

UNITED MISSION

American Baptists are a people of mission. Mission describes who we are. Our United Mission ministry helps us be the hands and feet of Christ locally and throughout the world. United Mission unites us as American Baptists and helps us fund our total ministry. The total financial ministry of American Baptist Churches, USA is called American Baptist Mission Support (ABMS). The largest category of that support is called United Mission (UM).

United Mission allows the local church to join together with other American Baptist churches to do collectively what it cannot do on its own. The mission and ministry of ABCUSA depends upon the faithful support of UM by each local church. UM supports our Region — which makes it possible for the region to provide more effective support for your church.

With your UM giving, our Region is able to provide:

- staffing for search committees;
- assistance resolving church conflicts;
- education/training of pastors, youth and lay leaders;
- resources to assist your church in growth and spiritual health.

UM Giving also supports:

- The Office of the General Secretary
- American Baptist Men
- ABC Information Services
- American Baptist Women's Ministries
- National Ministries
- International Ministries
- American Baptist Historical Society
- American Baptist Personnel Services
- Orientation to ABC Life

“There are many ways in which individuals and congregations can direct mission dollars through ABMS to support American Baptist missions and ministries they value.”

Most American Baptist congregations forward mission dollars through the ABMS process using a *Mission Remittance Form* that is mailed to the church on a monthly basis. This offers great flexibility in forwarding mission dollars. To request the form, please contact Debbie Hart at the Region Office at 800.632.2953, x221 or dhart@abc-mi.org



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AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION SUPPORT

Funding the
Mission & Ministry Passion
of Your Congregation

“I am amply supplied, now that I have received...the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.”

Philippians 4:18b

UNITED MISSION BASICS

Historically, many American Baptist congregations have included a distribution for United Mission Basics (UMB) in their annual budget. For each dollar a congregation gives to UMB, sixty-five cents goes to underwrite the ABC-MI missions/ministries, while the remaining thirty-five cents is forwarded to the ABCUSA where it is divided among National Ministries (NM); International Ministries (IM); and the Office of the General Secretary (OGS). Congregations support UMB to fund the whole mission of American Baptists—regionally, nationally, and internationally.

LOVE GIFT

American Baptist Women's Ministries have received this offering since 1931 supporting the total outreach of American Baptist Churches USA. Fifteen cents of every dollar given to Love Gift is used to support the national American Baptist Women's Ministries office. The remaining eighty-five cents is distributed in the same percentages as UMB.

SPECIFICS

Increasingly, individuals and congregations wish to contribute to specific missions/ministries. Through ABMS, specific gifts may be made to support a host of ministries including:

- Ministry Leadership Groups
- Higher Ground @ Lake Louise
- Friendship House
- Camp Lael
- MI Baptist Scholarship Society
- Kodiak Baptist Mission

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

There are a host of American Baptist related institutions that individuals and churches may choose specifically to support, including:

- Green Lake Conference Center
- Northern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Murrow Indian Children's Home
- Bacone College
- Judson Center

ANNUAL OFFERINGS

There are five offerings American Baptist congregations may support throughout the year. There is a recommended focus time for each offering, but churches are welcome to promote them at any time during the year.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST

This offering is generally encouraged during the month of March. For each dollar given to AFC, one third goes to underwrite the ABC-MI region missions and ministries and the remaining two-thirds goes to fund the work of National Ministries—our mission effort in the United States.

REGION OFFERING

This offering is encouraged to be received during the month of May and it promotes our life together as American Baptists as we are sowing seeds of ministry in our ABC-MI Region. Together with all of our God-given gifts we are growing healthy churches, cultivating health in our pastors and sowing seeds of the Gospel all over Michigan. Your support will assist us as we work together building the kingdom - blooming where we are planted.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

This offering is used for emergency relief and development across the United States and around the world. The focus time for receiving OGHS gifts is June. The unique aspect of OGHS is that an individual and church can give specifically through OGHS to support emergency relief efforts during

times of crisis. For example, in 2019, \$10,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing disaster-relief funds was released to CrossWalk Community Church of Napa, CA. CrossWalk is a long-time Red Cross evacuation site providing shelter for evacuees of devastating wildfires.

WORLD MISSION OFFERING

American Baptist international missionaries and ministries are funded by the World Mission Offering. While churches may give to this offering throughout the year, the focus month is October. Churches may give generally to WMO or may specifically direct their WMO dollars to individual American Baptist missionaries or mission projects.

RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING

Contributions to this offering go, in part, to provide "Thank You" checks each year to retired ministers and missionaries. In many cases it makes a significant difference to retirees who are on a limited income. Another portion of the offering goes to provide emergency assistance to both active and retired pastors. Generally, congregations receive this offering in December.

Loving God and leading strong. **Together.**