



THE WISCONSIN BAPTIST

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ABC Biennial Mission Summit—A Brief Reflection

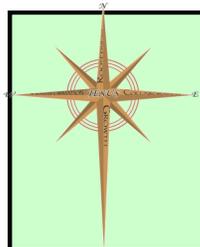
A word from Marie Onwubuariri, Regional Executive Minister

The last week of June leading up to July 2, American Baptists from across the country, Puerto Rico, and global servants from around the world converged in Portland, OR for our denomination's biennial gathering. Amidst close to 1000 participants and dozens of potential workshops, bible studies, activities, sessions, and impromptu conversations, I could not possibly provide an adequate summary of the event that would include a complete listing of highlights. Bring a diverse group of Baptists together and you can be sure that no two people will walk away with the same experiences and impressions! However, I admit I had my ABC Wisconsin lens on as I sought out indications of "rootedness"—one of our region's imperatives and the theme of this year's Annual Gathering. As our denomination is in a season of transition, with three of our newest national leaders offering their vision during plenary worship sessions, I listened for rootedness—and what that rootedness means for us today. My brief takeaway:

American Baptists have always been a people for and about mission, lifting up both the centrality of local communities of faith and the gospel call around the globe, who have understood God's humanity as valuable and therefore examined the treatment of people with serious attention, and thus often found some justice to pursue that went against the then-current-day norms. From this rootedness we are still fiercely being called to challenge our comforts, comfort the afflicted, and discern and follow with deep faith the example of Jesus, repenting from all self-indulgent securities and making it our purpose to bring good news and hope to others.

On our best days, this is what I have witnessed, and these are the roots that I proudly claim and the call in which I labor.

Mission Summit press releases can be found at www.abc-usa.org ("News" tab).



173rd Annual Gathering of ABC Wisconsin, October 13-14, 2017

Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, Wisconsin

"Rooted in and living through Christ" Col 2:6-7

Registration booklets have been sent to churches and are available online: www.abcofwi.org!

CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS for ABC/WI regional leadership positions - As a region we continue to work toward strengthening regional office ministry and synergy among the ABC/WI constituency. *We are looking for visionary, passionate, and available individuals who are interested in serving.* The positions have varying terms beginning after this year's Annual Gathering, and include Vice President, Treasurer, Members of Commissions (Camping, Ministry, Finance, Congregational Missions), At-Large Board of Managers Member, and ABC/WI representations to ministry partner boards. New this year, we are seeking those who are interested in a Governance Re-Structure Task Force. More info about these positions can be found at the region website in the posted bylaws document or by contacting the region office. All nominations of active church members in ABC/WI cooperating churches can be directed to your Assoc. rep or the chair of the Nominating Committee, Rev. Jim Carlson, 2ri4carlsonj@gmail.com.

✠✠✠ IN SYMPATHY ✠✠✠

- To the family and friends of **Richard Goins**, who passed away on Tues, June 13th. Richard served as pastor of First Baptist of Eau Claire, plus several other churches and regions. His memorial service will be on Saturday, July 29th at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Eau Claire.
- To the family and friends of **Joyce Nichols Sa'vage**, who passed away on Mon., June 19th. Joyce was a minister serving at Calvary Baptist in Milw., a graduate of CENTRAL Wisconsin, and served our region and region churches in many various ways. A service of remembrance was held on June 28th.

News About People, Churches, & Partners

- Thank you and best wishes to **Brazilian Thurman**, currently serving as our representative to the national American Baptist Home Mission Societies, and her husband Alfonzo, who have relocated to Georgia.
- Thank you and best wishes to **Jackie Colbert**, current Region President, and her family who are relocating to Norfolk, VA. Jackie will complete her term as president and will be attending the Annual Gathering in October.
- Congratulations to **Sudie Jones** and **Mark Brandel** who have received ABC recognition of their ordinations and were presented certificates during worship services this summer.
- Congratulations to **Eric Lundquist** who will be ordained at Waukesha, First on July 30.
- Welcome to Pastor **Kenneth E. Cutler, Sr.** and the **Greater Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church**, Milw. who were received as an affiliating church at the June 2017 Board of Managers meeting. An official welcome will be given to this at the ABC/WI Annual Gathering.



Summer Wellness Challenge

Are you interested in joining others who are participating in a region-wide effort to improve mind, body, and/or soul by setting monthly

goals? As a group we will help you achieve it! Check out our website for more details or Contact Coach Carolyn at carolyn.dugan@abcofwi.org.

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF WISCONSIN

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