



American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

Growing Healthy Churches to Fulfill Christ's Mission

Position: Executive Minister

The Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABCCR) is called by and responsible to the Region Board of Directors and serves as the chief administrative officer of ABCCR and as a Regional Secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA). The Executive Minister provides spiritual and administrative direction and collegial leadership to the churches and staff of ABCCR.

❖ **Area of Experience (please supply all that apply):**

- Small town life
- Bi-Vocational pastoring
- Local church pastor
- Multicultural Setting
- Working ecumenically or with interfaith groups
- Nonprofit
- Other (please list)

❖ **Years of Experience:**

- Local church 10 Years (preferred but not required)
- ABC 10 Years
- Leadership 10 Years

❖ **Ordination by ABC Recognition Required:**

- Please share date recognized
- Please share who recognized

❖ **Education:**

- M.Div. or higher required (please share degrees and where received)
- Evidence of life-long learning (please share examples)

❖ **Desired Skills, Characteristics, and Competencies (please supply all that apply):**

- Experience working with multiple staff (preferred)
- A pastor's heart (Pastor to Pastor & Pastor to Executive Team)
- Understand the role as the public face of the Region through all communications
- Integrity and Trust
- Listening Skills
- Approachable and personable
- Strategic and tactical change agent
- Willing to delegate, be accountable and hold staff accountable
- Get things done on time and with excellence
- Continue the good relationship with the Board

❖ **Key Responsibilities (please supply all that apply and give examples):**

- Helping local churches reach younger generations
- Ministry in a rapidly changing world
- Congregational health
- Work with multiple staff

❖ **Compensation Range** 75,000 to 85,000 (includes, salary, housing and Social Security Offset)

If interested in the position of Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region, send a completed copy of your resume being sure to include all of the above to:

Rev. Franklin Ruff at emapplicant@abccr.org by March 7, 2018



Fact Sheet for Prospective Regional Executive Minister

Geography:

The **American Baptist Churches of the Central Region** (ABCCR) is comprised of 202 churches located in three states:

- Arkansas – 1 church in Bella Vista
- Kansas – 185 churches
- Oklahoma – 16 churches (13 of which are Native American)

As noted above, the majority of the churches in the ABCCR are located in the state of Kansas. Unique characteristics include:

- Approximately 1/4th of the population in Kansas is in two and one-half counties.
- Majority of the general population in region is located in large cities; majority of churches are in small towns or rural areas.
- 30% of ABCCR churches are located in towns of 25,000 or more.
- 70% of ABCCR churches are located in towns of less than 25,000.
- 51% of ABCCR churches are located in towns of less than 5000.

Churches/Pastors:

- The ABCCR churches and clergy are theologically widespread and also have distinct cultures, partially due to the East/West and Urban/Rural divide. We might mostly be described as moderate conservative with a few farther to the right and left of the divide.
- There is an active Minister's Council and Together in Ministry presence in ABCCR.
- The Region is divided into six Areas and each Area has a Cluster. Most are active.

Ethnic Diversity of Churches:

- Anglo
- African American
- Native American
- Hispanic
- Asian
- Burmese
- Multi-Cultural

ABCC Pastors are:

- ABC Ordained
- Ordained, but hold ABC recognition
- Ordained, but without ABC recognition
- Licensed
- Lay / with some training
- Lay / without training
- Full-time
- Part-time / retired
- Part-time / bi-vocational
- Gender diverse (170 male pastors and associates / 21 female pastors and associates)

Lay and Volunteer Involvement

- Strong lay involvement has been a hallmark of ministry in the ABCCR. The Mid-Winter Mission / Evangelism Conference and the Senior Adult Retreat are mostly lay led.
- The Regional American Baptist Women’s Ministries continues to be a strong and active force in Region life.
- The ABCCR camping and youth programs have strong volunteer support.
- American Baptist Men continue to operate, coordinating efforts for disaster relief initiatives and work projects near and far.

Camping

The Central Region Camping Program operates several summer camps in various locations across the ABCCR:

- Camp Christy – located in Western Kansas, has approximately 7 camp sessions each year. This American Baptist facility has its own Board and facility managers.
- Cross Wind Camp & Conference Center – located in Central Kansas, has approximately 8 camp sessions each year. This American Baptist facility has its own Board of Managers and facility Executive Director.
- OIABA (Oklahoma Indian American Baptist Association) holds a week-long camp session each year at Bacone College in Muskogee, OK.
- Westminster Woods – located in Southeast Kansas is a rented Presbyterian camp that has approximately 1 camp session each year.

Institutional Support

The Central Region has a unique arrangement to provide support for several American Baptist institutions and ministries. Identified as “The Kansas Plan”, 28.69% of every United Mission dollar given through the ABCCR is divided among:

- Bacone College in Muskogee, OK
- Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Shawnee, KS
- Ottawa University in Ottawa, KS
- Murrow Indian Children’s Home in Muskogee, OK
- Sunset Home in Concordia, KS
- Prairie Homestead in Wichita, KS
- Homestead Health Center in Wichita, KS

Bethel Neighborhood Center, although not in the Kansas Plan, receives budget allowance.

Present Staff:

- Dr. Nathan Marsh, Associate Executive Minister
- Rev. Mike Justice, Region Staff Minister (half-time)
- Rev. Julie Robinson, Region Staff Minister (half-time)

Specialized Ministry Staff:

- Rev. James Blake, Director of Camping
- Rev. Wilma Engle, Director of Planned Giving
- Dr. Joe Kutter, Director of Interim Ministries

Present Support Staff:

- Ms. Rita Adams, Financial Administrator
- Ms. Martha Robbins, Communication Coordinator