

Highlights from the Delegates Meeting, 9-20-26

Share the good news with your congregation

- **We worshiped together at Greece Baptist Church.** Rev. Rick Mixon reminded us that we're called to be "holders of hope," for our neighbors and for each other, and that God's mercies are new every morning.
- **A big opportunity for our churches.** Seventeen churches in our region are looking for pastors. Sandy invited every congregation to become a *sending church*, one that notices, encourages, and equips the people in its own pews who may be called to ministry.
 - **Try asking someone this week:** "I've noticed your gifts. Have you ever thought about seminary?" Sometimes that's all it takes.
- **New help for churches in transition.** Dr. Thomas Gilmore from the Office of the General Secretary shared how trained *intentional interim ministers* help a church grieve, get clear on who it is now, and get ready for the right next pastor. Training is growing, and our region is at the top of his list.
- **Biennial Mission Summit is coming to Rochester, June 10–13, 2027.** As host region, we provide the volunteers. In about three weeks, a sign-up link (called POINT) will go out so you can pick your own shifts. Volunteer hours are also expected to earn a discount on registration; exact amounts to be announced.
- **We turn 200!** The ABCRGR 200th anniversary banquet is Friday, June 11, 2027, at The Duke. Seating is limited, so watch for details. There will also be an exhibit, and a free, casual retirement party for Sandy afterward, to which everyone is invited.
- **Business taken care of.** Delegates accepted the minutes and the Delegates Manual, a short guide to our governing documents, and received the financial report. Early numbers are normal for summer, and our churches' generous United Mission giving is really paying off.
- **We need you on the Region Executive Board.** A few seats are open. Online forms are coming soon so you can nominate someone or put your own name forward. Think about who in your church might be a good fit.
- **Our Executive Minister Search Committee is ready.** A committee of nine was introduced, welcomed, and prayed over. Please pray for them too and send any questions to Jason Alspaugh (the office can share his email). The members are:
 - Rev. Jason Alspaugh (chair), First Baptist Church, Dayton, OH
 - Rev. David Ball, Esq., United Church of Granville, Granville, OH
 - Rev. Dr. Fatima Gunter, St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC
 - Aye Wa Thy, Rochester Karen Baptist Church, Rochester, NY
 - Rev. Steven Wilson, Genesee Baptist Church, Rochester, NY
 - Rev. Dr. Michael Ford, Lake Avenue Baptist Church, Rochester, NY
 - Rev. Dr. Denise Wright, Ogden Baptist Church, Ogden, NY
 - Tanya Thurman, Second Baptist Church, Mumfordsburg, KY
 - Oliva Riley, University Baptist Church, Columbus, OH