



From Our Interim Executive Ministers

An ABCMC process to clarify identity and direction:



ABCMC Cabinet Receives New Paths Survey Report and Analysis

On Saturday, June 17, 2017, your Interim Executive Ministers, Associate Regional Ministers, and Cabinet (thirteen people in all) met with our consultant from Samaricare to receive a report on the results of the New Paths for a New Day survey in which many of you participated. It was a fascinating and highly informative session.

We learned that the overall goal of a survey like this is to deepen our organizational intelligence. That is, to become more self-aware as an organization. The analysis of the survey results focused particularly on our organization's climate (Satisfaction: How content are folks with how things are going? And Energy: how much capacity for action do we have collectively?), culture (for example flexible or inflexible), and priorities. Some broad outlines of a picture of ABCMC are emerging. Some of them are:

- There is a remarkably high level of collegiality reported by the respondents, higher than in any other denominational body that has taken this survey.
- Pastors are not getting what they need from the Region. (It is not yet clear to us exactly what they are looking for.)
- Trust levels are high. Those responding generally trust and are willing to follow the Region's leadership.
- There is some energy and hopefulness, but also a lot of folks sitting on the fence, taking a "wait and see" attitude about what will come next for ABCMC.

The survey results strongly confirmed what the region's leadership already sensed: a strong need for a compelling vision and direction. We need a focus plan of action we can all get behind.

Next step: Listening Sessions

The next step is to fill in the details and sharpen the focus of the broad outline we are beginning to see. The results of this survey will guide us in crafting questions to dig deeper and listen to fuller, more narrative answers. Those questions will guide six in-depth Listening Sessions. The first, in July, will be with the Cabinet.

Others will follow this fall. Each Listening Session will begin with an Executive Summary of the survey results, and then be guided by carefully designed questions into an in-depth three-hour conversation. The Listening Sessions will be gatherings of smaller groups within the region, primarily based on the Collaboratives. (Dates are below. Specific times and locations TBA.)

Hispanic Collaborative Listening Session

Saturday, September 23

Specialized Ministers (those whose place of service is outside the local church)

Saturday, September 30

Euro/MultiCultural Collaborative Listening Session

Saturday, October 14

African-American Collaborative Listening Session

Saturday, October 21

Asian Collaborative Listening Session

Saturday, October 28

It is so exciting to be making real progress on our New Paths for a New Day discernment and planning process!

With you on the journey,

Reverend Carol McVetty

Reverend Doug Harris

Reverend Robert Rawls Ordination



Robert Rawls was ordained to the Christian Ministry on June 11 by the Community Baptist Church of Wilmette with many ABCMC friends and colleagues in attendance.



Reverend Robert Rawls with Reverend David Van Brakle, his colleague at Community Church of Wilmette. Richest blessings on your ministry, Rob.

ABCUSA Job Openings

American Baptist Women's Ministries is seeking a new Executive Director following the retirement of Virginia Holmstrom. For more information go to www.abwministries.org/apply.

The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts are seeking an Associate Exec/Director for Mission and Stewardship. Further information is available [here](#).

International Ministries Office of Short term Missions is looking for volunteer teachers for one of our mission partners, a school in Chaing Rai, Thailand. term of service would be August 2017 to June 2018. The openings are: English Language and Math Tutors (K-12), English Language Learner Teacher (12), Music Teacher (K-12), Art Teacher (K-12) For more information go to <http://www.crics.asia>, contact recruiter@crics.asia or contact Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil at IM Short Term Missions. 610-768-2164(Office).

Camp Grow



It's that time of year again . . . time to encourage the children and youth of your church to spend a week at Camp Grow this summer.

Camp sessions are available for kids in grades 3 through 12 at our camp on Green Lake in Wisconsin. [Click here](#) for registration materials from the Camp Grow website.

Scholarships are available to assist with the cost of attending camp.

From Camp Grow: consult the Camp Grow website.

From ABCMC: American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago is offering 30 camp scholarships of \$120 each for the 2017 camping season. They will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Please use the form on the ABCMC website to request scholarships for the children in your church. For more information contact Rev. Carol McVetty at revmcvetty@abcmc.org

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