The Wisconsin Baptist

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Rooted in and for Collaboration

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Regional Executive Minister

Hebrews 10: *[23]Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. [24]And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, [25]not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (ESV)*

In 2017 American Baptists in Wisconsin considered our work together within the frame of "rootedness"—not only looking backward into our history as a particular expression of Christian faith and how this informs us today, but also assessing the depth of our contemporary witness and work and considering root causes of the concerns of our day. These things seemed to culminate in our learning, interactions, and conversations at our Annual Gathering (AG) in early October. It was rich.

In the following month I had two particular opportunities that shifted me into the thought, "rooted in and for collaboration" (in progression from the AG theme "Rooted In and Living Through Christ.")* I had my first visit to the First Baptist Church in America (Providence, RI), and learned more about our fore-father, Roger Williams. One thing that stood out to me among the various readings of *religious liberty* and *soul freedom* was that these were pursuits in the context of community—community beyond one local group of believers. This early presence of the *associational principal* came alive for me at the second opportunity—a network event of several ABC regions, sharing ideas and wisdom with the goal of seeking new collaborations.

We live in the balance—sometimes tension—between exercising our freedoms and voluntarily associating with others. Our shared rootedness calls us together yet our breadth, our creativity often strains our interactions. The above verses from Hebrews 10 lays out for us a hopeful way. In 2018, as a region we will shift our frame to our stated value of "collaboration." Let us stir up one another to love and good works.

Mission is Possible with Your Support

Year to date (thru Nov.) ABC/WI congregations have given $255,718 to ABC missions of which $74,824 supports regional ministries within Wisconsin (including designated giving to campus ministry, Milwaukee Christian Center, Project Focal Point, Camp Tamarack). The region budget is near $710,000. Additional net income comes from grants, organizational and individual gifts and bequests, CENTRAL Wisconsin and region investments. Your support, through United Mission monthly giving and the American for Christ special offering, is vitally important.

CAMP TAMARACK 2018

Summer Camps

(grades just completed)

May 17th-20th Spring In to Camp
June 10th-16th Sr High 9-12 grades
17th-20th Primary 1-2 grades
17th -23rd Middler 3 – 4 grade
24th-30th Junior 5 – 6 grade
July 1st -7th All Inclusive
1st – 4th Grandily
8th – 14th Jr. High 7 – 8 grade)
15th-21st Special programming - stay tuned!

2018 Winter Youth Retreat
7th-12th graders
Friday Jan 19th—
Sunday Jan 21st
Register at: camptamarack.org

Important Dates for 2018

- 2/3: CENTRAL WI Alumni/ Student celebration & lunch
- 2/24: Bucks Faith & Family Outing
- 3/9-10: Small Church Training Event
- 4/20-4/22: ABC/WI Men's Retreat
- 5/5: ABC/WI Board of Mgrs Mtg
- 5/12: 2018 CENTRAL Wis Grads attend Graduation in Shawnee, KS
- 6/1-3: ABWM Retreat
- **October 12-13, 2018 ABC/WI 174th Annual Gathering** at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Milw.
- 11/3: ABC/WI Board of Mgrs Mtg.

Subscribe to the ABC/WI Google Public Calendar. Go to the following link for info: http://www.abcofwi.org/calendar-of-events/

CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Save the Date: Sat., February 3rd, 12pm
A Celebration and Lunch
for Central Seminary Students & Alumni

Classes starting in January ** revised curriculum*

- *** Foundations for Seminary Studies** - F-FM501 - Fridays 6pm-9:45pm - taught by John Jones
- *** Biblical Interpretation** - I-IN501 - Saturdays 9am-12:45pm - taught by Jim Carlson
- **Spiritual Formation & Human Development** - CS502 - Fridays - 6:30 - 9:30pm then every other Friday - taught by Ross Peterson

If you or someone you know has been considering seminary studies, please contact: our Student Recruiter ericka.davis@abcofwi.org or our Site Coordinator john.jones@abcofwi.org. You can also check out the program through apply.cbts.edu. Feel free to call the Region Office to get the conversation started.

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