

**American
Baptist
Churches of
Greater
Indianapolis**

Rev. Joan C. Friesen
Executive Minister
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March 21, 2018

Dear ABCGI Friends,

It is such a blessing to serve alongside you and your church as we seek to live into our vision of *Churches helping churches to be the heart, hands, and feet of Christ*. I am thankful for the many ways we see God's Spirit moving here among our churches and for the partnership in ministry we share. Looking back to 2017, here are some of the highlights and happenings in ABCGI.

Our **Annual Gathering** theme in May was **Joining God** and featured a variety of places where we see God at work in our churches. Highlights included the presentation of \$75,000 to the Edna Martin Christian Center and hearing youth speak about our previous day's event for students. Dr. Jeff Woods from ABC-USA shared about how our churches can be *Joining God in the Neighborhood*. Our thanks to Pastor Michael Johnson and Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church for hosting us with more than 400 in attendance for the second year in a row.

Pastoral Transitions

After three years as their interim, **Rev. Janet Hoover** was called as the permanent pastor of New Bethel Baptist in Wanamaker. She was officially installed in July.

Rev. Eddie Smith was called to Tuxedo Park Baptist and began his ministry in June. Eddie graduated from Northern Seminary and had met their Search Committee at our annual Face to Face event. We welcome Eddie, Leslie, and their family to Indianapolis and ABCGI.

Arlington Heights began sharing their building with Paraclete Life Missionary Baptist Church, and then called their pastor, **Rev. Darryl Taylor**, to serve both congregations.

At the end of August, **Rev. Dr. Fred Lewis** retired from First Baptist Indianapolis after more than 12 years as their Senior Minister. We wish Fred and Connie well in this new stage of their lives.

Rev. Marie Wiese continues as the transitional pastor at Garden Baptist. **Rev. Mark Hetrick** is the Interim Pastor at FBC Indianapolis. **Karen Clifton** resigned from FBC Greenwood at year's end in order to concentrate on her seminary studies. **Katie Cron** joined the staff at One Christian after the resignation of **Kat Fink**.

Regional Ministries

We're thankful for the growth of new churches and new to us churches. In August we welcomed **Indiana Siyin Baptist Church**. This Chin dialect group numbers 10,000 world-wide, with 1,000 in the U.S. and now 100 of those in the Indianapolis area. First Baptist Greenwood has opened their doors to hosting this new congregation which is in search for a pastor.

We continue to work around our three ABCGI mission priorities and our region staff are now organized around these priorities as well.

Congregational Life & Health—team leader Jay R. Kennedy and staff Jan Goodyear work on Listening Conferences, navigating conflict, and embedding healthy habits and practices into the on-going life of our churches. They led a pastor's book study group as a new experiment in 2017.

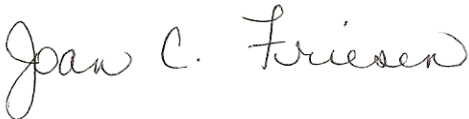
Partnerships & Connections—team leaders Shirley Alexander and Jaime Flores strategize around cross-cultural partnerships, training for church leaders and pastors, and supporting and growing our ministries with Spanish-speakers. Our Hispanic churches are now doing quarterly leadership training and two Sacred Conversations about Race events were led by the Multi-Cultural Ministries Team.

Shared Learning—Jay R. Kennedy is also team leader for this priority, and works with Jan Goodyear on discernment retreats, vision process, intergenerational ministries, and more! In September we held our first Transformative Meetings event and will do so again in 2018.

Our Region Board is a great cross-section of churches with wonderful leaders who set the direction and make decisions on behalf of all of us. They truly embody the spirit of who we are as a diverse, multilingual, representation of God's family.

For those of you who would like additional information on our Region finances, it follows this report. Your church's support of United Mission is what makes our ministries possible, so thank you! It is a joy to journey with you.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan C. Friesen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joan C. Friesen
Executive Minister

2017 ABCGI Financial Report

Revenue	2017	2016
United Mission Giving from Churches <i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>	\$109,545.93	\$105,992.90
Region Offering <i>Over and above gifts from churches and individuals</i>	7553.80	7076.33
Annual Meeting	2175.00	2330.00
Honoraria & Miscellaneous Income	2195.00	1235.00
American Baptist Foundation Bequests	7000.51	15,033.07
Programs	967.00	0.0
New Church Fund	<u>58,300.00</u>	<u>52,200.00</u>
 <u>Total</u>	 \$181,437.24	 \$183,867.30
 Expenses		
Salaries, Travel, Benefits	\$171,074.72	\$168,697.58
Programs, Ministries, Regional Gatherings <i>Includes Youth Meet, Annual Gathering, etc.</i>	6954.23	6679.09
Professional Fees <i>Audit, Foundation Services, Insurance, Legal, Bank fees</i>	20,250.15	21,295.67
Office rent and expenses <i>Rent, equipment, phone, internet, website, copies, postage</i>	14,458.57	17,025.46
New Faith Communities Support	<u>58,300.00</u>	<u>52,200.00</u>
 <u>Total</u>	 \$271,037.67	 \$265,897.80
 Investment Income		
Interest Income	\$71,931.55	\$78,919.78
Investment Income used for Operations	89,600.43	82,030.50
 America for Christ Offering		
Total gifts	\$5561.66	\$5414.81
Edna Martin Christian Center	4338.10	4061.11
Renaissance Center	278.08	406.11
LBC Center	0.0	406.11
American Baptist Camping	0.0	541.48
ABCGI Youth Events	945.48	

2018 ABCGI Ministry Resources

Revenue

United Mission Giving	\$115,000.00
<i>We count on tithes and gifts from member churches that support all of American Baptist life, ministry, and mission, while modeling proportional giving to their own church members</i>	
Region offering	8,000.00
Annual Meeting Income	2,000.00
Honoraria & Miscellaneous Income	1,700.00
American Baptist Foundation Bequests	12,000.00
Programs	1,000.00
Investment Interest used for Operations (anticipated)	82,282.11
New Church Fund	<u>56,600.00</u>
<u>Anticipated Total</u>	\$278,582.11

Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$164,152.11
<i>Executive Minister (full-time) concentrates in the following areas – 1) clergy support and training, 2) Working with region leadership to live out God’s vision and direction, 3) Creating a broader network while offering innovative opportunities, 4) Resourcing mission</i>	
<i>The Administrative Assistant handles communication and day-to-day responsibilities of office management</i>	
<i>The Bookkeeper handles our financial accounting and oversight</i>	
<i>The Church Leadership Strategist works with congregations to develop leaders, discern vision, and re-design church structure</i>	
<i>The Congregational Life Strategist helps churches work together with clarity and direction, coaches pastors, and provides special programming</i>	
<i>The Latino Ministries Strategist provides support and training to our expanding network of Spanish-speaking congregations</i>	
<i>The Multi-Cultural Ministries Strategist works with a team to build bridges across cultures, languages, and ethnicities in ABCGI</i>	
<i>The Grant Writer works with the Region and local churches in identifying and preparing grants for submission</i>	
Travel and Staff Professional Expense	18,400.00
<i>Includes continuing education, travel, professional memberships</i>	
Professional Expenses	17,350.00
<i>Audit, Foundation services, insurance, legal, bank fees</i>	
Office rent and expenses	15,680.00
<i>Rent, equipment, phone internet, website, copies, postage, depreciation</i>	
Programs, Ministries, Regional Gatherings	6,400.00
<i>Most if not all our region activities are offered at low or no cost. Other educational events and worship gatherings are funded by your mission gifts or for a minimal fee. This resources allows us to be responsive to the needs of our churches as we seek to add innovative and relevant opportunities.</i>	
New Faith Communities Support	<u>56,600.00</u>
<u>Anticipated Total</u>	\$278,582.11