

ABCRGR Region President's Report
Annual Meeting – May 1-2, 2026

First, a word of gratitude for all those serving on our Regional Executive Board. With all that we each have going on in our lives and ministries, I'm so appreciative of the time and energy board members give to the region. There is a wonderful sense of community whenever we meet. We pray for one another, and express genuine care and concern for one another. We can talk about serious and difficult things together with grace. We can also usually something to laugh about. And I think we generally look forward to gathering. All of this not only helps us to carry out our responsibilities as a board well, but it models the kind of connection we hope for in our region.

With Dr. Hasenauer's leadership and support, I continue to try and help guide the Board in efforts to introduce consensus decision making as a possibility for our region. The recent proposed bylaw changes seemed like a good opportunity to practice using consensus, given the potential for good conversation over something that is not particularly controversial. We'll see how it goes.

Speaking of the proposed bylaw changes, especially with regard to the change in length of terms served on the region board, it requires some flexibility on the part of our board members, and I appreciate their support for these changes. I think it will benefit the region in the long run. These changes also require an additional year of commitment from me to serve as president, and I am happy to be able to do that, assuming the changes are approved.

I think this will be helpful to the region as another transition lies ahead. Dr. Hasenauer has taken care to announce her retirement to region leadership, the board, and other committees as necessary before doing so in the context of this annual meeting. I am grateful for her ministry and leadership, and we will miss having her as our Executive Minister; but I am also grateful that she gets to retire. The Executive Board has already begun discussions and discernment with regard to a search process; and more information will be shared as things progress. Dr. C. Jeff Woods, ABCUSA Associate General Secretary, is assisting us in this endeavor.

Let us remember to pray for one another, our churches, and our leadership. And may God continue to "grant us wisdom [and] grant us courage for the living of these days."

Respectfully submitted by
Rev. Jason Alspaugh (he/him)
ABCRGR Region President