

News & Views—August 2020

ABW President's Report

Greetings Ladies of ABW Michigan. I hope all of you are doing well and enjoying this summer season. I also hope all of you are safe and healthy and taking precautions regarding the Coronavirus. Please be vigilant about keeping you and your family protected.

This has been a different kind of summer. Summer is almost over, and I have not gone anywhere or done anything summery, but then again what can I do or where can I go. I still consider myself to be under "house arrest."

At my home church, First Baptist Church of Detroit, in-person worship services are still suspended. Listening to service online just is not the same. I miss seeing my church family. This has become the new normal for most, if not all of us.

Although we were not able to meet in June for our annual retreat/conference please do not forget about our offerings – Region Support, Scholarship, Special Mission Projects, National Support, Leadership Development and many more. Our special mission project for 2019 was the Camp Lael Tipi Fund; for 2020 it is the Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief Fund. A full explanation of the offerings was included in the May News & Views. Also, do not forget to renew your subscription to News & Views. The cost is \$12.

I would like to announce and please join me in welcoming our Interim Coordinator of Publicity – Allison McRae. Allison has graciously accepted the position and responsibilities. Allison is a member of Clarklake Community Church. She will be administering the Facebook page for ABW-MI, creating other social media presences and of course be the editor of News & Views.

We still have openings on the Region Executive Committee for Coordinator of Missions with Women and Girls, Coordinator of Young Adult Women, and Coordinator of AB Girls. Please let me know if you are interested or know someone whom you think would be excellent for these positions.

Our Fall Fling has been canceled for 2020. We will have the Fall Fling in September 2021 hosted by the West Area. Stay tuned for more information.

I have been involved with the National American Baptist Women via conference calls for board meetings. I ask that you consider becoming a Vital Partner for National by giving regularly to National Support of American Baptist Women's Ministries. For more information visit the American Baptist Women's Ministries webpage at abwomenministries.org. I will also keep you abreast of national activities. Look for that information on the ABW-MI Facebook page.

I would like to continue to spend time getting to know who you are so please feel free to call or text me at 248.808.4133. You may also email me at blgct2008@gmail.com. I want to hear what you think the future holds for ABW Michigan. As I begin my second year as president I look forward to what lies ahead. I know the future will be filled with excitement, expectations, and joy. I also know that with God all things are possible. We are in this journey together.

May God richly bless all of you.

Brenda Threatt

ABW-MI Region President



Conference Statement

The conditions and implications of the Covid-19 Virus has brought considerable concern to people all over the nation and that includes the American Baptist Women of Michigan. Being mindful of the safety of all and complying with the state and CDC guidelines, we the American Baptist Churches Women's Conference Committee have decided to cancel the 2020 Conference previously scheduled for June 5-7, 2020. It is our plan to reconvene in late August of this year, with reviewing strategies to move forward with planning the 2021 Conference.



Additionally, we generally request donations to missions and scholarships during our conference. Please join the AB Women who are striving to be a continuous blessing in these areas of ministry. We ask that you still send your prospective donations to the regional office or treasurer so that the work in these areas may go forward. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the ABW 2020 Chairperson, Rev. Dr. Robyn Moore at 248-252-7678 or at pastorFBIC@yahoo.com. As always, stay home and stay safe!

May God Bless you and Keep You!

Pastor Robyn D. Moore, Chairperson of 2020/21 Conference (Reprinted from May 2020 issue)

A Note from Your Woman of the Year

Thank you so much for the honor of being Woman of the Year for our Michigan American Baptist Women. As I thought about our Annual conference, and the likelihood that it might be canceled, I thought about the fact that this is where we come together and often complete our commitments to our mission goals. So once I heard that we would indeed cancel our conference I immediately thought of our mission goals, our mission projects, our scholarship women and thought I would make this plea.



Please prayerfully consider the donations you would have made at DeWitt, and of the money you are not spending to go to conference, and if you are so blessed please send in your donations for our missionaries, our mission project, our region project, our scholarship fund and for our ABWM in general!

I know there are many demands of our personal money, we ourselves have contributed to several food banks in our area, as I am sure you have also. But please consider that as we are blessed we are called to bless others. The ABWM is a small but mighty group of blessed women, so let's put it together and meet or even exceed our goals!

Thank you for prayerfully considering this request.

Stay healthy, Stay safe.

Love and Peace to all,
Carolyn Grapentine
2019 Women of the Year

Send your donations to your area treasurer or to

Laurel Reed, 624 Narrow Way, Clarklake, MI 49234

(Reprinted from May 2020 issue)

Coordinator of Women & Girls Mission Fund

Note: Dr. Ghant has been hospitalized following surgery and is still grieving the deaths of her husband and both parents all within a week. She said the best way to contact her is to call her secretary at Covenant Baptist Church and leave a message (248.855.9191). This article has been updated from the May 2020 News & Views issue with input from Vanessa.



ABC-MI Region Transitional Pastor Leadership Group (MLG) and
American Baptist Women MI. Zoom Internet Technician (I.T.)
Dr. Vanessa E.P. Ghant, P. O. Box 3755, Southfield, MI 48037-3755
dr.ghant@gmail.com 248-470-6348 (Cell)

The transitional Pastor Ministry Leadership Group meetings are Zoom and in-person meetings held in our East Lansing region office. The non-Zoom members and Zoom members meet the first Friday of each month at 10 a.m. The remaining dates for 2020 are Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6 & Dec. 4. Anyone interested in joining the group via Zoom should contact Ed Owens at EdgarLOwens@gmail.com to have the Zoom link forwarded to you.

Currently our Zoom technicians are working on plans to support the various Out-Reach Ministries in our region.

Due to the technical skills many of our youth, young women, and seniors, most have access to a Zoom link. If you do not have access and you have an interest, please contact me and I will advise to you the downloading process from the internet. For further Zoom info, drop me an email at dr.ghant@gmail.com. Please keep in mind that there are several technical links available. I plan to write some Zoom guidelines soon.

If you are interested in a free introductory class about Zoom, please let me know. Subsequent classes are available at a reasonable cost.

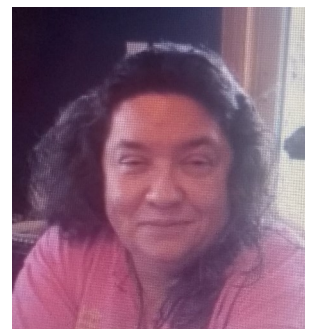
Submitted by, Dr. Vanessa E.P. Ghant

(Updated from May 2020 issue)

Convent Baptist Church, 5800 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322, 248.855.9191

Coordinator of Publicity

My name is Allison McRae and I am your new interim Coordinator of Publicity. I am a member of Clarklake Community Church. My email address is allisonmcrae88@yahoo.com and my phone number is 517-227-4918. I love animals and studying the Bible. If you have an event or announcement that needs publicized, please send me the information and I will spread the word. It's a pleasure to be serving you.



White Cross – American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM)

How are you doing? Can you believe almost 5-6 months have passed us. Some of us are still at home venturing out for errands, doctor/dental appointments, grocery shopping. Some have returned to work. I have and the workload has tripled. I work at a Lawyer's Office helping seniors who reside in Wayne County with their legal issues and life planning documents. There is so much need – legally, spiritually, etc.



As stated in the last Special Issue of the News & Views, The White Cross will continue doing the Baby Kits. Continue to sew and contact your Area Coordinators.

We will be continuing the project for the remainder 2020 into 2021.

I received many positive comments of the prayer I passed on in the last issue. In this issue I would like to pass on another prayer.

Dear Heavenly Father, While we do not truly understand why the COVID-19 pandemic occurred, we give thanks to You for the time you have given us to focus on our families, our communities, and those most in need. Precious Savior, be with the medical and emergency personnel who have given of their time and talents so selflessly. Help them to find a new normal, encourage recovery and restoration of their spirits. Shine Your light on those who are still feeling down and continue to cope with the economic impact of this situation. Grant them patience with things that take time and tolerance of the struggles of others that may be different than their own. Father, we also pray that You will provide the staff of ABW Ministries and all the women involved Your holy spirit to continue Your mission to serve You, so that we may be ever ready to serve others.

Be Blessed and Safe!

Respectfully,

Delia De La Fuente-Durham (dee)

Coordinator of White Cross

Central Area Report

Warmest greetings to all.

I trust that you have been taking the time to strengthen your faith. With the many things competing for our attention, it is most important now to not lose sight of our goal of reaching out and helping others.



If your 2-hour bible study is not meeting in person... stay committed and reach out to others during that time frame. When I say "reach out" I mean literally pick up your phone and dial the number and wait for the voice at the other end of the line! If no, answer, leave a message and try again! Reaching out takes more effort than a "like" of a Facebook post. Yes, it may be uncomfortable at first, but trust me, a "live" conversation will lift everyone's spirit. Try it out and let me know how the experience was for you.

Be creative and resourceful in finding ways to continue work on White Cross and other mission work, and share what works with others. Count your blessings and continue your faithfulness in giving and serving in new and exciting ways.

Worry robs you of the moment. There is much beauty and love active in the world... just look for it . Turn every worrisome and anxious thought into prayer. Phil 4:6-7 Don't worry about anything: instead, pray about everything: tell God your needs and don't forget to thank him for all his answers. If you do this you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Jesus Christ.

I look forward to being able to meet in person soon, until then continue to be in the word and sharing with others why you have faith and confidence.

Much Love,
Laura Germane
Central Area President

Scholarship Report

Greetings, Ladies!

I hope that you are all safe and healthy at this time. This is certainly an unexpected way of life that we are living!

All of our scholarship recipients have informed me that they do intend to continue their education this fall semester. We wish them the very best and pray that they stay healthy.

Three of our four recipients have birthdays this month, two on the same day even! If you have a chance, send them a birthday wish.

And please consider donating to fund the scholarships. I am sending my donation in today, along with my News & Views subscription payment and other donations. Please don't forget about this, even though we didn't have a chance to go to Conference this summer.

And if you know someone who might be in need of a scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year, we can begin taking applications now. An application is included in the N&V.

Our scholarship recipients:

Miranda Brooks Birthday: Aug. 31 Email: mirandabrooks649@gmail.com
Home address: 19930 Maplewood St., Livonia, MI 48152
Attending Oakland Community College Home Church: Crosspointe Meadows, Novi

Trinity Scott Birthday: Aug. 31 Email: trinity318@icloud.com
Home Address: 1608 Darlington Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
Attending University of Maryland Eastern Shore Home Church: Galilee Baptist, Kalamazoo

Luisa Tittle Birthday: Aug. 16 Email: luisareina2@att.net
Home address: 4740 Shellbark Dr., Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Attending University of Michigan—Flint Home Church: First Baptist Church, Ypsilanti

Rachel Good Birthday: Oct. 25 Email: rachelcgood@icloud.com
Home address: Apafi Utca 21 Debrecen, Hungary 4028
Attending University of Debrecen, Hungary Home Church: Covenant Baptist, West Bloomfield



In Christ,
Lori Zupan



ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS: Any woman who is a member of an American Baptist Church in Michigan, who gives evidence of a call to follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, whether in a secular position or in ministry, shall be eligible. We are all called to be ministers for Jesus wherever we are.

Applicants must complete and sign this application and also provide the following additional data:

1. Letter of recommendation from your pastor.
2. Statement of Christian experience/call to ministry.
3. Brief statement of your vocational expectations and goals.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____
(PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME - NO NICKNAMES)

HOME ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ CELL PHONE _____

PARENT'S NAMES _____ HOME PHONE _____

NAME OF HOME CHURCH _____

CHURCH ADDRESS _____ PASTOR _____

HIGH SCHOOL _____ YEAR GRADUATED _____

COLLEGE YOU ARE ENROLLED AT _____

MAJOR _____ YEAR _____

IS YOUR FAMILY ABLE TO HELP YOU FINANCIALLY? _____

IF SO, WHAT PERCENT CAN THEY PROVIDE? _____

DO YOU EXPECT TO WORK WHILE IN SCHOOL? _____

CAN AND WILL YOUR CHURCH PROVIDE FINANCIAL HELP? _____

STATE SPECIFICALLY ANY OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME AVAILABLE, SUCH AS YOUR OWN SAVINGS, OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS, ETC. _____

GIVE NAMES OF TWO (2) PEOPLE OTHER THAN FAMILY AS REFERENCES:

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| NAME _____ | NAME _____ |
| ADDRESS _____ | ADDRESS _____ |

I recognize that this scholarship is a gift from the American Baptist Women's Ministries of Michigan for the purpose of helping me prepare myself for whatever God would have me do with my life. I pledge myself to sincere preparation and eagerly seeking to know and to follow His will. I understand that should God call me to serve in a Christian vocation, I will plan to serve in the American Baptist Churches, USA.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT _____ DATE _____

*PLEASE ENCLOSE A **NON-PROFESSIONAL PICTURE** OR ONE THAT CAN BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT NEEDING COPYRIGHT PERMISSION. IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE SEND A DIGITAL VERSION TO loriz@tsshome.com.

This application and the additional data sheets are to be **returned to the Scholarship Coordinator before the deadline, March 1**. Send completed information to: **Lori Zupan, loriz@tsshome.com, 581 Canterbury Dr., Saline, MI 48176**.



News from Friendship House

Double Your Donation for Double the Impact!

Donate Now to Provide a New Walk-in Freezer for Hungry Families!

Twenty years ago, Gleaners Food Bank donated a second-hand walk-in freezer to us to hold our meat (and other frozen foods) until it was time to distribute them to our clients. It worked like a charm for the first 10 years. But eventually small things started to break down, then bigger things. So far, we've replaced the compressor 3 times in the past 10 years! Now it won't defrost and we have to keep chipping the ice away.

It's Time for a New Freezer!!

You can help us purchase that Walk-in Freezer! And the very good news, is that your donation will be

Matched Dollar for Dollar up to \$4,600 at

<https://detroitfriendshiphouse.networkforgood.com/projects/106852-new-freezer-2020>

Please join two of our very close partners:

**Eastern Michigan University's
Center for Health Disparities Innovations and Studies
and
American Baptist Women of Sanctuary,
First Baptist Church of Birmingham**

Together they pledged to match your donation, doubling your impact! A new freezer allows us to serve our client's the most fresh, nutritious, food possible in the most efficient manner. Clients want to make sure their children get a healthy start in life with good, healthy food!

We look forward to partnering with you to hold the quality of the food we give to our family to the same standard that would make you proud to serve it to your family!

Blessings,

Cathy Maher
Executive Director

Detroit Friendship House
9540 CONANT ST
HAMTRAMCK, MI 48212

Letter from the National Executive Director 8/8/2020



Dear Friends,

Laughter, singing, dancing, joke telling, technical tips, teamwork, chatting on breaks, and to top it off biblical discussions and STEAM projects. All this and more describes time together as we built community in Building Bridges and Gateways to Girls Future (BBGGF) during the AB GIRLS Hi-eSTEAM Virtual Camp. Together we studied biblical principles about friendship, spiritual practices, and being made in the image of God. Girls coded, engaged in c and created spa products along with company taglines and logos.

We had a blast! Our three day virtual Hi-eSTEAM camp evidenced that girls from elementary to high school are biblical scholars, inventors, and entrepreneurs. Our AB GIRLS Coordinator (Dr. Berquis Torres), board member (Joanne Strauss), and the National Leadership Team of AB GIRLS (NLT), (Mahsha, Dana, Hlawn, and Marta) joined the American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) staff in leading interactive Bible studies using AB GIRLS Curriculum.

We were joined by instructors from Montclair Learning Center, and the founder Christiane Agkpo for STEAM building activities. It was a blessing to watch girls from New Jersey to Ohio to Washington to Puerto Rico create community and make plans for their next gathering. This event enables ABWM to stay connected to girls, the NLT to lead, and for intergenerational ministry to flourish. It shows the strength of our sisterhood and the best of the collaborative efforts of the board, youth leaders, and staff.

This event and others like it are dependent on your generosity. Please consider giving your best gift to ABWM so that we may continue to plant seeds and keep our mission alive and relevant.

Give now at <https://secure.usaepay.com/interface/epayform/X10WO0XN86310x9RobCx78081Izh5z6>

Peace and joy,

Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain
Executive Director

To support our ministry with women & girls, go to
<https://abwomensministries.org//page.aspx/contentId/12/GIVE/>

1075 First Ave STE C-210 · King of Prussia, PA 19406
(610) 768-2288 · info@abwomensministries.org
www.abwomensministries.org



Letter from the National Executive Director 8/26/2020



Dear Friends,

It seems like we just celebrated our graduating teens and moving up ceremonies. Like so many, my town had congratulation signs in yards and school lawns affirming the accomplishments of elementary, middle, and high school students. Happy faces beaming with pride and joy were on flags in some New Jersey towns where Main Street was lined with high school students in their cap and gowns. Wow, it is already time for a new school year and in some states, students are already in class. This season we begin in the uncertainty of a pandemic that is still surrounding us while storms and fires ravish the United States and Puerto Rico. There are few bright spots in the nightly news, and yet we, the Body of Christ, stand on the promises of God, “listening every moment to the Spirit’s call, resting in my Savior as my all in all.”

For nearly 70 years, American Baptist Women’s Ministries (ABWM) has created opportunities and spaces for all women to be valued, addressed inequity and injustice, and discerned critical issues affecting women’s spiritual, physical, and financial wellness. We have prayerfully affirmed each other and cheered each other on in the good times and difficult days. Our ministry focus on education and prevention of domestic violence and sex trafficking, our efforts to address COVID-19 issues that are disproportionately impacting women, and our recent Hi-eSTEAM virtual camp for girls are just a few of the ways that we stand on the promises of God and continue to live our mission and core values. Our individual and collective experiences have shown us that God is always with us.

This year we are especially grateful that in a season filled with so much uncertainty, we have been able to rely on our Vital Partners. Their consistent support enabled us to provide scholarships for the Hi-eSTEAM virtual camp and share the upcoming domestic violence awareness training on September 12, 2020.

We appreciate and thank you for your faithfulness and for keeping your promise to support ABWM’s ministries so that ABWM can journey with all women as they discover and share their giftedness. In addition, we deeply desire to facilitate and inspire healthy women’s ministries in all of our churches. We can make this a reality!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

You can learn more about being a Vital Partner at www.abwomensministries.org/VitalPartners.

Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain
Executive Director

Upcoming Events:

Domestic Violence Awareness Workshop on September 12, 2020. Please register by September 9, 2020, at www.abwomensministries.org/DMV.

Bring out the inner artist in you and join us for a **Young Adult Women's Paint and Soothe Your Soul** on Friday, September 18, 2020. Please register by September 14, 2020 at www.abwomensministries.org/events.

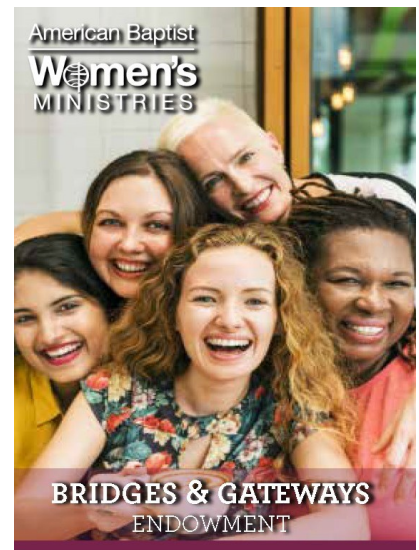
Addiction Webinar Series starting September 24, 2020. Visit www.abwomensministries.org/webinars to register.

Bridges & Gateways Endowment

The Bridges & Gateways Endowment was established in 2018 to provide current financial resources for today while securing long-term assets for the future.

The Bridges & Gateways Endowment is comprised of five distinct funds. Gifts may be designated to any of these or a combination. A portion of a gift will be used for AB Women's Ministries' operational use.

- The **Beloved Community Fund** will provide opportunities to women and girls to embrace our diversity as Christians through mission, dialogue, education, and spiritual formation. This fund supports the growth of healthy communities and enhanced communication, facilitating safe, and sustaining relationships.
- The **Break the Chains Fund** provides education, advocacy, partnerships, and opportunities to learn how to prevent sex trafficking through workshops and events, partnerships, and grants for new projects.
- The **In Her Shoes Fund** builds relationships and empowers women and girls through mentoring programs, workshops for all ages, working with local schools, businesses, and community centers, and advocacy and awareness. This fund helps women and girls find the support and encouragement they need.
- The **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.) Program Fund** supports the development of tutoring programs, workshops and events, partnering schools, and scholarships. This fund enables AB Women's Ministries to partner with other organizations to make sure girls receive an excellent foundation for life.
- The **Developing Leaders Fund** offers opportunities for women and girls to develop their God-given gifts for leadership is a critical part of American Baptist Women's Ministries. The Developing Leaders Fund was created to support the following leadership and development training, education and credentialing, spiritual and financial wellness education, networking events, and mentoring relationships. The Developing Leaders Fund ensures that strong women and girl leaders will have an impact on our ministries and our society into the future.



In partnership with
American Baptist
FOUNDATION

Ways to Give

As our way of saying thank you for your gift, supporters of this endowment may be included in the AB Women's Ministries Legacy Society. If you desire that your gift be anonymous, please let us know.

Give Now!

Send your contribution to American Baptist Women's Ministries offices at 1075 First Ave., Ste. C-210, King of Prussia, PA 19406. Checks should be payable to "American Baptist Women's Ministries" with "Bridges & Gateways Endowment" in the memo line. You can also give online using your credit card at <https://secure.usaepay.com/interface/epayform/eYGzcJnrWOWWI69Ug9Cw5LVFcaB3Z3rU/>

More Ways to Give:

Your financial commitment is important for the initiatives supported by the Bridges & Gateways Endowment. American Baptist Women's Ministries has partnered with American Baptist Foundation to provide creative "planned giving" options. In addition to cash gifts, we strongly encourage other ways to give and embrace the following:

- Gifts through wills and bequests
- Gifts of stock
- Life insurance designations
- Real estate and other property

Life income agreements, such as charitable trusts and gift annuities, are also available. These provide steady income to donors while assuring a long-term benefit to the ministry.

For more information on ways to give, contact American Baptist Foundation at (610) 768-2035 or abfadmin@abc-usa.org.



Links for giving available at <https://abwomensministries.org//page.aspx/contentId/85/Bridges-Gateways-Endowment/>

Vital Partners

Our ministry with women and girls
Can't happen without you!

Vital Partners are individuals or groups that give regularly (\$228 or more per year) to National Support of American Baptist Women's Ministries. **Vital Partners** give monthly, quarterly, or annually, and they may also set up automated giving by direct withdrawal from their bank account or credit card. Vital Partners have a vision for the future of AB Women's Ministries and financially support our work with women and girls. Your support of national AB Women's Ministries, whether great or small, collectively makes possible great things!

As a **Vital Partner** in this ministry, your support will:

- **Develop** strong and exciting ministries with girls, building courageous and enthusiastic disciples of Jesus Christ.
- **Build** a ministry dedicated to growing leadership skills in women, so they can create, plan, and implement ministry visions.
- **Empower** American Baptist Women's Ministries to reach new heights in envisioning programs, producing resources for your ministries, and expanding ministries for young adult women.
- **Ensure** the future of American Baptist Women's Ministries; today's funding reaches tomorrow's leaders!



*"Training leaders, deepening my relationship with God and other women, and growing and expanding my gifts are part of the reasons that I love AB Women's Ministries and support Vital Partners."
(Dianne from Iowa)*

*"Anything we can do to strengthen AB Women's Ministries is important.
Our gifts will impact the next generation!"
(Jan from South Dakota)*

Vital Partners Yearly Giving Levels

Inspired by our mission statement, "AB Women's Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God," AB Women's Ministries recognizes these Vital Partner yearly giving levels:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| \$228 - \$499 | Sustaining Partner |
| \$500 - \$999 | Encouraging Partner |
| \$1000 + | Empowering Partner |

Become a Vital Partner!

- **To make a gift by credit card**, go to <https://secure.usaepay.com/interface/epayform/28kr57etaCsKk09HdOH627F444Fj57sT/> to give a one-time gift from your credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover).
- **To make a gift by paper check**, please mail it to: AB Women's Ministries, 1075 First Ave STE C-210, King of Prussia, PA 19406. A receipt will be sent to you by email or regular mail. Please provide your email address.
- **To give automatically from credit card**, please go to <https://secure.usaepay.com/interface/epayform/28kr57etaCsKk09HdOH627F444Fj57sT/> to set up your automatic donation. A receipt will be sent to you by email or regular mail. Please provide your email address.

Links for donations are available at <https://abwomensministries.org//page.aspx/contentId/39/Vital-Partners/>

2019-2021 Ministry Focus Sisters Seeking Wholeness/ Hermanas Buscando Plenitud

In John 5:6, Jesus asks the question, "Do you want to be made whole?" Wholeness is a communal pursuit that demands a deep and personal relationship with God. As St. Augustine teaches, "our hearts will be restless until we find our rest in God." Sisters Seeking Wholeness is American Baptist Women's Ministries' (ABWM) effort to address the spiritual and social issues that leave women, young women, and girls feeling broken. We know that in order to be fruitful in any season of life like the tree described in Jeremiah 17:8, we must ensure that we are

spiritually rooted in Jesus Christ. For this reason, ABWM's theme for 2019-2021 is Sisters Seeking Wholeness; ABWM is committed to fostering spaces and opportunities that will encourage women to deepen their relationship with God and equip them with practical tools that will improve the interior and exterior areas of their lives.



We live in a very busy and broken world; from demanding schedules to demanding relationships. We are multitasking and often still unable to complete our daily to do list which requires more than 24 hours in every day. It is our hope that this emphasis on Sisters Seeking Wholeness, will help us to reorder our day, to intentionally start with God and to develop spiritual practices and self-care tools and skills and that will enable us to be well and whole. Now more than ever we have less time to focus on caring for ourselves. It's no wonder we see a resurgence of a self-care movement. According to the Pew Research Center, we are spending more money than ever on self-care essentials such as workout and diet plans, life coaching, therapy and apps to improve our overall well being. All of these efforts are important, but they are futile if we do not prioritize our relationship with Christ. Without Christ we are unable to understand the magnitude of our brokenness. We trust that our sisterhood and all of the communities that we touch including our families, churches and communities will be positively impacted as we embrace and model self-care.

Key Scriptures: Jeremiah 17:8 (NIV), Micah 6:8 (The Message), John 7:37 (NRSV), Isaiah 41:18 (NIV), Ephesians 3:16-17a (and the rest too) (NIV), 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NSRV), and John 3:16-17 (KJ).

Explore our FREE downloadable theme resources at

<https://abwomensministries.org//page.aspx/contentId/88/2019-2021-Ministry-Focus-Sisters-Seeking-Wholeness-/>

Theme Resources

Logo
Bulletin Cover (downloadable)

Logo Products
Health and Wellness Litany.pdf

Avenues to Wholeness Webinars

Register for the 2020 winter webinar series at www.abwomensministries.org/webinars. Watch the webinar in your board meetings, association circles, and small group gatherings and then have a discussion about real life application.

Webinar Recordings

American Baptist Women's Ministries hosted "Avenues to Wholeness", a free Fall webinar series in 2019. This webinar series equipped women and girls with the tools and information they need to achieve wholeness in every area of their lives (spiritually, emotionally, and financially). Listen to the webinar recordings mentioned here:

Avenues to Wholeness: Food for the Soul
Avenues to Wholeness: Serving God's Mission
Avenues to Wholeness: Understanding Addiction

Avenues to Wholeness: Life Coaching
Avenues to Wholeness: Healthy Self
Avenues to Wholeness: Financial and Estate Planning

TedTalks

The Power of Vulnerability by Brené Brown
Online Tools for Financial Wholeness

The Power of Women's Anger

2020-2021 Special Mission Project

URGENT: Hurricane Response in Puerto Rico

This hurricane season has broken records...for all the wrong reasons.

On August 27, Hurricane Laura slammed into the Gulf Coast as a Category 4 storm with 150 mile-per-hour winds.

We are working with partners on the ground to create a response plan that will likely include CWS Kits, Emergency Cleanup Buckets and Blankets as well as long-term recovery support.



When you donate, you will be part of this vital relief effort. You will ship precious supplies to affected communities. You will help our partners on the front lines to reach those who may otherwise be forgotten in the response.

Will you join us?

Please send your contributions to the regional treasurer along with your other offerings on the designated form toward the end of this newsletter.

Church World Service was born in 1946, in the aftermath of World War II. Seventeen denominations came together to form an agency "to do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone." The mission: Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, comfort the aged, shelter the homeless.

More than 70 years later the mission remains, though where and how we accomplish it has changed dramatically.

In 1946-47, U.S. churches opened their hearts and provided more than 11 million pounds of food, clothing, and medical supplies to war-torn Europe and Asia. Protestants and Catholics pooled talent and resources to meet a staggering refugee crisis. Today the Immigration and Refugee Program of CWS is a vital, internationally-recognized operation, having resettled nearly half a million refugees since its inception.

Also in 1947, CWS, Lutheran World Relief, and the National Catholic Welfare Program created a joint community hunger appeal, the Christian Rural Overseas Program, also known as CROP. The acronym is gone but the name and life-saving work remains as CROP Hunger Walks in some 800+ communities across the United States.

That early CROP initiative captured the imagination of America's heartland. Soon "Friendship Trains" roared across the country, picking up commodities such as corn, wheat, rice, and beans to be shared around the world. The experience of the trains led to "Friendship Food Ships." And, a multi-denominational program called One Great Hour of Sharing was formed to raise in-church gifts to help fill these ships. CWS continued to provide community-wide opportunities for sharing.

In the 1950s and 60s, CWS expanded its reach across Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

As the '60s dawned, CWS began to augment its emergency assistance work with support for long-range, problem-solving efforts – what came to be known as development.

Development begins at the grassroots. CWS recognized early on that to be successful projects and programs must come from the people themselves, not be imposed by others.

CWS sought out local agencies who share this vision of empowering self-help and long-standing partnerships were forged.

Over the years the success stories have been many. One of the first was in Algeria, in North Africa. Over four years, using more than 5 million human-days of volunteer labor, some 20 million forest and fruit trees were planted to anchor the soil against nature's persistent erosion.

In India, CWS helped countless villages construct reservoirs, dig wells, and lay irrigation systems. The result: "drought insurance" and improved food production.

The same partnerships that enhanced our development efforts have enabled CWS to maximize our response to disasters.

The story of the CROP Hunger Walk goes back to 1969. Teens in Bismarck, North Dakota and York County, Pennsylvania decided it was time to do something for families who had to walk miles for food and clean water. So they walked...and, because they took that first step, hunger has forever been changed. Today, millions of people across nearly every state have participated.

In the 1970s CWS work evolved in significant ways. Our work in grassroots development inspired a deeper analysis of the root causes of hunger and poverty. As a result, in 1974 CWS - in collaboration with Lutheran World Relief - established the Development Policy Office in Washington, D.C. to represent CWS concerns about hunger to U.S. government bodies.

The importance of this work was further ratified in 1978 by the findings of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger, which noted that the primary cause of hunger was poverty, i.e. human-made. Thus what was missing to end hunger was the political will to do so. The Report also called for a concerted effort to increase education on hunger and its causes. Staff from the CWS Development Policy office served on this Commission.

In 1976, in order to provide greater support to refugees and their sponsors in the USA, CWS established refugee resettlement offices in various parts of the U.S. They played a pivotal role in supporting the growing number of refugees from Southeast Asia who were resettled to the United States in the years after the Vietnam War. While the number of offices ebbs and flows with refugee admissions, they continue to form the foundation for CWS work in resettling refugees in the US.

It was also in the 1970s that CWS first began responding to U.S. disasters at the request of its member churches.

CWS work in international emergency response and development through the 1970s and 1980s focused on working in partnership with other NGO's and with local groups. In some instances this led to the creation of new, independent organizations such as the Middle East Council of Churches, the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh or CEPAD in Nicaragua. Working in partnership remains one of the hallmarks of CWS work. These groups remain valued partners to CWS.

More recently, CWS was one of the founding members of a global partnership of faith-based humanitarian agencies, ACT Alliance, with members in 140 countries. With 130 member organizations, ACT Alliance provides a dynamic environment for collaboration in responding to human needs around the world. By working together agencies can maximize their impact.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report – August 2020

Best wishes and good health to one and all.

Our annual conference/retreat originally scheduled for June 5-7, 2020 was cancelled. The 2021 date will be June 4-6. There are no other weekends available in May, June or July.

Even though we cannot meet due to COVID-19, we still would like to give you the opportunity to support our various concerns for which we usually take offerings at conference. Those offerings are for women's scholarships, general conference, women & girls fund and special interest missionaries.

The special missions project for 2019-2020 was for Camp Lael to replace their tipi. Our goal is \$2500.

The special missions project for 2020-2021 is a \$2500 goal for Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief.

We also usually get renewals for News & Views subscriptions at conference. **The new publication months are August, November, February & May starting with this issue.**

Here are several ways you can make your offerings and/or renew your subscriptions:

By mail: Send one check for the total amount you plan to give. Include the form enclosed to indicate which offerings you'd like them allocated to along with your subscription renewal form for News & Views if applicable. **Mail to Laurel Reed, AB Women's Ministries, 624 Narrow Way, Clarklake, MI 49234.**

On-line three ways: With all of these ways, please e-mail a picture or a scan of the forms to **ABWMSEC@gmail.com** so that we know how the funds are to be allocated.

- To pay on **Venmo**: Search for @Laurel-Reed-5 to make your payment. The funds will be transferred to the ABWM-MI account at no additional charge.
- Zelle Pay** to abwmsec@gmail.com.
- To pay on **PayPal**: Search for paypal.me/ABWMMI or go to PayPal website and indicate you want to pay abwmsec@gmail.com. Choose option to pay friends or family since we aren't producing any goods. PayPal will add a nominal fee for processing on both ends (Ex. To pay \$22, you will be charged \$22.97 and ABW will receive \$21.78).

The News & Views subscription forms will be forwarded to Coordinator of Publicity, Allison McRae.

Offerings for 2020-2021 year received so far toward the budget are as follows:

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Scholarships \$495 of \$2800 (\$1400 paid out so far) | Leadership \$0 |
| General Conference \$110 of 400 | Endowment \$0 |
| Women & Girls Fund \$65 of \$500 | Nat'l Support \$75 of \$500 |
| Special Interest Missionaries \$190 of \$600 | Region Support \$165 of \$500 |
| 2019-2020 Special Project — Tipi at Camp Lael \$1980 of \$2500 | Camp Lael \$0 |
| 2020-2021 Special Project — Puerto Rico \$165 of \$2500 | Higher Ground \$0 |
| News & Views \$324 of \$1400 | Love Gift \$0 |
| Refit \$55 of \$500 | |

Our 2020 conference project was to be knitting or crocheting hats for kids or adults being treated for cancer. We will be doing this same project in 2021. I can email patterns for hats to anyone wanting to get a head start on this project. Let me know if you prefer knitted or crocheted patterns.

Only virgin yarn graded 9-12 (Caron brand for example), can be used for the Cancer recipients. The reason for this is because chemo makes the skin really thin and anything but the softest yarn will cut the skin. One place that takes them is Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of MI based out of St. Clair Shores.

Should you rather use another quality of yarn, the hats can go to other hospitals, senior centers and homeless shelters.

If there is anyone who doesn't knit or crochet, they are also accepting 48x60 knotted blankets to keep patients warm when transporting to and from chemotherapy.



Another impacted item is the Woman of the Year. Current forms are included for both 2020 and 2021. The new deadline for 2020 is **September 30, 2020** and the Woman of the Year will be announced at the 2021 conference along with the 2021 Woman of the Year. The deadline for 2021 is **April 15, 2021**. Please send in your nominations by the two deadlines.

The following region board positions need to be filled:

Coordinator of Young Adult Women – Position Open – Duties include:

- Plan and set goals for programming
- Implement ways to learn what churches are doing in this area
- Provide board feedback
- Offer input for Annual Conference, Fall Fling and Area Meetings
- Attend conferences and participate in national events
- Encourage your women to participate
- Submit newsletter articles

Coordinator of AB Girls – Position Open – Duties include:

- Provide opportunities for girls to deepen their faith
- Develop a committee to assist in promoting AB Girls
- Provide board feedback
- Oversee planning of events
- Attend conferences and participate in national events
- Submit newsletter articles

The Coordinator of Mission with Women and Girls – Position Open – Duties include:

- Visualize, plan and set goals for the programmatic piece of the organization's ministries with women and girls.
- Studies issues relating to the oppression of women and girls in the U.S. and worldwide, keeping the Board informed.
- Develop ministries and encourage women and girls to:
 - Worship God.
 - Grow spiritually.
 - Develop spiritual gifts.
 - Care for one another.
 - Reach out to others.
- Determine the resources required for delivering the program (financial, human, spiritual, material resources, etc.) and work to provide them.
- Oversee the planning of events for Women and Girls.
- Offer input for Annual Conference, Fall Fling, and Area Meetings.
- Submit newsletter articles.
- Perform other duties as deemed necessary to her office.

Please contact Brenda Threatt at 248-808-4133 or contact your area president if you are interested in any of these positions.

The newly appointed board chaplain is Rev. Dr. Robyn D. Moore. The interim Coordinator of Publicity is Allison McRae.

If you have any changes to the directory, please continue to submit those via email or mail to **Laurel Reed, AB Women's Ministries, 624 Narrow Way, Clarklake, MI 49234** or email lreed4624@comcast.net or abwmsec@gmail.com.

For those who remember Phyllis Christopherson from Olivet Baptist Church and would like to get in touch with her, here is her contact information: Phyllis Christopherson, Vista Springs, 200 W. Edgewood Blvd, Apt. 121, Lansing, MI 48911, 518-657-4139.

Join us on Facebook at MichiganABW, on Twitter at @AbwMichigan and on Instagram at Michigan_ABW_Ministries — please follow us and give us your feedback.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Reed

American Baptist Women's Ministries

Offering/Subscription Payment Information 2019-2020, 2020-2021

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Please only send one check and indicate how the funds should be allocated here:

News & Views Subscription(s) Aug. 2020 until May 2021 \$ _____

Women's Scholarships \$ _____

General Conference \$ _____

Women & Girls Fund \$ _____

Special Interest Missionaries \$ _____

Special Missions Projects: Goal \$2500 each

2019 Camp Lael Tipi Fund \$ _____

2020 Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief \$ _____

Other: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Payment by: _____ Check # _____ Venmo to @Laurel-Reed-5

_____ PayPal (paypal.me/ABWMMI or pay abwmsec@gmail.com)

_____ Zelle Pay to abwmsec@gmail.com

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES
OF MICHIGAN

AREA REPORT FORM

FROM: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ AREA: _____

Please make all checks payable to ABW MINISTRIES OF MI.

Enclosed check for special funds as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Region Support | \$ _____ |
| Scholarship | \$ _____ |
| Special Mission Project | \$ _____ |
| Special Interest Missionaries | \$ _____ |
| Women's & Girl Fund | \$ _____ |
| Refit Fund | \$ _____ |
| National Support | \$ _____ |
| Leadership Development | \$ _____ |
| Endowment Fund | \$ _____ |
| | \$ _____ |
| Camp Lael | \$ _____ |
| Higher Ground at Lake Louise | \$ _____ |
| Miscellaneous | \$ _____ |
| | \$ _____ |
| TOTAL | \$ _____ |

MAIL TO: Laurel Reed
624 Narrow Way
Clarklake, MI 49234-9300

Delivery via Email 2020-2021

News & Views Renewal / Sign-Up

Subscription runs from August 2020 to May 2021

Cost \$12 (4 issues plus directory)

☐ Please Renew my subscription

☐ Sign Me Up

☐ I would like to give this subscription as a gift
(Given by) _____

Area: ☐ Central ☐ North ☐ MDA ☐ West

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Cell: _____

Home Phone: _____

Church: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to:

ABW Ministries, MI

Send to: Laurel Reed
624 Narrow Way
Clarklake, MI 49234-9300
abwmsec@gmail.com

EMAIL

Delivery via U.S. Mail 2020-2021

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Cell: _____

Home Phone: _____

Church: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to:

ABW Ministries, MI

Send to: Laurel Reed
624 Narrow Way
Clarklake, MI 49234-9300
abwmsec@gmail.com

U. S. MAIL

American Baptist Women of Michigan
2020 Woman of the Year Award

Tell us about the woman you are nominating. You may include your response in the spaces below or write your response in a narrative which includes this information. Use as much space as you need to introduce us to your nominee. Please feel free to use the back of the form if you need more room.

Name of Nominee: _____

Church/Area: _____

How does she contribute to God's kingdom?

What has she done to further God's kingdom?

Why are you nominating this person?

Why is she worthy of this award?

Nominator Information:

Name: _____

Church/Area: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Return to the region president by September 15, 2020. Announcement will be made at the 2021 Conference.

**Brenda Threatt
22715 Kenwyck Dr
Southfield, MI 48034-4765**

American Baptist Women of Michigan

2021 Woman of the Year Award

Tell us about the woman you are nominating. You may include your response in the spaces below or write your response in a narrative which includes this information. Use as much space as you need to introduce us to your nominee. Please feel free to use the back of the form if you need more room.

Name of Nominee: _____

Church/Area: _____

How does she contribute to God's kingdom?

What has she done to further God's kingdom?

Why are you nominating this person?

Why is she worthy of this award?

Nominator Information:

Name: _____

Church/Area: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Return to the region president by April 15, 2021:

**Brenda Threatt
22715 Kenwyck Dr
Southfield, MI 48034-4765**