Sample Congregational Letter

America for Christ Offering 2020

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ,

 Jesus teaches us to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). Our church follows the teaching of Jesus by reaching out to the community and providing for our neighbors’ needs, physical and spiritual alike.

 Our church’s efforts are supported by American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), which provides resources for cultivating leaders, equipping disciples, and healing and transforming communities. Through ABHMS, we serve neighbors in Puerto Rico and other places in the United States in long-term recovery after natural disasters. Indeed, ABHMS provides many ways to help our church love our many neighbors, near and far!

 Our church supports this work through our generous gifts to the America for Christ (AFC) Offering. Each dollar given increases the ministry and impact of ABHMS to serve neighbors with ministries incarnating Christ’s love, justice and compassion. Further, a portion of this offering (28%) will be shared with our American Baptist Churches region for strengthening local church leaders through programming, pastoral search support and other efforts to help our local church thrive, especially in these times when North America is its own challenging mission field!

 In 2019, our church’s AFC gifts supported the following ministries:

* “Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico” — rebuilding the island one church and one building at a time.
* Scholarships and Emerging Leaders — providing scholarships to students to help ease the
* debilitating effects of excessive student-loan debt.
* Immigration and Refugee Resettlement — partnering with organizations that have resettled more than 100,000 displaced persons from across the world.
* Rizpah’s Children — partnering with agencies that provide support to children living in poverty.

 Additional supported ministries included Disaster Response, Volunteer Mobilization, Prisoner Re-Entry and Community Outreach Ministries.

 AFC 2020 empowers our local and national efforts to “love our neighbor.” I ask you to join me in giving generously to this year’s AFC Offering and help us to reach our goal, as we partner with ABHMS to love our neighbors and share the gospel!

Your Pastor,