A Bit of American Baptist History

1. American Baptists were the most important influence in the attaching of the Bill of Rights to the Constitution in the 18th century.
2. More than any other denomination, we pioneered Education for freed slaves in the South after the Civil War. We invested about $300,000 when that was REAL money!
3. By 1911, we had helped establish 1,100 bilingual churches, most of which eventually established their own ethnic denomination.
4. We were the first denomination to begin doing Campus Ministry.
5. It was one of our churches that began the first Vacation Bible School.
6. We were the first denomination to elect a woman president, Helen Barrett Montgomery (1921-22).
7. Prior to 1920, over 50% of the Protestant churches west of the Mississippi were constructed with some borrowed funds from our Home Mission Society.
8. At the time of the Second World War, we stood with the Japanese Americans as they were put in detention camps, when that was not a popular thing to do.
9. ABC pastor Walter Rauschenbusch was called “The Father of the Social Gospel” because he was the prime mover in Child Labor legislation.
10. Our denomination has been present at the beginning of each phase of the Ecumenical movement and continues to be most supportive.
11. Ours is the most effective Mission Program on earth. More people are won to Christ per dollar spent, per missionary sent, than any other group doing mission work anywhere. That is because we pioneered indigenous leadership everywhere.
12. We are the only major denomination where there is NO majority of any ethnic or racial group.

Without the witness of American Baptist the world and this nation would suffer. God has used us in incredible ways in the past. In these times the recalling of these things ought to give us faith that God will lead into the future.
Organized in 1844, the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin is a covenanting partnership of sixty congregations. While encouraging such cherished Baptist principles as soul freedom, priesthood of all believers, authority of the Word, believer’s baptism and autonomy of the local church; the congregations work together to advance missions locally and globally.

The American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin represents a rich ethnic and cultural heritage, which includes African-American, Chin, Karen, Hispanic, Native American, Chinese, and Euro-American congregations.

MISSION STATEMENT

American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin 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.

Services, programs, and staff are made possible by your gifts to United Mission, American for Christ, and to the ABC/WI Mission Budget.

CENTRAL/WISCONSIN

Founded in 2005, the Centre is a partnership between Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Shawnee, KS and the ABC/Wisconsin created for the purpose of providing Protestant theological education in Wisconsin. The Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada and the Higher Learning Commission have accredited the site as a “full degree granting site.” A team of 9 resident adjunct faculty and faculty from the Kansas campus provide the instruction. The Centre graduated its first students in 2010.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

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RESOURCES & SERVICES

- Annual Gathering of ABC/WI
- Camping & Retreat Programs at Camp Tamarack
- CENTRAL/Wisconsin: Seminarian Grants
  Master of Divinity Degree
  Life Long Learner
- Church Building/Renovation Loans;
  Planned Giving Administration
- Congregational Resources:
  Discipleship Curriculum; Policy Samples;
  Stewardship, Worship, & Evangelism Aids;
  Clergy Credentialing; Consultation
- Clergy Continuing Education Grants;
  Mission/Ministry Grant Programs
- Local Mission Support for:
  Milwaukee Christian Center
  Project Focal Point
  Campus Ministries in Madison,
  La Crosse, Milwaukee
  Wisconsin Council of Churches
  Interfaith Conference of Greater Milw.
- Missional Church Coaching/Leadership Development
- Networking
- Pastoral Search Committee Consultation Services
- Publications:
  The Wisconsin Baptist (Monthly)
  Synergy E-Newsletter (Monthly)
  ABC/WI Directory (Semiannually)