

OUR EXPECTATIONS
of the
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE CENTRAL
REGION AND ITS MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP

We are American Baptists. We serve churches whose heritage and identity are American Baptist. We have never been a closed denomination. We have many fine leaders, both ministerial and lay, some of whom have come to us from other communions. We acknowledge that a pastor's first responsibility is to his/her calling as a servant of Jesus Christ. While affirming our diversity, we feel the need to covenant with actual and potential ministerial leadership so that our understandings may be mutual.

EXPECTED RESPONSIBILITIES
of the
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE CENTRAL REGION TO ITS
MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP

You can expect the Central Region to endeavor to support those who are called to serve in an American Baptist church in the ABCCR:

- Through the availability of the Region Staff for spiritual support, encouragement, and resources.
- Through the provision of a multitude of programs, resources and Resource Ministers to enhance the local church ministry.
- Through making available when requested counseling resources for the ministerial leader and his/her family at greatly reduced cost. This service will be confidential, outside the Region's jurisdiction and will have no reporting responsibility to the Region.
- Through the availability of career assessment in ABC-recognized centers on the ministry. It is expected that if financial support is received from the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region then the results also will be shared confidentially with the Executive Minister of the Region.
- Through a salary support program for those ministers and churches which apply and qualify.
- Through a placement assistance process which will aid ministerial leadership in relocation when needed or requested.
- Through the Region or the Denomination making available orientation training for those who are serving an ABC/USA church for the first time.



EXPECTED RESPONSIBILITIES
of
MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP
IN THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE CENTRAL REGION

Our expectation of the pastors of ABCCR churches is to:

- Hold as a priority, attendance at the ABCCR Annual Gathering, Area, Association and/or Cluster meetings, ministers meetings and other meetings associated with service in the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region.
- Encourage church giving to United Mission and thus participating in the Kansas Plan of institutional support which creates a partnership between the educational and care institutions of the Region and the ABCCR churches.
- Encourage contributions to the American Baptist Churches mission program, and seek to promote American Baptist Mission education. (This is not intended to limit the obligations of a dually-aligned church.)
- Encourage the use of available ABC/USA and ABCCR resources.
- Know or learn about American Baptist history, polity and practice and actively seek to teach and lead the laity into an understanding and appreciation of this heritage.
- Publicize and invite persons to participate in the Region's camping program and youth ministry programs.
- Accept the Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches.
- Supervise the completion of Annual Report Forms of the American Baptist Churches/USA and the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region.
- Recognize that a diversity of theological viewpoints exists and not attempt to set ones own understanding as the standard for everyone else.

