

QuickLinks

Experience ABHMS' new building dedication and open house in printed word and photographs at abhms.org > [NewsRoom](#).

ABHMS has released two rounds of One Great Hour of Sharing disaster-relief funds, on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, in response to recent flooding and tornadoes in the Midwest and Central Plains. Read more at abhms.org > [NewsRoom](#). Donate at abhms.org > [Give Now](#).



A faculty chair is being named in honor of the director of an ABHMS partnering ministry. Find out who at abhms.org > [NewsRoom](#).

Attendees enjoy a variety of ABHMS-hosted events at Biennial Mission Summit



Scalfaro



Haggray



Warnock

Biennial Mission Summit attendees enjoyed a variety of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS)-hosted events—including worship, a luncheon and two Biennial Academy offerings—in Virginia Beach in June.

During worship, close to \$5,000 was collected for ABHMS' ongoing "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico" initiative.

During the luncheon, the Rev. Anne J. Scalfaro, senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, presented about her church's New Baptist Covenant-based racial reconciliation partnership with New Hope Baptist Church, both in Denver, while Sheena D. Rolle, community organizer and founder of FHJ Strategies Inc., discussed faith as belief in things yet unseen.

ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray announced the formal launch of ministrLife, the ABHMS-created online networking platform that had been in the user testing phase since November 2018.

The ABHMS-sponsored Biennial Academy offerings were "Jesus Was An Inmate: A Move-

ment to End Mass Incarceration"—presented by the Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock, senior pastor of the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta—and "Whole, Healthy, Hopeful Children in Every Community," presented by the Rev. Dr. Marilyn P. Turner-Triplett, ABHMS director, Healing and Transforming Communities.

Warnock was joined by the Rev. Billy Honor Jr., faith coordinator at The New Georgia Project, and attorney Tiffany Williams Roberts, Community Engagement & Movement Building Counsel, Southern Center for Human Rights. Turner-Triplett was joined by the executive directors of three ABHMS partnering organizations: the Rev. Carmen Porco, Housing Ministries of American Baptists in Wisconsin; Jennifer Muniga, Cameron Community Ministries, Rochester, N.Y.; and Jermaine Alberty, Pathways to Promise, St. Louis, Mo.

Additional details are available at abhms.org > [NewsRoom](#).

ABHMS recognizes individuals with national ministry awards

At the Biennial Mission Summit in Virginia Beach in June, ABHMS recognized the following individuals with 2019 national ministry awards for significant faith-based endeavors:

- The **Rev. LeDayne McLeese Polaski**, executive director of BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz, 2015-2019, received the **Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace and Justice Award**.
- The **Rev. Dr. Richard P. Olson**, author of "Side by Side: Being Christian in a Multifaith World" (Judson Press, 2018), received the **Suzan Johnson Cook Religious Freedom Award**.
- **Lt. Col. Dr. Ruth Segres**, chief of Chaplain Accessions, U.S. Air Force, received the **Cultivating Leaders Award**.
- The **Rev. Donald Ng**, mentor for American Baptist Churches USA's Young Adult Caucus, received the **Equipping Disciples Award**.
- **Anna Young**, ABHMS' longest-serving volunteer, was announced winner of the **Jitsuo Morikawa Healing & Transforming Communities Award**. She will receive the award at a time and date to be announced.

Read more at abhms.org > [NewsRoom](#).



From top: Polaski, Olson, Segres, Ng and Young



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1075 First Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

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Executive Director
Dr. Jeffrey Haggray

Editor
Susan Gottshall

Writer
Nadine Hasenecz

Art Director
Danny Ellison

ABHMS was among 105 Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility member organizations to sign an April letter commending JP Morgan Chase on its public



commitment to stop financing private prisons. The letter also encouraged the

financial institution to disclose next steps for implementing the commitment.

The investor organizations have been engaging the financial institution on this issue for more than a year. In fact, ABHMS was a signatory on a previous letter that was sent to JP Morgan Chase in 2017.

■ [Learn more at abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > [NewsRoom](#).

American Baptist Home Mission Society
1075 First Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

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ABHMS Rizpah's Children partner to establish CDF Freedom School this summer

Somerset Academy Early Learning Center, Philadelphia—a partner of ABHMS' Rizpah's Children ministry—is establishing a six-week Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom School this summer. The school is funded, in part, by a grant from the Virginia and Gordon Palmer Jr. Trust, administered by American Baptist Foundation and awarded during ABHMS' 2018 grant cycle.

CDF is a national nonprofit organization that advocates for programs that aid children. Located in 87 U.S. cities in 28 states, CDF Freedom Schools offer summer literacy and cultural enrichment at no cost to families of children and youth in kindergarten through grade 12.

The Somerset Academy CDF Freedom School will serve kindergarten through second grade students who may not otherwise have access to books, learning opportunities or nutri-

CDF Freedom School

tious food. Using an integrated reading curriculum, it seeks to reduce summer learning loss and prepare students to enter the school year at or above the reading level of their peers. It will be held July 8-Aug.16.

Since 2014, Somerset Academy has been serving the most vulnerable children and families in North Central Philadelphia.

ABHMS seeks to make a difference in the lives of children living in poverty by engaging its mission partners to help establish additional Freedom Schools throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

■ [Find additional details at abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > [NewsRoom](#).

Judson Press recognizes award recipient

At the Mission Summit in Virginia Beach in June, Dr. J. Alfred Smith Sr. was announced recipient of the Judson Press Ministry Award for commitment to the publishing ministry's excellence.

In addition to advancing the American Baptist heritage and faith perspective, he has encouraged other Judson Press authors, while giving voice and value to writers and audiences often marginalized by mainstream media. His partnership with Judson Press began in 1976 with the publication of "Outstanding Black Sermons, Volume 1" and has continued for more than four decades.

Smith is pastor emeritus of the historic Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, Calif., and a distinguished professor at American Baptist Seminary of the West and Graduate Theological Seminary, both Berkeley, Calif.



■ [Read more at abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > [NewsRoom](#).

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