



January 1, 2019

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

A Newsletter of the American Baptist Churches in the Rocky Mountain Region

Servant Offering A New Year, A New Focus

The New Year is a time when many people take time to review their life and to make new goals, plans and resolutions in order to live a fuller, happier life. Likewise, for us who serve the churches, pastors and leaders of ABCRM, the New Year is a time when we reassess our goals and plans for the upcoming year. Unlike most churches who operate on a different calendar (normally the school year in their community), and even different from the liturgical calendar, the Region tends to operate on a calendar year both financially and program-matically. So, as 2019 begins, we are beginning to implement plans that were made in recent months for the coming year.

New Focus – During the last year, the staff presented to the board a narrowed focus for our work. While we will still focus on the three main areas of Church, Leadership and Mission, we have identified that at this time and place our primary focus for new initiatives really needs to be on Leadership: supporting our current pastors and leaders, recruiting and training leaders for the future and helping these leaders and their churches engage in global mission.

To that end we have identified three key goals for 2019 –

- The formation of affinity and support groups for pastors
- Identifying and presenting training in key technical areas where leaders feel a need
- Continuation of excellence in our ongoing programming and support of Leaders, Churches and Mission

Staffing Changes – In introducing this year's goals, we have also made some adjustments to our staff in order to better accomplish this. As many of you know, Bill Mankin announced his re-retirement after 10 years serving as Minister and Mission Coach to the Wyoming churches. Bill will continue to help in some residual matters, but he and Mary Beth want to be free to travel to California and visit grandchildren more freely.

While we won't replace Bill's position directly, I will be meeting in the next few weeks with leadership from Wyoming about how to best support them through a combination of our current staff and volunteer support. Our pledge to the churches is not to let any request for assistance go unanswered and to continue to build the strong relationships that our common ministry demands.

What's in this RMAB?

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We will be adding support for the staff, however. Many of you have met, **Lauren Parliament**, a seminary student at Denver Seminary who comes from one of our sister congregations in the Dakotas. Lauren has worked at a number of camps prior to coming to Denver, and we believe she can be the perfect person to serve us as an intern in Camping and Youth Support. Lauren will be working with Mike Oldham to support the Front Range Camping program while Mike is on sabbatical this spring and will also be developing some training for Front Range and for Camp Wyoba.



Another person who will be helping us out in the coming year is **Rev. Dr. Kim Skattum** (though most people simply know him as Pastor Kim), Senior Pastor of Crossroads Church in Northglenn, Thornton and Fort Lupton. Kim will be joining us part time as a Pastor to Pastors with the responsibility of helping us to identify ways to better support our pastors in the real-life challenges they face. Kim has demonstrated a heart for pastoral leaders, not only in the nurture of the staff he has led for so many years but in the numerous groups he has helped to form in Northglenn with and for other pastors. We are excited about welcoming Kim to this new role which he will be filling about one day a week while continuing to serve Crossroads.



And finally, **Rev. James Conley**, pastor of FBC of Delta, will be joining us as Ministry and Mission Facilitator for the Western Slope congregations. James is well known on the Western Slope, not just in ABC circles but in most of the Christian community there. He too will be serving part-time while continuing to pastor his congregation but will spend time contacting pastors there and figuring out how our Region can better support them.



Of course, along with my own efforts, we continue to have the talents and abilities of Mike Oldham (Ministry Coach), Larron, Jackson (Ministry Coach), Karen Van (Region Administrator), Alyce Keys (Secretary/Bookkeeper), Robin Riley (Communication Specialist), and Gary Hazen (Wyoba Camp Administrator) to help us make these goals a reality in 2019. I know you will welcome Lauren, Kim and James and continue to support the rest of us. We are ready to serve you in order that our vision of *Empowered Churches* becomes a reality.

*In Christ,
Steve Van O*



2019 WyobaFest

Keep the Fire Burning

Friday, February 1, 2019

Fun begins at 6:00 pm and includes dinner

Cost is \$15.00

Held at First Baptist Church of Laramie

Worship, Dinner with Dessert, Silent Auction,

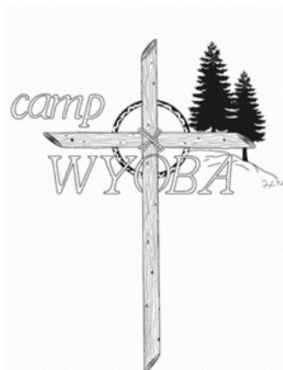
For more information, contact Jenita at mjmjpack@vcn.com

Camp Pastors Needed

Camp Wyoba is a Christian Camp on top of Casper Mountain in Wyoming. We are a rustic camp focusing on helping youth build a relationship with Jesus and others. We also have a lot of nature to draw our youth from the distractions of the times.

We are looking for Junior High and Senior High Camp Pastors to join our passionate team of volunteers. Each camp has experienced camp directors that you will be working with to present the gospel of Jesus to youth.

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Jenita Calton at mjmjpack@vcn.com or 307.321.4681.



Wyoba 500

The Wyoba Board is looking for 500 people who would be willing to donate \$100 to Camp Wyoba each year. Since the end of year is almost upon us, we wanted to make sure you know of this opportunity to give for 2018. If you are interested, please send your name and email address

to Cynthia Rigsby at crigsby_712@hotmail.com.

The Board met in Glenrock in late October and is moving forward with the Memorial Hall move out of the creek bottom...stay tuned for more details. Camp Wyoba also continues to be in financial need for maintenance needs as well. The Wyoba 500 will definitely help.

Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing



The banner reads, “Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing.” It is a coordinated effort sponsored by American Baptist Home Mission Societies to do more than fix buildings in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria.

For fifteen months the rebuilding efforts continue through the efforts of the people of Puerto Rico, countless volunteers, American Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico (Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico Y Santa Cruz), and ABHMS. The first phase of the rebuilding efforts was focused on restoring and rebuilding churches and schools. In Puerto Rico, the church is still the center of the community life. Many churches, like *Primera Iglesias Rio Piedras* are the hub for feeding and caring for the emotional needs of the surrounding community. Pastor Laura Ayala tells countless stories of how her church has been used by God, not because they have a grand plan or because they have infinite resources, but because they are available and trusting. As the recovery efforts moved from crisis to feeding, to housing and supporting volunteers, Pastor Laura again answered the call of being available. Her church is a center for volunteers from local universities and from the mainland United States.

In March 2019, the focus will shift to working on individual homes. Volunteers will continue to be needed for years to come. Hurricane Maria caused catastrophic damage to Puerto Rico. The path of the hurricane carried it across the entire island, not just one section of coast.

“Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing” focuses on more than just repairing churches and replacing metal roofs. Puerto Rico was facing daunting challenges before Maria struck.

For months after Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico’s fragile infrastructure made news. It took months for

electrical and telephone lines to be restored. Even after six months, many residents could not count on electricity. Puerto Rico needs new power stations, power grids, bridges, levees, and other basic infrastructure. Hospitals and clinics were heavily damaged, and people died not because of the direct impact of Hurricane Maria, but because of indirect consequences such as not having access to dialysis or the inability to have needed surgery.



Even before Maria, Puerto Rico’s economy was stressed. Puerto Rico was in danger of defaulting on billions of dollars in loans. In 2015, Puerto Rico had a debt of \$71 billion. How could they rebuild their infrastructure when they could not pay their current debt? And then, Maria.



Puerto Rico is an island. We all know this. We also know that Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory, not a state or an independent country. What few of us understand is the impact of the Jones Act of 1920. One hundred years ago, as the United States was attempting to rebuild their merchant marine vessels after World War I and protect the safety of sailors on

these ships, the U. S. passed the Jones Act. Now, a hundred years later, the unintended consequences of the Jones Act drive up prices for Puerto Rico. President Trump provided a waiver for Puerto Rico, but even after reconstruction, the Jones Act will have long-term negative impact on the economy of Puerto Rico unless it is repealed.

Because Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory, residents of Puerto Rico can immigrate to the United States without the challenges faced by most immigrants. Following Maria, the numbers of immigrants have jumped dramatically. Some churches have lost 15-20% of their members who have relocated after the hurricane.

As ABHMS continues to promote this plan for "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing." It is a multifaceted plan not just to fix houses, but to address the challenges these sisters and brothers face every day. How can you help? You can volunteer, pray, send money, or even learn more and advocate for change in U.S. Policy towards Puerto Rico.

Mike Oldham
Ministry and Mission Coach



<https://www.npr.org/2018/05/02/607032585/how-puerto-ricos-debt-created-a-perfect-storm-before-the-storm>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/jones-act-explained-waiving-means-puerto-rico>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/puerto-rico-exodus-after-hurricane-maria-cbsn-originals/>



Using His Gifts to God's Glory

“(4.) Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. (5.) There are different ministries, but the same Lord...o(7.) But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:” I Cor. 12:4-5 and 7 (NKJV)

I am writing this article about a friend of mine in the ministry of Jesus Christ that has enormous gifts and skills for the work that God has charged to his hands. At first glance, he appears to be quiet and unassuming. However, if you talk to him for more than five minutes you will soon learn that he has a deep passion for living into and advancing the cause and kingdom of Jesus



Christ! He dares to speak the truth of God without reservation. He walks unhindered across racial and cultural divides to make real the power and presence of Christ to both those who will hear him and those who would oppose him. No, he is not a “superman”. However, he is a committed servant of Jesus Christ. Who is this person of whom I speak? He is none other than Rev. Jude Del Hierro, the pastor, founder and executive director of Confluence Ministries. Confluence Ministries has both a local and global ministerial focus.

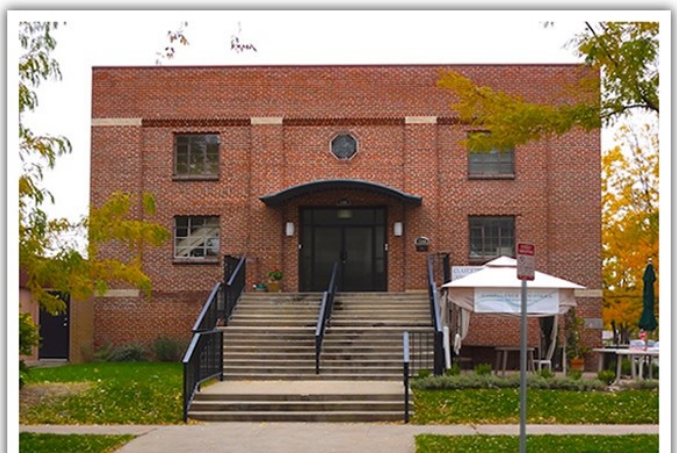
Pastor Jude chose the name “Confluence Ministries” for the work that God was calling him to do with “great particularity”. The word “confluence” means to “come or flow together” in a manner that will yield greater strength. It creates an image of several streams coming together to become a “mighty river” or “a great lake”. The vision that God placed on Pastor Jude’s heart enabled him to see clearly that the many streams in the faith and social action communities were the foundation for becoming a confluence for the wellbeing of those in Denver and beyond. That vision is the life breath and ministry focus of Confluence Ministries. Confluence Ministries mission statement reads as follows:

What we do...connect, mobilize and empower diverse people, organizations and resources in serving,

our local and global community for the wholeness of the city.

Collaboration is key for bringing people together to work for the common good. Confluence Ministries brings the voice of the Gospel to the collaborative discussion. They raise for consideration the voice of Christ regarding the action(s) being considered. The question before the house, “How does the action being considered line up with, what is right, fair and just in the sight of God and how will it impact the lives of those whom it will effect?” Confluence Ministries role in matters of faith and social justice is to continuously be the voice of Christ as the various streams come together.

Let me note at this point that in addition to Pastor Jude’s pastoral gifts and skills, God has blessed him with “mad musical” gifts and skills. He is constantly being asked to play at community events, both in the church and community. His musical skills are a constant staple at events in the Denver area, i.e., during “Cinco de Mayo”, at “The Race For the Cure”, “MLK Celebrations”, and much more! It is not uncommon in both the faith and social communities that people raise the question, “Do you know Jude Del Hierro?” They ask the question in a manner that says, “If you don’t, you should!” Pastor Jude uses his musical gifts to cross the racial, cultural, social and generational divides. To use Pastor Jude’s own words regarding what he wants people to experience when you plays music as a part of his ministry focus, “I want my music to invite people into the faithful presence of God.” Wow! Somebody ought to say Amen! Amen!





Let me close this article with the following words regarding Pastor Jude Del Hierro. He:

- 1) Has a heart serving God and advancing the kingdom of Jesus Christ;
 - 2) Loves and cares about the wellbeing of all people;
 - 3) Works to empower people to overcome the challenges of life and faith;
 - 4) Uses his gifts and skills to glorify God and meet the various needs of humanity;
 - 5) Uses his gifts and skills to build and strengthen "Confluences" both in the Church and beyond the walls; and,
 - 6) Is my brother in the ministry of Jesus Christ!
- Amen!

To learn more about "Confluence Ministries" please go to their website: www.confluenceministries.org
For all who wish to contact Pastor Jude you may do so in the following manner:

Pastor Jude Del Hierro
Founder/Executive Director
Confluence Ministries
1400 Quitman Street
Denver, CO 80204
Phone: 303.377.3050
Email: jdelhierro@confluenceministries.org

*Rev. Larron D. Jackson, DMin
Ministry and Mission Coach, Denver Cluster*

Kodiak, Alaska Summer Mission Opportunity 2019

Kodiak Baptist Mission - We want to see a world won for Jesus Christ.

There are so many individuals across the country within church congregations who need a nudge to help them grow in their faith, leadership potential and commitment to their local congregations.

A summer at Kodiak Baptist Mission, working in our summer programs will not only help someone grow personally in their relationship with Jesus Christ, but will also encourage commitment to leadership within their local church community.

Please share this opportunity with your church, we'd love to see a

representative from every ABC church across the country summer of 2019!

Click [here](#) for additional information or contact publiced@kodiakbaptistmission.org.



10 Facts You Should Know About American Baptists

The 1.3-million members and 5,500 congregations of American Baptist Churches USA share with more than 42 million Baptists around the world a common tradition begun in the early 17th century. That tradition has emphasized the Lordship and atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, believers' baptism, the competency of all believers to be in direct relationship with God and to interpret Scripture, the importance of the local church, the assurance of freedom in worship and opinion, and the need to be Christ's witnesses within society.



The following facts are representative of the tradition and practice of American Baptists.

1. *American Baptists believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, and that the Bible is the divinely inspired word of God that serves as the final written authority for living out the Christian faith.*

American Baptists celebrate the fact that belief in Jesus Christ assures salvation and eternal fellowship with a loving God. The events of the first Easter week are the cornerstones of our faith: the death of Christ, in which He took upon Himself the sin of the world, and the Resurrection, which gave proof of His triumph over sin and death. Holy Scripture always has been for American Baptists the authoritative and trustworthy guide for knowing and serving the God who is revealed as Creator, Savior and Advocate.

2. *For American Baptists the local church is the fundamental unit of mission in denominational life.*

Baptist roots date back four centuries to a people seeking the opportunity to worship God as individual members of freely organized and freely functioning local churches. Baptists always have maintained the need for autonomous congregations, responsible for articulating their own doctrine, style of worship and mission.

3. *American Baptists partake of two ordinances: believers' baptism and The Lord's Supper.*

Baptism, an act of full immersion following Christ's example, is undertaken by those spiritually mature enough to understand its profound, symbolic significance: resurrection to new life in Christ. Through The Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion, the bread and cup that symbolize the broken body and shed blood offered by Christ recall God's great love for us—just as they did for the disciples on the eve of Christ's crucifixion.



4. *American Baptists believe that the committed individual Christian can and should approach God directly, and that individual gifts of ministry should be shared.*



American Baptists hold that all who truly seek God are both competent and called to develop in that relationship. They have rejected creeds or other statements that might compromise each believer's obligation to interpret Scripture under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and within the community of faith. American Baptists also celebrate the special gifts of all believers, testifying that God can use each of us in ministry.

5. *American Baptists take seriously the call to evangelism and missionary work.*

American Baptist worldwide mission work is a response to Christ's call to "make disciples of all nations." Through the efforts of our missionaries in partnership with others, ministries of evangelism, healing, education and development have made Christ's love known in the U.S. and around the world.

6. *American Baptists support religious freedom and respect the expressions of faith of others.*

As a people whose forbears came together in response to intolerance, American Baptists have cherished freedom and pursued it for millions around the world. Manifestations of that ideal include supporting separation of church and state, advocating for people everywhere to be guaranteed the right to worship free from discrimination, and lifting up respectful dialog as a healthy means to understanding.

7. *American Baptists acknowledge that God's family extends beyond our local churches, and that God calls us to cooperative ministries.*

Early Baptists saw that the effectiveness of their ministries would be greater through cooperation with other believers. Today within our American Baptist regions, churches work with each other and with denominational staff and in local and regional ecumenical arenas to increase the vitality and scope of their ministries. That outreach extends worldwide through our relationships with the Baptist World Alliance, the National Council of the Churches of Christ, the World Council of Churches and other groups.

8. *American Baptists have been called to be Christ's witnesses for justice and wholeness within a broken society.*

American Baptists have been led by the Gospel mandates to promote holistic change within society, as witnessed by their advocacy of freed African Americans following the Civil War, the Civil Rights Movement, women in church and societal leadership, ecological responsibility, and many other issues. While not all of one mind as to how to deal with challenges, American Baptists do affirm the need to follow Christ's example by being actively involved in changing society.

9. *American Baptist Churches USA celebrates the racial, cultural and theological diversity witnessed within its membership.*

American Baptist Churches USA today is the most racially inclusive Protestant body. Represented in our churches are equally diverse worship styles, cultural mores and approaches to Scriptural interpretation. The resulting challenges and opportunities have made us stronger — through fellowship, respect, mutual support and dialog, all based on a belief that unity in Christ involves growth and understanding.

10. *American Baptists heed the biblical call to renewal and the need for a vital witness in a new millennium.*

As people of faith, American Baptists seek renewal and revitalization. Informed by their history and tradition, motivated by contemporary needs and challenges, and strengthened by God's leading and the example and sacrifice of their Savior, American Baptists seek to bring a transforming witness to an uncharted future.

Additional information on American Baptist Churches USA resources, tradition and mission is available on the American Baptist Churches USA Website — www.abc-usa.org — or by calling the American Baptist Churches Mission Center at 1-800-ABC-3USA.

The brochure, produced by the Office of Communication/General Ministries, is made possible through United Mission

The 10 Facts You Should Know About American Baptists brochure can be found at the following link:
<http://www.abc-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/ABC10FactsBrochure2.pdf>



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Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

You're invited!

COME EARLY
Enjoy the sunrise at Virginia Beach and relax!

STAY LATE
Discounts will be available after the event to visit local activities and attractions.

CELEBRATE our unique American Baptist identity with your sisters and brothers at the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit in Virginia Beach, Virginia, June 21-23, 2019.

www.americanbaptists2019.com

**New Opportunities...
Awesome ABC Mission**

Join us for the *Summit by the Sea!*

We are excited that the American Baptist Churches 2019 Biennial Mission Summit will feature an all new ABCUSA Biennial Academy. Academy Tracks offering continuing education and spiritual growth opportunities for both clergy and lay leaders will include: Social Media, Technology and Ministry; 21st Century Options for Church Planting and Renewal; Transition Ministries Training; Bible Studies; and more.

Bring the whole family! Virginia Beach is a top family-friendly destination. In 2019, VBS-style classes will be offered for elementary school ages, along with an all new youth track for middle and high school students. Day care will also be available.

**Mark your calendars now—
June 21-23, 2019**

www.americanbaptists2019.com

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA BIENNIAL Mission Summit
Summit by the Sea
JUNE 21-23, 2019
Virginia Beach, Virginia

American Baptist Churches USA

Biennial Mission Summit

**Join us in Virginia Beach, VA
June 21-23, 2019**

The celebration begins with events that occur before the Biennial.
Click [here](#) to sign up to receive more information. Also visit www.americanbaptists2019.com

What's Happening

Calendar

January

- 1 New Year's Day (*Region office closed*)
- 21 MLK Holiday (*Region office closed*)

February

- 1 Wyoba Fest, Laramie WY
- 2 Wyoba Board Meeting
- 7-8 Region Board Meeting
- 18 Presidents Day (*Region office closed*)
- 22-23 Colorado ABW Retreat

March

- America For Christ Offering Month
- 8-9 MLC Meeting
- 10 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 30 Wyoba Board Meeting

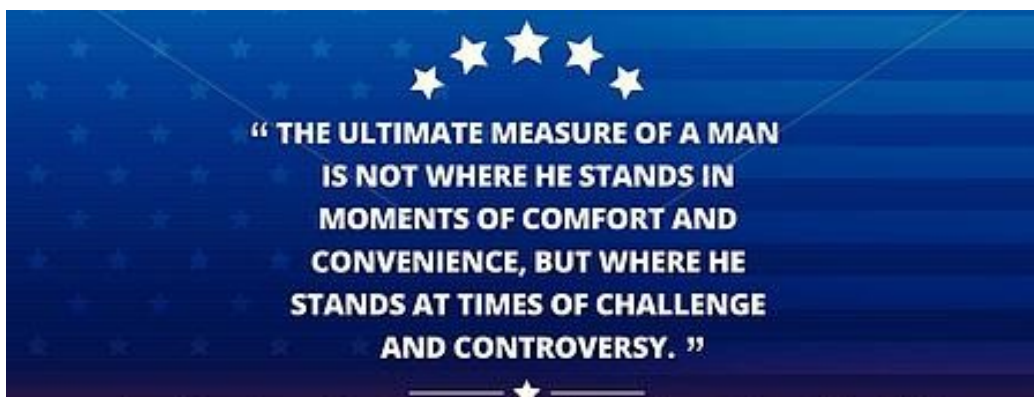


IRS Year-End Giving Guidelines	Report for 2018	Report for 2019
Checks written in December 2018 and deposited in church offering in December 2018	X	
Checks written in December 2018 and deposited in church offering in January 2019		X
Checks written and deposited in church offering in January 2019 but "backdated" to December 2018		X
Checks written and deposited in church offering in December 2018 but "postdated" to January 2019		X
Checks written in December 2018 and deposited in the mail and postmarked in December 2018, but not received by the church until January 2019	X	
Checks written in December 2018 and deposited in the mail in December 2018 but not postmarked until January 2019, and not received by the church until January 2019		X

ABC-USA Mission Giving Guidelines

Monthly cut off is the 7th or 8th of each month (except for weekends, holidays, and December year-end). Checks received prior to this are posted to the prior month. For example; checks received October 9 through November 8 are posted to October.

	Report for 2017	Report for 2018
Checks received in Region office through January 10, 2018, but dated 2018	X	
Checks received in Region office through January 10, 2018, but dated 2018		X



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Monday, January 21, 2019

Celebrate the Dream

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is the 20th of each month.
Send submissions to
akeys@abcrm.org*

*Reprint permission is granted
to ABCRM churches.*



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