

# American Baptist Churches of WI Region Profile

15330 Watertown Plank Rd, Elm Grove, WI 53122

1 (800) 311-3140 [www.abcofwi.org](http://www.abcofwi.org)

## "Together Living Faithfully through Christ Today"

**We are:** American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin is a diverse collection of ethnic and European-American churches spread throughout the great state of Wisconsin who are earnestly attempting to live true to our vision statement: *Together living faithfully through Christ today.*

**We are:** 62 congregations. 23 of which are African American, 4 Hispanic, 3 Karen, 4 Chin, 1 Siyin-Chin, 1 Chinese, 1 Burmese, 1 Native American, 1 multi-ethnic (European, Karen, Hispanic & Indian), 22 European American, and one online faith community.

**In addition to churches, we are:** The Milwaukee Christian Center, Project Focal Point, Green Lake Conference Center, as well as Campus Ministries at UW La Crosse; UW Madison, and UW Milwaukee. We also include the Housing Ministries of American Baptists in Wisconsin, Tudor Oaks Retirement Community, Ottawa University/Wisconsin, and Central Baptist Theological Seminary/Wisconsin. As a region, we are involved with the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, Wisconsin Council of Churches, and Greater Milwaukee Judicatory Leaders Fellowship.

**And Camp Tamarack:** Located on over 180 acres outside of Waupaca and holding considerable frontage on the beautiful Chain of Lakes, Camp Tamarack offers retreats for youth and adults of all beliefs throughout the year.

**Our Mission Statement Reads:** ABC of WI 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.

**Our region office staff is:** The Regional Executive Minister, Office Administrator (half time), Associate Regional Minister for Education (half time), Associate Regional Minister for Camping (half time), Hispanic Community Liaison (one-quarter time), and our Assistant Minister for Camping Facilities and Guest Services (three-quarters time).

**Our office is located:** In Elm Grove, a suburb of Milwaukee located 100 miles north of Chicago, 75 miles east of Wisconsin's capitol, Madison, and 125 miles south of Green Bay, home of the iconic Green Bay Packers. The Regional Office is within proximity of about 30 colleges and universities, including several religious seminaries. The ABC Regional Office has been in existence since 1893.

**Region Finances:** 2021 annual budget \$523,865. Total Assets (Dec. 2020) = \$5,247,889.

**Our Region Office Vision Statement Reads:** 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.

**Education:** Through the Commission on Congregational Mission and as a satellite site for Central Baptist Theological Seminary, the region has offered lay leaders and pastors educational opportunities. We have also hosted the Teaching Pastors Forum, wherein pastors can share their passion projects and work with one another.

**Recent initiatives:** "The Post" Online Christian Community, "The Circuit" group of transition facilitators, and the New Wine Skins grants for new ministry initiatives are examples of recent initiatives. We also just went through a thorough restructuring of our governance that has led to higher engagement, diversity, and enthusiasm throughout the organization.

**Priorities for the future:** At a recent Board of Managers meeting, the board listed the following priorities as important for the region's future: Education/Leadership Development, Camp Tamarack/Outdoor Ministry, Church Resourcing/Adaptability, and Cross-Cultural Ministries.