American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin
173rd Annual Gathering for all ages
October 13-14, 2017

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”
Colossians 2:6-7 NRSV

PROGRAM BOOKLET

Green Lake Conference Center
W2511 State Rd. 23
Green Lake, WI 54941
Welcome to Green Lake for the 173rd Annual Gathering of American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin. We gather this Friday and Saturday around the theme: “Rooted in and Living through Christ” with theme scripture Colossians 2:6-7. Our focus on “rootedness” is the first of four imperatives (Rootedness, Collaboration, Growth, and Transformation) that make up the new vision for American Baptist Churches (ABC) of Wisconsin. That new vision statement is “Together Living Faithfully through Christ Today” (Ephesians 3:18-19).

As we embrace “rootedness” how fitting that we are gathering on the grounds of Green Lake which is rich in American Baptist history. We are “rooted” in Christ Jesus, but also rooted as American Baptists. Our Annual Gathering Planning Committee has developed an in-depth and rich experience for all. There is time for worship, fellowship, reflection, storytelling, small group discussions, sharing musical gifts, giving (monetary), learning, and empowerment. As we explore the roots of our witness as American Baptists, prayerfully we will share tried approaches and discover new ways of actively engaging in mission and ministry.

On December 9, 2016, we gathered in Brookfield, WI for a Retirement Banquet to celebrate the ministries of several persons who served ABC of Wisconsin faithfully for many years. Those celebrated included Sam Brink (Minister of Congregational Resources and Mission Support), Mark & Debbie Lembke (Camping Ministry), and Timothy and Maxine Ashley (CENTRAL Wisconsin seminary site). We are grateful to God for them and their many years of dedicated service. Their witness has been such a blessing and an instrumental part of the formation of transformative ministry in this region. We will continue to water the seeds that they have planted!

A part of embracing the new vision for the region required the expansion of the regional staff charged with bringing life to the vision. In addition to our Regional Executive Minister (Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri), we now have an Associate Regional Minister–Camping (Rev. Carolyn Dugan), an Assistant Minister–Camping: Facilities and Guest Services (Rev. Kim Drost), an Associate Regional Minister–Education (Rev. Dr. John Jones), Assistant Minister–Education (Patrick Roberts), Student Recruiter (Ericka Davis), Office Housekeeper (Elaine Mueller), and Special Assistant to the Regional Executive Minister (Dawn Armstrong). Betsy Kelnhofer continues as the Office Administrator and Rev. Dr. Jim Carlson as Hispanic Community Liaison. Please pray for them individually and collectively as they actively engage in their respective duties.

It has indeed been my honor, pleasure, and privilege to serve as your President. I invite you to open your hearts and minds to receive fresh new ways to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ and to draw new souls, revitalize more seasoned souls, and refresh your own soul to the great commission that Christ calls each of us to. As we travel on the journey, may we all stay “rooted” as we strive every day to live together faithfully.

WELCOME to all FIRST-TIMERS

If this is your first time attending the ABC Wisconsin annual gathering, we welcome you. We are a regional association of 64 churches throughout Wisconsin, a regional office located in Elm Grove, WI, a camping ministry located in Waupaca, WI (Camp Tamarack), and a seminary based in the regional office, which is a site of Central Seminary (Shawnee, KS). We are one of the thirty-four regions of the American Baptist Churches USA denomination. We seek to live into our mission statement in partnership with various Baptist, ecumenical, and interfaith ministries and organizations across our state, country and world: ABC of WI is a fellowship of persons, churches, and organizations drawn together in the love of God as known in Jesus Christ. We affirm our diversity of culture, gender, and theological perspectives as gifts for ministry. We covenant to share the gospel of Christ, encourage each other in our faith, and share our resources in witness and mission.
Keynote Speaker and Preacher

Dr. Jeffrey Haggray
Executive Director, American Baptist Home Mission Societies and Judson Press

At the heart of Haggray’s ministry lie his passions for motivating Christians to impact communities with their deeply-held faith; encouraging emerging leaders to discern and respond to God’s call; and emphasizing God’s loving concern for humanity’s well-being, wholeness and justice. Haggray works closely with diverse national and regional partners to provide a clear vision of the Christian mission in today’s world, to cultivate relationships, and to develop resources for transformational ministry with congregations, communities, and regions across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Having served congregations in New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and Georgia, Haggray understands the day-to-day needs of local congregations involved in disciple-making, worship, leadership development, evangelism, and mission engagement. As a regional executive minister in the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Region for eight years, Haggray learned that, when congregations and institutions can access the human and material resources they need to transform their communities, there is no limit to the impact they are able to make.

“When a compelling mission-driven vision is coupled with faith in God and a strong determination to succeed, the required resources often follow,” he says. “The United States of America is a strategic mission field for proclaiming the Christian gospel, developing Christian disciples, promoting justice, and collaborating and networking for ministry. As we impact America for Christ, we impact the world, and I am motivated by that prospect.”

Haggray is married to Shelby Martin Haggray, also an ordained American Baptist minister. They reside in Atlanta, Ga., with their three children, Geoffrey Micah, Greggory Martin, and Sophia Sebiya.

Annual Gathering Musician:
Ms. Hornrette Washington

A native New Yorker, Hornrette Washington started playing the piano at the age of four, and it was apparent early on that she was gifted and destined for greatness. As a young adult, she established an interdenominational children’s choir, “The Starlets of Corona,” which sang at churches throughout the five boroughs and in the southland doing community work at prisons, drug rehab centers, and senior facilities. Over the course of 35+ years she has served faithfully over five choirs, sign ministry for the hearing impaired, and a liturgical dance group. Ms. Washington had the pleasure of doing her first CD “The Essence Of Gospel” which captured her versatility on the piano. Hornrette has received numerous awards, serving as consultant, musician, and praise and worship leader not only throughout New York, but also with and on behalf of American Baptists nationally and internationally.

ABWM Speakers: Rev. Dr. Jon and Amanda Good
are endorsed to prepare for ministries in Hungary. Amanda will assist with music education at the school managed by the Baptist Church in Debrecen, as well as those managed by Hungarian Baptist Aid (HBAid). She will also assist with discipleship ministries of the Baptist Church in Debrecen. Jon will assist the Baptist Church in Debrecen with its evangelistic outreach, church planting and church development ministries, and will assist in the training of Christian leaders through the Union’s seminary. Amanda and Jon will also work with the church planting efforts of HBAid. Languages used in ministry: English and Hungarian.

♦ Rev. Jacqueline Colbert, President, moderating Annual Gathering (pictured left)
♦ Rev. Kim Drost, ABC/WI Staff & ABWM President, Golf Outing and ABWM Sessions
♦ Rev. Carolyn Dugan, ABC/WI Staff, Movie Screenings
♦ Ms. Delight Antos, Chair, Program Committee & Vice President, co-moderating Annual Gathering
♦ Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri, ABC/WI Staff, Table Conversations
♦ Rev. Sudie Jones, WI Ministers Council President, Ministers Council Meeting
♦ Deacon Reggie R. Riley, Milwaukee, Calvary, Men’s Session Panel Moderator
♦ Minister Biak Chaung, West Allis, Carson Chin/CENTRAL Wisconsin seminarian, Men’s Session, Panelist
♦ Mr. Isai Rincon, Racine, Iglesia Bautista Renacer, Men’s session, panelist
Green Lake Conference Center (GLCC), located on 900 scenic acres on the shores of Wisconsin’s deepest lake, offers a sacred space for all parts of the Christian family to gather for equipping, renewal, and transformational conversations. While our program will take place in Bauer Lodge and meals will be in the Kraft Centre, we hope that you will take the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful grounds of the GLCC.

**FRIDAY SCHEDULE — OCTOBER 13**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Lawsonia</td>
<td>Tee Time for Pre-Gathering Optional Golfing Event</td>
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<td>4:00</td>
<td>Kraft Lobby</td>
<td>Check-in opens for Green Lake Accommodations &amp; Meal Ticket Pick-up</td>
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<td>Morehouse</td>
<td>“I Can Only Imagine” Movie Screening</td>
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<td>Boddie/Ladue</td>
<td>“I Can Only Imagine” Movie Screening</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Bauer Lobby</td>
<td>Registration Opens (Dinner on your own)</td>
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<td>7:00</td>
<td>Morehouse</td>
<td>Evening Program: Welcome and Call to Order</td>
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<td>Opening Worship (see page 5)</td>
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<td>Bauer Lobby</td>
<td>Presidential and ABWM 140th Anniversary Reception sponsored by ABWM</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Morehouse</td>
<td>Musical jam session for musicians, singers, and lovers of musical fellowship</td>
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### Friday Night Jam Session

Musicians: Bring your unplugged instruments (voices included) and join in on this time of fellowship and worshipful music-making. Our conference musician will get the night going but will quickly let the Spirit take over!

Watch a prescreen of a new movie coming out in 2018 based on the song by Mercy Me. Showings will be on Friday in the Bauer Lodge at 4:00pm and again at 9:30pm.

**Please be sure to sign the participant sheet so you can give your feedback to the producers.**

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### VISIT WITH OUR EXHIBITORS in the Morehouse Ballroom throughout the event

American Baptist Foundation, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, Camp Tamarack, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Judson Press, Milwaukee Christian Center, Ministers Council, and ABC Wisconsin (Books, Denominational Information)

**Children’s Program** will be available at the Children’s Center (Roger Williams Inn) during the following times: ($20 per child)

- **Friday, Oct. 13:** 6:45-8:45pm
- **Saturday, Oct. 14:** 8:45am-12:15pm and 1:00-4:00pm

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### Conference Choir

Attendees are invited to join a choir led by our guest musician Ms. Hornrette Washington. The choir will sing during closing worship.

**Saturday Rehearsals:** 8:20 AM and 12:45 PM (30 minutes each)
FRIDAY EVENING ORDER OF WORSHIP

Guest Conference Musician: Hornrette Washington; Song Leader: Jacqueline Colbert; Artist: Marty Carney; Communion Ministers: Ixonia, First

Welcome and Call to Order: Jacqueline Colbert / Delight Antos
Call to Worship, Theme Scripture Reflection, Prayer: Delight Antos
Opening Song: “I’ve Anchored in Jesus” See page 6
Story-Telling; Story-Listening: John Jones

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God. Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood
This is my story, this is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long

Story: New Pastor: Betsy Perkins, Delavan, First
This is my story, this is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long

Story: New Pastor: Chakravarthy Zadda, Waukesha, First
This is my story, this is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long

Solo: "My Heavenly Father Watches Over Me" Jacqueline Colbert

Story: New Collaborative: Trinette McCray, Urban Center-Milwaukee
Documentary: Urban Center-Milwaukee, Consultation on Poverty
Urban Center-Milwaukee is an emerging collaborative to provide support that enhances engagement, collaboration and policy development among churches, faith communities, organizations, business, education and civic leadership that benefits the greater Milwaukee community.

Story: Ancient Meal; Renewing Meaning: Russ Antos / Delight Antos (Musician)
Regional Executive Minister Observances: Marie Onwubuariri
Invitation to Reception and Benediction: Kim Drost

A story of art, as told by artist Rev. Marty Carney, is incorporated throughout tonight’s service of worship. More information about his ministry can be found at www.martycarneyartist.com

THIS WEEKEND’S OFFERINGS: You may submit your offering to support ABC/WI regional ministry using the available offering envelopes located on the meeting tables or the registration table any time throughout the weekend. Saturday closing worship offering will support the ministries of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. All checks should be made out to “ABC/WI” with appropriate designation in the memo line.
Saturday Afternoon Opening Song:  
**YOU DESERVE THE GLORY**  
Written by Gary Sadler & Aaron Keyes © 2007 Paintbrush Music, Thankyou Music  CCLI #2816746

You deserve the glory and the honour  
Lord we lift our hands in worship as we praise your holy name //

For you are great, You do miracles so great  
There is no one else like you, there is no one else like You //
SATURDAY SCHEDULE — OCTOBER 14

*Guests ages 6 & older need meal tickets for breakfast and lunch in Kraft Dining Hall; purchase from the front desk of the Kraft Centre. Age 12+: $9.75 (breakfast); $11.75 (lunch); 6-11: $7-br; $8-lu (plus tax)

7:30 AM  Kraft Dining Hall  Breakfast for paid guests*
8:15    Bauer Lobby  Registration for Saturday Arrivals
8:20    Morehouse  Conference Choir Practice
8:45    Beaty  Presenters and Facilitators Prayer (by Invitation)

***Upon entering into Morehouse Hall, you are welcome to sit at the table with the conversation topic of your interest — see page 8 for full details***

9:00    Morehouse  Plenary: Worshipful Work (see page 8 for details)

12:00 PM  Kraft Dining Hall  Lunch for paid guests*
12:45    Tower Dining Rm  Ministers Council Annual Meeting. All ministers are welcome.
12:45    Morehouse  Conference Choir Practice

1:15  Break Out Sessions
Option 1: American Baptist Women Ministry (ABWM) Annual Meeting
Boddie/Ladue  Featuring American Baptist Missionaries Jon and Amanda Good, who will serve through ABC International Ministries’ partners, the Baptist Union of Hungary and Hungarian Baptist Aid with a focus on evangelistic outreach, discipleship, and church development. EVERYONE is invited.

Option 2: Men’s Ministries Program: “Engaging with Young Adults for Intergenerational Discipleship” —an interactive and strategic session focused on bridging the generation gaps among males of all ages.

Option 3: Self-guided tour of American Baptist history throughout the GLCC grounds. Outdoors  Map and info booklets are available from the registration table.

2:30    Bauer Lobby  Break; light refreshments

2:45    Morehouse  Closing Service: ORDER OF WORSHIP
Opening Slide show—reflections from table conversations  Carolyn Dugan
Call to Worship and Opening Prayer  Youth
Opening Song “You Deserve the Glory”  See page 6
Call for Offering  Jim Carlson
Scripture Reading  Patrick Roberts
Conference Choir “Empower Us, Lord”
Proclamation Jeffrey Haggray
Reflections
Sending Song “Empower Us, Lord”  See below
Thanksgiving, Benediction, Adjournment  Delight Antos

Saturday Sending Song:  **EMPOWER, US, LORD**  by Gale Murphy © 2007 CCLI #2816746

There is so much work to do, impossible to do; Unless you shower us, empower us.
We know it won’t be long before you take us home; So Lord, please shower us, empower us.

**Empower us, Lord, empower us Lord; To finish the work ‘til You come back to get us.**

**Empower us, Lord, empower us Lord; Empower us, Lord, ‘til You come.**

The enemies so strong, And we won’t overcome; Unless you shower us, empower us
We follow your command to preach in every land; So Lord please shower us, empower us.
WORSHIPFUL WORK
SATURDAY 9:00 AM

***Upon entering into Morehouse Hall, you are welcome to sit at the table with the conversation topic of your interest — see below for full details***

9:00 Welcome, Opening prayer, Opening Song
Introduction of Speaker — John Walton
“The Roots of our Witness as American Baptists (and implications for today)” — Jeff Haggray
Local Pastor Response — Walter Lanier

From National to Regional Witness / Overview of Table Conversations — Marie Onwubuariri

Break; Find Conversation Table of Interest

10:20 Table Conversations: Mission Connections*

*As we transition into the business session, please reseat yourselves by Association (see pg. 9)

11:10 Business Session
2016 Minutes; Staff Report Highlights (State of the Region, gold-paper handout)
Financials (blue-paper handout), Elections (pink-paper handout)
Association Caucuses
Acknowledgements, Dedication of Leaders
(Region Offering available on table)

***Table Conversation Topics***

1. Mental Health – Gabrielle Hastings/Walter Lanier
2. Ministry with the Least of These – Max Ramsey/Holly Anderle
3. Feeding Ministries – Karen Higgins/Timothy Ashley
4. Transformative Community Ministries - Trinette McCray/Archie Ivy
5. Brave Conversations About Race – Marie Onwubuariri
6. Transforming Christian Education in the Church – Dallas Flippin/John Jones
7. Short-term Immersion Experiences - Brian Hastings/Jerry Amstutz
8. Christians in Interfaith Settings – Tom Heinen/John Walton
9. Transforming Liturgy and the Praxis of Worship – Russ Antos/Mary Schecher
10. The Potential of Chaplaincy – Michelle Peterson/Jacqueline Colbert
11. Unconventional Church Models for Specific Populations – Lo-Ann Trembly
12. Connecting Church and Campus Ministry – Alan McAllister/Peggy Williams
13. Spiritual formation/discipleship of children/youth – Diana Brophey/Carolyn Dugan
14. Young Adult Mentoring/Coaching – Phineas Marr
15. Continuing Challenges and Support for Women in Ministry – Maxine Ashley/Jane Mathieson

Take-aways
◊ Identify at least one key insight that you would like to take with you and share with the others.
◊ Write this insight in the form of a “tweet” — which is only 140 characters and/or a creative hashtag — a word or brief phrase that captures an idea, commitment, or call to action.
◊ Post-its are provided at each table. Submit these to your facilitator.
◊ Don’t forget to be sure to write it down for you to take home as well, along with other notes from your conversation.
Saturday Morning Opening Song

**STANDING ON THE PROMISES**
Russell Kelso Carter (1886)  Public Domain

1 Standing on the promises of Christ my king,  
through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:  
*Standing, standing,*  
*standing on the promises of God my Savior;*  
*standing, standing,*  
*I’m standing on the promises of God.*

2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

3 Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
bond to him eternally by love’s strong cord,  
overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword,  
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

4 Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
listening every moment to the Spirit’s call,  
resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

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**ASSOCIATIONS** (64 churches)

A.C.T.S. ASSOCIATION (12 Churches) *(Area Churches Together Serving)*

- **Brookfield**: Immanuel;  
- **Ixonia**: First;  
- **Milwaukee**: Community Chinese, Emmanuel Chin, Progressive;  
- **South Milwaukee**: Milwaukee Chin,  
- **Waukesha**: First, Karen,  
- **Wauwatosa**: Underwood Memorial;  
- **West Allis**: Carson Chin, First, Tabernacle

MADISON ASSOCIATION (7 Churches)

- **Madison**: First, Mount Zion, True Worshippers Community;  
- **Mauston**: Grace Community;  
- **Richland Center**: First;  
- **Wisconsin Dells**: Indian;  
- **Wycocena**: Community

M.C.U.M. ASSOCIATION (11 Churches) *(Milwaukee Congregations United for Mission)*

- **Milwaukee**: Calvary, Greater Galilee Missionary, Greater Mt. Zion Missionary, Holy Temple Firstborn Missionary, Metropolitan, Mt. Moriah, New Hope Missionary, Pilgrim Rest Missionary, Songs of Life, Tangible Word, Unlimited Life in Jesus Christ

MILWAUKEE ASSOCIATION (10 Churches)

- **Milwaukee**: Broken Walls, Church on the Porch, Community of Greater Milwaukee, Evangelica Bautista, Holy Mt. Carmel Missionary, Hopewell Missionary, Jeremiah Missionary, Milwaukee Myanmar, Mt. Zion Missionary, Smyrna

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION (6 Churches)

- **Berlin**, Federated;  
- **Fond du Lac**: Memorial;  
- **Green Bay**: Bridge Point;  
- **Green Lake**: Federated;  
- **Neenah**: Whiting Community;  
- **Sheboygan Falls**: Falls Community

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION (13 Churches)

- **Beloit**: Church of the Living Waters, First, Greater New Hope Missionary;  
- **Darien**: Community;  
- **Delavan**: First;  
- **Honey Creek**: Community;  
- **Janesville**: First;  
- **Kenosha**: El Calvario, First;  
- **Racine**: Christ, First, Renacer, St. Paul Missionary

WESTERN ASSOCIATION (5 Churches)

- **Eau Claire**: First;  
- **Hudson**: First;  
- **La Crosse**: First;  
- **Tomah**: Open Door;  
- **Wisconsin Rapids**: First
PREVIOUS YEAR ANNUAL GATHERING DRAFT MINUTES—2016

172nd Annual Gathering of the American Baptists—September 23-24(25), 2016
Camp Tamarack, Waupaca, WI — DRAFT MINUTES

THEME: “All of God’s Creation...” Isaiah 45:8

Program Committee Members: Jacqueline Colbert—ABC/WI Vice President; Committee Chair; José Encarnación—ABC/WI President; Carolyn Dugan—Ministers Council/Camp Staff; Kim Drost—ABWM; Ron Stacey—AB Men; Mike Levenick—At-Large Member; Judy King—At-Large Member; Marie Onwubuariri—Executive Minister ABC/WI

Friday, September 23

Afternoon Pre-Gathering: Golf Outing at Foxfire course where several people enjoyed the weather and fellowship.

6:00 PM Registration began for Friday night attendees. Betsy Kelnhofer, ABC/WI Administrative Assistant, coordinated registration assisted by a group of volunteers who helped attendees navigate Camp Tamarack grounds.

7:00 PM The worship service officially began as President Jose Encarnacion called the Annual Meeting to Order. He and Vice President Jacqueline Colbert gave opening remarks and welcome. Those gathered experienced creation with a sensory interpretation of Genesis 1:1-2:3. Rev. Dr. Timothy Ashley gave a reflection on the Theme Scripture of Isaiah 45:8. The offering from the evening was collected to support the ministry of Camp Tamarack. The group also enjoyed the art work provided by several churches and curated by Rev. Marty Carney.

8:30 PM The Region President’s reception and fellowship occurred in the upstairs Tamarack Lodge and was sponsored by Iglesia Evangelica Bautista. The Ministers Council Annual Meeting was held at the same time in the lower level of the Tamarack Lodge.

9:30 PM Several attendees and volunteers enjoyed singing songs and S'mores at the waterfront camp fire space.

Saturday, September 24

8:00 AM Registration resumed and breakfast was provided for those staying at Camp Tamarack.

8:45 AM The Worshipful Work began in the John Gray Lodge as well as the Children/Youth program. VP Colbert provided a welcome, President Encarnacion called the meeting to order, and an opening song and prayer was given. The minutes of the 2015 Annual Gathering that were provided in the program booklet was approved.

VOTING CHURCH DELEGATES:

During this session, church delegates will be electing region officers, board and commission members, and various reports will be received. While congregations may have an unlimited number of persons participate in the annual meeting, the number of voting delegates is established by the ABC/WI Articles of Incorporation (Article VIII, Section 2). Furthermore, voting delegates must be from congregations that meet the five common criteria for a cooperating church as outlined in the Covenant of Relationships with ABCUSA, and must pay the $25 registration fee as noted in Article XII, Section 7 of the ABC/WI Bylaws.
Nomination slate proposed by the nomination committee was presented, and all nominees were approved. Those who have completed their term were thanked and acknowledged. 2015 unaudited financial reports were provided; received unanimously.

Executive Minister Onwubuariri directed attendees to read the State of the Region report provided in the registration bags, and gave some highlights. New Pastors, new churches (Emmanuel Chin Baptist Church and Milwaukee Myanmar Christian Church), ordination anniversaries, and sponsors were recognized.

Associations briefly met to elect representatives to the Board of Managers and Nominating Committee. VP Colbert asked all newly elected and appointed leaders, along with continuing leaders to stand. Sam Brink led in a dedication prayer.

President and VP acknowledged retiring staff Sam Brink, Mark and Deb Lembke, Timothy and Maxine Ashely and invited everyone to a retirement banquet on December 9, 2016 at Embassy Suites Hotel in Brookfield, Tickets $35. Announcements were given for the remainder of the day. An offering for regional ministry was collected.

The worshipful work session/business meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. and a brief break was taken.

~10:30 AM Panel presentation of “The Breadth and Our Care of Creation” began with panelists: Birl Lowery (earth), Carolyn Dugan (creatures/animals), Walter J. Lanier (human-mind), Richard Crane (human-body) and Karen Gygax-Rodriguez (human-spirit) was moderated by Marie Onwubuariri.

11:30 AM Break out sessions began with attendees having an opportunity to spend time with a panelist and dig a little deeper into the area that interested them.

12:30 – Lunch occurred in the John Gray Dining Room and panelists were available for further conversations.

1:30 – Optional activities included: American Baptist Women’s Annual Meeting in the John Gray Dining Hall, time to share with others the stories of God working in communities in the John Gray Conference Room, Labyrinth and meditation walk, Photo and Nature hike on the camp grounds as well as a canoe/kayak trip on the Chain 'O Lakes. Many attendees contributed to the Group Art Piece led by Kelsey and Mike Levenick.

2:45 The closing worship began with a Call to Worship, singing and opening prayer. Dr. Molly Marshall preached from Psalm 104:27-30 and Revelation 21:1-5. The offering collected was for the work of Central Seminary. Communion was distributed by the 5 retirees: Sam Brink, Timothy and Maxine Ashley, Mark and Debbie Lembke. The music for the weekend was provided by the music team of: Jim Carlson, Elias Garcia, Mateo Garcia, Cathy Muro, and Marie and Franklin Onwubuariri. Closing comments, Benediction and adjourned the 172nd Annual Gathering at around 4:15 PM by newly elected President Colbert.

Optional event on Saturday included a conversation with Rev. Gregg Sneller from International Ministries and on Sunday morning a mission engagement project at the Foundations For Living, Inc. Transition Housing Ministry.

Respectfully submitted: Carolyn Dugan and Marie Onwubuariri

SUNDAY SCHEDULE — OCTOBER 15
At The Federated Church of Green Lake
You are invited to worship with local ABC congregation, The Federated Church, Green Lake.
9:00 AM Traditional, Liturgical       10:30 AM Informal, Family, Contemporary
Guest Preacher: Rev. Jacqueline Colbert
FEEDBACK AND REFLECTION SURVEY

Our hope for the Annual Gathering is that it will be a time of fellowship, learning, and retreat that is shaped not only by the Program Committee and regional staff but by all who attend. We also hope you will experience something that you will be inspired to take back to your communities. Those of you who serve as delegates of your churches may also be expected to share your experience.

To this end, all attendees are encouraged to participate in the Feedback and Reflection Survey which is designed to help the planners assess the event, to give you an opportunity to shape future gatherings, and also to encourage you to take time for self-reflection for the purpose of your own discipleship.

Please go to the following link to fill out our online survey no later than Monday, October 30, 2017. A few hard copies of the same survey are available from the registration table on orange paper.

https://goo.gl/forms/PBU2FnRoYVpIDrfs1

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**Annual Gathering Team**

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
Delight Antos, ABC/WI Vice President; Committee Chair
Jacqueline Colbert, ABC/WI President
Russ Antos, Ministers Council
Kim Drost, ABWM
Franklin Onwubuariri, AB Men
Barbara Jean Sanger, At-Large Member
Jim Carlson, Hispanic Community Liaison
Marie Onwubuariri, Regional Executive Minister, ABC/WI

**REGISTRATION/HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS**
Nola Branton, Sharon Ladwig, Dennis Sampson, Kathy Sampson, Beth Ann Scott

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Maxine Ashley

**ABC/WI STAFF**

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<tr>
<td>Elaine Mueller</td>
<td>Office Housekeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie Onwubuariri</td>
<td>Regional Executive Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Roberts</td>
<td>Assistant Minister—Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kris Tontis</td>
<td>Accountant (Contractor)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Have you visited the brand new Region website?
WWW.ABCOFWI.ORG

◊ Upcoming events
◊ Church mission stories
◊ Forms, templates, logos
◊ Wisconsin Baptist archive
◊ Church listings and map
◊ Ministry/Job opportunities
◊ Mission giving info
◊ Elected region leadership
◊ Region documents
◊ Scholarship info
◊ Camp and Seminary news
◊ Links to partner ministries
◊ Staff contacts and bios
◊ Upcoming office closures
◊ Staff articles on relevant and timely topics for churches and ministers
◊ Google calendar you can subscribe to and growing each month...

Let us know what else you would like us to make available to you on our website.

Help us “fall” out of camp...
October 20th and 21st

Projects:
• Forestry – trimming trees/branches and some chainsaw work
• Waterfront – bring in boats, raft, buoys, lifejackets
• Winterize cabins

There are other bigger projects that still need to be done – any time, so let Kim or Carolyn know if you are interested and when you are available.

Kim Drost – kim.drost@shoefly.org
715-281-7816
Carolyn Dugan – carolyn.dugan@shoefly.org
715-281-2267

For this event let us know by 10/18 if you plan to attend.

Share the event on Social Media:
During or after the event, use the hashtag #ABCWIAG2017 to post comments, video, or photos telling how you experienced being Rooted in and Living Through Christ during our weekend gathering.

“American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin”

Find us on: Facebook
Follow us on: Twitter
@ABCofWI
Ministry of ABC/WI Regional Office

To become an effective resource that compels and equips our ministers and ministries toward rootedness, collaboration, growth, and transformation for the sake of a relevant and engaging Christian witness in Wisconsin and beyond.

- Rootedness — to foster a clear sense of belonging and affinity by keeping in the forefront our commonality in and centrality of Christ and educating on the particular heritage and current efforts that define an American Baptist framework and perspective
- Collaboration — to serve as a hub that seeks and creates opportunities for fellowship and synergy in mission among our members and partners
- Growth — to encourage and equip for spiritual, discipleship, and ministry growth through education, skill-building, and sharing of best practices; to foster numerical growth and/or increased impact through evaluation of our covenantal relationships and programmatic efforts with intent toward pruning and expansion
- Transformation — to promote God-directed community engagement, innovation, and ministerial experiments that would positively affect institutional and societal cultural change toward more genuine Christ-like reflection

The Regional Office compels and equips through four broad areas of ministry: Church and Ministerial Resourcing, Education, Camping, and The POST (a developing model of faith community with a vision of broad-reaching service to church and community).

“I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

“Reaching out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depth! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.”

“United Mission supports regional offices, and churches depend on regional offices. Contact makes all of the difference. As churches navigate change, whether that means integrating technology into everyday operations, dealing with financial issues and ministry through the cracks. Every church benefits from their oversight and connection. American Baptist Churches has been blessed with a diverse set of members, from small congregations and big ones, rural churches and urban ones. United Mission makes it possible to truly celebrate those gifts, celebrating everyone’s passion through a range of personal ministries.”

“This is a personal story from Mrs. Pam Weisser of West Allis, First and former President of ABC of Wisconsin.”

United Mission is the vehicle...
Together Living Faithfully Through Christ Today

The scriptural inspiration for the vision comes from Ephesians 3:18-19:

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. “NRSV

And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you’ll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ’s love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.” The Message

Ministry of ABC/WI Cooperating Churches, Affiliated Ministers, and Partnering Organizations

ABC Wisconsin is strengthened not only by the regional office striving for relevant and effective ministry but also by the efforts of the member congregations, affiliated ministers, and partner organizations living into our voluntary association with one another. When our respect for, engagement with, and value of one another is strong, our ability to minister together for a united witness for Christ shines that much brighter. When we give ourselves to the power of the Holy Spirit to unite us beyond our valued diversity, the more reflective we become of the reign of God.

◊ Through your affirmation of shared identity and purpose with one another;
◊ through your participation in the life and mission at local, regional, national, and international levels;
◊ through the joyful giving of your resources of offerings, time, and talents and passionate service beyond the local church;
◊ through your story-telling of God’s work in your communities
— we LIVE OUT covenantal relationships, associational life for the greater good, and discipleship. We continually become the Body of Christ.

United Mission is the simple, efficient way American Baptists pool financial resources to maximize the amount of good we can do. Churches contribute monthly, quarterly, or annually, and support ministry and mission locally, regionally, national, and internationally. Contact Marie Onwubuariri, if you have questions.

American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin—2017-2020

United Mission supports regional offices, and churches depend on regional offices—a lot. There are so many things a church needs to do where having a knowledgeable, personal contact makes all of the difference. As churches navigate change, whether that means finding qualified pastoral candidates who are a good match for the congregation, to integrating technology into everyday operations, dealing with financial issues and more, the regional offices are a vital support network. They help make sure nothing falls through the cracks. Every church benefits from their oversight and connections. American Baptist Churches has been blessed with great ones. United Mission makes it possible to truly appreciate them.”

Former President of ABC of Wisconsin
THANK YOU MAJOR SPONSORS

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING SPONSORS
Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, Project Focal Point, Tudor Oaks, University of Sioux Falls, Wisconsin Council of Churches

AND THANK YOU TO...
all special guests, program committee members, plenary leaders/panelists, worship participants, table facilitators, musicians, registration team, hospitality volunteers, the staff of Green Lake Conference Center, region staff, and all our attendees for making the 173rd Annual Gathering of the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin possible, synergistic, and memorable.

May we all stay rooted in and living through Christ!

SAVE THE DATE
174th ABC of Wisconsin Annual Gathering
Friday-Saturday, October 12-13, 2018
Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church, Milwaukee
Reverend Martin Childs, Jr., D.Min., Pastor
For more information about PRMBC, visit online at: pilgrimrestmilwaukee.org

An annual event of the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin, this year hosted at The Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI