

# What does the Region Do?



## American Baptist Churches of Nebraska Mission Statement

American Baptist Churches in Nebraska are joined together as a region in a covenant partnership (ABC/NE) to : Encourage, challenge, and empower one another to be transforming Christian communities in the world.



# Region Support for the Local Church

## Pastoral Search:

When a church is without a pastor it can be a difficult and confusing time. The Region comes alongside churches during this critical season in the life of a church to guide it toward finding a new staff member. The Region walks with the search committee with a guided process on how to proceed in finding a new pastor. It also walks the church congregation through three training experiences designed to help them understand their history, learn church communication skills, and understand their local community better. The Region serves as a resource by helping churches find good pastoral candidates through the profile system and other regional contacts. Your United Mission giving helps churches find pastors.



## Resource Center:

It has been said, "It's not what you know it's who you know." Sometimes knowing the right person to ask for help makes all the difference. The Region is a great resource for any sort of ministry question your church might have. The Region can help a church with ministry issues like finding curriculum, provide training for deacons and trustees, worship advice, organizational structure, polity issues, and many others. The Region can also help churches better understand issues like clergy tax laws, understanding CCLI licensing, hiring and releasing staff members, and areas of clergy misconduct. The Region is a great resource to churches in any situation. Your United Mission giving helps the Region be a resource center for the local church.



## Mission Training:

The Region provides training opportunities for churches to grow in their understanding of mission. Through one day training events all the way up to yearlong experiences, the Region provides churches with the opportunity to engage in meaningful learning practices. Missional Church Learning Experiment is a nine month training event that takes a small group from a church through a series



of training days and practical ministry exercises to learn how to build relationships within their community and do ministry. The Missional Immersion training is a six month training process for young adults to

grow in their understanding of ministry and grow in their commitment to the local church. One to two day training events for deacons, children ministers, youth leaders, Sunday School teachers, evangelism, technology, social media, worship, leadership, ethics, and many others are available to every church in Nebraska. Contact the Region office if you would like to invite the Region into your church for a training event. Your United Mission giving provides the resources necessary for these training opportunities.

### **Facilitate Missionaries to be present in churches:**

U.S. and foreign missionaries help American Baptists reach the world for Christ. The Region helps coordinate missionary's schedules and places them in local churches across Nebraska for visits, fund raising, and training. Foreign and U.S. missionaries have visited nearly half of all Nebraska churches in the past several years. If you would like to have a missionary visit your church, contact the Region office. Your United Mission giving provides churches with the opportunity to meet missionaries.

### **Pulpit Supply:**

The Region helps churches fill pulpits when pastors are ill or away from their church. The Region can provide staff or connect a church with ministers who have agreed to be pulpit supply ministers. Your United Mission giving helps churches fill pulpits.



### **Region Convention:**

Bringing together all of ABC/NE to share local ministries, share best practices, encourage, challenge, and empower, the Region Convention occurs once a year in September. It is a time of celebration, worship, and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Your United Mission giving helps churches celebrate and worship with one another.

### **Conflict Management:**



Conflict is inevitable. Any time change occurs there is conflict. However, conflict can be a positive. The Region helps churches walk through times of conflict so that there is peaceful resolution. Certified Lombard Conflict Managers help churches work through their conflicts to create a lasting peace. Your United Mission giving helps churches resolve their conflicts.

### **Mission Giving Collection and Disbursement:**

The Region oversees the receipt and distribution of financial gifts given to United Mission, America For Christ, World Mission Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, Retired Missionaries and Ministers, Foundation, Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center, and direct gifts to the Region. Your United Mission giving helps churches be able to give safely and share their resources with others.



### **Churches Helping Churches:**

Churches helping Churches allows churches with gifts and resources to help other churches in need of gifts and resources. The Region serves as a facilitator of these relationships. If you have a need you believe a fellow church could meet contact the Region office and they will help you find a church willing to help. Your United Mission giving helps churches help each one another.



### **Grant Writing:**

Do you have an idea for a great ministry but don't know how to get it off the ground because you need extra resources? Writing a grant is a great way to gain that all important capital to start new ministries and strengthen existing ones. The Region can help churches locate and write grants for ministry. In the past few years the Region has helped churches and the Region receive and use nearly \$100,000 in grants. Your United Mission giving helps churches write grants for ministry.

# Region Support for Church Staff

## **Pastor to Pastor:**

Who is the Pastor to the Pastor? There are two Pastor to Pastor leaders in ABC/NE who keep in touch and care for our Regional pastors. The Region is also available to help pastors with any of their concerns. Your United Mission giving allows pastors to have their own pastor.



## **Pastor Retreat and Training:**

The Region provides continuing education opportunities for our pastors in the form of annual spring and fall retreats. These retreats are fully paid for by the Region. The Region also assists pastors in attending training events not sponsored or organized by ABC/NE. The Region also provides resources for pastors who wish to further their formal education through collegiate, seminary, or doctoral studies. Your United Mission giving helps pastors continue their education.



## **Mission Study Tours:**

It is important for Pastors to be able to experience how the Church is doing ministry in other places. Every autumn the Region takes four pastors on a 10-day overseas learning experience. This experience allows pastors to engage other Christian cultures and bring home new ideas for ministry. Mission Study Tours have taken pastors to Burma, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Bolivia in recent years. Through grants, the Region provides a majority of the funding for the experience.

## **Department of Professional Ministries:**

The Department of Professional Ministries helps pastors and churches work through significant transitions in ministry. They assist in the ordination process, installation of new pastors, and in cases of clergy misconduct. The department guides pastors through the ordination process by helping the write out their beliefs and prepare them for their ordination council. This department can help a pastor who has violated the Code of Ethics back



into healthy ministry after a process of learning and forgiveness. The Region and this department also work with churches who have been wounded by a pastor who has violated the Code of Ethics.

### **American Baptist Personnel Services:**

It is rare for a pastor to only serve one church. The Region can help pastors find new churches to serve through the American Baptist Personnel Services and contacts with other Regions. This is also a way the Region welcomes new pastors into the ABC/NE churches.

### **Encouraging, Equipping, and Challenging**

The Region staff has many years of experience as local church staff. As such they understand the joys and difficulties of being a local church pastor and staff member. The Region is available to listen to pastors share their joys and difficulties.

## **Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center**



The Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center is the single largest joint ministry that all churches in Nebraska participate in. MMCCC hosts several Bible camps every summer. The conference center hosts events for men, women, pastors, and church leaders year round. MMCCC is also available for special events like weddings, reunions, church picnics, and fellowship events. If you would like to help support MMCCC consider joining the 2300 Team. To learn more about the many things MMCCC is doing call 402-666-5639 or [www.campmerrill.org](http://www.campmerrill.org)



# American Baptist Churches USA Information

The American Baptist Churches of Nebraska is part of the American Baptist Churches USA. The region of ABC/NE partners with the larger ABC USA family for the purpose mission and ministry. Here are the main branches and functions of ABC USA.

## American Baptist Home Mission Society:



ABHMS answers God's call to live out Christian faith and transform individuals, congregations and communities through developing Christ-centered leaders, networks and programs committed to witness and evangelism, social justice, discipleship and mission work across the United States and Puerto Rico. They are supported through the America for Christ offering.

## International Ministries:

IM supports, trains, and coordinates the vast network of International Missionaries around the world on behalf of ABC USA. Its central mission is to help people come to faith in Jesus, grow in their relationship with God, and change their worlds through the power of the Spirit. IM is supported solely through the generosity of churches and individuals through the World Mission Offering.



## Office of General Secretary:

The OGS of ABC USA provides servant leadership through vision, resources, training, administration and counsel for the whole denomination, so that American Baptists can effectively "carry out the common task of mission and ministry in our time" in fulfillment of the Great Commission. The OGS coordinates and focuses the diverse ministries of ABC USA. OGS is supported by United Missions.



## **Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board Financial Solutions:**

MABB is the official financial service of ABC USA for the sake of retirement and health benefits of ministers and missionaries. Pastors and churches in Nebraska are encouraged to use MABB for their benefits.



## **Historical Society:**

The American Baptist Historical Society is the archive and historical interpreter of the American Baptist Churches USA. As the oldest Baptist historical organization (founded in 1853) with the largest and most diverse collection of Baptist historical material, their holdings are of irreplaceable value to church, national, and global history. They would be happy to have records and memorabilia from your church.

## **Institution Support Process:**

ABC USA has a host of institution that is partially supported by giving from local churches. Institutions include colleges, universities, nursing home facilities, and mission sites. In Nebraska there is the Roger Williams Fellowship a college ministry on the campus of University of Nebraska Kearney and the Maple Crest Care Center a nursing home located in Omaha. The colleges and universities most near us are Ottawa University and University of Sioux Falls. Nearest Seminaries are Central Seminary and Northern Seminary.

## **Mission Summit and Conversation Tables:**

The Mission Summit/Biennial is the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) national gathering held every two years in a different part of the country. The "Mission Summit" is a unique opportunity to come together, share ideas, and learn from one another what is working in the growth and vitality of our churches today. The Mission Summit/Biennial is a time of celebration. We gather to celebrate God's work among us as an ABCUSA family, and this time together serves as a reunion where brothers and sisters in the faith reconnect, worship and learn together. We also need to do the necessary business of our denomination which is the third purpose for gathering together. We elect the denomination's officers (President, Vice President, Budget Review Officer) for the coming Biennium.

# Region Support for Ecumenical Relationships

## **Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska (IMN):**

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska as part of ABC USA realizes the kingdom of God is bigger than our own denomination. As such we choose to partner with other denominations for the sake of ministry and mission in Nebraska by participating in the Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska.

## American Baptist Mission Support Defined

### **United Mission**

United Missions provides the largest portion of support and are the very foundation for all American Baptist Mission. 65% of all UM gifts stay in ABC/NE for the purpose of ministry to our churches, staff, and camp.



### **America For Christ**

American Baptist Home Mission Society shares 29% of its annual support offering from America For Christ with all the Regions in ABC USA. America For Christ's primary purpose is to support the ministries of ABHMS.

### **World Mission Offering**

WMO is for the purpose of the Global Mission through International Ministries. Contributions are used to support the work of partners, projects, and missionaries in over 70 countries around the world.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

OGHS provides disaster relief and develop assistance in the United States and overseas. It is administered by the American Baptist World Relief Committee.



## **Direct Donations**

Churches and individuals can give financial and material gifts directly to the Region.

## **2300 Team**

Individuals and churches can contribute directly to Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center by joining the 2300 Team. Individuals are asked to donate \$23 a month for the general operation of Camp

## **American Baptist Churches of Nebraska Foundation**

The ABC/NE Foundation manages the financial investments and accumulated interest used for financial support for ABC/NE. Annually they provide almost 10% of what region and camp use to carry out their mission. Prayerfully consider donating to the ABC/NE Foundation.

# **Region Missionaries**

## **Executive Minister and Region Missionary**



Rev. Robin D. Stoops is a graduate of Ottawa University and Sioux Falls Seminary, he is currently working on a Doctorate at Northern Seminary. He is married to Kathryn Stoops, they have three grown children and seven grandchildren. Robin has served as a pastor in churches in Kansas, Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska.

## **Associate Executive Minister and Region Missionary**



Rev. Greg Mamula is a graduate of Williams Baptist College and George W. Truett Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to Lisa Mamula and together have two children. Greg has served as church staff in Arkansas, Texas, and Nebraska.

This ministry is made possible because of your generous gifts to United Mission.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

**American Baptist Churches of Nebraska Staff**

Executive Minister.....Robin Stoops  
Associate Executive Minister.....Greg Mamula  
Office Manager.....Sue Gammel  
Office Assistant.....Margaret Brown-Moore  
Pastor to Pastors– East.....Dick Peterson  
Pastor to Pastors—West.....Larry Harvey

**Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center Staff**

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