Sharon Buttry in Baguio City to lead a ten-day raining in Conflict Transformation for people from all over Asia and the Pacific. Mylinda and her handsome husband Gary live in Olympia, WA. They have two grown children: Jamie is a special education teacher in Seattle and Micah is a senior at Pacific Lutheran University. Mylinda's past year has been full of ministry and travel, and of saying goodbye to her mother Ginger, who passed away in July. Please pray for upcoming ministry trips to Cuba, Southern Mexico, and Costa Rica.



<http://www.internationalministries.org/teams/45-baits>

Ed & Miriam Noyes ~ Democratic Republic of Congo



Miriam: We see a most remarkable literacy work being done by small churches whose members offer reading classes for their neighbors . . . in addition to Sunday school, modest church building projects, visitation, and all the other life and witness things they do. I have been visiting small congregations on Sundays, encouraging and counseling, urging them to follow the Spirit's leading. Literacy for Family Well-Being, the CBCO literacy initiative, has just printed up new Lingala books. These find a ready market among the 37 CBCO churches in Kinshasa sponsoring literacy classes. Many congregations offer multiple classes, responding to needs of older women, young school-leavers, and even high school students needing remedial reading classes.

Ed: I manage a program with IMA World Health that has made significant progress creating ways for the public to advocate for responsible public management of local health services. Community scorecards encourage health center users and health workers to rate health center services -- looking for ways to correct deficiencies and improve services. Enthusiastic communities have completed more than 200 scorecards, in 30 different health zones across the country, over the last 6 months. IMA recently helped launch a national public health service hotline that gives both whistle-blowers and problem solvers a place to denounce abuses, identify service bottlenecks and suggest solutions. CBCO's efforts to restore confidence and get the agricultural extension program back on track at Lusekele have run into heavy weather. Their actions led to a temporary suspension of funding for the extension program (the main source of income) and another attempt by a local chief to disrupt activities.

<http://www.internationalministries.org/teams/85-noyes>

Ingrid Roldan-Roman ~ Panama & Costa Rica



Ingrid is our only American Baptist missionary serving in Panama. She lives on the border of Panama and Costa Rica so she has worked with the children and people on both sides of the border. The border communities are very poor and often are forgotten. She has helped a church in Sixaola grow and develop to a point that she believes they are able to carry on their ministry without her. She raised many of the children and has trained them to become the leaders of the church – not for tomorrow, but for today. What makes this church unique is that the church is made up of over 70 children, a group of youth and young adults, and only a handful of adults. Ingrid works diligently in disciplining and teaching them how to be faithful followers and leaders. She continues to run a tutoring program in her home for children who, without her help, would get kicked out of the school system. She provides them not only with educational help, but also with a hot meal (for many the only hot meal they will receive), school supplies, school uniforms, transportation costs, and teaches them the hope that can be found in Jesus. There are many temptations surrounding these poor communities, prostitution, drugs, alcohol, early pregnancies, but Ingrid helps them to see other alternatives. However, she is also there to help them face whatever happens in life. Ingrid serves and gives herself

fully – she is a single woman who has given her entire life to serving God's people, especially the least of these. She has faced many obstacles in a very male dominated society building partnerships because of her unwavering love for the people she serves. Ingrid fights for justice in big and small ways, always confident that God has called her and God is her strength and hope.

<http://www.internationalministries.org/teams/93-roldan-roman>

Ray Schellinger ~ Deborah's House, Tijuana and a resource missionary

Ray has been rather busy lately, serving the people at Deborah's House in Tijuana, Mexico and hosting several groups. Here are some of the recent activities:

-In February a team from the east coast spent a week at the shelter. The stories that were shared spoke of life changing experiences on faith, culture and creating space for grace to those who are marginalized.

-This week an immersion experience on immigration is taking place in Tijuana. This team met a group called "Dreamers' Moms" - a group of mothers (and fathers) who have been separated from their children by the wall for various reasons- some for as long as 10 years.

-On March 12 there will be a dedication service at Deborah's House, celebrating the newest building to further the ministry at the shelter with many gathering from around the country.

-In April, a group from Emerald Community Fellowship will spend a week at the shelter completing a variety of projects as well as building relationships with staff and residents.



Deborah's House has been and continues to be a place where lives change - the lives of women & children who find safety and healing from domestic violence and the many people who visit and serve there. We appreciate the hard work, dedication and love that Ray provides this much-needed ministry.

<http://www.internationalministries.org/teams/94-schellinger>

Dan & Sarah Chetti ~ Arab World, Beirut, Lebanon



"Samar Koury is one of our Arab Evangelists ministering among more than 1.5 Million Syrian, Kurdish and Iraqi refugees living in Lebanon. She leads Bible Study among the refugee women. For many this is the first introduction to our Lord Jesus. As their interest grows, she moves them into 'Life Groups'; using the Discovery Bible Study method, she walks the Muslim women through study of the Gospels. She personally mentors about 4-5 Syrian Muslim women at a time, who are by now already independently leading their own Life Groups. Our Arab missionaries are based in, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Iraq and Lebanon. We have eager and willing Syrian servants of God ready to move into their country, once there is some semblance of Peace and normalcy.

Please pray for Samar and her significant ministry with the Syrian and Kurdish Muslims in Lebanon. Pray for her safety and the safety of the Muslim believers and seekers. "

<http://www.internationalministries.org/teams/56-chetti>

It's Not Too Late to Take Advantage of this Short Term Mission Opportunity

Since 2001 the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska and of the Dakotas have jointly sponsored the ABC Emergency Services Center, a short-term mission project during the annual motorcycle rally in Sturgis, South Dakota. Each year hundreds of thousands of bikers descend on the Black Hills to enjoy the scenic roads and the camaraderie at races, concerts, and parties.



Unfortunately, the combination of long days, late nights, overindulgence, and overcrowded campgrounds often lead to exhaustion and impaired judgment. Volunteers at the ABCESC respond 24 hours a day to requests for assistance with everything from aiding abandoned women and children to transporting accident victims and their families to providing spiritual care to rally participants and first responders.

The ABCESC project has been designed to provide a short-term cross-cultural mission experience to American Baptists. Many of the volunteer staff do not ride motorcycles. Through the hospitality of Pastor Gregg Hemmen and the congregation at FBC Rapid City, costs for volun-

teers are kept to a minimum. More information and the volunteer registration form can be found at www.SturgisAid.com.

Again this year a number of ABCCPC representatives will be joining the ABCESC team. It is not too late to join them. We can bring a van to Rapid City if there are enough interested volunteers to join us. Contact Executive Minister Steve Bils at sbils@abccpc.org immediately if you are interested in participating. See the informational flyer below:

Short Term Mission Opportunity Black Hills of South Dakota – August 6-14, 2016

The American Baptist Churches of Nebraska and the Dakotas have teamed up in each of the last fifteen years to minister at the annual gathering of over 400,000 people in Sturgis, South Dakota for Bike Week! (Attendance last year was 739,000.)

The ABC Emergency Services Center was created in the basement of the First Baptist Church of the Northern Hills in Deadwood to help those who became stranded due to injury, abandonment, or mechanical breakdown. Many of those we help are referred to us by law enforcement, hospitals or social services agencies. Posters and brochures also help many find us for help. Since 2011 we have worked out of FBC of Rapid City.

Volunteers from American Baptist churches around the country spend all or part of the week helping, feeding, transporting, and counseling the dozens of individuals who come to the ESC for assistance. Throughout the week calls come in at all hours of the day and night from churches, police and rescue workers, and individuals, wanting us to help men, women, and children in need.

Volunteers don't need to be motorcyclists, but need a heart for evangelism and a willingness to serve. Women volunteers are especially needed due to the large percentage of women and children that we end up assisting. If you can come for all or part of the week, we can find a job for you!

Interested in Sturgis Rally Ministry 2016?

- ◆ The ABC Emergency Services Center will be open Aug 6-14. Early arrivers can be accommodated on August 5.
- ◆ Sleeping space is provided. Most bring an air mattress.
- ◆ RVers will be provided with space to set up.
- ◆ This mission project is designed for adults. High school students will be permitted when accompanied by a parent.
- ◆ Follow-up on those ministered to will be coordinated by contacts in ABC regions around the country.
- ◆ Each participant is asked to contribute \$100 towards this project. Local churches are encouraged to assist participating members in raising this amount. Contributions may be made through ABC Nebraska and ABC Dakotas.

For more information contact:

ABC of Nebraska • 6404 Maple Street • Omaha, NE 68104
(402) 556-4730 • (877) 244-7339 (toll-free) • LCline@ameritas.com

Looking For A New Pastor?

Finding the right person to guide your congregation into the coming years is a daunting and challenging task. It is a task filled with hope, promise and discernment. It is a task that will be successful, spirit led, and filled with surprises.

To assist you in your search for a new pastor, I offer some **guidelines** and *hints* from our recent successful Senior Pastor Search. Each congregation is unique. While the details, vision, and operation of the churches in our region differ, the following general six guidelines and six hints to succeed can apply to all our churches. Perhaps the sound bite that was especially helpful in our discernment process came from Rev. Steve Bils, our Executive Minister: "Remember you are looking for Character, Competence, & Chemistry in the person you select."

1. **Although your bylaws may require a different process, if possible, select a search committee by application with a chair designated by the church governing board. If possible the committee should represent all parts of the congregation. Introduce the committee to the congregation and empower the committee to complete the task of finding a new pastor for your congregation.** *Hint: We choose to use Search Team as our title, acknowledging the gifts, skills, and talents of each member. The Team chose to set aside a specific place and time, meeting twice a month. As the selection/ interview process started, we recognized the possible need to meet more often. The chair called meetings and planned a devotional experience to begin each gathering. The first meetings focused on trust building and familiarizing us with the tenets of American Baptist traditions and the Constitution and By-Laws of our church.*
2. **Meet with our Regional Executive Minister, Rev. Steve Bils, to review the process and receive the 3-ring binder, *Calling an American Baptist Minister- A comprehensive Guide for Pastoral Search Committees with Step-by-Step Resources*.** *Hint: Our Chair met first with Rev. Bils and scheduled a time for him to meet with the Search Team and review the process. The manual was duplicated for each Search Team member. The Search Team prepared questions about the process for Steve's first meeting with us.*
3. **Read & Review the entire 3-ring binder with special attention to Part II- Overview of the Pastoral Selection Process and Part III- The Pastoral Selection Process.** *Hint: Determine the steps and procedures your search team will use. We also agreed to make all decisions by consensus. Thoroughly discuss what is confidential and how communication between the search team and the congregation will happen. We chose to create a unique e-mail address for all candidate communication. Determine who and how your church will prepare and make your church profile referred to in Part II of the manual. Decide how to make the church profile available to the congregation and potential candidates. Develop a general timeline to complete tasks.*
4. **Communicate with Rev. Bils about how ABC professional profiles and church needs are entered into the system to create a list of possible candidates. Clarify the procedures for the search team to receive profiles and suggestions of how to evaluate candidate profiles.** *Hint: Our team determined a specific procedure for candidates that might come to us from outside the ABC system as a result of advertising in various magazines, seminaries, and like-minded organizations and associations. These candidates were referred to Rev. Bils who instructed them on how they could be placed in the ABC professional profile system. This created a way to evaluate all candidates equally. All candidates were first evaluated on a simple +, o, or - based on the criteria developed in Chapter 17 of Section III in the binder. Candidates were then further evaluated on our specific church needs and wishes of the congregation.*
5. **Narrow your candidate list and send your top candidates a letter stating where you are in the process and what additional information you request for continued consideration. Continue to discern and prioritize your candidates to determine the top 3-5. Using the same questions, interview the candidates by telephone, Skype, or in person.** *Hint: As each candidate was eliminated during the entire process, the Search Team Chair sent a letter thanking the candidate for his or her time and interest in our position. During discussion about the top candidates, the Search Team determined a 1-5 scale for each candidate's competency based on the congregation's desired attributes in a Pastor. We chose to view videos of candidate sermons rather than use a "neutral pulpit" experience.*
6. **Invite your top candidate to visit your community or arrange for selected members of your Search Committee to personally visit with the candidate in their home community. If the personal visit is favorable, ask the candidate and their family to visit your church for a "Call week or Sunday."** *Hint: During the first candidate visit we arranged visits to the school district, toured the community, and visited our church (when no one was there), as well as spoke at length with the candidate. Those discussions included time for both the candidate and the Search Team to provide questions and answers for one another. The Chair and a Search Team member personally visited with the candidate and family at the Kansas City ABC Mission Summit 2015. We were instructed by the Search Team to invite the candidate to a "Call Week." The Search Team then planned an entire week for the candidate and family to meet the congregation as a whole, leaders, Board members, participate in various mission outreaches, meet with youth and families, and visit with key members of our community. Times were set-aside for individuals to meet with the candidate in person by appointment. After the candidating Sunday, a business meeting was held and the vote for our new Senior Pastor was a unanimous call.*

This process worked beautifully for our Search Team and congregation. Our process took 12 months with an additional 2 months planning the Installation Service after our new Senior Pastor began officially working for our church. You are welcome to contact me joanncsims@gmail.com for more detailed information or if you have any questions. I hope these steps and hints will be useful in your Pastor search.

JoAnn Sims, Chair
 Senior Pastor Search Team
 First Baptist Church, McMinnville, OR
 July 2014-November 2015

2015 Mission Table Surfaces Seven Priorities for American Baptist Churches

In addition to getting the Regional Annual Gathering on your calendars for this October, we want to make sure you are planning to join the entire ABCUSA family in Portland next June for the Biennial Mission Summit. We establish and develop mission priorities denominationally at these Biennial meetings

The American Baptist Churches Mission Table met November 9-11, 2015, in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The Mission Table brought together representatives from American Baptist regions, affiliated ministry partners, national staff, executives and officers, to join in conversation with one another and highlight denominational priorities.

The event began with three anticipated outcomes: to narrow the list of 21 Mission Summit Conversations topics to a manageable list of priorities, to build case statements for each of the final priorities encouraging ABC entities to engage these priorities over the next two years, and for Mission Table participants and American Baptist Churches USA as a whole to continue to champion ministries associated with the final priorities.

The topics focused on at the Mission Table were originally a part of the Mission Summit Conversations held at the 2015 Biennial Mission Summit, June 26-28, 2015, in Overland Park, Kansas. From these 21 topics, Mission Table participants spent time in small groups discussing priorities for American Baptist Churches USA, looking at what topics should be championed by ABC in the next 20 months before the Biennial Mission Summit in Portland, Oregon, June 29-July 1, 2017.

The 2015 Mission Table surfaced seven priority topics for American Baptist Churches USA:

- 1.Next Generation of Leaders
- 2.Violence
- 3.Discipleship
- 4.Poverty
- 5.Gospel in a Rapidly Changing Society
- 6.Women in Ministry
- 7.Alternative Models for Pastoral Ministry



Published by
 American Baptist Churches of
 the Central Pacific Coast
 0245 SW Bancroft St, Suite G
 Portland, OR 97239-4270
 www.abcpc.org
 (503) 228-8394

Region Staff
 Rev. Steve Bills
 Executive Minister
 sbills@abcpc.org
 Judy Flora
 Office Manager
 jflora@abcpc.org
 Ann Marie Love
 Bookkeeper
 amlove@abcpc.org
 Terrie Musotto
 Receptionist
 tmusotto@abcpc.org

American Baptist Churches of
 the Central Pacific Coast
 0245 SW Bancroft Street, Suite G
 Portland, OR 97239

NON-PROFIT ORG
 US Postage
PAID
 Portland, OR
 Permit #292