

THE IMPORTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORT

2/25/2021

WHAT IS ANNUAL REPORT?

Annual Report is a tool used to collect information from each American Baptist church. Filling out this report helps keep the data current for each church within the denomination. This information is used collectively throughout the denomination in a variety of ways to support the work of American Baptist Churches USA.

THE BENEFITS OF ANNUAL REPORT

There are many benefits associated with Annual Report, not only for each church, but also for each region and the national denomination.

CHURCHES

Partnership

Churches that fill out their Annual Report show that their church is a vital partner with their region as well as the American Baptist Churches USA denomination.

Tax Exemption - 501(c)(3)

A church that provides its EIN and completes an application may be added under the American Baptist Churches USA Group Tax Exemption. This becomes proof of affiliation with ABCUSA that the church may use in legal concerns as well as for grants, donations, special purchases, etc.

Offering Materials

Churches that provide an up-to-date and correct offering address ensure that they receive offering materials in a timely manner.

Find a Church

The *Find a Church* feature located on the ABCUSA website lets visitors find American Baptist churches online. Visitors can look up churches by state and city or by zip code and radius combinations. Once the resulting church list is displayed on their device, visitors then may click/tap on the website link for the church to see its contact information, times of services, etc.

Increased Voting Power at the Biennial Mission Summit

American Baptist churches have voting rights when they attend the Biennial Mission Summit. The number of delegates assigned to each church automatically increases for those churches that submit their Annual Report.

IRS Compliance

It is important that every American Baptist church provides accurate and current contact information, such as the legal church name, location and mailing addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses, keeping in compliance with the IRS requirements.

REGIONS

Celebrating our Ethnic Diversity *Regionally*

Church membership counts and ethnicity are needed to tabulate the total membership and ethnic counts for the entire region. The results help support the fact that American Baptist Churches USA is one of the most ethnically diverse Baptist denominations in the United States.

Profile, Membership and Statistical Reports

There are many reports that combine and list profile, membership and statistics for the churches in the region. These reports paint a picture of the overall makeup and well-being of the region.

The region may choose to use this information, such as ethnicity and church size, to better support their churches.

These reports also show the patterns and trends of the churches, and may highlight the level of involvement the churches have within their region.

DENOMINATION

Celebrating our Ethnic Diversity *Nationally*

Church membership counts and ethnicity are needed to tabulate the total membership and ethnic counts for the entire denomination. The results help support the fact that American Baptist Churches USA is one of the most ethnically diverse Baptist denominations in the United States.

ABC and Worldwide Ecumenical Partners

Every year, summarized statistics are generated and sent to several religious research organizations, where they are included in publications that show the latest religious trends in America. Every American Baptist church should be included in these summarized statistics so that the denomination is accurately represented and reported.

Another benefit of reporting complete membership information is that American Baptist Churches USA earns more delegates and has a greater voice with worldwide ecumenical partners like the Baptist World Alliance (BWA).