

# S.E.E.D.S.

## The ABCCR Region Offering

In accordance with the Common Budget Covenant we hold in trust with the wider ABC family, each Region receives a set percentage of the United Mission dollar. In the Central Region (because of our unique commitment to the Kansas Plan) we receive 45.7% of every dollar your church gives to United Mission.

In times past, that contribution was mostly sufficient to fund the ministries we share together as American Baptist Churches of the Central Region. As giving trends, demographics and other cultural shifts have taken place over the last two decades there has been a steady decline in United Mission support. The direct impact on the Central Region has been a steady drop in resources available to allow each Region to have its own special offering to support its unique ministries.

The ABCCR region offering was initially called the SEEDS Offering which was an acronym for Sowing, Education, Evangelism, Discipleship and Service – which are all part of our ministries. As seeds represent new life and growth, so the SEEDS Offering represents an opportunity for Central Region Baptists to extend new life and growth to the ministries so vital to the health of our churches.

A recent article addressing the decline in church attendance pointed out that for many congregations, as attendance declines the decision is made to reduce staff and divert resources to pay the essential bills. The decline then continues because no layperson picks up the outreach and ministry once conducted by that staff minister.

Our ABCCR Board has been forced to make similar decisions with regard to staff deployment. Use of volunteer and part-time staff has enabled the Region to work smarter to do many of the things we have always done. Unfortunately, there are some things that we are no longer able to do as effectively. The SEEDS Offering (our Region Offering) is one of the ways we are rebuilding financial capacity to do better ministry for and with our member churches and church leaders.

Your church's gifts to the Region Offering (or SEEDS Offering), which are to be listed on the monthly Mission Support Report Form on the Region Offering (RO) line, go entirely to the support of the vital and shared ministries of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region. That means 100% of your giving to Region Offering helps our churches in the pastoral search and call process, provide camping opportunities for children and youth, secure special training opportunities for clergy leaders, assist churches and new church leaders in the ordination and credentialing process, provide opportunities for mission education events, senior adult gatherings, annual Regional gatherings and much more.

You can make a financial offering to the ABCCR at any time and help plant SEEDS for God's Kingdom.

Let's find creative ways to support the ministries we share together as American Baptist Churches of the Central Region. Help us to be a strong, united entity that can make a difference.

Wilma Engle, Director of Planned Giving