



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF WISCONSIN

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WWW.ABCOFWI.ORG

July 1, 2020

Dear Prospective Nominee to the Commission on Ministry,

You've been identified as a person with the gifts, experience, and perspective to make a valuable contribution to God's work through the ABC WI Commission on Ministry. The Commission on Ministry plays an important role promoting excellence in ministry by setting the standards for professional church leaders and assisting churches with procedures for licensing and ordination. Will you please pray about this opportunity? A year ago, three primary factors compelled me to say "Yes!" to the nomination for President of ABC WI.

- **Unique resources and potential.** Our region is a covenanting partnership of 60 congregations, united in American Baptist mission yet diverse in terms of theological commitments and contexts for ministry. It also represents a rich ethnic and cultural heritage which includes African American, Chin, Karen, Hispanic, Native American, Chinese, and Euro-American congregations. The board is also diverse, and we affirm our diversity of culture, gender, and theological perspectives as gifts for ministry.
- **Dynamic regional leadership.** Our region is served by Executive Minister Dr. Marie Onwubuariri. She came to us six years ago with deep roots in our American Baptist family and a Christ-centered vision. She has demonstrated a solid commitment to the health and dynamism of our region: she has cultivated relationships and built trust; she enabled us to create a new system of governance that is more focused and more flexible; and she's working with the board to ensure that our regional staff has the tools and training they need to address today's needs and tomorrow's possibilities.
- **Organizational Health.** By God's grace, ABC WI is healthy and gaining strength. Thanks to the generosity and sacrifices of American Baptists in this and previous generations, we're blessed with many resources. We must steward those resources wisely. We work hard to plan board meetings that build strong relationships so we can be focused, productive, and joyful.

One more reason to consider serving is apparent to me now, after serving for a year as President of the board.

- **An exciting new season is beginning.** Dr. Onwubuariri has spoken of "the Cycle of Gospel Living – sacrifice and redemption; powerlessness and powerfulness; letting go and receiving anew." Those of us serving on the board sense that we're entering a *kairos* moment. These times cry out for reconciliation, transformation, and justice on all levels of human interaction and aspects of creation, led by faith communities relying continually upon the purpose found in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

If the Lord is leading you to be a part of this next chapter of ministry, we will welcome you warmly and support you in making a vital contribution to our work. That work began in 1844. Still today, the need is great.

Fred Oaks
President, American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin

Together Living Faithfully through Christ Today

ABC WISCONSIN – REGION PROFILE

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.

2017-2020 Vision

“Together Living Faithfully through Christ Today”

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

Our common mission is categorized into four areas of ministry:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1.) Church and Ministerial Resourcing | 2.) Education |
| 3.) Camping | 4.) The POST/New Initiatives |

Each of these areas are pursued alongside a network of ministry partners and includes objectives in our four imperatives:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1.) Rootedness | 2.) Collaboration |
| 3.) Growth | 4.) Transformation |

A statement of the mission/vision – including a link to the executive summary of the 2017-2020 Region Strategic Plan can be found on our website: <https://www.abcofwi.org/mission-vision/>

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.

REGION Staff (emails, bios, & photos available <https://www.abcofwi.org/staff/>)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| ➤ Regional Executive Minister | Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri |
| ➤ Associate Regional Minister–Education | Rev. Dr. John Jones IV |
| ➤ Hispanic Community Liaison | Rev. Dr. Jim Carlson |
| ➤ Assistant Minister–Camping: Facilities & Guest Services | Rev. Kim Drost |
| ➤ Summer 2020 Camp Director | Ms. Dianna Brophey |

Communication – How People Can Keep Up-to-Date on Region News and Events

- **Wisconsin Baptist (WB)** ½ page bulletin insert designed for parishioners, monthly except in summer, emailed to Board members. Churches have access to reproduce and distribute these inserts for congregation.
- **Synergy (or “Synergy E-news”)** monthly electronic newsletter designed to highlight training, ministry, and missional opportunities, fostering synergy among ABC/WI constituents and network of ministry partners. Emailed 1st Wednesday of every month.
- **Church Mailer** refers to the mailer that we send via USPS to each church (senior pastor/office) with flyers and other "hard copy" items; this is generally monthly.
- **Website** is www.abcofwi.org and is regularly updated with articles, news, event information, and other resources related to our mission work.

ABC WISCONSIN – COMMISSION ON MINISTRY - OVERVIEW

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY:

1. **Membership:** Composed of six voting members, consisting of minimally two at-large Board members, one appointed member from the Wisconsin Ministers Council, and three additional individuals who shall be jointly appointed by the Chair, the President, and the REM. At least one of the six members shall be a layperson. Commission members, other than the at-large Board members, may serve a maximum of six consecutive years. The Chair shall be selected annually within the commission.*
2. **Duties:** Sets standards for professional church leaders and their standing in the ABC/WI. Assists churches and candidates in procedures for licensing and ordination. Provides counsel to churches and pastors in all matters of ministry.
3. **Meetings:** To be held at such times and places as they may determine, after consultation with the REM. However, such meetings shall not be held during the Annual Meeting sessions without the consent of the President or the REM.

ABC WISCONSIN – COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Nominations Process Next Steps

1. Read the next two pages:
 - a. Expectations
 - b. Leadership Profile Form
 - c. Conflict of Interest Policy Form

2. Review the following materials for more detailed information about ABC/WI:
 - a. Articles of Incorporation and By-laws
<https://www.abcofwi.org/mission-vision/governance/>
 - b. Region news and events: Wisconsin Baptists (WB) newsletter and Synergy e-newsletter
<https://www.abcofwi.org/newsletters-updates/>

3. To help you better respond to this invitation, direct questions to any of the following persons:
 - a. 2020 Nominating Committee Contact: Archie Ivy, Chair
Email: revalivy@sbcglobal.net | Phone: (414) 916-6477
 - b. Region Office Contact for logistics about nominating process:
John Jones, ARM-Education
Email: john.jones@abcofwi.org | Phone: (414) 412-2746
 - c. For a full listing of Nominating Committee Members:
<https://www.abcofwi.org/2019/06/28/nominations/>

4. If you are agreeing to this nomination, please complete the following pages:
 - a. Expectations
 - b. Leadership Profile Form
 - c. Conflict of Interest Policy Form

And return the originals to the ABC/WI Regional Office:

Early deadline: Sunday, 8/16/20 **Final deadline: Friday, 9/11/20**

Email: abcwi.office@abcofwi.org -or- Fax: (262) 782-7573 -or-

Mail: ABC/WI 15330 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122-2340

Please retain a copy for your continued reference or request photocopies from the region office.

5. Confirmation of nomination:
 - a. Nominees will be notified about the appointment by end of September.
 - b. In the meantime, please consider attending the 176th Annual Gathering on Saturday, October 10, 2020, which will be held virtually this year, especially the Annual Meeting session at 9:00 AM when elections and installation of newly elected and appointed individuals will take place. Registration information will be available at www.abcofwi.org.

6. If you are declining this invitation, please notify the person that gave you this packet as soon as possible.

ABC WISCONSIN – COMMISSION ON MINISTRY – EXPECTATIONS

Primary Responsibilities	Minimal Level of Performance
1. Know and abide by the duties and eligibility of Commission members.	This information is defined in the ABC/WI Bylaws, Article II, section 8 – Commission on Ministry. The Bylaws are readily available on the ABC/WI website and/or through the regional office.
2. Attend regular meetings of the Commission. (Phone and/or video conference are typically available for those who cannot attend in person; mileage reimbursement at IRS volunteer rate is given.)	The Commission meets four (4) times per year, or once per quarter. Dates are suggested and set at the end of Commission meetings as Commission business. Meetings are held at the Region offices to allow for video conference attendance, though the Commission may decide otherwise. Special meetings may be called as necessary.
3. Participate in Commission discussions and decision-making	Prepare in advance of meetings for discussions and decision-making by reviewing pre-meeting materials and self-educating on the issues posed to the Commission as needed. Become familiar with the ABC/WI “Recommended Guidelines for Licensing, Ordination, and Recognition of Non-American Baptist Ordinations” booklet. Responsibly follow through on commission decisions and action items when applicable.
4. Fulfill duties of the Commission on Ministry as outlined in the Bylaws of ABC/WI.	Sets standards for professional church leaders and their standing in the ABC/WI. Assists churches and candidates in procedures for licensing and ordination. Provides counsel to churches and pastors in all matters of ministry.
5. Serve as a resource to the Board and CEO	In general, offer and utilize personal and professional skills, relationships, and knowledge for the advancement of the ABC/WI organization. Be accessible for personal contact in between Commission meetings. Communicate Commission activities and insights to the Board of Managers through appropriate channels.
6. Comply with Conflict of Interest Policy	See the policy for details. At all times, act prudently and in good faith.

I am aware that this Commission member position description is an expression of good faith and provides a common ground from which Commission members can operate. With the information provided in additional materials describing the organizational mission and Commission responsibilities, I have a comfortable level of understanding of what is expected of a Commission member. With my signature below, I accept the appointment to the Commission on Ministry of ABC/WI, and I shall take stock of my involvement, and re-commit to appropriate ongoing activities as a condition of continued Commission participation.

Nominee’s Name Printed

Nominee’s Signature

Date

ABC WISCONSIN LEADERSHIP PROFILE FORM



Please type or write legibly:

Your Name:		Date:	/ /
Position:	ELECTED: <input type="checkbox"/> President <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Managers At-Large <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee Other Service Opportunities: <input type="checkbox"/> Commission on Ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Commission on Ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Gathering Program Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Finance Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee Christian Center <input type="checkbox"/> Project Focal Point <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Ministries <input type="checkbox"/> Interfaith Conference of Greater Milw <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin Council of Churches <input type="checkbox"/> American Baptist National Boards (Various) <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Full Mailing Address:			
Phone contact(s):	Home:	Work:	Mobile:
Email address:			
ABC/WI Church membership (inc. city):			
<i>The answers to these next four questions help the nominating committee in its efforts to work toward inclusive representation of various groups within our regional family.</i>			
Racial/Ethnic Self-Identity:	Gender:		
Age Group:	<input type="checkbox"/> Teenager <input type="checkbox"/> 18-35 <input type="checkbox"/> 36-49 <input type="checkbox"/> 50-65 <input type="checkbox"/> Over 65		
Ministry Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Clergy/Vocational Minister <input type="checkbox"/> Layperson		
<i>For the next 3 questions, use additional paper if needed and attach to this page.</i>			
Why are you interested in serving in this position? (assumes you are familiar with position description)			
What gifts, passion, experiences, etc. would you bring to this position?			
Are there any other considerations we should know that may strengthen or hinder your service to ABC/WI?			
<i>ABC/WI values collaborative ministry among our clergy and laypersons. We encourage persons to share about their service within the ABC/WI region with their local faith community.</i>			
For clergy: Does your congregation support you in this nomination? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
For laypersons: Does your pastor support you in this nomination? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF WISCONSIN
CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

POLICY: It is the policy of American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin (“ABCW”) that all Officers and members of the Board of Managers, Commissions, and Committees (collectively, including Officers, “Member”) shall scrupulously avoid any conflict between their own respective individual interests and the interests of ABCW in any and all actions taken by them on behalf of ABCW. Such individuals shall not use their position of leadership to give enhanced, or unfair, advantage to business relationships, to further their own personal interests or that of any related interested individual or organization.

In particular Members shall avoid transactions with ABCW in which they have a personal direct or indirect financial interest or in which they are shareholders, members, partners, officers or directors of an entity contracting with ABCW.

In the event that any such Member or a member of such person’s immediate family has such a potential conflict of interest, that person shall promptly disclose the material facts of such conflict or transaction to the Board of Managers as a matter of record.

When any such conflict of interest becomes relevant to any subject requiring action by the Board of Managers or any of its Commissions or Committees, such Member having a conflict shall not vote on the subject with respect to which the conflict of interest exists, shall not attempt to influence the vote of any other Member, and shall not be counted in determining the quorum for dealing with such subject. A Member who is excluded from voting because of such conflict of interest shall briefly state the nature of the conflict and answer pertinent questions of other Members when such Member’s knowledge of the subject will assist the Board, Commission, or Committee.

After such disclosure is made and the Board, Commission, or committee has had the opportunity to ask pertinent questions, a vote should be taken with the action carried by a majority of disinterested Members, who must constitute a quorum. Minutes of the meeting shall reflect that such disclosure has been made, that such Member abstained from voting and that the Member was not counted in determining the quorum for addressing such subject.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this conflict of interest policy is to protect ABCW’s interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an individual in a decision-making capacity within ABCW. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace state laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to ABCW.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____