

Behold, we are doing a new thing!

Annual Report 2017



American Baptist Home Mission Societies

SINCE 1824

Cultivating leaders  
Equipping disciples  
Healing communities



<b>From the executive director</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>From the chief financial officer and treasurer</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Cultivating leaders</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Equipping disciples</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Healing communities</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>How firm the foundation</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>2017 financial snapshots</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Common Investment Fund</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Top 250 AFC giving churches</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>2017 board of directors</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>31</b>

**Writer and Editor**  
**Susan Gottshall**

**Copy Editor**  
**Nadine Hasenecz**

**Designer**  
**Danny Ellison**

**American Baptist Home Mission Societies**  
**P.O. Box 851**  
**Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851**

**800.222.3872**  
**abhms.org**  
**judsonpress.com**

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# Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

— Isaiah 43:18-19

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has proven its steadfast commitment to mission across the United States and Puerto Rico over and over again since its founding close to two centuries ago. As times changed, and ministry needs changed with them, ABHMS continued answering God's call in bold, new ways.

Over the course of its storied centuries, ABHMS founded 27 institutions of higher education for Freed People after the Civil War, sent an envoy to Washington to work for treaties favorable to Native Americans, ministered among Japanese Americans in World War II internment camps, and led the way, with Church World Service, to relocate thousands of refugees to safety after that war.

As ABHMS has responded to social and spiritual needs throughout history, so it follows today, setting a new course of mission designed to meet the needs of ministry in the 21st century.

Our vision is a denomination of American Baptists empowered to cultivate passionate leaders and disciples who impact our constantly changing socio-economic landscape with Jesus Christ's healing, transformative gospel.

We believe that today mission is best accomplished through partnerships with others also called to ministry



by Christ. So, we are laying new lines of connection—casting a wider net to identify and engage emerging leaders and new partners—to build collaborative relationships. As we build stronger and more dynamic ministry networks with new and diverse partners, we are intentionally deepening our relationships with them.

Through these collaborative partnerships, we continue the bold legacy of American Baptist Home Mission Societies, cultivating and equipping leaders and disciples for times such as these to share the healing power of God's love further and farther than we could ever extend it on our own.

**Connect. Cultivate. Change.**

## From the executive director

I am excited about this annual report, which represents the work of our mission society during 2017. This special edition was created to highlight substantial changes in strategy and staffing within American Baptist Home Mission Societies. Hopefully, this report will become a keepsake that marks a period of significant transition in ABHMS' journey.

Since accepting the call to serve as executive director of ABHMS and Judson Press, I have been blessed to collaborate with our board of directors and staff in clarifying ABHMS' mission, vision, values and strategic priorities in view of the constantly changing landscape that is the United States of America and Puerto Rico. New realities and challenges confront all our partners in American Baptist life—whether they serve congregations, American Baptist regions, institutions of higher learning, community ministries, specialized ministries or intercultural ministries, or they pastor congregations, making disciples of all ages.

While it's true that the Gospel of Christ is unchanging, our evolving Christian witness requires new strategies and competencies, not to mention resourcefulness, along with increased opportunities for building collaborative networks that expand the reach and impact of mission. ABHMS marked its 185th anniversary by embracing the new missional challenges of the 21st century. We have rededicated our human and material assets to the three areas of focus that have historically defined ABHMS mission—namely, leadership, discipleship and healing.

Because collaboration and partnership with others are critical for success, our strategy—"Connect. Cultivate. Change."—involves connecting our partners to cultivate leaders and equip disciples who bring healing and transformation to communities across our nation and Puerto Rico.



Increasingly, ours is a networked world, and ABHMS is pursuing mission in ways that tap into today's networking context to foster stronger, more complex collaborative ministry. In the following pages, you will see ABHMS' emerging mission strategy, and will meet many of the board and staff members who are working hard to advance our mission.

With this special edition, we express gratitude to the multitude of partners, passionaries and supporters who have contributed to our work in countless ways.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey Haggray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "J".

**Dr. Jeffrey Haggray**

Executive Director

American Baptist Home Mission Societies

## From the chief financial officer and treasurer

In 1968, ABHMS' Executive Secretary William H. Rhoades spoke of the search for "new forms of mission" as more than an exercise in the study of religious current events. "It is a Christian imperative," he said, "if the faith of Christians today is to have that quality of life which reveals the capacity to adapt and re-create in order that witness may be equivalent to need." Today's needs are certainly great, and in 2017 ABHMS continued its long legacy of imagining and stepping into the "new thing" God is doing.

During a "Discovering God's Economy" workshop, facilitated by Criterion Institute, ABHMS leaders explored the role of the church as a major player in the economy—inspired to imagine God's economy through a theological framework and then actively work to shape that vision.

Investments play a key role in ABHMS' economy, and in 2017, before concluding her service on the board,



Finance Chair Brazilian Thurman saw her vision for a Socially Responsible Investment Advisory Council come to life, ensuring ABHMS' continuing use of investments as an extension of ministry.

In June, ABHMS purchased a new office building, which is

being designed as a sacred place of hospitality, learning, innovation and Christian witness.

In 2017 support and revenue totaled \$21,234,520—143 percent greater than the prior year. This increase was

due primarily to strong market performance and generous contributions to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to support rebuilding efforts in Puerto Rico and other U.S. areas devastated by hurricanes Irma, Maria and Harvey.

Operating expenses totaled \$13,449,054, representing an increase of \$1,365,497 or 11 percent compared to the prior year. Program Ministry Services costs made up 69.8 percent of total expenses. Total net assets—a gauge of an organization's long-term financial strength—increased \$18,353,986 or 10 percent compared to prior year.

The Common Investment Fund's annualized return, net of fees, was 16.6 percent, compared to a 17.2 percent benchmark. ABHMS' Finance Committee and Investment Advisory Council continue to pursue a well-managed strategy that emphasizes long-term results through a well-diversified portfolio: Annualized returns—over three-year, seven-year and since-inception periods—were 7.6 percent, 8.8 percent, and 9.9 percent respectively, net of fees.

ABHMS is grateful for the generous support of American Baptist individuals and congregations who make our ministry possible. We invite your ongoing investment of prayer, time and resources as we build toward a bright future.

With anticipation and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael D. Birdsall". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Michael D. Birdsall, CPA**  
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer  
Deputy Executive Director

# Cultivating leaders

## Aligned Action Networks: Connecting great leaders with ministry opportunities for greater impact

Any time diverse people, institutions and organizations bring their best resources together for good, the world is a better place. That's the point of ABHMS' new mission framework launched in February 2017.

This framework—Aligned Action Networks—for doing 21st-century mission across the United States and Puerto Rico is a significant evolution of our work as an agency of



God called to cultivate the mission field. Through these networks, we connect historic and new partners to share knowledge, proven strategies, support and vision to accomplish God's vision of mission.

We coordinate the networks by convening and planning meetings, choosing venues for the gatherings and identifying platforms for virtual connection, to shape initiatives.

These collaborations among people, partners, organizations and institutions join experience and resources to do meaningful ministry together that none of us could sustain effectively alone.

In 2017, more than 200 American Baptist leaders were introduced to this new framework at four network meetings: Linfield College, McMinnville, Ore.; University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; American Baptist Historical Society/Mercer University, Atlanta; and Ottawa University (Milwaukee campus), Brookfield, Wis.

— **Rev. Lisa Harris-Lee**  
Director, Mission Engagement and  
National Network Initiatives

## American Baptist Personnel Services: Opening doors for Christian leaders

Supporting churches, regions and other mission organizations as they search for ministry professionals to carry out God's call in the world has always been the purpose of American Baptist Personnel Services (ABPS). We open doors for leaders throughout the denomination, and that is such meaningful work. It's fulfilling to get phone calls from leaders thanking us for being there for them or reporting that we helped them find a new position.

New for ABPS in 2017 was an update of our database: I spoke with region staff to see what was and was not working with our system, and we conducted a survey of professional ministry leaders across the United States and Puerto Rico to gather their comments about our current system.

Last year we also processed 83 new enrollments and more than 400 searches of candidate profiles for mission organizations seeking to fill open positions. Via thousands of phone calls, we helped leaders enroll in the system, update their profiles and answer questions about how the system works or what they need to do to get their profiles circulated to those seeking to hire. We also provided training to eight new executive and area ministers to familiarize them with what ABPS can do to support their ministries.



— **Diane Sypherd**  
Acting Director,  
American Baptist Personnel Services

# Cultivating leaders

## **ABASA and ABACU: Strengthening the relationships between American Baptist colleges, universities, seminaries and our American Baptist denomination**

I am passionate about finding ways to energize American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) relationships with denominationally-related colleges, universities and seminaries through American Baptist Association of Seminary Administrators (ABASA) and American Baptist Association of Colleges and Universities (ABACU). As the facilitator of the two networks through American Baptist Home Mission Societies, I strive



to encourage the voices and presence of these institutions of higher learning in denominational life.

Through the 16 colleges and universities, we connect with emerging leaders, and through the 10 seminaries, we connect with faith leaders—pastors, denominational leaders, chaplains and educators. We invite students of these higher learning institutions to join our mission and volunteer encounters, and we seek opportunities to engage ministry leaders in course offerings at these schools.

In 2017 we began conversations with colleges and universities about faith formation. We worked with ABACU schools to discuss issues relating to the increasing numbers of youth who identify as “none” or “spiritual, but not religious,” along with those who have broken away from organized religion out of disillusionment and disconnection. We contracted with youth volunteers from around the nation to develop a platform for engaging young people in conversations about faith, and we hosted a faith-formation conversation at Alderson Broaddus University, W.Va., last year.

— **Rev. Dr. Marilyn P. Turner-Triplett**  
Director, Community Ministries

## **Emerging Leaders and Scholarships Ministries: American Baptist emerging leaders are innovative, passionate and eager to serve**

Twenty-seventeen was the first full year of the Emerging Leaders and Scholarships program. We connect emerging leaders with ABHMS and with one another to equip them for the ministry to which they feel called. We work with college students, young adults, young clergy and seminarians, providing tools and resources that help them put their faith into action.

In addition, by equipping our churches with leadership-development tools and resources, we help congregations cultivate and strengthen today’s young leaders, while looking to the future, too. Our ministry is called “Emerging Leaders” because, while these young Christians are leading today, they are also leaders of the future. I am privileged to walk alongside them.

In 2017, we awarded close to \$250,000 in scholarships to 300 students, and more than \$40,000 in continuing education funds to 152 ministerial leaders. We had a strong



presence at the Mission Summit in Portland that included a multigenerational panel presentation about engaging faith and the church today. I visited campuses and conferences, building deeper connections and gaining more tools and resources to continue strengthening this ministry.

— **Rev. Sarah Strosahl-Kagi**  
Director, Emerging Leaders and Scholarships



## Cultivating leaders

### Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries: We are visible examples of an invisible God

ABHMS' Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries is dedicated to empowering and encouraging ordained clergy who serve in many different settings as visible examples of an invisible God in times of challenge, sorrow and joy.

We connect our network of chaplains and specialized ministers—more than 600-strong—through a quarterly e-newsletter, professional conferences, seminary summits, regional gatherings and mentorship.

In 2017, we almost tripled our endorsements. We hosted our first prayer breakfast and exhibit at the historic Hampton University Ministers' Conference. We also exhibited at the annual conference of the American Correctional Association. Our luncheon at the Mission Summit in Portland was attended by more than 80, and we offered four workshops. We also hosted ministry summits at Virginia Union University and Denver Seminary.

In 2017, we said goodbye to the Rev. Kristy Moeller, who led this ministry for 2 ½ years. I celebrate the opportunity to have worked alongside her; her example and many gifts set

the stage for me to move into the role of interim director with professional grace. I am excited about the opportunity to develop growth that ensures that we meet the demands of our changing pluralistic world.

— **Rev. Dr. Patricia Murphy**

Interim Director, Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries



### In Support of Excellence: Putting pastors' needs first improves ministry quality

Funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.'s National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders, ABHMS' In Support of Excellence (ISOE) seeks to equip American Baptist pastors and lay leaders with the knowl-



edge, skills and tangible resources they need to lessen financial burdens and provide education and support that drives transformational impact in churches and communities.

ISOE programming includes: training that devel-

ops a deeper appreciation in lay leaders of the pastoral excellence that results when leaders' financial needs are met; more than 20 hours of one-on-one coaching with a certified financial planner; coach-provided personal and congregation financial empowerment planning; and personal financial hardship relief grants.

In 2017, more than 150 pastors received financial-literacy training, and grants awarded to pastors for paying down debt totaled more than \$170,000.

More than 70 percent of participating pastors experienced compensation re-evaluation discussions with their boards, which resulted in increases equal to at least the rate of inflation. In addition, one-third of participating pastors saw at least a 15 percent increase in congregational generosity resulting from ISOE programming.

Perhaps the bottom line result, though, was the more than 90 percent of participating pastors who indicated they are better equipped to achieve pastoral excellence because of ISOE support.

— **Rev. Jamaal Nelson**

Director, "In Support of Excellence"



# Cultivating leaders

## Intercultural Ministries: Welcoming all voices to the table

Intercultural Ministries creates and convenes opportunities that build cultural competence among American Baptists. Our team also serves as a model of intercultural understanding, communication and respect.

In 2017, we worked on building stronger connections among Intercultural Ministries' staff and instilling American Baptist pastors and leaders with skills for adapting to different cultural contexts and perspectives. We

also expanded the impact of our work by providing ethnic and cultural resources along with Immigration and Refugee Ministries' services, including a briefing in Philadelphia.

The team began training in "Intercultural Competencies," and we bring

this background to ABHMS' new Aligned Action Network mission framework. At network meetings, we help to create safe spaces for sharing and collaborating in respectful ways. We help to create a place at the table where everyone's voice is heard and respected.

In 2017, Burmese churches, particularly Chin congregations, participated in Home Mission: 'Til the Work is Done—ABHMS' Hurricane Katrina rebuilding effort still underway in New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward. The Rev. Florence Li, who leads our Asian Ministries, celebrated "hope" with the churches in her network, because they are feeling "seen across ethnicity and cultures and valued by ABHMS."

Last year for the first time, our Native American Ministries coordinators—Ben Sullivan and Harvey Stewart—attended ABHMS staff summit meetings, resulting in stronger connections with the organization and our team.

"I celebrate the renewed partnership that we are working toward with our Native American partners," says Sullivan.

In my ministry with Hispanic and Portuguese-speaking churches, I ensure their access to the training and resources that ABHMS has to offer. It's important to me that churches understand the relevance of ABHMS to their ministry in the 21st century.

— Rev. Salvador Orellana

National Coordinator, Latino Ministries



Photos: Danny Ellison



## Equipping disciples

### The Christian Citizen: Raising concerns, inspiring action on matters of justice, mercy, faith

The Christian Citizen magazine tells the story of the pursuit of social justice in the 21st century.

First published two to three times a year as a print magazine in 1996, The Christian Citizen moved full time into the 21st century's virtual world in 2017 by



publishing 10 issues annually online. We continue the print magazine as well, publishing highlights of the online issues twice annually.

Today I see this magazine as a digital opportunity for dialogue and civil disagreement about societal challenges and possible solutions. It is a vehicle for reflection on what Jesus called the weightier matters of the law—justice, mercy and faith.

As we stepped up production last year, we published nearly 150 thought-provoking and action-inspiring articles on a broad range of public concerns—from gun violence, racism, trauma and sexual violence to poverty, food insecurity, disabilities and immigration. By raising concerns and highlighting ideas and actions that address those concerns, this magazine ministry hopefully encourages and inspires faithful response and advocacy that will improve communities and society.

— **Curtis Ramsey-Lucas**  
Editor, The Christian Citizen

### Discipleship Ministries: Becoming communities of authentic disciples of Christ

With my move to the role of director of Discipleship Ministries in 2017, I was empowered to work more closely with my colleagues to promote the understanding that all ABHMS ministries are ministries of discipleship that include evangelism, missional church, Christian education and personal and social witness.

Scripture must inform Christian education, so we promote educational practices that honor people and reflect the love of God. We strive to promote child-friendly faith formation that honors children *as children*, and we provide our ministry partners with resources that nurture followers of Jesus toward mature discipleship—through which they bear witness to the love of God and reach out to their communities with love's power of transformation.

In 2017, we published the annual Discipleship and Christian Education Guide in partnership with Judson Press, and launched a monthly "Discipleship Matters" bulletin insert available on our website. First quarter downloads totaled close to 1,000. We added three new Workshops for Church Life and Leadership to the 62 previously available. We also published a "Tenebrae Service for Children" and "Celebrating Holy Week with Children."

— **Rev. Dr. Cassandra Carkuff Williams**  
Director, Discipleship Ministries



# Equipping disciples

## **Socially Responsible Investing: Using our investor voice to lift up issues of social injustice and inequality**

At American Baptist Home Mission Societies, we know our investment decisions are one more way we carry out ministry in this world. Ensuring that our funds are invested according to our Christian values is the mission of our Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) program.

We are passionately committed to socially responsible investing and the power we believe it holds to change the

broader SRI ministry education and engagement in American Baptist churches throughout the denomination.

Also, we actively participate in the work of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), a coalition of more than 300 global institutions representing more than \$400 billion in managed assets, that leverages equity ownership in some of the world's largest and most powerful companies.

— **Dave Moore Jr.**  
Director of Investments



world. To implement this commitment, we invest funds according to guidelines that align with our organizational mission, and we participate in active ownership and corporate engagement with the companies in which we hold investments.

In 2017, we formed the Socially Responsible Investing Advisory Council to supplement and complement our SRI work. The five-member council provides research, review and recommendations to our board of directors' Finance Committee to support informed decision-making around the implementation of our "Guidelines Relating to Social Criteria for Investments." Council members—who represent American Baptist churches and ecumenical non-profits—also serve as ambassadors by helping to promote



# Equipping disciples

## Judson Press: Focused on serving Christian readers better than ever before

Judson Press, the publishing ministry of American Baptist Home Mission Societies, continued the theme of change that permeated the entire organization in 2017.

Six semi-trucks moved our 40,000 books and 20,000 pieces of curriculum (from 80 product lines) to an offsite



warehouse in Savage, Md. During that transition, we underwent extensive training on new ordering/inventory/billing/royalties and rights protocols for both book and subscription product areas. We also

completed a new imprinting and shipping effort for *The Secret Place*, our devotional magazine, enabling us to label and ship directly from printer to customer.

In addition, we redesigned and launched a fresh website with new functionality, including the ability to order e-books and other e-publications directly from the site, and we participated in an interactive online class using Judson Bible Journeys curricula. We released 10 new book titles, four quarters of Journeys (both student and leader guides) and four quarters of *The Secret Place*.

As part of our ministry, we were grateful to be able to send close to 600 Bibles to prisoners through our Send-A-Blessing program and distribute more than 80 leadership book sets to graduating American Baptist seminarians at the 2017 American Baptist Churches USA Mission Summit. Also, we gave back to 18 American Baptist regions that participate in Judson's Regional Rewards program a total of 10 percent of online retail sales from churches in their regions.

— **Laura Alden**  
Publisher, Judson Press

## 2017 awards

### Illumination Book Awards: Shining a light on exemplary Christian books

- Gold—"Still a Mother: Journeys through Perinatal Bereavement"
- Silver—"Through Her Eyes: Bible Studies on Women in Scripture"
- Silver—"From Classism to Community: A Challenge for the Church"
- Bronze—"Holy Heroes: The Gospel According to DC & Marvel"

### Foreword Indies finalist

"Through Her Eyes: Bible Studies on Women in Scripture"

### Judson Press Ministry Award recipient

M. Ingrid Dvirnak, author, Journeys editor and current editor of *The Secret Place*



## 2017 books

- "Baptists, Jews, and the Holocaust: The Hand of Sincere Friendship" by Lee B. Spitzer
- "From Fragmentation to Wholeness: Race, Ethnicity, and Communion" by Neville Callam
- "Intentionally Inclusive: Together at the Table for Ministry" by Marcia J. Patton
- "Intercultural Ministry: Hope for a Changing World," Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Jann Aldredge-Clanton, editors
- "Journey with Jesus Through Lent" by Glenn E. Porter Sr.
- "Managing Projects in Ministry" by Vincent Wyatt Howell
- "The Fierce Urgency of Prophetic Hope" by Wendell L. Griffen
- "The Revolutionary Power of the Lord's Prayer" by Alice Burnett-Greene
- "My Beloved, My Friend: The Song of Songs for Couples" by Brent D. Christianson
- "8 Questions Jesus Asked: Discipleship for Leaders" by Daniel M. Cash and William H. Griffith

# Healing communities

## Community Outreach Ministries: Isn't this just what Jesus did?

In fall 2017, ABHMS launched Community Outreach Ministries (COM). Before that, our community impact was restricted to Christian centers. COM joins these Christian centers with previously unrecognized community-based ministries and our new Rizpah's Children partners in a network that will grow and evolve as we identify and partner with more organizations throughout the United States and Puerto Rico striving to make a difference in the communities they serve.

I celebrate this elevation of ABHMS' community ministries effort to a national platform, a highly significant commitment, given the state of our nation today.

COM network partners engage in a wide variety of community-related healing ministries, including: senior citizen programs; HIV/AIDS patient support; addiction-recovery programs; childhood and family services; returning-citizens outreach; and veterans' services, along with programs related to low-income housing and immigration issues.

Through our vibrant partnerships with these diverse, hands-on community programs and their leaders, ABHMS' presence can be felt in neighborhoods across the country. Through them, we engage volunteers, collaboratively seek funding and sharing resources, best practices and expertise. Together we strive for collective impact that would be otherwise impossible for a single ministry to realize.

Seeing the transformation taking place throughout the COM network gets me up in the morning. As we embrace the vision of this growing network of transformative organizations, individuals who may never have darkened the doors of a local church are witnessing and experiencing the presence of Christ in their neighborhoods. And isn't this what Jesus did—travel from community to community engaging and healing people just where they lived?

— **Rev. Dr. Marilyn P. Turner-Triplett**  
Director, Community Ministries

## Rizpah's Children: Childhood poverty can—and must—be defeated

In 2017, my work shifted to include launching Rizpah's Children, a national initiative that focuses exclusively on ministries that make measurable differences in the lives of children living in poverty throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Although a part of Community Outreach Ministries (COM), Rizpah's Children is made up of its own specialized network, separate from COM. Partners in this network engage in long-term, strategic ministries that identify the needs of impoverished children in their communities, then connect them with local organizations—such as social service providers, educators, health service providers and churches—to provide wraparound services that bring God's



healing love to not only the children but their families as well.

We identified JOYA Scholars, Fullerton, Calif.; Bob Burdette Christian Center,

Charleston, W.Va.; Youth Enrichment Program, Cleveland, Ohio; and Neighborhoods Focused on African American Youth in three locations in Georgia as the inaugural Rizpah's Children partners. Last year, ABHMS contributed \$60,000 in grants to further the ministries of these partners. These partners are testimony that ministries focused on caring for underserved children can effectively combat the deleterious effects of childhood poverty.

— **Rev. Dr. Marilyn P. Turner-Triplett**  
Director, Community Ministries

## Healing communities

### Mission Advancement and Passionary Movement: Connecting passionate disciples with passionate ministry

The Mission Advancement and Passionary Movement efforts at ABHMS focus on connecting with American Baptists and others who have engaged our resources and ser-

vices so we can build and strengthen our relationships with these individuals and organizations.

This “friend-raising” invites individuals and organizations to continue their contact and relationship with us by supporting ABHMS through volunteering, becoming involved with ministry initiatives such as our Aligned Action Net-

works, putting faith into action through social justice advocacy efforts and sharing financial gifts that can strengthen and expand our good works.

Through engagement with us, these friends of ABHMS give testimony to their passionate commitment to the work we do to change and heal communities across the United States and Puerto Rico. Hence, they make up our network of Christians we call “passionaries,” who are changing the world we live in every day.

In 2017, we created the ABHMS Contact Relationship System, a software platform that captures all ABHMS contacts and enables us to monitor and deepen our passionary relationships. Mission giving last year totaled more than \$1.5 million with 41 percent coming from American Baptist congregations. Planned gifts represented 25 percent of the total; individuals contributed 7 percent and corporations donated 3 percent.

Friend-raising and fundraising are the lifeblood of ABHMS. It’s important to me to strategically connect and cultivate our passionaries so that they are always connected with the ministries that fuel their own passions.

— **Rev. Dr. Eddie Cruz**

Director, Mission Advancement and Passionary Movement



### Prisoner Re-entry and Aftercare: Bringing to life Jesus’ principles of redemption and reconciliation

ABHMS’ Prisoner Re-entry and Aftercare Ministries ensures that today—and every day—at least one person behind bars will be prayed for, cared for, and encouraged to prepare for life outside prison by a member of our network of prison chaplains, local pastors and lay leaders, along with leaders of local re-entry organizations.

We focus ministry on individuals and families who have become involved with the criminal justice system. We intentionally reach out to congregations, understanding that many people are touched by incarceration but suffer in silence because of the shame and stigma associated with it. We want to stir up dialogue in our American Baptist congregations around this issue so that churches bring hope to families and communities.

We provide materials and training, and we seek to connect with as many congregations as possible to support their efforts to form service networks for returning citizens, who face so many obstacles, and to become advocates for criminal justice reform.

In 2017 ministry efforts and resources were invested more broadly—rather than in local, small projects—when



members of our Prisoner Re-entry national network were connected with ABHMS’ new Aligned Action Networks in their respective locations. From their particular ministries, members of the Prisoner Re-entry group are bringing the concerns of returning citizens and their families to various discussion tables.

Last year our network touched approximately 12,000 people through direct ministry.

— **Rev. Fela Barrueto**

National Coordinator, Prisoner Re-entry and Aftercare Ministries

# Healing communities

## Volunteer Mobilization Ministries and Disaster Response Ministries: Bringing hope and recovery in the wake of disaster and devastation

Volunteer Mobilization Ministries is a clearinghouse for service and mission-related opportunities at American Baptist home mission locations throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Disaster Response Ministries delivers the American Baptist denominational response to natural disasters that strike the United States and Puerto Rico by offering immediate aid as well as planning for long-term response, when needed, to rebuild and restore an impacted area.



The year 2017 brought unprecedented disasters. Within a span of three months, the United States and Puerto Rico were hit with three major hurricanes—Harvey, Irma and Maria, along with two of the largest and quickly burning wildfires on record in California and Montana. Our disaster and volunteer ministries responded to each.

In addition, we provided opportunities for meaningful service to volunteers who have the desire to put faith into action. We worked with close to 800 volunteers last year. These volunteers served in New Orleans, where Lower 9th Ward residents are still recovering from Hurricane Katrina, and in several New Jersey locations where people still live with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. We also coordinated volunteers in Rainelle, W.Va.; Muskogee, Okla.; Texas and Alaska.

When I watch volunteers help to move a family back into their home after weeks, months or even years of displacement, it's the best feeling in the world.

— **Victoria Goff**

Associate Director, Mission Advancement and Passionary Movement and National Coordinator, Volunteer Mobilization Ministries and Disaster Response Ministries

## Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico: Standing beside brothers and sisters in Christ to rebuild an island torn asunder

Within two days of Hurricane Maria's landfall on Puerto Rico in 2017, American Baptist Home Mission Societies—in partnership with American Baptist Churches USA—announced a multi-year initiative to support rebuilding homes, churches and lives on the island.

Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico sought to raise \$1 million in six months through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) contributions to restore 114 American Baptist churches, nine missions and eight schools, plus Corporacion Milagros del Amor (CORMA) and Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico, in partnership with Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico.

ABHMS immediately pledged \$25,000, matching OGHS funds already earmarked for the island. ABHMS also developed a task force to plan American Baptist response efforts.

Little more than a week after Maria hammered the island, ABHMS' the Rev. Salvador Orellana and Victoria Goff arrived in San Juan to assess the damage. ABHMS managed shipment of supplies, including hygiene kits, tarps, water filtration systems, propane stoves, solar lights, flashlights and batteries.

With the initial \$1 million goal realized in February 2018, we began to prepare for volunteer groups and identify long-term recovery goals. [more images pages 14-15](#) ▶

— **Victoria Goff**

Director of Disaster Recovery for  
Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico

— **Rev. Salvador Orellana**

Deputy Director of Logistics and Relationships for  
Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico





# Rebuilding, Restoring,





Photo: Geoffrey Haggrey

# Renewing Puerto Rico



Photo: Susan Gottschall



## How firm the foundation

### Communications: We love to tell the story

Considering the depth of American Baptist Home Mission Societies' ministry legacy and the breadth of its mission today, telling the story of this historic mission agency is a tall order.

In 2017, this five-person team produced 77 news releases, 29 mission stories, 12 monthly e-newsletters, six issues of the print newsletter *Mission in America*, 19 e-blasts, three issues of our chaplaincy e-newsletter, one annual report (2016), one *America for Christ* video and one print issue of *The Christian Citizen*, along with the editing and Web publication of 10 digital issues.

Our creative designer delivered more than 170 completed projects, including display advertisements, Judson Press book covers, covers for *The Secret Place* devotional booklet and a packet of *America for Christ* Offering materials.

Our social media specialist published approximately 1,500 tweets and 500 Facebook posts, along with several dozen YouTube and Facebook videos and several dozen Instagram posts and stories.

In response to the year's punishing hurricane season, the team created a travelogue to report on ABHMS' disaster response efforts, following disaster response coordinator Victoria Goff from Houston to Puerto Rico to Florida to give American Baptists a front-row seat to the damage and assessment. This reporting increased our social media engagement double- and triple-fold and won a Best of Class award from the Religion Communicators Council in the digital media category.

— Susan Gottshall

Associate Executive Director, Communications

### Finance: Money makes the mission possible

Knowing that my work, even indirectly, supports healing communities and the environment through socially responsible investing, along with improving the education and lives of many of our program recipients, makes it easy to come to the office every day.

As part of the Finance team, I manage ABHMS budgets, protect financial information, organize financial data and report financial activities.

The Finance team maintains the financial health of ABHMS through budgeting and fiscal management; ensures appropriate allocation of donor funds; follows donor directives for designation of funds; supports all ABHMS ministries; follows board and government guidelines; and reports financial activities to all stakeholders.

In 2017, our team improved procedures to facilitate data collection, information preservation and financial reporting. As we seek continuing improvement in our service to the greater organization, we have gained understanding about changes to our financial reporting structure that provide deeper understanding of donations and programmatic expenditures. We also have streamlined processes to increase efficiencies and improve reporting.

We celebrated the retirement of long-time team member Sandy Rothenberger in 2017. After 42 years of ABHMS service, Sandy's retirement is well-deserved.

As part of ABHMS and its ministries of healing communities that improve the lives of so many, I feel that my work is making a difference in this world.

— Alma Hazboun  
Controller



e-blasts, three issues of our chaplaincy e-newsletter, one annual report (2016), one *America for Christ* video and one print issue of *The Christian Citizen*, along with the editing and Web publication of 10 digital issues.

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— Susan Gottshall

Associate Executive Director, Communications



# How firm the foundation

## Human Resources Management Services: Providing the people power that fuels excellence in equipping disciples and healing communities

Human Resources Management Services ensures ABHMS employs highly-skilled, committed and engaged ministry-focused professionals who embrace and exemplify the organization's mission, vision and core values.

Building a professional staff that enables an organization to accomplish its mission is exciting. Also, being able to recruit, hire, compensate, support, train and retain top talent to meet ministry objectives is energizing.

Recently, ABHMS began offering its human resources management services to our national and regional partners through an initiative known as HRMatters. In addition to



negotiating contracts for comprehensive healthcare for ABHMS, American Baptist Churches USA, American Baptist Historical Society, American Baptist Women's Ministries and American Baptist Foundation, we provided staffing support to these national

partners for the hiring and orientation of staff. Additionally, HRMatters provided compensation and staffing consultation to regional partners.

In 2017, ABHMS was blessed to strengthen the human resources team by adding Benjamin Richardson as human resources coordinator. Benjamin's gifts and graces are an asset to realizing team objectives.

— **Laura Miraz, Ph.D., SPHR, SHRM-SCP**  
Associate Executive Director,  
Human Resources Management Services

## Information Technology Management: Delivering relevant, reliable and responsible products and services that enhance mission

When ABHMS invests in the right technology at the right time for the right cost, Information Technology (IT) Management undergirds every aspect of its mission and ministry, ensuring the organization delivers more ministry with greater impact each day.

Effective IT Management generates value through effective use of technology—by ensuring utilization of appropriate technology tools; by ensuring that dollars are invested in the tool that's most effective for a task; by ensuring staff are trained to use technology platforms to their optimum potential; and by building an ever-increasing capacity for technology.

Technology advances at warp speed, and our IT Management function has advanced with it. In 2017, we focused on equipping all staff with quality IT products and services that empower them for optimum effectiveness. In 2017, we also leveraged software and platforms based on cloud services—a significant change to improve services and minimize cost, capacity and complexity in delivering products and services.

We implemented a centralized technology platform to organize supporters' contact information and build relationships. We expanded use of Web and video-conference technology and developed an online volunteer portal that streamlines work week registration. Also, we developed online portals for the In Support of Excellence initiative and Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries.



— **Derrick Gilbert**  
Director, Information Technology Management

## How firm the foundation

### Integrated Marketing: Making a significant commitment to developing a consistent ABHMS and Judson Press voice

We launched our Integrated Marketing effort in 2017. Marketing is vital to any organization; it's significant that we've made a commitment to place more focus in this area.

Integrated Marketing strives to share a unified, consistent and multi-dimensional message about our mission with American Baptists and the general public as well. We also ensure that those who use and benefit from ABHMS ministries have a consistent and exceptional experience with us.

Our goal is to ensure this consistency throughout our marketing efforts among internal and external partners as we share our organizational mission and objectives as well as the impact of our ministries.

The plan focuses on four key areas: 1) creating and maintaining a consistent ABHMS message and voice across all channels of communication; 2) generating more efficient programming and tactics; 3) better positioning ABHMS and Judson Press to leverage resources and manage budgets; and 4) generating original powerful content.

Integrated Marketing plays a significant role in public perceptions of ABHMS and Judson Press. Our hope is that the messages about our mission, ministries and resources inform American Baptists and others that we are answering God's call to cultivate Christian leaders, empower and equip disciples, and heal and transform communities across the United States and Puerto Rico.

— **Linda Johnson-LeBlanc**

Integrated Marketing Director, Judson Press  
and American Baptist Home Mission Societies

### Legal Services: Supporting a rich legacy of pushing the arc toward justice

Legal services at American Baptist Home Mission Societies is much like legal services at many organizations. The role of general counsel supports the goals of proposed



transactions undertaken by ABHMS, ensuring that issues and legal concerns related to potential actions are addressed.

There are a wide range of issues that we address, including real estate, labor and employment, contracts and board governance. In addition, Legal Services serves in a consultative role related to potential actions to open doors that can offer creative strategies and solutions to legal issues.

Of course, Legal Services was intimately involved in the 2017 real estate acquisition of ABHMS' new home for doing mission; this is a critical aspect of the "new thing" we are doing to develop ministry strategy that will meet mission needs across the United States and Puerto Rico for decades to come.

While it's true that our services are much like the services offered in any organizational setting, what's important to me is that this work supports a ministry that has such a rich legacy of pushing the arc of society toward justice. Those on the margins of society, those with special needs—these are the people at the heart of ABHMS ministry, and it inspires me to be using my skill and experience in a way that brings God's word and God's love to life for them.

— **Valoria Cheek, Esq.**

General Counsel

# How firm the foundation

## Strategic Initiatives and Relationships: Optimal efficiency and effectiveness fuel ABHMS' mission and ministries

As executive assistant to ABHMS' Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, I help advance the organization's mission to connect with our partners to cultivate leaders, equip disciples, and heal and transform communities.

My ministry involves three main categories: mission grants, ministry partnerships and organizational strategy.

In 2017, we convened a task force that streamlined the process of awarding grants by developing a common application form, a grant covenant, and a process to receive, review and award grants three times a year. Also in 2017, we created an internal management strategy to help staff plan and implement programs that ensure alignment with our mission framework and nine organizational goals. In addition, we made it a priority to create a collaborative environment among all ABHMS staff that encourages greater efficiency organization-wide.

Support of the Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico initiative was critical as we launched a major effort to



help the island recover following the devastation wrought by hurricanes Irma and Maria. The backbone support provided to the internal Puerto Rico Task Force, convened by the executive director, enabled the team, especially the two coordinators, to function at high capacity during the peak of the disaster.

In addition, we developed a strategic plan and a budget especially for this single initiative.

My work with the executive director enables ABHMS staff to function optimally. It is this opportunity to advance the ABHMS mission across the United States and Puerto Rico that connects with my passion for ministry.

— **Rev. Rothangliani Chhangte**  
Senior Associate, Strategic Initiatives and Relationships

## Administrative Services Team: Committed to providing a firm foundation that supports ministry excellence

A cross-departmental group of executive and administrative assistants, the Administrative Services Team (AST) provides support to American Baptist Home Mission Societies' staff that aligns with the organization's mission, vision and goals.

In 2017, the team identified appropriate office management technologies that support excellence in administra-



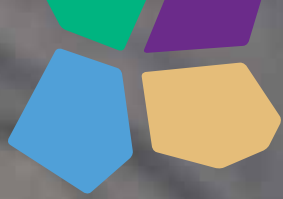
tion, developing a training plan to foster operational excellence and technical proficiency around those technologies.

Our high-performance team operates with a high level of efficiency and effectiveness, always focused on delivering services that are Christ-centered and grounded in faith, collaboration and an appreciation of diversity.

Ultimately, AST seeks to build a high-performance group that anticipates office management needs and meets them through lifelong learning, shared knowledge and effective communication. Providing quality support focused on the highest standards of excellence to the ministries of ABHMS is our way of ensuring the success of these ministries—and bringing God's love to those who need it most throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

— **Tondolayo Duncan**  
Executive Assistant to the  
Deputy Executive Director, Treasurer and CFO





# ennial Mission Summit



## Staff separations

### So long, farewell, and blessings on your way

These staff members left American Baptist Home Mission Societies in 2017, after having collectively given close to a century of service to the mission and ministry of cultivating leaders, equipping disciples and healing communities. Well done, good and faithful servants of Christ.

Sandra Rothenberger	41 years, 2 months
Christine J. Pappanastasiou	13 years, 7 months
Rev. Dr. Ronald H. Carlson	11 years, 10 months
Rev. Glynis LaBarre	11 years, 9 months
Patricia Osborne Randolph	11 years
Rev. Dr. Saw Ler Htoo	4 years, 10 months
Rev. Kristina D. Helton-Moeller	3 years



Photo: Danny Ellison



Thanks, Home Missions, for these opportunities to assist our fellow countrymen when they are in such devastating circumstances! You will be getting donations from my church.”

— Dorinda Rupe,  
following Hurricane Harvey  
Relief appeal



Praise the Lord, and congratulations to ABHMS for this powerful and needed initiative. The American Baptist region in Puerto Rico is one of ABCUSA’s faithful regions. I will pray for success in raising the funds.”

— Dr. Larry Swain,  
former executive minister, ABC/Ohio,  
following announcement of  
Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing  
Puerto Rico initiative





## Your home mission gifts ensure American Baptist Home Mission Societies' legacy of life-changing ministry

The America for Christ Offering 2017 theme—“Cultivating Leaders”—reminds us that, as American Baptists, we give testimony to a vital legacy of mission and ministry dating to 1824. The 21st-century challenges of leadership are numerous, but we are invigorated by the passage of Luke 4:18-19: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (NRSV).

Thanks to the generous donations and partnership of churches and individuals, American Baptist Home Mission Societies can keep its commitment to cultivating dynamic Christian leaders who are culturally and spiritually competent, in touch with their churches and communities,

and passionate about ministry and helping people. Highly developed Christ-honoring leaders are called to advance the mission of peace, hope and love in their churches and communities with resilience, faithfulness and proficiency.

Your unwavering partnership and gifts to ABHMS remain a key element of our successful ministry bringing the prophetic voice of Jesus Christ to the United States and Puerto Rico. Thank you!



## Support home mission by planning your legacy

American Baptist Home Mission Societies gratefully recognizes legacy gifts given through the American Baptist Foundation. In 2017, those gifts totaled \$466,856.57 through a number of financial instruments, including charitable gift annuities, estates, and charitable trust and donor advised funds. These gifts will continue supporting home mission into the coming years.

The foundation supports the stewardship of American Baptist individuals, churches and organizations by providing gift planning, gift management, endowment-fund management and educational resources in harmony with the mission of our faith family. The foundation’s gift planning and financial services offer a convenient resource that reduces duplication of efforts, while increasing financial resources that ensure American Baptist witness for Christ in the future.

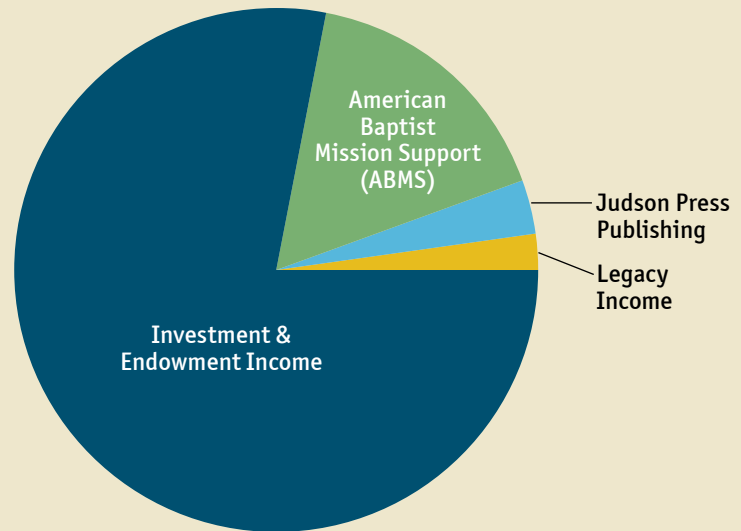
To include American Baptist Home Mission Societies in your will, ask your legal counsel to include this statement:

I give, devise and bequeath to the American Baptist Home Mission Society, a New York corporation with offices at Valley Forge, Pa., 19482, the sum \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (or indicate a specific asset percentage) from the residue of my estate for the use of said Society in carrying out its corporate purpose.

**Contact the American Baptist Foundation at 800.222.3872, x2035, to learn more about multiple options for planned gifts from your estate, or visit the foundation at [www.abcofgiving.org](http://www.abcofgiving.org).**

## 2017 Financial Snapshot

### Ministry income sources

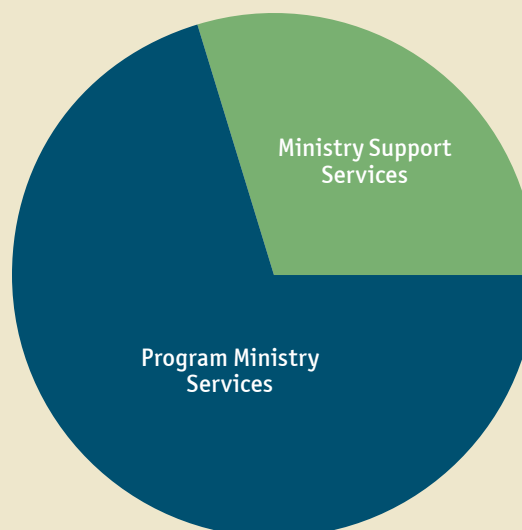


	2017	%	2016	%
<b>American Baptist Mission Support:</b>				
America for Christ	759,380	3.6%	789,819	9.0%
United Mission	365,904	1.7%	392,102	4.5%
One Great Hour of Sharing	2,174,392	10.2%	394,211	4.5%
Other contributions	248,763	1.2%	306,305	3.5%
<b>Total ABMS</b>	<b>3,548,439</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	1,882,437	21.6%
<b>Legacies &amp; related income</b>	<b>466,857</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	577,903	6.6%
<b>Investment &amp; endowment income:</b>				
Investment, endowment & related funds	16,440,110	77.5%	5,518,268	63.2%
Mortgage income	94,153	0.4%	99,717	1.1%
<b>Total investment &amp; endowment income</b>	<b>16,534,263</b>	<b>77.9%</b>	5,617,985	64.3%
<b>Judson Press publishing</b>	<b>684,961</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	652,568	7.5%
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>\$21,234,520</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	\$8,730,893	100.0%

**For a copy of American Baptist Home Mission Societies' audited financial statements, please visit our website at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) or call 800-222-3872, x2465.**

## 2017 Financial Snapshot

# Where ministry dollars were invested



	2017	%	2016	%
<b>Program ministries:</b>				
Missional life & missionary support & administration	5,345,657	39.7%	4,635,299	38.4%
Publishing ministries	1,313,893	9.8%	1,245,971	10.3%
Discipleship/transformation	1,240,950	9.2%	861,089	7.1%
Caring ministries/prophetic justice	975,558	7.3%	952,291	7.9%
Intercultural focus on discipleship & evangelism	412,188	3.1%	386,741	3.2%
Evangelism/new church planting	94,191	0.7%	70,543	0.6%
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>9,382,437</b>	<b>69.8%</b>	<b>8,151,934</b>	<b>67.5%</b>
<b>Administrative support:</b>				
Ministry support services	2,459,771	18.2%	2,378,772	19.7%
CIF management fees & beneficiary payments	1,166,364	8.7%	1,249,261	10.3%
Development	440,482	3.3%	303,590	2.5%
<b>Total administrative support</b>	<b>4,066,617</b>	<b>30.2%</b>	<b>3,931,623</b>	<b>32.5%</b>
<b>Total program &amp; administrative support expenses</b>	<b>13,449,054</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>12,083,557</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total income (loss) from operations:</b>				
Net unrealized gains/(losses) on investments	7,785,466		(3,352,664)	
Change in annuity beneficial interest & actuarial obligations	10,543,521		9,867,543	
	24,999		(29,823)	
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>\$18,353,986</b>		<b>\$6,485,056</b>	

## Common Investment Fund: Focused on ministry along with investment return

Income from American Baptist Home Mission Societies' actively managed Common Investment Fund (CIF) supports our ministries across the United States and Puerto Rico. By using Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) guidelines to manage this fund, we ensure our money carries out ministry along with our programs, resources and staff.

Through SRI, we engage in activities that dovetail with our commitment to social advocacy and use our shareholder power to hold corporations accountable for their impact related to social and environmental issues.

In partnership with the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), ABHMS has pressed companies such as Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), ExxonMobil and Tyson Foods to improve management of environmental, social and governance practices. Through dialogue, we



educate companies about their social impact and work with them to develop and implement strategies that influence positive systemic change.

Change has not come overnight. But ABHMS dares to believe that—through faith and partnership with others—we can continue to impact the corporate world in ways that support sustainable development, defined by the United Nations as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

ABHMS leads and joins with other ICCR members in engaging corporations around issues that intersect with our ministry priorities, such as climate change, food justice, economic justice, racial justice and access to health care.

Highlights of 2017 shareholder engagements include:

- In May, Tyson announced a new partnership with a well-respected nongovernmental organization, the World Resources Institute, to develop greenhouse gas goals and “context-based water goals.” We believe our engagement has been a significant factor in this shift, in addition to new leadership and broader market awareness about sustainability.
- We were pleased to see ExxonMobil appoint a respected climate scientist to its board in January, a move viewed as response to years of repeated ICCR-member filings. In December, 15 investors met with seven ExxonMobil executives to discuss ExxonMobil’s Energy Outlook, research and development updates and climate-related public policy positions. Shareholders expressed concern for ExxonMobil’s lack of reporting about the company’s plans to adapt its business model to the 2 degrees Celsius scenario. In response, ExxonMobil said it will produce a report in response to the strong 2017 shareholder vote. (Sixty-two percent of shareholders supported the resolution.)
- ABHMS led 15 ICCR members in dialogue with ADM to monitor its commitment to implementing a human rights policy and no-deforestation-and-exploitation policy relating to its palm and soy supply chains. Through investor dialogues in April and August, we joined with 15 other investors to press ADM about progress implementing its human rights policy, and we encouraged greater transparency. ADM revised its human rights policy in September and adopted our suggestion to include the human right to water in its policy. The new policy also strengthens commitments around implementation.

# Common Investment Fund

**Dec. 31, 2017**

## Common Investment Fund snapshot

Market value of assets  
under management: **\$227,432,847**

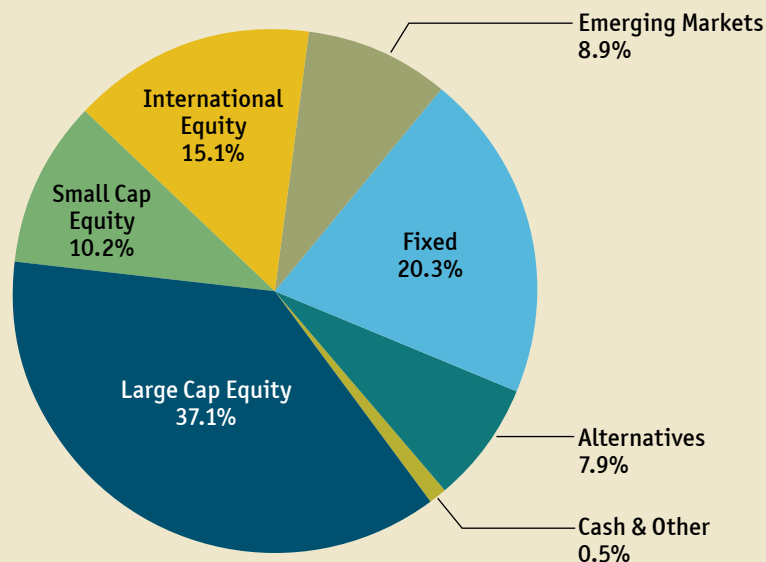
Annualized return, net of fees: **+16.6%**

Target benchmark: **+17.2%**

## Historical Common Investment Fund unit value (2008-2017)

2008	<b>240.03</b>	2013	<b>371.97</b>
2009	<b>284.84</b>	2014	<b>379.04</b>
2010	<b>311.10</b>	2015	<b>355.03</b>
2011	<b>295.15</b>	2016	<b>369.44</b>
2012	<b>317.75</b>	2017	<b>410.74</b>

## Asset Mix



## Investment management

Investment Advisor:

Colonial Consulting Corporation Inc., New York City

Investment managers:

- Atlanta (Ga.) Capital Management Co. LLC
- Baillie Gifford Overseas Ltd., Edinburgh, Scotland
- Bain Capital Senior Loan Fund, Boston
- Bogle Opportunity Fund II SRI, L.P., Lower Newton Falls, Mass.
- Colchester Global Investors Inc., New York City
- Champlain Investment Partners, Burlington, Vt.
- Cross Harbor Institutional Partners II, Boston
- Eagle Capital Management LLC, New York City

- Garcia Hamilton & Assoc., Houston, Texas
- Heartwood Forestland, Chapel Hill, N.C.
- Lazard, New York City
- Owl Creek Socially Responsible Investment Fund Ltd., Toronto
- Patron Capital IV & V, London
- Prentiss Smith & Co. Inc., Brattleboro, Vt.
- Vulcan Value Partners LLC, Birmingham, Ala.

**In 1975, ABHMS' Common Investment Fund (CIF) was expanded to invite participation to American Baptist churches and related institutions. For more information about participating in CIF, contact American Baptist Home Mission Societies' treasurer's office at 800.222.3872, x2385.**

# America for Christ Offering 2017

# America

American Baptist Home Mission Societies acknowledges the 250 top-giving churches that supported the 2017 America for Christ Offering. **Thank you!**



## ABC of Connecticut

Central Baptist Church	Hartford, Conn.
Niantic Baptist Church	Niantic, Conn.
First Baptist Church	West Hartford, Conn.

## ABC of Greater Indianapolis

First Baptist Church	Greenwood, Ind.
Church of the Master	Indianapolis, Ind.
First Baptist Church	Indianapolis, Ind.
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church	Indianapolis, Ind.
New Bethel Baptist Church	Indianapolis, Ind.

## ABC of Indiana and Kentucky

First Baptist Church	Bunker Hill, Ind.
Friendly Grove Missionary Baptist Church	Coalmont, Ind.
First Baptist Church	Columbus, Ind.
Memorial Baptist Church	Columbus, Ind.
First Marion Baptist Church	Commiskey, Ind.
Faith Baptist Church	Fort Wayne, Ind.
Hayden Baptist Church	Hayden, Ind.
Judson Baptist Church	Kokomo, Ind.
Metea Baptist Church	Lucerne, Ind.
First Baptist Church	Madison, Ind.
Mill Creek Baptist Church	Mill Creek, Ind.
First Baptist Church	Mitchell, Ind.
Mt. Horeb Baptist Church	Orleans, Ind.
First Baptist Church	Plainfield, Ind.
First Baptist Church	Richmond, Ind.
First Baptist Church	Seymour, Ind.
Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church	Shelbyville, Ind.
First Baptist Church	Sullivan, Ind.
First Baptist Church	Terre Haute, Ind.
Lewis Creek Baptist Church	Waldron, Ind.
First Baptist Church	Washington, Ind.

## ABC of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii

First Baptist Church	Redlands, Calif.
Evergreen Baptist Church—Los Angeles	Rosemead, Calif.

## ABC of Maine

Court Street Baptist Church	Auburn, Maine
Cape Neddick Baptist Church	Cape Neddick, Maine
United Baptist Church	Saco, Maine

## ABC of Massachusetts

Brewster Baptist Church	Brewster, Mass.
Immanuel Baptist Church	Ipswich, Mass.
First Baptist Church	Melrose, Mass.
Green Street Baptist Church	Melrose, Mass.

## ABC of Metro Chicago

North Shore Baptist Church	Chicago, Ill.
Community Baptist Church	Warrenville, Ill.

## ABC of Metro New York

Lenox Road Baptist Church	Brooklyn, N.Y.
Bethesda Baptist Church	New Rochelle, N.Y.
First Baptist Church	Riverhead, N.Y.
Scarsdale Community Baptist Church	Scarsdale, N.Y.

## ABC of Michigan

First Baptist Church	Ann Arbor, Mich.
Northside Community Church	Ann Arbor, Mich.
First Baptist Church	Birmingham, Mich.
First Baptist Church	Davison, Mich.
First Baptist Church	Jackson, Mich.
Alpha Baptist Church	Livonia, Mich.
First Baptist Church	Midland, Mich.
Praise Baptist Church	Plymouth, Mich.
Covenant Baptist Church	West Bloomfield, Mich.

## ABC of Nebraska

Arthur Baptist Church	Arthur, Neb.
First Baptist Church	Fremont, Neb.
First Baptist Church	Kearney, Neb.
First Baptist Church	North Platte, Neb.
Sunset Hills Baptist Church	Omaha, Neb.

## ABC of New Jersey

First Baptist Church	Bordentown, N.J.
Cohansey Baptist Church of Roadstown	Bridgeton, N.J.
Van Riper Ellis Broadway Baptist Church	Fair Lawn, N.J.
Flemington Baptist Church	Flemington, N.J.
First Baptist Church	Freehold, N.J.
Glenwood Baptist Church	Glenwood, N.J.
Calvary Baptist Church	Hopewell, N.J.
First Baptist Church	Pedricktown, N.J.
Spanish American Baptist Church	Union City, N.J.
First Baptist Church	Woodstown, N.J.

## ABC of New York State

First Baptist Church	Ballston Spa, N.Y.
Delaware Avenue Baptist Church	Buffalo, N.Y.
First Baptist Church	Endicott, N.Y.
Fowler Baptist Church	Gouverneur, N.Y.
Kenmore Baptist Church	Kenmore, N.Y.
Lowville Baptist Church	Lowville, N.Y.
First Baptist Church	Middletown, N.Y.
Eastwood Baptist Church	Syracuse, N.Y.
First Baptist Church	Trumansburg, N.Y.
Tabernacle Baptist Church	Utica, N.Y.

## ABC of Ohio

Springfield Baptist Church	Akron, Ohio
First Baptist Church	Bellevue, Ohio
Trinity Baptist Church	Canton, Ohio
North Baptist Church	Columbus, Ohio
First Baptist Church	Hamilton, Ohio
Grand Prairie Baptist Church	Marion, Ohio
Owl Creek Baptist Church	Mount Vernon, Ohio
First Baptist Church	Newark, Ohio
Bethel Baptist Church	Springfield, Ohio

## ABC of Pennsylvania and Delaware

First Baptist Church	Dover, Del.
Calvary Baptist Church	Newark, Del.
Calvary Baptist Church	Allentown, Pa.
West Shore Baptist Church	Camp Hill, Pa.
Brandywine Baptist Church	Chadds Ford, Pa.
East Mahoning Baptist Church	Commodore, Pa.
Lower Providence Baptist Church	Eagleville, Pa.
Greenfield Baptist Church	North East, Pa.
Parkerford Baptist Church	Parker Ford, Pa.
Parquesburg Baptist Church	Parquesburg, Pa.
North Hills Community Baptist Church	Pittsburgh, Pa.
First Baptist Church	Punxsutawney, Pa.
Royersford Baptist Church	Royersford, Pa.
Franklin Park Baptist Church	Sewickley, Pa.
First Baptist Church	Tioga, Pa.
Baptist Church of West Chester	West Chester, Pa.
Franklin Union Baptist Church	Worthington, Pa.

## ABC of Rhode Island

North Scituate Baptist Church	North Scituate, R.I.
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## ABC of the Central Pacific Coast

First Baptist Church	Gresham, Ore.
First Baptist Church	McMinnville, Ore.
Cedar Hills Baptist Church	Portland, Ore.
First Baptist Church	Portland, Ore.
Grace Baptist Church	Portland, Ore.
Calvary Baptist Church	Salem, Ore.

## ABC of the Central Region

First Baptist Church	Herington, Kan.
First Baptist Church	Horton, Kan.
First Baptist Church	Lawrence, Kan.
First Baptist Church	Leavenworth, Kan.
First Baptist Church	Lindsborg, Kan.
First Baptist Church	Louisburg, Kan.
First Baptist Church	Manhattan, Kan.
First Baptist Church	McPherson, Kan.
First Baptist Church	Olathe, Kan.
First Baptist Church	Ottawa, Kan.
First Baptist Church	Paola, Kan.
First Baptist Church	Scott City, Kan.
First Baptist Church	Topeka, Kan.
West Side Baptist Church	Topeka, Kan.
Community Baptist Church	Tulsa, Okla.

# for Christ Offering 2017

## ABC of the Dakotas

First Baptist Church	Bismarck, N.D.
Liberty Baptist Church	Butte, N.D.
Immanuel Baptist Church	Minot, N.D.
First Baptist Church	Burke, S.D.
First Baptist Church	Sioux Falls, S.D.
First Baptist Church	Watertown, S.D.

## ABC of the Great Rivers Region

Sato Baptist Church	Ava, Ill.
Boskydell Baptist Church	Carbondale, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Carthage, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Chrisman, Ill.
Bethel Baptist Church	Colchester, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Decatur, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Dixon, Ill.
First Baptist Church	East Peoria, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Elgin, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Fairbury, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Greenfield, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Greenville, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Highland, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Jerseyville, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Mattoon, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Minonk, Ill.
Muncie Baptist Church	Muncie, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Oak Park, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Ottawa, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Peoria, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Pontiac, Ill.
Central Baptist Church	Quincy, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Rantoul, Ill.
First Baptist Church Champaign	Savoy, Ill.
Kane Baptist Church	Shipman, Ill.
Central Baptist Church	Springfield, Ill.
Elliott Avenue Baptist Church	Springfield, Ill.
First Baptist Church	Kansas City, Mo.
Grace Baptist Church	Kansas City, Mo.
Second Baptist Church	Saint Louis, Mo.
University Heights Baptist Church	Springfield, Mo.

## ABC of the Northwest

First Baptist Church	Billings, Mont.
Murray Baptist Church	Murray, Utah
First Baptist Church	Des Moines, Wash.
First Baptist Church	Olympia, Wash.
Spokane Valley Baptist Church	Spokane Valley, Wash.

## ABC of the Rochester/Genesee Region

Greece Baptist Church	Rochester, N.Y.
Ogden Baptist Church	Spencerport, N.Y.

## ABC of the Rocky Mountains

Pine Street Church	Boulder, Colo.
First Baptist Church	Colorado Springs, Colo.
Highland Park Baptist Church	Colorado Springs, Colo.
Calvary Baptist Church	Denver, Colo.
American Baptist Church	Fort Collins, Colo.
First Baptist Church	Grand Junction, Colo.
First Baptist Church	Lamar, Colo.
First Baptist Church	Longmont, Colo.

First Baptist Church	Sterling, Colo.
First Baptist Church	Laramie, Wyo.

## ABC of the South

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church	Rockville, Md.
Calvary Baptist Church	Towson, Md.
Watts Street Baptist Church	Durham, N.C.
Martin Street Baptist Church	Raleigh, N.C.

## ABC of Vermont and New Hampshire

New Hampton	
Community Church	New Hampton, N.H.
Middle Street Baptist Church	Portsmouth, N.H.
Bow Lake Free Will Baptist Church	Strafford, N.H.
First Baptist Church	Bellows Falls, Vt.

## ABC of Wisconsin

Immanuel Baptist Church	Brookfield, Wis.
First Baptist Church	La Crosse, Wis.
First Baptist Church	Madison, Wis.
Bay View Baptist Church	Milwaukee, Wis.
First Baptist Church	Racine, Wis.
First Baptist Church	West Allis, Wis.

## Cleveland Baptist Association

Columbia Baptist Church	Columbia Station, Ohio
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## District of Columbia Baptist Convention

Pathways Baptist Church	Gaithersburg, Md.
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## Evergreen Association of ABC

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church	Oakland, Calif.
First Baptist Church	Seattle, Wash.

## Growing Healthy Churches Inc.

### (ABC of the West)

First Chinese Baptist Church	Fresno, Calif.
First Chinese Baptist Church	Sacramento, Calif.
First Chinese Baptist Church	San Francisco, Calif.
Community Baptist Church	San Mateo, Calif.
First Baptist Church	Santa Clara, Calif.

## Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico

Iglesia Bautista de Puerto Nuevo	San Juan, Puerto Rico
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## Mid-American Baptist Churches

First Baptist Church	Boone, Iowa
First Baptist Church—Church of the Brethren	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
First Baptist Church	Davenport, Iowa
Westover Baptist Church	Des Moines, Iowa
Altamont Baptist Church	Harlan, Iowa
First Baptist Church of Greater Des Moines	Johnston, Iowa
First Baptist Church	Pella, Iowa
First Baptist Church	Waterloo, Iowa
First Baptist Church	Saint Paul, Minn.
Woodbury Baptist Church	Woodbury, Minn.

## Philadelphia Baptist Association

Shiloh Baptist Church	Wilmington, Del.
Grace Baptist Church of Blue Bell	Blue Bell, Pa.
Great Valley Baptist Church	Devon, Pa.
Central Baptist Church	Wayne, Pa.

## West Virginia Baptist Convention

Old Greenbrier Baptist Church	Alderson, W.Va.
Bethesda Baptist Church	Barrackville, W.Va.
First Baptist Church	Beckley, W.Va.
Baptist Temple	Charleston, W.Va.
Wilsonburg Baptist Church	Clarksburg, W.Va.
Crab Orchard Missionary Baptist Church	Crab Orchard, W.Va.
Sabraton Baptist Church	Dellslow, W.Va.
First Baptist Church	Elkins, W.Va.
Baptist Temple	Fairmont, W.Va.
Willow Tree Baptist Church	Farmington, W.Va.
Beulah Baptist Church	Grafton, W.Va.
Fifth Avenue Baptist Church	Huntington, W.Va.
Pea Ridge Baptist Church	Huntington, W.Va.
Shuck Memorial Baptist Church	Lewisburg, W.Va.
Jordan Run Baptist Church	Maysville, W.Va.
Milton Baptist Church	Milton, W.Va.
Open Arms Baptist Church	Mount Nebo, W.Va.
First Baptist Church	New Martinsville, W.Va.
Indian Fork Baptist Church	New Milton, W.Va.
First Baptist Church	Nutter Fort, W.Va.
Calvary Baptist Church	Oak Hill, W.Va.
Beulah Ann Missionary Baptist Church	Ona, W.Va.
Emmanuel Baptist Church	Parkersburg, W.Va.
First Baptist Church	Parkersburg, W.Va.
South Parkersburg Baptist Church	Parkersburg, W.Va.
First Baptist Church	Petersburg, W.Va.
Philippi Baptist Church	Philippi, W.Va.
First Baptist Church	Rainelle, W.Va.
First Baptist Church	Saint Albans, W.Va.
Summersville Baptist Church	Summersville, W.Va.
Vienna Baptist Church	Vienna, W.Va.
First Baptist Church	Williamson, W.Va.

For a list of all churches that donated to the 2017 AFC Offering, visit [abhms.org](http://abhms.org).

## 2017 board of directors



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The year 2017 was most productive for ABHMS as we strived to effectively carry out our ministry. It was necessary to reorganize in several areas to achieve our desired outcomes. These efforts were designed to bring about transformation and to continue leading ABHMS into a bright future. I am thrilled that the hard work and cooperation of our staff has produced noteworthy outcomes. It was a pleasure to witness the participation of various leaders and different organizations that participated in our Aligned Action Network meetings. These meetings allowed us to create partnerships with organizations that have similar missions; together we are creating new opportunities to further our ministries. These successes are testimony, in my mind, that the board's decisions were the right ones. I am excited about what is taking place in ABHMS.

—**Dr. Clifford Johnson**  
President, Board of Directors



It is exciting to see how a new organizational theme has taken off. “Connect. Cultivate. Change.” was suggested out of table discussions at one of our meetings; members were excited about it, and the decision was made to move forward and adopt it. As I look back now, I see that God's hand inspired the board to choose that particular theme as it is connecting the organization with churches and individuals across the country. The organization is cultivating those relationships, both former and new, and changing perspectives along the way. God is doing new things and it's exciting to see. I am really hopeful about the future; I know that God is blessing all of ABHMS' efforts.

—**Lois Chiles**  
Vice President, Board of Directors



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**Rev. Dr. Marilyn P. Turner-Triplett**



Just a note to thank you for doing what you do. Dr. Haggray was at the ABC of Wisconsin annual meeting... I thoroughly enjoyed and was challenged by his address Friday evening. ...You make American Baptists proud.”

— Rev. Phineas B. Marr III,  
pastor, First Baptist Church,  
Kenosha, Wis.

1075 First Avenue, King of Prussia, Pa.—

## New home of American Baptist Home Mission Societies

In June 2017, American Baptist Home Mission Societies purchased a new building—after 5½ decades of ministry at 588 N. Gulph Road, King of Prussia—yet another manifestation of doing a “new thing” to prepare for carrying out God’s ministry in a new way in an ever-changing social landscape.

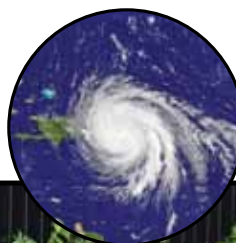
Just a half-mile down the road in distance but a half-century away in time, 1075 First Avenue stands as testimony to ABHMS’ march with time, always at the ready to bring Jesus Christ’s healing, transformative gospel wherever it’s needed across the United States and Puerto Rico.

The new offices—in the heart of King of Prussia’s new Business Improvement District—incorporate state-of-the-art design and technology features that will enable ABHMS to deliver mission with greater, more far-reaching impact tomorrow, and the tomorrow after that, too.

I am about to do  
a new thing; now  
it springs forth, do  
you not perceive it?  
— Isaiah 43:19



**IN TIMES OF HOPE AND CRISIS:** We are here to listen to what every church experiences and needs. And to respond.



At an outdoor meeting at Primera Iglesia Bautista de Caguas, ABEC CEO Valoria Cheek (far left) confers with pastors and leaders of churches with ABEC Loans.



After the recent hurricanes in Puerto Rico, ABEC's president toured the island and visited churches with ABEC Loans. She saw the destruction firsthand and listened to the stories of pastors and church members. ABEC responded in a way that honored the stories and showed support while reflecting ABEC's commitment and stewardship.

We continue to walk alongside our churches. That is why institutions affiliated with the American Baptist denomination choose **ABEC Loans**. We are more than a lending organization. We offer specialized services, knowledge, understanding and answers.

Your investments in **ABEC Notes** allow us to make loans that help churches like these across the country and in Puerto Rico build, renovate and rebuild.

Contact us today to find out more.



**P.O. BOX 851, VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482-0851**  
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At Primera Iglesia Bautista de Trujillo Alto, the roof was heavily damaged.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies  
P.O. Box 851  
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851



Behold, we are doing a new thing! | Annual Report 2017