

# ***Moving Forward in our Regional Ministry Design***



***It has been a busy three months!***

Following the seven roll-out meetings to unveil the new design for Regional Ministry here in ABCOPAD, we have made some significant strides forward!

Here's a partial list of where we've come since the beginning of the year:

- a completed regional mission trip to Haiti...
- new resource material for *Partners in Ministry* has been produced...
- Notes and News has a new 'look'...
- the Conflict Mediation Team has been trained...
- the Search Committee Consultants have been trained...
- our new Regional Pastor with Congregations, the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Johnson began his ministry with us March 1<sup>st</sup>...
- the training of the Leadership Learning Community Mentor-Pastors is planned and the LLC's will begin this spring...
- two Pastors Retreats are scheduled for this Spring...
- a student mission trip to Puerto Rico is on tap for Summer, 2011...

There is a growing excitement in the region on the part of our Regional Pastors, as well as churches and leaders as together we seek to focus on the very heart of our vision:

*To build healthy partnerships with Churches, Pastoral Leaders and our wider ABC Family,  
to fulfill Christ's mission in our world.*



***In making these transitions, the new design brings with it  
some great freedom:***

- Regional Pastors are free to associate with all 22 associations in the region as schedules permit.
- Regional Pastors are free to use their strengths and specialties in ministry to encourage the whole region: Jeff Johnson in the area of congregational development; Mark Mahserjian-Smith in the area of missions (giving and fundraising) and communications; Kevin Walden in the area of pastoral development and Eric Kraihanzel in work with Student Ministries.

*Over...*

- Churches and Pastors benefit by utilizing the regional pastoral staff's specialties to strengthen their ministries. At times, a coordinated effort of the regional pastoral staff could be utilized.

***The new design also allows for continued care and resourcing:***

- Pastor Searches will be handled cooperatively by a regional pastor and a Search Committee Adjunct Staff Member. The regional pastor and the Search Committee Adjunct will meet with the church search committee together for the first meeting. Succeeding meetings with the church search committee will be with the Adjunct Staff member who will be in coordinated communication with their regional pastor. But, the adjunct will lead the church through the process. Both will attempt to be present for the installation. (Initial contacts for western Pennsylvania will go through Denise Veselicky and all others will go through Carol Bicking.)
- Church Conflict mediation will be handled cooperatively by a Regional Pastor and a Conflict Mediation Adjunct Staff Members (team) and overseen by Dr. Ed Peirce as contracted with ABCOPAD. This is a new design and the mediation teams play a very important and leading role.
- Regional Pastors will continue to work with Association Credentialing Committees throughout the region to help process Ordination and Certification requests through the Commission on Ministerial Leadership.
- Our staff is deployed across the region (Kevin in the greater Reading area, Mark in the greater Williamsport area; Eric in Bethlehem, Frank in the greater Harrisburg area, and Jeff is looking at homes in western Pennsylvania) --this allows us to address immediate needs in their geographic location when needed.



*As we continue to move forward in ministry, please know how much we value your ongoing prayerful support of Partners in Ministry and United Mission.....it truly does make our ministry in your midst possible.*

**THE AMERICAN BAPTIST  
CHURCHES OF  
PENNSYLVANIA & DELAWARE**

