



# The Wisconsin Baptist

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October Edition

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Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, Regional Executive Minister

## Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, with Sunday, October 8th Clergy Appreciation Day. We are thankful for all those who serve the Lord in this vocation.

Responding to God's call into ministry is not an easy path for anyone, but especially since the pandemic began. The Hartford Institute for Religious Research conducted a survey in 2021 and learned that 68% of pastors reported that 2021 was their hardest year in ministry ever. Barna Group learned in 2021 that 38% of pastors had considered quitting full-time ministry. 90% of clergy report working between 55-75 hours per week. 50% of pastors feel unable to meet the demands of the job, and 80% of seminary and Bible college graduates will leave the ministry within the first five years of the job.

There is no such thing as the perfect pastor. There are at times theological disagreements, differences over priorities among church leaders, and sometimes just plain personality conflicts between pastors and church members. A healthy Pastoral Relations Committee that meets regularly (not just when conflict arises) can help navigate those issues and provide space for clergy within congregations to share their struggles and receive support from the church. If we remember that we all serve a mighty God and are partners in ministry together, grace and humility can enter in. The Regional Office can provide support and guidance for a Pastoral Relations Committee to serve both the church and pastor.

I invite you this month to show your appreciation for pastors, chaplains, and other ministerial leaders in your life. Write them a note to let them know you are praying for them or send a card. This is a time when you can look to the gifts God has given them and share your appreciation, even if you do not always agree.

Happy Pastor Appreciation Month to all our clergy!

Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell  
Executive Minister

**ABC-WI - 179TH ANNUAL GATHERING**  
GOD'S DOMINION IS FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION  
Daniel 4:3, KJV

**SAVE THE DATE**

- When: October 13-15, 2023
- Where: Green Lake Conference Center
- Focus: Next Generation Ministries

Registration Now Open!

Visit <https://www.abcofwi.org/annual-gatherings/> for more information or to register.

<b>Important Dates</b> ABC-WI Region	<b>Office Hours</b> Regional Office	<b>Important Dates</b> Camp Tamarack
Oct. 13-15: Annual Gathering	Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Oct. 26-28: Rest[ore] Retreat

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From the Board of Managers & Bylaw Revision Committee  
of the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin

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## Written Notice of Proposed Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation

The Board of Managers of the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin is putting forth a recommendation to amend the Articles of Incorporation based on the ABC-USA Bylaw Change in 2023 regarding changing "affiliated" to "cooperating churches."

The Bylaws Revision Committee recommends the amendment of language as follows:

*ARTICLE VIII: MEMBERSHIP PROVISIONS*

*SECTION 1: Membership of ABC/WI shall be composed of American Baptist Churches who have been received through an intake process of the Board, in accordance with the Cooperating Church guidelines set forth by the American Baptist Churches USA.*

**The full text may be found on at  
<https://www.abcofwi.org/annual-gatherings/>  
using the link *Business Session Documents - Articles Revision*.**