



2023-  
2024

# ABC/RGR Annual Report

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197th year  
Rochester Genesee Region  
American Baptist Churches

Our mission is to support congregations in developing leaders who transform lives. As we go about our work, we are shaped by the values of respect, Godly justice and reconciliation.

We respect one another as children of God, holding one another in positive esteem, even when we hold different understandings of belief and celebrate with different traditions. Godly justice has to do with loving enemies, refusing to fight back, rejecting the desire to punish and coerce.

The justice of God is revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus, when love triumphed over power and evil. God's justice has been revealed separate from the legal realm, apart from the law. God keeps working to heal brokenness, as should we. Reconciliation is an element of salvation that refers to the results of atonement.

Reconciliation is the end of estrangement caused by sin between God and humanity and between sister and brother. We believe that we know God better when we are reconciled with all of God's people.

As we join together in God's work, we are directed by the following areas of concentration:

- We embrace diversity as a gift from God.
- We are intentional about building relationships between individuals, congregations, and ecumenical and interfaith communities.
- Through our regional relationships we support one another in faith formation for adults, youth and children; encourage the sharing of spiritual gifts and resources; promote innovative leadership; and encourage practices that lead to the transformation of lives.
- With hopeful spirits, we nurture and celebrate a culture open to new ways of supporting existing congregations and nurture new congregations and ministries.
- We support individuals and churches in intentional acts of mercy and justice in their neighborhoods, communities and the world and by speaking truth to power through witness, education, stewardship and actions.

(From ABC Rochester/Genesee Region Constitution, 1979, Amended May 31, 2020)

## Statement of Purpose of American Baptist Churches, USA

American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., as a manifestation of the church universal, bears witness to God's intention to bring redemption and wholeness to all creation. American Baptists believe that God's intention can be sought and followed in local congregations and other gatherings of Christians and in associational, regional, national and world bodies as they receive from one another mutual counsel and correction. Since Jesus Christ is the head of the church, each body of Christians, seeking to order its life in accordance with the Scriptures under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has a proper responsibility under God for maintaining its life of worship, witness, and ministry.

In every area of their common life American Baptists, acknowledging the importance of creative diversity, seek such a balance of freedom and order as will keep all parts of American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and at the same time enable them to work responsibly to carry out the common task of mission and ministry in our time.

American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. acknowledges that it shares a common faith in Christ with churches, which may be quite different from it in history, polity and practice. Consequently, it seeks to share with them a common ministry and to express it faithfully.

American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. acknowledges that God's will is also manifested in movements outside the formal structures of Christ's church, and that, therefore, it must respond faithfully to such disclosures.

American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. further acknowledges and confirms its commitment to the objects stated in its Act of Incorporation as follows: it to give expression to the opinions of its constituency upon moral, religious and denomination matters and to promote denominational unity and efficiency in efforts for the evangelization of the world."

In the light of this affirmation, American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. intends the following statement of purpose to implement and not to alter the objects stated in its Act of Incorporation:

- to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world and to lead persons to Christ;
- to seek the mind of Christ on moral, spiritual, political, economic, social, denominational and ecumenical matters, and to express to the rest of society on behalf of American Baptists, their convictions as to the mind of Christ in these matters;
- to guide, unify, and assist American Baptist in their witness in the world, in preparing members for the work of ministry, and in serving both those within and outside the fellowship of Christ; and
- to promote closer relations among American Baptist churches and groups, within the whole Body of Christ and to promote understanding with other religious bodies.

### Standing Rules 5.1.1. Common Criteria

1. Affirm the statement entitled, “We are American Baptists” (revised 6/19/98) as descriptive of American Baptist faith and practice.
2. Affirm the mission/purpose of the American Baptist Churches USA and of the Region in which the church is a member.
3. Participate in the life and mission of the American Baptist Churches at local, regional, national and international levels.
4. Financially support the mission of the American Baptist Churches USA at a responsible level.
5. Share with the family the impact of the church’s ministries in reaching the community and world for Christ by reporting annually on forms supplied by the region and/or the ABC/USA.

*Adopted by The General Board November 2001*

*Forwarded to Regions for consideration & adoption, December 2001*

*Adopted by ABCRGR Executive Board April 2002*

*Affirmed by The General Board (that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Regions adopted) November 2002*

## 2023-2024 Officers, Executive Board & Committee Members

### Officers

President – Rev. Tanya Spencer – Good Shepherd Community of Faith, Buffalo, NY	2024
Vice President – Jason Alspaugh – United Church of Granville, Granville, OH	2024
Treasurer – Scott McClellan – First Baptist Church of Rochester, Rochester, NY	2024
Clerk – Anne Farrell – First Baptist Church, Ithaca, NY	2024

### Representative Members

(Ex-officio—these are not elected positions but serve as voting members of the ABCRGR board as representatives of their organizations as per our bylaws)

Rev. Paul Vick – International Ministries

Rev. Dr. Cliff Matthews – Board of General Ministries

### Executive Board

Rev. Steve Brotzman – First Baptist Church Penfield, Penfield, NY	2020-2024
Tanya Thurman – Second Baptist Mumford, NY	2020-2024
Leila Morgan – First Baptist Church of Morrestown, NJ	2022-2026
Bonaventure Moulogho – Lake Avenue Baptist Church, Rochester, NY	2022-2026
Rev. Jennifer Lessard – York Baptist Church, York, NY	2022-2026
Dan Robinson, Sr. – Webster Baptist Church, Webster, NY	2022-2026
Laura Tubbs – Lake Avenue Baptist Church, Rochester, NY	2020-2024

### Officers of the Permanent Council on Ordination

Chair, Dr. Gaya Shakes (2024) – St. Luke Tabernacle, Rochester, NY

Vice Chair, Rev. Brent Bowden (2024) – Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, KY

Clerk – *Open*

### Additional Ordination Review Committee Members

Rev. Sarah Culp – Greece Baptist Church, Rochester, NY

Anne Farrell – First Baptist Ithaca, Ithaca, NY

Rev. Dan Brockway – First Baptist Church of Brockport, Brockport, NY

Rev. Bill Reynolds – First Baptist Ithaca, Ithaca, NY

Dr. Linda Clark – Greater Harvest Church, Rochester, NY

Rev. Rich Barron – First Baptist Ithaca, Ithaca, NY

## **President's Report 2023   ABCRGR Region President – Rev. Tanya Spencer**

Dear Region Family,

As of this writing, as I embark on my second year as president, I want to express my deep gratitude for the honor and pleasure it is to serve the people, churches, and the region of ABC RGR. Working alongside the Executive Committee and Rev. Dr. Sandy Hasenauer has been truly enriching, and I eagerly anticipate the path that God has laid out for our committee and region. Our collective efforts have been focused on essential initiatives, including the revision of our employee handbook to align with state regulations. Additionally, we are actively promoting the Endowment campaign to provide lasting support for our region and churches through legacy giving. Creating and maintaining connections within our community remains a priority, exemplified by the upcoming Mission Summit in May during our Delegates meeting weekend. I'm pleased to share that we are welcoming new churches into the ABCRGR family, such as Abundant Faith, whose membership we will be voting on at February's delegates meeting. With other congregations expressing interest, we celebrate the growth of our ABCRGR family, giving praise to God. As we anticipate another busy year ahead, I look forward to witnessing the unfolding of God's plan for our region, and I pray for continued wisdom and insight for the board and our esteemed Executive Minister, Rev. Dr. Sandy Hasenauer. May God's blessings continue to abound for each of you.

In Christ's service,  
Rev. Tanya Spencer

## Executive Minister's Report 2023-24 Rev. Dr. Sandra L. DeMott Hasenauer

### Reflections on Fiscal Year 2024

To be honest, I have had to consistently remind myself that this year's "annual report" actually begins with the last half of 2023, which feels o-so-long-ago now. Changing our fiscal year to July 1-June 30 means that our annual report, published after the financial review is complete in the fall, means that we're including information from nearly 18 months ago or, in this case, summer and fall of 2023. That's a lot of goings-on to remember!

There has been so much happening that I could never reflect on it here, but as I reviewed all that happened in the 2023-2024 program/fiscal year, I stand in awe and gratitude.

We bid farewell to two churches. The first was First Baptist Church of Keystone at Citrus Park, FL, our furthest south church, as they decided to go back to being the independent Baptist church they were before joining our region a few years back. We also witnessed the closing of the True Faith Christian Fellowship (formerly Historic Parsells, the late Rev. Dr. Carol Garrett, Pastor) which closed in May of 2024. They had a long and storied history and their legacy endures in lives transformed through their mission and ministry. Dr. Garrett's memory continues with many of us who had the privilege of knowing her and serving with her in ministry, and she inspired many people, particularly young women, in ministry.

On the other side of the equation, of course, was welcoming to our regional family the Abundant Life Faith Center, Rev. Arthur Dilbert, Pastor. This vital congregation in the city of Rochester has already blessed our region through its leadership (our region treasurer, Beverly Murrell-Frasier, is a member), involvement, and financial support. We are so glad they are part of our regional family now and look forward to many more years of ministry together.

We received a \$1,000.00 grant from the Minister's Council to use for support in our region clergy and through that grant held some webinars on topics of interest. We also received the Palmer Grant of \$25,000.00, which was disbursed as grants of \$5,000 to five region churches to use in assessment and envisioning. Both of these grants helped us achieve goals we have had for several years, for which we are thankful! Additionally, we did more work on formalizing our management of the Heidi Fuller Fund and the Carol Gomez Fund, both of which you can find on our website at [Grants and Scholarships | ABCRGR](#). These two funds allow us to support education of lay leaders, clergy, and seminarians, another priority of our region.

I have been able to continue in my efforts to create more ties that bind among our region churches by hosting the in-person component of our hybrid Delegates meetings with our churches located outside of Rochester. In September 2023, our three Minnesota churches came together at University

Baptist in Minneapolis for the Delegates meeting, with everyone else attending via Zoom. In February 2024, our two North Carolina churches came together at Watts Street Baptist in Durham for the in-person component; and in May 2024, we had the MissionFest and delegates meeting at First Baptist Church in Rochester, NY. It has given everyone a different perspective on the region, I think, with a greater appreciation for the breadth of our potential impact in God's name.

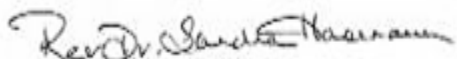
We established three region priorities in September 2023 based on the Mission Table Priorities from ABCUSA. Our three "takes" on those priorities are "Anti-Racism," "Mental Health," and "Eco-Justice." Unfortunately, setting up the collaboratives for each of those priorities got stuck behind my swiftly-heating-up travel schedule. This is something that we'll be addressing moving forward.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: I love our region. We're not perfect. We don't always agree with one another. But we trust in God and follow Jesus Christ and that brings me great joy.

May God increase our impact for God's purposes in the world.

Sandy

In Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rev. Sandra L. DeMott Hasenauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Rev. Sandra L. DeMott Hasenauer  
Executive Minister  
American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region



## Eco Justice Collaborative Report

Rev. Cheryl Frank

From July 31 to August 4, 2024, the Eco Justice Collaborative hosted a region wide mission trip to do trail work in the Adirondacks. We replaced 80 feet of bog bridging on the Northville-Lake Placid Trail, on a section just east of Long Lake. The four of us were guided by two professional trail crew from the Adirondack Mountain club. We hiked in all of our food, tools, and gear a mile from the parking lot on our backs in one trip. We camped in the wilderness near a stream. The next three days, we hauled in two by fours and base logs from the parking lot, dug up the old, broken bridging, and removed the roots below so we could have space for the new bridging.

We gained a new appreciation for how hard it is to work on the trails. We were glad to hear every passing hiker thank us for our work.

Submitted by Cheryl Frank for the Eco Justice Collaborative.

## **2023-2024 Affiliate Organizations**

### **Cameron Community**

48 Cameron Street  
Rochester, NY 14606  
(585) 254-2697

[Cameron Community website](#)

### **NY State Council of Churches**

1580 Central Avenue  
Albany, NY 12205  
(518) 436-9319

[NYSCOC website](#)

### **Greater Rochester Community of Churches/FIAN**

2 Riverside Street  
Rochester, NY 14613  
(585) 254-2570

[GRCC website](#)

### **Minnesota Council of Churches**

122 West Franklin Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
(612) 870-3600

[MCOC website](#)

### **Genesee Area Campus Ministries**

Interfaith Chapel  
1045 Wilson Blvd.  
Rochester, NY 14627-0501  
(585) 275-8522

[geneseeareacampusministries.org](http://geneseeareacampusministries.org)

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE ROCHESTER/GENESEE REGION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**June 30, 2024**

**ASSETS**

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 10,291
Accounts Receivable	5,031
Prepaid Expenses	<u>655</u>
 Total Current Assets	 <u>15,977</u>

Other Assets

Right-of-Use Asset - Operating Lease	15,058
Investments	<u>1,592,329</u>
 Total Other Assets	 <u>1,607,387</u>
 TOTAL ASSETS	 <u><u>\$1,623,364</u></u>

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 9,154
Current Portion of Operating Lease Liability	<u>5,852</u>

Total Current Liabilities	<u>15,006</u>
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### Long Term Debt

Operating Lease Liability, Net of Current Portion	<u>9,086</u>
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Total Liabilities	<u>24,092</u>
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### Net Assets

#### Without Donor Restrictions:

Designated by the Board for Endowment	555,982
Undesignated	<u>6,943</u>

Total Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	<u>562,925</u>
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#### With Donor Restrictions:

Purpose Restrictions	<u>1,036,347</u>
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Total Net Assets	<u>1,599,272</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>\$1,623,364</u></u>
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**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE ROCHESTER/GENESEE REGION**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**For The Year Ended June 30, 2024**

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Support and Revenue</u>			
Contributions	\$ 156,173	\$ -	\$ 156,173
Investment Income	15,089	32,994	48,083
Specific Ministries	4,443	-	4,443
Other Income	100	-	100
Net Assets Released from Restrictions			
Pursuant to Endowment Spending	<u>38,414</u>	<u>(38,414)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Support and Revenue	<u>214,219</u>	<u>(5,420)</u>	<u>208,799</u>
<u>Expenses</u>			
Program Services	158,980	-	158,980
Management and General	<u>62,762</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,762</u>
Total Expenses	<u>221,742</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>221,742</u>
Change in Operating Net Assets	<u>(7,523)</u>	<u>(5,420)</u>	<u>(12,943)</u>
<u>Other Revenues, (Expenses), Gains and (Losses)</u>			
Net Investment Returns	<u>33,734</u>	<u>63,520</u>	<u>97,254</u>
Total Other Revenues, (Expenses), Gains and (Losses)	<u>33,734</u>	<u>63,520</u>	<u>97,254</u>
Change in Net Assets	26,211	58,100	84,311
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	<u>536,714</u>	<u>978,247</u>	<u>1,514,961</u>
Net Assets - End of Year	<u>\$ 562,925</u>	<u>\$ 1,036,347</u>	<u>\$ 1,599,272</u>

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE ROCHESTER/GENESEE REGION**  
**STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES**  
**For The Year Ended June 30, 2024**

	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Management and General</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salaries, Taxes and Employee Benefits	\$ 77,991	\$ 45,356	\$ 123,347
Grants to Specific Ministries	57,706	-	57,706
Office and Other Expenses	8,706	4,413	13,119
Professional Fees	629	10,133	10,762
Occupancy	4,918	2,860	7,778
Staff Travel and Reimbursed Expenses	7,718	-	7,718
Dues and Assessments	<u>1,312</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,312</u>
 Total Expenses	 <u>\$ 158,980</u>	 <u>\$ 62,762</u>	 <u>\$ 221,742</u>

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE ROCHESTER/GENESEE REGION**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**For The Year Ended June 30, 2024**

Cash Flow From Operating Activities

Change in Net Assets	\$ 84,311
Noncash Expenses, Revenues, Losses and Gains:	
Net Realized/Unrealized (Gain)/Loss on Investment	(104,616)
Decrease/(Increase) In:	
Accounts Receivable	2,050
Prepaid Expenses	254
Right-of-Use Asset - Operating Lease	5,146
Increase/(Decrease) In:	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	1,722
Operating Lease Liability	<u>(5,536)</u>
Net Cash Flow Provided/(Used) By Operating Activities	<u>(16,669)</u>

Cash Flow From Investing Activities

Proceeds from Sale of Investments	200,339
Purchase of Investments	<u>(186,519)</u>
Net Cash Flow Provided/(Used) By Investing Activities	<u>13,820</u>

Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents (2,849)

Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of the Year 13,140

Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of the Year \$ 10,291



## Circle of Friends Giving 2023-2024

Thank you so much to all of these faithful, continuous supporters of the mission and ministry of ABC Rochester/Genesee Region. Your generous contributions make it possible for us to support our family of congregations, lay leaders, and clergy through resources, events, and staff engagement.

(To join the RGR Circle of Friends, visit [www.abcrgr.org/give](http://www.abcrgr.org/give).)

Richard and Lillian Barron  
 Garth and Karen Brokaw  
 Richard Cavers  
 Nancy Dean  
 Ken Dodgson  
 Douglas and Kimberly Donley  
 William and Diane Ehr  
 Trevor & Elizabeth Ewell  
 Anne & Steve Farrell  
 Katelin Fields  
 Michael and Lara Ford  
 Don Fox  
 Cheryl and Bruce Frank  
 Barbara and William Fry  
 Jane Grant  
 Mary Jo Green  
 Steve and Leslie Lee Gretz  
 Ted (Orrin) Hardgrove  
 Lawrence and Brenda Lee Hargrave  
 Sandy and Christopher Hasenauer  
 Mary Ann Henry  
 Kenneth Hines  
 Helen Hoffman

Wendy Koch  
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 Jennifer Lessard  
 Ivan Marable  
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 Alan and Gail Newton  
 Suan No and Cing Huai Man  
 Eric Shoen  
 Camilla (Sue) Sparnecht  
 Walter and Lori Steenson  
 Angel Sullivan  
 Alissia Thompson  
 Mattie Thurman  
 Laura Tubbs and Steve Bancroft  
 Paul and Joyce Vick  
 Ken and Peg Williams  
 Janice Womble





American Baptist Churches of the Rochester-Genesee Region

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