

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES



2019-2020 Annual Report



2019-2020 Annual Report

American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) is creating and sustaining communities of passionately faithful, Christ-centered women, young adult women, and girls engaged in ministries, worship, service, leadership, and friendship. Together we are inspiring innovative and relevant women's ministries.



Our vision is that every American Baptist church shall have a vital women's ministry program that empowers women, young adult women, and girls to become and develop as God's person, build God's faith community, and serve God's world.



Our ministries are the catalysts for our programming, webinars, retreats, conferences, and partnerships. The ministries include education and prevention of domestic violence and sex trafficking, advocacy, building beloved community, leadership development, and UN sustainable goals. Please visit our website, www.abwomensministries.org, to learn more about ABWM.

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Letter from the Executive Director



American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) reset and reimagined during the last 18 months. ABWM Regions, associations, local women's groups, our national office, and our national board all had to pause because each day was unpredictable. It was challenging to grasp the reality of the pandemic, the unknown, the stress, the losses, and the potential for our ministries to be disconnected nationally, regionally, and locally. The silver lining is that the pandemic required ABWM to experiment, trust each other more deeply, prayerfully look at our ministries, and test their relevance in the current environment. We had to quickly assess what was essential and what could be set aside, at least for the short run. We learned that our ministries are sustainable, applicable, and needed, even and especially during the pandemic. We found new ways to create safe spaces to pray, learn, fellowship, and grow together. We are excited about the Young Adult Women's Ministries Advisory Team (YAWMAT) sponsored series, Soothe Your Soul, and their plans for 2022 for young adult women.

We learned to say "Yes and...", and in doing that, we reached communities of women and girls that were eager to be included. We more freely shared resources and ideas so that great ideas could be duplicated. We found that our sisterhood is resilient. ABWM persevered together even while apart. We learned to celebrate our wins, to find humor in our mistakes, and most importantly, to be a part of the movement of God. As we said, "Yes and," God was faithful, and we experimented with new ways to do mission and ministry.

Giving was down, but there was more demand for our ministry and more need for scholarships. Through strategic measures, we reduced expenses, expanded our offerings, and provided scholarships. We reduced our dependency on our reserve funds, yet we still had to withdraw funds and were unable to replenish many years of withdrawing from our reserves. Therefore, our financial condition needs to be bolstered with faithful and new donors. We also expect to grow our Bridges and Gateways Endowment to secure ABWM's future.

We are still resetting and reimagining with God. We are still learning to say "Yes and!" We encourage each of you to become Vital Partners, to give your best gift so that we may rebuild our reserves, improve our financial condition, and ensure the future of ABWM. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support and dedication to ABWM as you give your best gift today!

Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain
Executive Director

Letter from the National President (2019-2021)

We all know COVID-19 presented many challenges in every area of our lives over the past several months. Giving was down as American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) donors reset, and many grantors paused. Yet, the good news is ABWM remained connected and endeavored to sustain relevant and responsive ministries. I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the Fundraising Committee for seeking ways to financially support ABWM during this time, ensuring the work, programming, and resources continued. In addition to these efforts, I must recognize three ABWM regions that were creative in financially supporting ABWM. Great Rivers Region, Indian/Kentucky, and New York State each adopted National Support for their special project. A heartfelt thank you to each of these regions for thinking of a new way to support ABWM. I also want to thank the Vital Partners, as their faithfulness enabled us to plan and provide scholarships.



Our work continues with our Young Adult Women's Ministries and AB GIRLS. Both ministries continue to provide opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship. Our Young Adult Women's Ministries Advisory Team (YAWMAT) hosted virtual Soothe Your Soul events, and the National Leadership Team of AB GIRLS hosted virtual Bible studies and STEAM events. We must continue to grow these ministries and lift them in prayer. Another way to support these ministries is to volunteer as a mentor/prayer partner with a young woman or an AB GIRL. Please get in touch with the national ABWM office if you are interested in volunteering, info@abwomensministries.org.

Over the past three years, my greatest joy has been working with the national board and visiting regions to meet the women and share about ABWM. I hope that ABWM continues to live out its mission to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God, that we continue to address the difficult issues facing our society today, and that each American Baptist woman finds a place of service in ABWM.

Lori Hill
2019-2021 National President

American Baptist Women's Ministries National Leaders

Staff

Executive Director — Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain
Project/Business Manager — Wendy Clemmer
Social Media Associate — Joanne Schweitzer



Executive Committee

American Baptist Women's Ministries' executive committee is comprised of ten nationally-elected officers who serve three-year terms on the board. Our organization benefits from the leadership of these volunteers who are committed to the mission and purpose of ABWM. It is a persistent goal to include women dedicated to ABWM's ministries, who possess the needed expertise, demonstrated teamwork, and the generosity to fundraise and provide resources to support the organization's mission. Women interested in serving as a national officer are encouraged to submit an [Application for National Positions Form](#).

2020-2021 Executive Committee

President — Lori Hill, Kansas City, MO
Treasurer — Rev. Dr. La-Tonia Jackson, Budd Lake, NJ
Mission with Women and Girls — Deborah Malavé Díaz, Caguas, PR
Young Adult Women's Ministries — Olivia Banks, Springfield, OH
AB GIRLS — Dr. Berquis Torres, Gurabo, PR
AB GIRLS Convenor — Biak Hlawn, Milwaukee, WI
Events — Dawn Doerr Johnson, Story City, IA
Western Section — Carol Wright, Graham, WA
Midwestern Section — Dr. Lachaka Askew, Bedford, OH
Eastern Section — M. Joanne Strauss, Tuckahoe, NY

2020-2021 Region/State Presidents

ABCOFFFLASH — Nora Martinez
Central Region — Rev. Melissa Newberry
Colorado — LaRose Karr
Connecticut — Laura Austin
Great Rivers Region — Rev. Sharon Farral
Idaho — Cathie Hopper
Indiana/Kentucky — Valorie Cole
Massachusetts — Penny Mulloy
Maine — Barbara Wilbur
Michigan — Brenda Chambers-Threatt
Mid-America — Lovena Van Haaften

Nebraska — LaVonna Cline
New Jersey — Sue Groves
New York State — Rev. Grace Kelley-Neal
Ohio — Susan Stotts and Tammy Hubb
Oregon — Beverley Wright
Pacific Northwest — Gail Aita
Pennsylvania & Delaware — Pam Hughes
Philadelphia Baptist Association — Rev. Dr. Suzanne Kershaw
Puerto Rico — Magaly Aguayo Roldán
Rhode Island — Meredith Eckel
South Dakota — Rev. Melissa Fletcher
Region of the South — Patrecia Williams
Vermont/New Hampshire — Florine Hilson
Region of the West — Florene LeBlanc
West Virginia — Kathy Hudson

AB GIRLS National Leadership Team (NLT)

The national leadership team of American Baptist Girls In Relationship, Leadership, and Service (AB GIRLS) is comprised of four teen girls and an AB GIRLS coordinator; together, they oversee ministries with girls. For more information about the national leadership team, [click here](#).

2020-2021 National Leadership Team of AB GIRLS

Marta, Puerto Rico
Hlawn, Wisconsin
Shileah, New Jersey
Dr. Berquis Torres, Puerto Rico

Young Adult Women's Ministries Advisory Team (YAWMAT)

YAWMAT serves to support and envision ABWM outreach to young adult women. Women interested in volunteering their gifts and skills by serving should complete the [YAWMAT application form](#). We desire to provide rich peer programming and hope young adult women will feel connected to this ministry evidenced by their participation. Join our events and share your ideas! The current YAWMAT leadership consists of:

Olivia Banks (Coordinator of Young Adult Women's Ministries), Springfield, OH
Rev. Barbara Florvil, Alexandria, VA
Driana Arceneaux, Glen Allen, VA
Minister Sheena Rolle, Orlando, FL
Minister Sadqia Delaney, Brooklyn, NY
Dana Seville, Brooklyn, NY
Rev. LaThelma Yenn-Batah, Morrisville, PA

Fundraising and Support

COVID-19 has forever changed the world, and organizations have reset and reimagined to continue to support our communities. Yet, as the number of those impacted by COVID-19 grows, goods become scarce, and unemployment rises, the need for spiritual support and guidance is persistent and more pressing than ever. American Baptist Women's Ministries established **Reset and Reimagine** in 2020 to support new and existing programs and services that build community, support women and children in our churches and communities across the nation as they Reset and Reimagine their futures. For more information about Reset and Reimagine and to give, visit www.abwomensministries.org/ResetandReimagine.

American Baptist Women's Ministries celebrated **69 years of ministry** on June 11, 2020! For 69 years, ABWM has inspired women to lead, addressed economic and gender equity issues, and persisted in ministries amidst changing times and changing needs. Women across the country celebrated with American Baptist Women's Ministries with a \$69 birthday gift for sixty-nine memorable years of ministry with women and girls. In 2021, ABWM celebrated seventy years of ministry recognizing women throughout 2021 with our Iron Sharpens Iron theme. Find out more at www.abwomensministries.org/IronSharpensIron.



Programming

Free Webinars

American Baptist Women's Ministries hosted fourteen free webinars in 2020 on COVID-19 related issues and wholeness. Our webinars and recordings are free to watch and for women's groups to use at their group meetings. Recordings of the webinars are available at

www.abwomensministries.org/webinars.

Donations are welcome, as ABWM absorbs all expenses. Your donation will allow American Baptist Women's Ministries to continue providing webinars, programs, resources, and leader training for ministries with women and girls. [Click here to donate.](#)



Avenues to Wholeness Webinars Series (Winter 2020)

If you are looking for more opportunities, to be honest, examine your intentions, motives, and desires for setting goals, then this series is for you. You will leave the webinars with the passion, discipline, and resources you need to stay committed to your goals.

- **Discover Your Superpowers**
with Dr. Robin Owens
- **Finding Wholeness in Seasons of Change**
with Rev. Jessica Vaughan Lower
- **Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality**
with Dr. Elizabeth Perryman
- **Finding Wholeness After Tragedy**
with Sandra Roman
- ***Avenidas a la Plenitud: Bienestar Financiero***
with Magda L. Amargos

Addiction Webinar Series (Fall 2020)

The series was designed to equip women and families to better understand the complexity of addictions, distinguish programs designed for women, and promote better self-care to be allies and advocates for themselves and others.

- **Cheers (Drink to that) or Not: Let's Talk About Alcohol and Drugs in the Lives of Young Women** with Dr. Lynda Morris Parham
- **Substance-Related Challenges 101: Increasing Awareness and Knowledge with the Goal of Supporting Others** with Jocelyn Cooper
- **A Call to Action: Addressing Unique Treatment and Recovery Needs of Women in Addiction** with Dr. Brenda Edwards

- **Addiction in Context: A Public Health Framework** with Dr. Onaje Salim
- **Equipping Families to Deal with Addiction** with Mary Ann Badenoch, Marcia Lee Taylor, and Patt Aussem

Courageous Conversations Webinar Series (Spring 2020)

- **Courageous Conversation with H.S. Counselors and College Admissions Professionals** with Ashley M. Pallie, Jeff Gant, Dayna Hassell, and Rev. Kevin White
- **Courageous Conversation: Youth and Young Adult Ministry During a Pandemic** with Rev. Barbara Florvil, Rev. Werner Ramirez, Minister TauVaughn Toney, Rev. Beatrix Weil, Rev. Julia Sprague Wright, and Rev. Susan Fair
- **Courageous Conversation with Chaplains** with Rev. Angel Sullivan, Rev. Samuel Yenn-Batah, Rev. Barrie-Lyn Foster, Rev. Kei Okada, Rev. Emily Phillips Davis, and Rev. Caroline Steinemann Unzaga
- **Financial Wellness Amid Covid-19 and Beyond** with Colin Nass, Dr. Laura Miraz, and Rev. LaThelma A. Yenn-Batah



Avenues to Wholeness Webinars Series (Fall 2019-Winter 2020)

- **Understanding Addiction** with Rev. Dr. Sonia Waters, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary
- **HealthySelf** with Rev. Dr. Regina Langley
- **Serving God's Mission** with Rev. Dr. Mia Change, Lead Pastor, NextGen Church
- **Life Coaching** with Elaine Cody, owner of Cody Clarity Coaching
- **Food for the Soul** with Taylor Johnson Gordon, Founder, and Director of Sistah of the Yam, LLC
- **Mapping a Lifetime of Financial Wellness and Estate Planning** with Linda Cassel, Director of Development at American Baptist Foundation

Winter Webinar Series: Covid 19: Addressing Needs and Teaching Resilience (Winter 2021)

- **Never Too Old to Change!** with Elaine Cody, owner of Cody Clarity Coaching
- **Reducing Tunnel Vision: Helping Seniors During COVID-19** with Pamela Bridgeforth, a gerontologist, deacon, and Sunday School teacher in Riverview Baptist Church
- **Leading (Yourself and Others) in Times of Crisis and Change** with Linda Furness, executive leadership coach at Google

- **The Value of a Breath: Vaping and Our Youth-What it is, What it Does and What Should Concern Us** with Malissa Arnold, Program Coordinator for the Drug-Free Communities grant at Mercer Council
- **COVID-19's Impact on Women: An Emphasis on Addiction, Treatment, & Recovery** with Dr. Brenda Edwards, Counselor Educator, and a Psychotherapist

Domestic Violence

Training

In 2020, Domestic Violence was referred to as a Pandemic within a Pandemic, as domestic violence reported numbers rose. With states shutting down, it left many victims and survivors with their abusers. ABWM partnered with Safe Haven Ministries to provide a "Love Should Not Hurt" domestic violence training for clergy, laity, and community leaders to gather in an intentional community to gain knowledge, insight, and skills useful in addressing and preventing domestic violence.



Programming for Girls

Our **three-day virtual AB GIRLS Hi-eSTEAM camp** evidenced that elementary and high school girls are biblical scholars, inventors, and entrepreneurs. Our National Leadership Team (NLT) of AB GIRLS joined ABWM staff in leading interactive Bible studies using AB GIRLS Curriculum. Together, we studied biblical principles about friendship, spiritual practices, and being made in the image of God. Girls coded and created spa products along with company taglines and logos. We were joined by instructors from Montclair Learning Center and the founder, Christiane Agkpo, for STEAM building activities. The National Leadership Team hosted a **Christmas Hangout for AB GIRLS** to enjoy activities within the Christmas Spirit such as baking, worship, caroling, and creating service projects.

Programming for Young Adult Women and Women

American Baptist women gathered quarterly in 2020 for **Sisters in Prayer**. Women prayed for the inability to be at church on Sunday morning, the health of loved ones, financial burdens, loss of jobs, social distancing, students, teachers, school staff, essential workers, loneliness, and

communities. In 2021, ABWM continues to hold Sisters in Prayer quarterly. Learn more at www.abwomensministries.org/events.

American Baptist Women's Ministries hosted a **virtual tea** to foster the beloved community during COVID-19. Women across the nation gathered together wearing their most exquisite headpieces in hopes of winning the first-place prize in the hat competition. Participants enjoyed their favorite tea while receiving an encouraging message of hope and assurance of God's faithfulness and comfort during a time of fear and loss.



American Baptist Women's Ministries celebrated 69 years of ministry with a **virtual birthday celebration**, *We've come this far by Faith*. ABWM is grateful for the prophetic and encouraging preaching of Rev. Dr. Zina Jacque, the moving and soul-stirring poetry of Min. Barbara Florvil and the worshipful, unifying music of Jennifer Shaw, Dana Seville, and Hornrette Washington. Each unique gift shared uplifted hearts and inspired hope.

The Young Adult Women's Ministries Advisory Team (YAWMAT) gathered women of all ages to **Paint and Soothe Your Soul**. The virtual gathering engaged women's creativity and soothed their souls with special music by Jessica Brooks and a message by Jasmin Figueroa.



Letter from the National Treasurer

As a direct result of COVID-19, the economy has been impacted. The significant job loss due to childcare, quarantine, and unemployment challenges continue to affect giving sources. ABWM had to pull from the reserves this year to meet operational needs as operational funds did not meet expenses.



Like so many organizations in 2020, American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) responded to both challenges and opportunities. Donations declined, and many grantors took time to assess the new environment being shaped by COVID-19. We, too, pivoted and assessed our priorities so that we could honor our ministries and respond to new needs. To support ABWM's operational needs, the staff continued to implement strategic initiatives to reduce costs while increasing our focus on women entrepreneurs to support our ministries, webinars, workshops, and retreats.

ABWM successfully applied for and received operational support through the Paycheck Protection Program (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act). We maximized the use of technology to enhance our ministries providing virtual events and saving funds as we moved forward, holding leadership development workshops, webinars, meetings, Sectional Meetings, Domestic Violence Workshop & Certification, Women and AB GIRLS' Day, Sisters in Prayer, Women's History Month, and Cultural Competency Trainings for the board. We also participated in the Biennial Mission Summit and Orientation to Baptist Life.

The Executive Committee has renewed its commitment to raise funds for National Support, scholarships, and to sustain free webinars. From July 29-August 3, 2021, we launched a 100% contactless, sweet-tasting popcorn fundraiser in celebration of seventy years of service. ABWM received 50% of all sales. We are grateful to all those who supported our fundraiser with their popcorn purchase or donations to ABWM. We will continue to fundraise for our endowment and national support so that we may secure ABWM's future and support relevant ministries today in the US and Puerto Rico.

Rev. Dr. LaTonia Jackson
Treasurer



Support American Baptist Women's Ministries!

Gifts allow ABWM to continue providing free webinars, scholarships for events, programs, resources, and leadership training for ministries with women and girls in your church, area, and region.

Please visit our website and social media platforms to learn more and support:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/abwomen>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/abwomensministries>

Don't miss this opportunity to support our women, young adult women, and girls!

- Give by Venmo: @abwomensministries
- Give by text: Text ABWM to 44321
- Give online by credit card: Give online at www.abwomensministries.org/give
- Give by check: Mail a check payable to "AB Women's Ministries" to American Baptist Women's Ministries.

Become a Vital Partner to support the vision for the future of American Baptist Women's Ministries. Vital Partners regularly give \$228 or more a year to support our work with women, young adult women, and girls. **Vital Partners** give monthly, quarterly, or annually, and they may also set up automated giving by direct withdrawal from their bank account or credit card. Become a Vital Partner today at www.abwomensministries.org/VitalPartners.

Financial Report

Revenue

	2019	2020
National Support/Vital Partners	\$112,878	\$131,363
Fundraising Campaigns*		14,326
15% of Love Gift from ABC-USA United Mission	42,178	28,107
Resources	927	0
Women & Girls Mission Fund	35,439	41,589
Events	20,930	8,051
Grants	28,600	18,750
Other Revenue (admin fees, reserve income, alumnae, etc.)	61,953	59,010
Total Revenue	\$302,906	\$286,870

Expenses:

	2019	2020
General Expenses (salaries, rent, office, technology, etc.)	\$378,158	\$379,826
Resources	310	388
Women & Girls Mission Fund	49,560	4,630
Events	23,971	4,660
Grants	32,692	7,875
Total Expenses	484,694	397,379
Net Income / (Expense)	(\$181,778)	(\$110,509)

Final Net Income

Fundraising did not meet our goals to replenish funds withdrawn from our reserves.

Revenue	302,906	286,870
Reserve Transfer	70,000	250,000
Expenses	484,694	397,379
Total Net Income / (Expense)	(\$111,788)	(\$139,491)

Scholarships

Providing Financial Support

American Baptist Women's Ministries provided over \$10,000 in scholarships and grants for:

- girls to attend our Hi-eSTEAM summer camp in July
- young adult women to participate in the Paint and Soothe Your Soul event
- women to attend the Domestic Violence Training
- women in need due to COVID/domestic violence
- women to attend national denominational and partner events

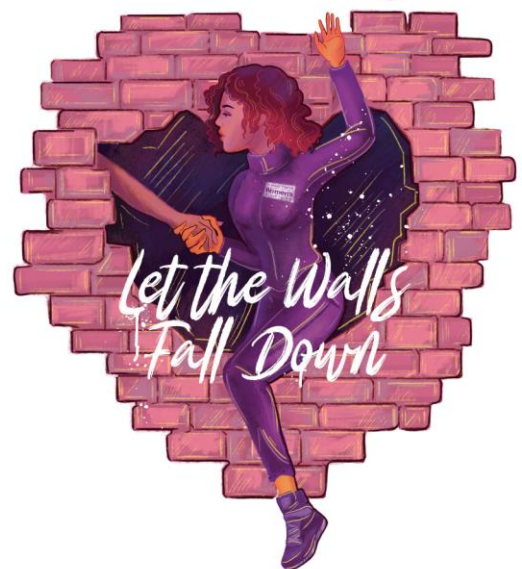
Sisters in prayer, twenty-five webinars, birthday celebration, virtual tea, and AB GIRLS hangout were free to attend; there were expenses for each event, such as honorariums, advertising, and the uncountable hours of staff time to produce, promote and execute.

Help American Baptist Women's Ministries continue providing free programming, scholarships, and grants to women, young adult women, and girls by giving to American Baptist Women's Ministries at www.abwomensministries.org/give. Your gift will provide financial assistance to American Baptist women or girls to learn, grow, and build their faith in God.

Looking Towards 2021

At our Women and AB GIRLS' Day in June 2021, we kicked off the **2021-2023 Ministry Focus**, Let the Walls Fall Down. Let the Walls Fall Down calls us to be introspective and reflective. It is a call to action for a better, more inclusive future. The statement initiates a personal introspective inquiry causing us to examine the boundaries we build individually and collectively. It begs our hearts to reflect on missed and new opportunities to stand up for the voiceless, isolated and marginalized. It invites us to take inventory of the missing voices, intentionally be inclusive, and take a risk with God. It moves us forward with joy, love, and kindness as we trust in our faith. It encourages us to tear down and climb over walls that keep the body of Christ divided, numbs our fellowship, and narrows our understanding of neighbor, friend, and family.

2021-2023 Ministry Focus



Based on this theme, our Fall webinar series kicked off on September 9, 2021:

- **Empathy As A Tool For Transformational Change**
September 9, 2021; 9 PM EDT/6 PM PDT
Presenter: Carmelle Beaugelin, Program Coordinator for the Institute for Youth Ministry, Princeton Theological Seminary
- **The Power of Storytelling for Racial Healing**
September 23, 2021; 9 PM EDT/6 PM PDT
Presenter: Rev. Dr. Kadia Edwards, National Coordinator of Volunteer Mobilization and Disaster Response Ministry, American Baptist Home Mission Societies
- **Understanding and Taking Action Against Human Trafficking**
October 7, 2021; 9 PM EDT/6 PM PDT
Presenter: Kate Lee, Executive Director, New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- **God is Preserving You**
October 21, 2021; 9 PM EDT/6 PM PDT
Presenter: Linnita Hosten, award-winning speaker and student success strategist
- **Debunking Domestic Violence Myths Through A Biblical Lens**
November 4, 2021; 9 PM EDT/6 PM PDT
Presenter: Tara Aday, Director of Prevention and Education, Safe Haven Ministries
- **God is in the Details**
November 18, 2021; 9 PM EST/6 PM PST
Presenter: Elaine Cody, Life Coach, Cody Clarity Coaching

For more information and to register, visit www.abwomensministries.org/webinars.

Our **2021 Mission Focus** is Covid-19 and related issues. COVID-19 has forever changed the world, and organizations must change with it to continue to support communities.

In 2021, American Baptist Women's Ministries continues to host **events for women, young adult women, and girls** to connect, fellowship, and grow with God. We continue to host our quarterly Sisters in Prayer, Sectional Meetings for women, webinars, Hi-eSTEAM events for girls, Soothe Your Soul event, and much more!

- Let the Walls Fall Down Webinar Series - Started on September 9, 2021
- Iron Sharpens Iron Birthday Celebration - Sunday, September 19, 2021
- Shalom Retreat - Saturday, October 9, 2021
- National Women's Conference - July 22-24, 2022, King of Prussia, PA

For more information and to register, visit www.abwomensministries.org/events.