

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



Our Vision:

To build Healthy Partnerships with Churches, Pastoral Leaders and the wider ABC Family to fulfill Christ's Mission in our world.

Our Scriptural Foundation:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:3-6

All three of the components are dependent on each other...none can exist in a vacuum and the region can hold a strategic place in tying them all together.

1. To build Healthy/Vital Partnerships with Local Congregations

Key components of this focus would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- The Growing Vital Congregations Initiative
 - ***Moving from Diagnostic to Prescriptive
 - Developing a cycle for addressing the Eight Vital Signs in a comprehensive manner (ie.2 a year over a 4 year period)
- Stewardship Training
- Search Committee /Transitional Work
- Developing our own pool of Interim Leaders....
partnering in training with Interim Ministries-ABC
- Pastoral Relations Committees
- Church Leadership Institute
- Associational Life

- The “Missional Church”—aiding our congregations in the contextualization of their ministry.
- Conflict Mediation Efforts
- Effective and Innovative Student ministry resources for training local church leaders but also providing wider regional youth events.

2. To Build Healthy/Vital Partnerships with Pastoral Leaders

“Seeking to build a Culture of Excellence in Leadership, which in turn will foster the development of a new generation of leaders.”

Partnership with Pastoral Leaders needs to occur in two definitive areas: ***personally*** and ***professionally***.

Key components of this focus would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Personal Life of Pastors:
 - Development of Devotional Lives
 - Pastoral Family Concerns
 - Spousal Issues
 - Finance and the Ministry
 - Barnabas Network//Care of Pastors
 - Retirement Concerns
- Professional Life of Pastors:
 - Workshops/Training on a variety of topics, such as:
 - Preaching //Discipleship//Evangelism//Bible Study Methodology
 - Counseling//Transformational Leadership
 - The Nehemiah Network
 - Together in Ministry* Groups
 - New Pastor Orientation
 - A Pastoral Peer Resource Bank*

3. To build a Healthy/Vital Partnerships with our wider ABC Family

- Strive to enhance existing partnerships with other Regions/Covenanting Partners and to explore new avenues of Partnership

Existing:

Fanning the Flame
Clergy Ethics
Nehemiah Network
Face to Face

New:

Online Youth Training
George Bullard Events
Regional World Mission Conference

- Foster healthy 2-way communication between region and the wider ABC Family
 - Promotion of mission initiatives
 - Communication of Denominational vision
 - UM//Partners in Ministry Offering//4-annual offerings

*pervasive importance of website in all areas.