The Wisconsin Baptist

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By Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, Regional Executive Minister

"What is a region? What is its purpose?"

The first Baptist congregations were formed in the 1600's in both England and what is now Rhode Island in the United States. As the Baptist movement began to grow, congregations saw a need to partner together in mission and ministry. In 1707, the first Baptist association was organized in Philadelphia, and continues to be one of our 33 regions of the American Baptist Churches, USA.

A region is an organization of Baptist churches working together for common ministry and mission. Here in Wisconsin, we do several things together:

-Support congregations during times of leadership transition
-Provide training for lay leaders such as best practices for boards, pastor and congregation relations, financial practices, and more
-Equip lay ministers through the Leadership Training Academy
-Support and provide training in digital ministry (a primary focus in the last year)
-Care for Camp Tamarack, 130 acres in Waupaca where we hold camps, retreats, and learn about creation care and outdoor ministry
-Support new ministries through New Wineskins Grants and other initiatives
-Provide scholarships for clergy for continuing education, and youth/young adults to attend regional and national events for leadership development.

Important Dates ABC-WI Region	**NEW Office Hours** Regional Office	**Important Dates** Camp Tamarack
181st Annual Gathering (Sept. 26-27) Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Madison, WI	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Renew Retreat June 5th-7th CampTamarack.org

-Provide recognition of ordination through ABCUSA and accountability for our pastors
-Share resources on partnering with other churches and local organizations
-Consult when conflict arises in congregations to provide resources and support
-Support local missions such as the Milwaukee Christian Center and Project Focal Point
-Support missions through International Ministries and our global servants
-Be a resource hub and provide support should a disaster occur through One Great Hour of Sharing
-Advocate for religious liberty, one of our founding principles since the 1600's
-Advocating on issues of human rights and justice. American Baptists were on the forefront of the abolitionist movement, and we have historically advocated for women's rights to vote, indigenous rights, worker's rights, and civil rights

Our 54 churches are not all the same. We speak 9 different languages on Sunday mornings. We come from different backgrounds, different ways of doing worship, even different ways of deciding leadership and doctrine. But our region motto is, "Diverse Members, United in Christ" (Romans 12:4-5). Together, we are the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin. The regional office is here to support you and your congregation. You are not alone—we are all in this, together, to support each other in following Christ's call to share the Gospel to the whole world!

(Sept. 26-27)

Diverse Members, United in Christ