

Living out Our Cultural Reality into God's Intentional Desire Initiative

AB Women's Ministries' national board conducted a survey in 2014 to hear impressions and opinions about our organization from a broad spectrum of American Baptist leaders. We asked others to share their agreement or disagreement with those opinions. This survey process included several hundred responses from a very wide range of people.

Four broad strategic themes, or vision statements, emerged for which there was very high alignment and support by the survey responders. These themes are guiding our work as we move forward in this initiative.

Strengthened relationships. It is so important that we nurture a culture throughout AB Women's Ministries that builds and strengthens relationships. As a result, women and girls will feel welcome and accepted, and build stronger relationships across races/ethnicities, cultures, generations, and languages. We will experience being the "Beloved Community."

Inclusive leadership. We desire our leadership to include the rich diversity of women and girls in our churches. We want to assure that pathways to leadership throughout AB Women's Ministries are open and welcoming to all. Our leadership will more fully reflect generational, racial/ethnic, and social status realities where everyone's voice is being heard. God created diversity; God's intentional desire is for us to embrace God's gift of diversity.

Relevant and vital programming/missions. We believe strongly that strengthened relationships and inclusive leadership will naturally lead towards relevant, vital ministries. Relevancy and vitality in our ministries and mission will inspire and help women and girls to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. As a result, Christ-centered women and girls will engage in radical and relevant acts of mission and ministry, living out the mission of Luke 4:18-19.

Competent, Responsive Governance. In order to lead amidst our diversity, we must learn new skills as leaders and provide training on cultural competency. As a result, women and girls can leverage the craft of making quality decisions amid differences, similarities, and related tensions.