



THE WISCONSIN BAPTIST

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A New Year/A New Vision—a word from Marie Onwubuariri

2016 was a year of celebration. Mid-year we acknowledged the 100th anniversary of the documented start of Baptist camping in Wisconsin, and to close the year, we gathered in banquet setting to honor the service of six region-related staff members who impacted the breadth of regional ministries: ministerial and church support, Camp Tamarack, and the CENTRAL Wisconsin seminary site. We once again give thanks to Sam Brink, Mark and Deb Lembke, and Timothy and Maxine Ashley for their years of discipleship expressed through their service to ABC Wisconsin and wish them well as they begin a new journey in retirement (at least from ABC/WI)!



Photos by Dallas Flippin; Brookfield, Immanuel

With January 2017 upon us, the first month of the a fresh year, we enter into the beginning of a chapter in the life of American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin that will be shaped by a new vision, a new framework for ministry and related priorities articulated through a staff- and region board-endorsed strategic plan, and to some extent new leadership. While we do have individuals who will continue to serve in the region, all of us will have slightly transformed duties and/or scope of ministry.

You may have noticed the revised logo above. The visual is actually a logo that we have been using since the 2014 Annual Gathering, depicting that year's theme: "Synergy in Mission" (designed and created by Marty Carney). Because synergy in mission has been growing and will need to continue to grow for us to live out our historic and continuing Mission Statement, we have adopted this logo as our main current logo*, with our new vision statement, centering scripture, and core values.

*We will continue to use our historic logo on occasion

Vision: *Together Living Faithfully Through Christ Today*
Centering Scripture: *Ephesians 3:18-19*
Core Values: *Rootedness, Collaboration, Growth, and Transformation*

In the coming months, and in fact, over the next quadrennium (4-year period), you will continue to hear more about this direction and are invited to fully participate in it. Please read more about it in the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan Executive Summary available at www.abcofwi.org.

"...so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Eph 3:19 NRSV

ROOTEDNESS: Faith Formed by Stories—Stories that Impact Lives 2017, February 10-12 — Waupaca and Milwaukee

CAMP TAMARACK FEB 10-12 WINTER YOUTH RETREAT!

Join us as we spend the weekend delving deeper into some of the stories of the Bible and sharing some of our own stories using specific prompts. All youth in 7th-12th grade

are invited to join us! \$90 if Postmarked on or before January 15; \$100 after. You are encouraged to register on-line at: <http://www.camptamarack.org/reservations.shtm>

Send \$30 non-refundable deposit to the region office in Elm Grove.



STORYTELLING STUDENTS TAKE IT TO THE PUBLIC - February 11

Participants of the CENTRAL Wisconsin "Narrative Historical Theology" Fall 2016 seminary class will tell untold and under-appreciated stories of local church history and formation. This will be an opportunity for reflection and discussion on the role of stories and storytelling in living out our faith. This morning event is **Free** and **Open to the Public** and will be hosted by Milw, Pilgrim Rest, 3456 N. 38th St. More information on www.abcofwi.org.

News About People & Churches

Sheboygan Falls, Community has called Marlene Grandinetti as their new pastor, effective January 1, 2017.

Condolence to the family & friends of Rev. Norman G. Miller who passed on November 14, 2016. He had served at Wisconsin Dells, Indian and as interim pastor at Eau Claire, FBC.

Other Important 2017 Dates:

- Feb 24:** ABC/Wi Fellowship Night at the Milwaukee Bucks NBA game, BMO Harris Bradley Center. Limited tickets. See abcofwi.org for full details.
- June 2-4:** Camp Tamarack. ABWM Annual Retreat; ABC/WI Board of Managers meeting (June 3)
- June 11-July 15:** Camp Tamarack Youth and Family Camps. See full schedule on camptamarack.org
- June 30-July 2:** Portland, OR. ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit
- Oct 13-14:** Green Lake Conf. Center, ABC/WI 173rd Annual Gathering

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF WISCONSIN

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Together Living Faithfully Through Christ Today