

# Vision & Mission

## American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

The ABCCR is a voluntary association of autonomous Baptist churches glorifying God through living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our Vision: *Growing Healthy Churches to Fulfill Christ's Mission.*

Our Mission: *Providing Resources and Services to Assist, Challenge, Empower and Represent Local Congregations in Ministry.*

We shall achieve our vision and carry out this mission by promoting vitality in and among our churches based on Biblical faith, nurturing Biblical stewardship, encouraging the proclamation of the Gospel and effective discipleship in both individual and social environments, and providing an organizational framework for our shared life and ministry.

### **1. Promote vitality in and among our churches based on Biblical faith.**

- ❖ Enhance congregational leadership through excellent, accessible educational opportunities.
- ❖ Train laity and clergy to access available resources through current technologies.
- ❖ Recruit and train Region staff with specific skills to meet the need for enhanced congregational energy and vitality.
- ❖ Create an environment of mutual love and respect in which difficult and divisive issues can be addressed, studied, and held up in prayer.
- ❖ Create gatherings that reflect the diversity of people that make up our Region.

### **2. Nurture a Biblical stewardship encompassing all of life.**

- ❖ Provide sound strategic management of mission funds to fulfill the Great Commission regionally, nationally and globally.
- ❖ Increase personal involvement in mission locally, regionally and through the American Baptist Churches USA.
- ❖ Solicit investments in the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation that will contribute to the support of the Region mission.
- ❖ Provide excellent training annually in each area for pastors and church financial leaders in effective use of Biblically-based stewardship programs.

### **3. Encourage proclamation of the Gospel and effective discipleship in individual and social environments.**

- ❖ Provide training for personal and congregational evangelism.
- ❖ Set all Region-sponsored events in the context of worship.
- ❖ Target a variety of audiences with excellent Biblically-based programs, camps, and conferences that are accessible and affordable.
- ❖ Encourage churches to participate in American Baptist camps and other programs.
- ❖ Help pastors and church leaders develop a greater sense of American Baptist heritage, identity and mission.
- ❖ Recruit and train persons to mentor professional church staff new to the Region.
- ❖ Provide annual ministers' gatherings for continuing education/vision building sessions at no cost to those attending.
- ❖ Encourage gifted individuals to accept God's call as church leaders, pastors and missionaries.
- ❖ Encourage young people to value professional ministry as an honorable life calling.
- ❖ Be actively involved in planting new churches.
- ❖ Identify issues of injustice and encourage appropriate regional and congregational response.

### **4. Provide an organizational framework for our shared life and ministry.**

- ❖ Use available technology to develop a network linking every congregation with efficient communication across the Region and denomination.
- ❖ Provide a network of congregational and regional resources for sharing various gifts available through our people.
- ❖ Examine our present structure, programs and activities to determine their effectiveness in advancing the mission and vision of the Region, and to discontinue those deemed no longer effective.