

## QuickLinks

■ Designed for groups at the congregational, associational or regional level, a variety of Workshops for Church Life and Leadership can be downloaded at no cost at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > Publications & Resources.



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## Volunteers brave July heat for Oklahoma mission effort

The heat index in Muskogee hovered around 105 degrees July 16-22. But that didn't stop volunteers from Illinois, Kansas, Iowa, New Jersey, West Virginia and Ohio, who performed a variety of jobs at Bacone College and Murrow Indian Children's Home during ABHMS' "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing...Muskogee, Okla." mission effort.

They hauled mountains of mulch and weeded overgrown garden beds. They scraped and painted the soffit of Bacone's McCombs Hall from the perch of a bucket truck. And they moved four truckloads of furniture out of McCombs, formerly the art building, to make way for refinishing floors and painting walls, as the hall becomes the center of a bridge scholar program that supports students underprepared for college.

Thankfully, there were inside jobs as well. At Murrow—a group home for neglected or abused children—volunteers moved refrigerators, installed a showerhead, painted doorways and glued 4,354 Campbell's soup UPC labels to submission forms to ensure redemption before the company's Labels for Education program ends in 2018.

"I don't know what we would do without mission groups," says Betty Martin, the home's executive director. "Volunteers are a very important part of this mission."

At Bacone, Dr. Leroy Thompson, chair of the Christian Ministry degree program, echoes Martin: "Volunteer groups are our lifeblood. Volunteer groups do the work that needs to be done so we don't have to pay for that work, which means we can invest in the students instead."

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



**Top:** Bacone College student Selena Lacy joined ABHMS volunteers giving McCombs Hall a facelift.

**Bottom:** Volunteers (l to r) Glen Brown, First Baptist Westfield in New Jersey, and Clyer Johnson, First Baptist Church, McPherson, Kan., hauled wheelbarrows of mulch under the hot Oklahoma sun.

## Mission Center to relocate in 2018

ABHMS and other American Baptist Churches USA organizations will relocate in 2018 to an ABHMS-purchased building within a half mile of the current Mission Center in King of Prussia, Pa.

Required renovations to the newly purchased building—1075 First Avenue—are expected to be completed within the first six



months of 2018, followed by mission partners' relocation into the new space.

The 2013 creation of a 21-member council launched a collaborative process that examined partners' operational needs and, ultimately,

resulted in the purchase. The council is composed of representatives of the current property's four equity partners—American Baptist Churches USA Office of the General Secretary (OGS), ABHMS, Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) and International Ministries (IM)—along with other ministries, including American Baptist Extension Corporation (ABEC), American Baptist Computer Center (ABCC), American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM), American Baptist Ministers Council and American Baptist Foundation.

Partners relocating to 1075 First Avenue include OGS, ABEC, ABHMS, ABWM, ABCC, Ministers Council and an American Baptist Historical Society staff member. IM, MMBB and the foundation will not relocate to the First Avenue site. MMBB will continue to maintain its primary offices in New York City.

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



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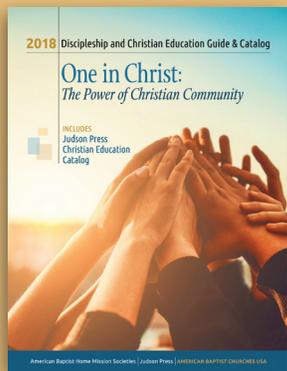
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Watch church postal mailboxes in October for "One in Christ: The Power of Christian Community," ABHMS' 2018 Discipleship and



Christian Education Guide and Catalog, featuring stories, activities, devotionals, a planning calendar, Judson Press' Christian education catalog and other important resources to aid disciple-making ministries. To

download it at no cost, visit [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > Publications & Resources > Discipleship Guide.

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

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## Vacancies filled, technology platform introduced at board meeting

At its June meeting in Portland, Ore., ABHMS' board of directors added four new members, affirmed a Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) Advisory Council and learned about a new technology platform for religious professionals.

The yet-to-be named platform, being developed to incorporate American Baptist Personnel Services, will connect diverse Baptist professionals through profiles, ministry interests, affinity groups, webinars, virtual meeting rooms and additional programming features that will enhance and encourage professional growth.

Candidates unanimously approved to fill current vacancies are as follows: the Rev. Karen Yee, New Life Christian Fellowship & Mien Friendship, American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast; the Rev. Dr. Conley Hughes Jr., Concord Baptist Church of Boston, American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts; the Rev. Jamie Washam, First Baptist Church in America, American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island; and the Rev. Dr. Leon Runner, Lowville (N.Y.) Baptist Church, American Baptist Churches of New York State.

Individuals who are not board members but have been affirmed to serve on the newly created SRI Advisory Council are as follows: the Rev. Aundrea Alexander, associate general secretary, Action and Advocacy for Justice and Peace, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; Thomas L. Bowen, director, Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs, Washington, D.C.; and Wynn Davis, retired budget director of Wisconsin's Human Services Agency.

■ Additional information can be found at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org).



## Author addresses questions about God's will in times of despair

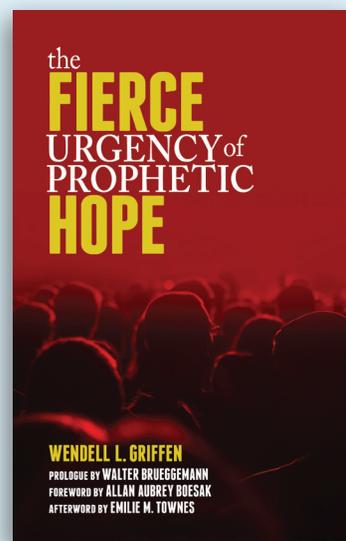
"How are we to be committed to the cause of Jesus during and after the presidency of Donald J. Trump?" asks Dr. Wendell L. Griffen in his book "The Fierce Urgency of Prophetic Hope."

The pastor, judge and strategic consultant addresses, with boldness, this and other questions to

aid those who seek answers and direction regarding God's will in times of despair.

Griffen further writes: "I believe in a subversive and liberating vision of hope based on the faith tradition inspired by the religion of Jesus. Acting on that hope allows those who believe in the Spirit of God to confront,

condemn, and overcome political, social, commercial, and religious actions that promote alienation, fear, hate, and despair."



The book retails for \$19.99.

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