AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF WISCONSIN
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"What is ABC Wisconsin? What DOES the region do?"

As we continue to live into our purpose, our vision statement is:

To engage with churches, ministers, and ministries in collaborative and transformative work with our local and global communities by modeling integrity, pursuing justice, and fostering resilience while affirming the sacred worth of each person as beloved in Christ and by His church.

We are Diverse Members, United in Christ (Romans 12:4-5)

But you may be wondering,

"Why do we give to ABCWI?"

Again, I'm glad you asked! Our overall budget for 2026 can be divided into five areas of supporting our vision.

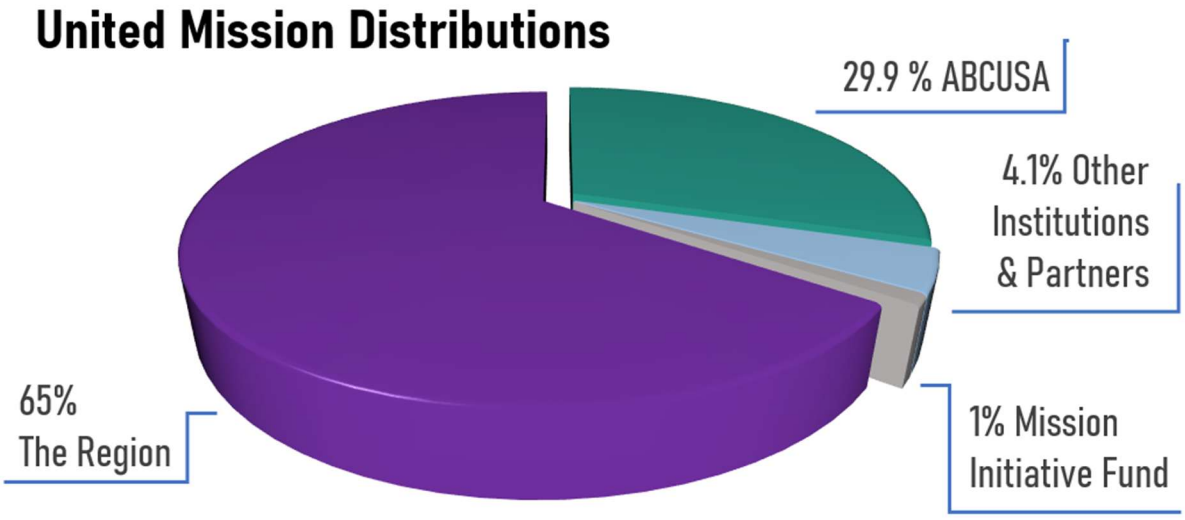
Almost 38% of what we do is support our local churches. Our staff, programs, and resources are focused on helping congregations with pastoral transitions, leadership development, continuing education, conflict transformation, visioning and mission focus, administrative help, and so much more.

About 15.4% of our budget supports Outdoor Ministries. This includes camping programs and retreats, stewardship of creation, but also support for ministries in both rural and urban areas. Outdoor Ministries is much more than Camp Tamarack.

The next two largest areas of our budget are for **Property and Operations**. Camp Tamarack is situated on over 100 acres in Waupaca. There are aging buildings and facilities that must be maintained, and regulations are becoming more restrictive for everyone's safety and security. Insurance went up in 2025 by 27%. We are looking at needing to replace most of the roofs on the cabins in the next year, along with other property upgrades. This year, we replaced mattresses in Basile, Hyde, Cornelius, and the Wolf Den. However, our Regional Office Operations costs continue to decrease in 2026 following the sale of our Elm Grove office building at the beginning of 2025, and moving some of our programs online.

The last portion of our budget, **Next Generation Ministries**, is where we support new churches and leaders, including scholarships for youth and young adults, and provide leadership development. We also support organizations such as Milwaukee Christian Center and Project Focal Point, Wisconsin Council of Churches and the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee. We also strongly support campus ministries such as the Crossing at UW – Madison and Common Ground at UW – La Crosse. **This portion of our budget increased significantly in 2025 and modestly in 2026. We plan to add a new full-time position focused on Next Generation ministries,** including youth and young adult leadership development as well as the next generation of ministry for our local churches in 2027.

"How do we share in this ministry together?"
Churches give through United Mission.
This is a shared financial fund that serves all the American Baptist Churches, USA.



United Mission is how we fund American Baptist Churches, USA. In your Mission giving, 2/3 stays here in the region and 1/3 goes out to fund ABCUSA. Just over 4% of that 1/3 goes to partners such as International Ministries, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, and others.

When churches send their United Mission giving form, they can discern how to distribute it. Right now, the top line of the form is for United Mission and is distributed in the United Mission model as above. However, you CAN designate your funds. If you want to give specifically to ABCWI, you may do so, just as you may give specifically to support one of International Ministries Global Servants (missionaries) or other ABC related ministries.