

2020 ANNUAL SUMMARY

Connecting People Who Care To Ministries That Matter



*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future”*

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV



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From the Board Chair

As the year 2020 began, the image of 20/20 vision was ubiquitous along with the expectation that our “focus” would be improved. The metaphor could refer to personal development, community improvement, national politics, and scores of other life-centered subjects.

However, it was not long into the new year that the previous year, 2019, was pervasive. Everywhere one looked or listened, there was a 19; a different image than 20/20 took over, literally. It was the graphic of the COVID-19 virus and the reality of its existence. For most people a pandemic had only been the subject of science fiction movies until it became a daily challenge in 2020.

The loss of life in the U.S. and worldwide stunned us, frightened us, and changed our natural social inclination of having in-person contact to being self-quarantined. You may wonder how the *American Baptist Foundation (ABF)* related to this. This Annual Summary provides the answer, demonstrating the way by which concern for our world was transformed into hope as the good news of Christ was translated into action at the beginning of a new decade. This was made possible because of generous donors who chose to **Inspire Today, Empower Tomorrow.**

As the message of Jeremiah 29:11 proclaims, the hope we have is the result of God’s promise. That promise is clearly revealed in these pages—such as the hope-filled ministries and mission celebrated in ABF’s 35 years of service and the featured stories of two Palmer Trust grant recipients. Those organizations are directly addressing the pandemic, which has potentially stifled education. But with creative actions of hope it has become a catalyst for increasing the use of virtual instruction and providing personal care. In the same way ABF has also met the challenges of the pandemic by enhancing our communications with virtual meetings, webinars, and video greetings to our partners and donors.

The ABF legacy, which has been built over three and a-half decades, can also be celebrated in the lives of individuals who have wanted to spread God’s hope as exhibited in the testimonials of Wilbert Gough and the Rev. Al Fletcher. Additionally, our board has been blessed by leaders like the Rev. Jim Kelsey, and you are encouraged to rejoice, too, in ABF’s financial success.

As 2020 was coming to a close, we celebrated the conclusion of the fruitful, twelve-year ABF ministry of the Rev. Perkin F. Simpson, nine of those years were devoted to his role as our Executive Director. Now as 2021 has begun, we anticipate continuing to empower hope by working with our partners, the *Multi-Region Corporation (MRC)*, *American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS)*, and *International Ministries (IM)*. They reach out to local congregations, enact regional ministries, fulfill national endeavors, and experience international achievement—all in the name of Christ. This is partially due to the support coming from planned giving—establishing wills and other charitable estate plans—which ABF has helped make possible through donors’ generous, sensitive giving.

Thank you!

Yours in Christian hope,

Nichole L. Tillman

Nichole L. Tillman,
Board Chair





"I became acquainted with American Baptist Foundation through John Jacobs about 30 years ago. Over 77 years of ministry my wife Florence, we developed relationships with many ABCUSA ministries. We appreciate the quality education we received from our ABC related college and seminary which prepared us to serve the LORD in ministry these 77 years.

We have communicated with missionaries over the decades and wanted to support the life-changing work of International Ministries in our estate plan. When we met John Jacobs, the former Executive Director of ABF, we learned we could establish a Charitable Remainder Unitrust through the foundation and include all of the ministries we supported throughout our lifetime as beneficiaries. The trust investment has provided a secure retirement income and has performed well for us. ABF has done an excellent job and I highly recommend them.

Our Charitable Remainder Unitrust provides a more spiritual, simpler and easy way to provide retirement income, and do a lot of good for God's kingdom. It is a gratifying, successful way to fulfill our desire to support all the ministries that have been such an important part of our lives and show our appreciation for their service to God with one final gift."

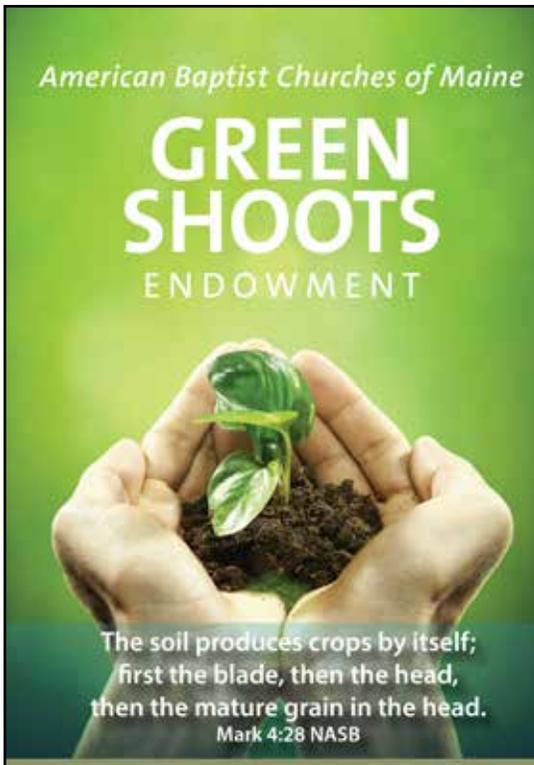
- Wilbert Gough



1. On Mars Hill in Athens, Greece July 1958.



2. Featured in Watchman Examiner July 1962.



*"The partnership between the **American Baptist Churches of Maine (ABCOM)** and the **American Baptist Foundation (ABF)** has grown over the past several years. Relationships within the American Baptist family are important and need to be cultivated as part of our ongoing commitment to the mission of the local church.*

The mission of ABCOM is to support the mission of the local church. While this mission may not seem to be new, it has had a transformative effect on how we as a region focus our energies and allocate resources. ABCOM's prioritizes the health and well-being of the local church. This means that the local church is responsible to discern, engage, and develop their mission. ABCOM's responsibility is to affirm, support and challenge the local church in its three-fold responsibility.

Mission is a product of stewardship. Mission recognizes that the world in which we live belongs to God and it is not ours to manipulate for our own advantage. A steward believes that God has called them to a mission and that the use of resources is to be directed to the purpose for which God has designed. Local churches as stewards of God's resources discern God's call to serve and use their resources to further His will and purposes.

ABF understands the importance of mission resources. Their responsibility in partnership with our region is to engage the local church in securing its financial future by empowering the local church to recognize and take advantage of the opportunities that are afforded by the age in which their mission is being carried out. The ABF's challenge to local churches is to maximize their mission resources today by looking to the future while building and extending their mission today.

When local churches are engaged in mission, our region's mission is engaged. Healthy active churches require support, affirmation, and challenge. ABCOM can help churches extend their influence for Christ in their local communities, in our nation, and throughout the world.

Partnerships within the American Baptist family are built with the recognition that partners bring expertise, resources, and insight that our regional ministry lacks. Engaging willing partners to work with our region to equip and empower local churches in mission is a blessing and benefit of being part of a large network of institutions, organizations, and entities that put the mission of the local church first.

*ABF has helped ABCOM to identify four key areas of our mission: Church Leaders, Congregations, Community, and Regional Ministry. This identification led to the establishment of the ABCOM **Green Shoots Endowment**. By financially supporting the **Green Shoots Endowment** of the American Baptist Churches of Maine in these four key areas, our regional ministry can do more to help support, affirm and challenge local churches in their mission.*

It is our privilege to work with the American Baptist Foundation. Through the work of our American Baptist representative, Kris Lutton, our partnership in mission continues to develop and grow to the benefit of local churches in Maine as they seek to further the cause of our Divine Redeemer. Inspiring people today empowers ministries today and tomorrow."

- Rev. Al Fletcher, ABCOM Regional Resource Minister



Jim and his wife, Debbie, became overseas missionaries with International Ministries (IM), serving in Europe for a decade beginning in 2002. They worked with Dutch-language churches in Flanders and then moved to Italy where they ministered primarily with churches of African immigrants. Jim provided theological training for immigrant pastors and during that time also taught courses in Vietnam for Baptist pastors.

A Missionary Wherever He Goes

The Rev. Dr. James Kelsey has answered God’s call to minister in a number of ways—for each one he could be described as “a missionary.” His mission field initially was in the urban area of Philadelphia where he was the pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Germantown from 1992 to 1996. He then pastored for six years in his native state at the Park Avenue Baptist Church in Mansfield, Ohio.



They returned to the U.S. mission field in 2012 when Jim became the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of New York State (ABCNYS), one of 35 American Baptist regions across the nation. The same skills he honed in his pastorates and with IM are used daily in his present missionary position. For example, even though “mission” is based on the Latin word for “send,” the international mission field has been coming to the U.S. One of those locations is in Utica, New York, where the Tabernacle Baptist Church is a majority ethnic Karen (Burma) congregation. Jim has nurtured Burma Diaspora congregations in the Region, and his wife is presently the pastor at Tabernacle. In 2014, the Region’s biennial gathering was hosted by this church.

As Jim provided training of pastors in Italy and Vietnam, so now he emphasizes a Certified Lay Ministers training program in the Region and also urges pastors and laymen to grow in their God-given abilities. A group of American Baptist Men shown on steps at a 2016 retreat illustrate how Jim works for them to “take steps” in discipleship growth. Additionally, Jim has opened opportunities for members of ABCNYS congregations to expand their understanding of overseas ministries by leading mission trips, such as two trips to Rwanda in 2018 and 2019 and five prior journeys to work with the AMOS ministry of the Drs. Laura and David Parajon in Nicaragua.

Before earning his Master of Divinity and Ph.D. degrees at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville, Kentucky), Jim graduated from Wright State University (Dayton, Ohio) with a B.S. in accounting. When he began his present ABCNYS mission work, that degree became valuable as he collaborated with the Region’s CPA to review the various places where invested funds were held. Jim says, “We observed that over a ten-year period the most reliable earnings came from the American Baptist Foundation (ABF). So, we consolidated most of our

long-term assets and placed them with the Foundation. The result is that there are regular payouts going to congregations to support their ministries.”

ABF has three partners in ministry and mission, the **American Baptist Home Mission Societies**, **American Baptist International Ministries**, and the **Multi-Region Corporation (MRC)**, which is comprised of a majority of American Baptist regions. Jim became the president of the MRC in January 2021 after serving two years as its vice-president, and he is a member of ABF’s Board of Directors.



Speaking as one who is “a missionary wherever he goes,” Jim comments on ABF’s service to individuals and churches: “I’ve learned that many of them have had their investments with institutions that charged very high fees. ABF offers stable, reasonable fees. ABF is service-oriented, which is very attractive because it provides a good return on investments given the modest level of risk. The Foundation also offers a variety of options people can consider as they create their personal estate plans. Those are steps that I encourage so that outreach in Christ’s name can continue for years to come!”





2020 IM Palmer Grant Awardee

A “Smart Campus” for the Lott Carey Mission School in Liberia

The **Lott Carey Baptist Mission School** in Brewerville, Liberia, which was established in 1908 by the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention USA, is planning to advance into the second decade of the 21st century by creating a “smart campus.” Not being satisfied with its century-old, well-deserved reputation in traditional education, this school for Kindergarten through twelfth-grade students plans to:

1. develop an interactive and engaging school website for accessing such information as educational materials and academic reports.
2. create an Information Communication Technology system for distance/remote learning and virtual conferences and meetings.

This will advance the Christian-based academic curriculum, which instills faith-based values necessary for leadership and world citizenship.

With the motto of Character, Industry, Scholarship the school currently has 376 students and 101 employees—including faculty, administrative personnel, and support staff. One of the key advantages of having a “smart campus” will be the capability for virtual, short-term mission experiences, faculty development/training workshops, intensive elective classes for students, and opportunities for participation in worship services and other campus events.

Toward the conclusion of the 2014 school year, as devastating as it was, the Ebola epidemic in Liberia resulted in students losing just two months of academic work. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic, students lost eight months out of the academic year! The “smart campus,” which will include distance learning/virtual classes,

would lessen such consequential disruptions and improve the overall standard of school operations in the future. The effectiveness of the “smart campus” will be measured by the increased number of students that will benefit from the quality education provided by the school and the virtual communication available to faculty and staff.

It is important to note that Lott Carey was the first American Baptist missionary appointed to Africa (1821). The Rev. Dr. Charles Jones, International Ministries (IM's) Area Director for Europe, the Middle East, and Liberia states:

“Assisting the Lott Carey Baptist Mission School to fulfill this dream of creating a ‘smart campus’ is exciting! This will increase staff and faculty capacity in providing a progressive educational environment, and hopefully inspire students and their families to dream of brighter futures and a better world. We are very grateful and thankful to the Palmer Grant Committee of the Foundation for awarding this grant.”



During our years of ministry, American Baptist Foundation (ABF) has managed charitable trusts, gift annuities, endowments, donor advised funds, investment accounts, and other planned giving assets. A long tenure of prudent administration and investment management continues to help us ensure that the needs of our donors, members, and other ABF partners in ministry and mission are met. Note the following financial highlights for 2020 (pre-audit).

\$165.3 million in **total assets under management**

\$8.1 million in **income distributions to our donors and income beneficiaries**

\$2.9 million in **final distributions to ministries**

Life Income Agreements

Life income agreements allow donors to establish gifts that also produce income for themselves or designated individuals, usually for life. At the end of 2020, ABF managed agreements included:

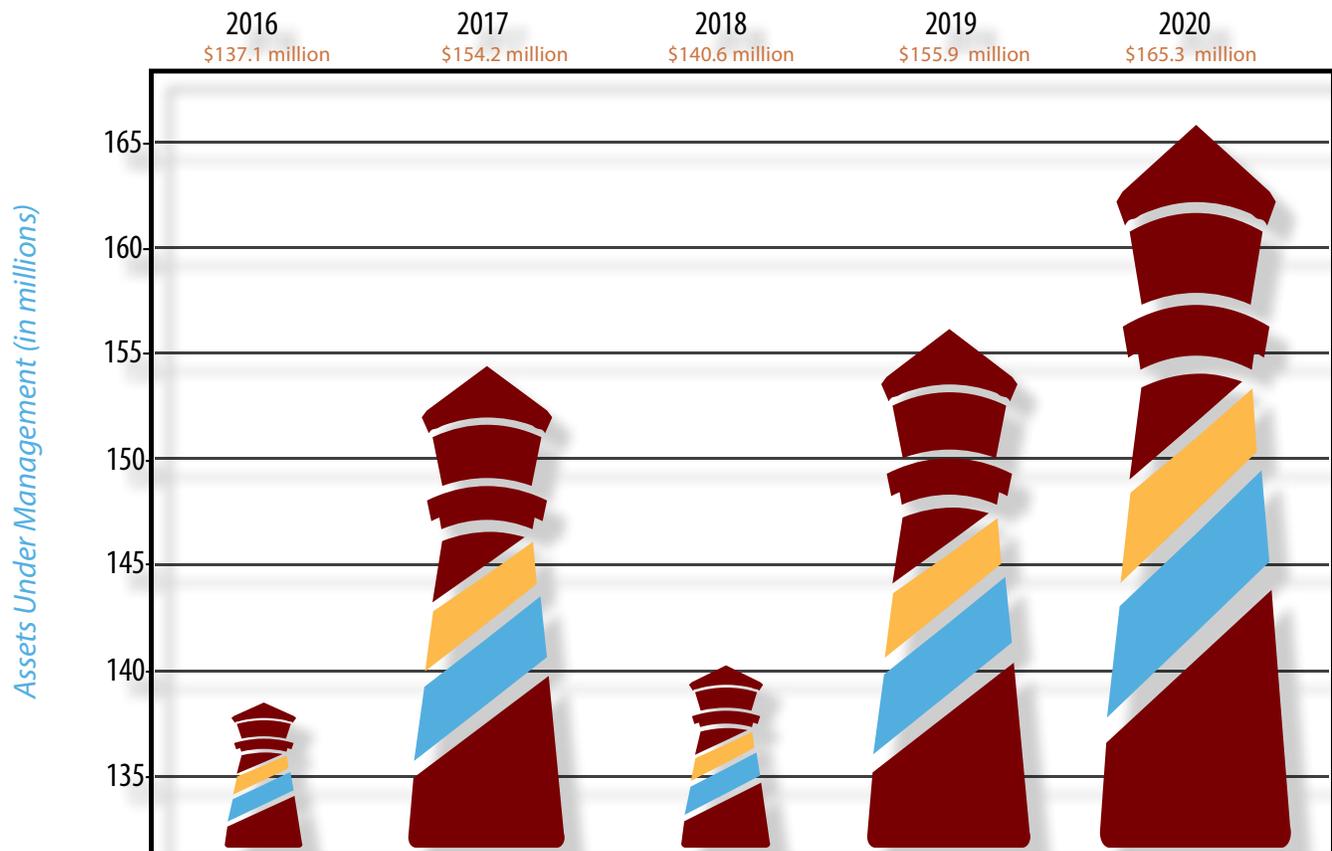
Charitable Trusts – 91 trusts managed totaling \$25.3 million

Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs)– 340+ CGAs managed with \$8.2 million held in reserves

Other Agreements Managed for ABF Partners – 25 accounts totaling \$708,268

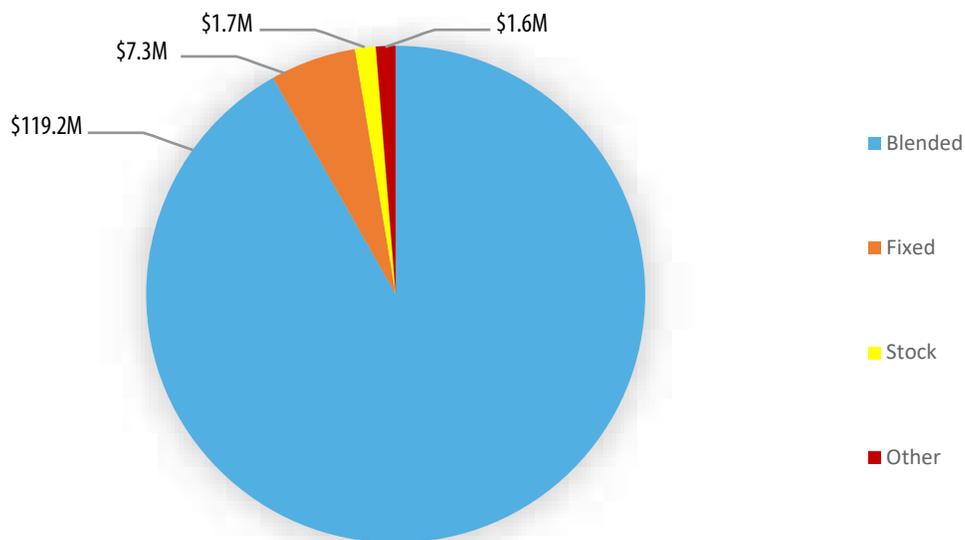
Assets Under Management

Financial Summary Year



Investments and Endowments

American Baptist Foundation's investment and endowment platform consists of three active and professionally managed investment options. Total investment and endowment assets managed as of December 31, 2020 were \$129.9 million, including an estimated \$128.2 million specific to the investment and endowment platform.



During 2020, new accounts were added to the investment and endowment platform. A total of \$1.4 million in new contributions were received for new and existing accounts. The 2020 Blended, Fixed and Stock portfolio returns were **12.48%**, **6.09%** and **15.25%**, respectively — finishing in line with their respective benchmarks of **12.11%**, **6.51%**, and **15.31%**.

Investment Performances**

	2020 Y-T-D	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	3 YR	5 YR	10 YR
Blended Portfolio	12.48%	19.21%	-10.34%	16.66%	5.97%	-2.19%	8.51%	5.86%	7.00%
Benchmark***	12.11%	19.06%	-8.09%	14.27%	7.36%	-0.79%	8.41%	6.36%	7.67%

** Performance figures are net of ALL fees, including administrative fees. Benchmarks do not include administrative fees. ABF utilizes Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) screens (no Alcohol, Firearms, or Tobacco). Benchmarks do not.

*** Bench: S&P 500 (25.2%)/Russell 2500 (15%)/MSCI AC World (19.8%), Barclay's Intermediate Government (40%).

Investment Performances**

	2020 Y-T-D	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	3 YR	5 YR	10 YR
Fixed Portfolio	6.09%	6.17%	0.99%	2.56%	1.67%	0.72%	3.24%	2.42%	2.86%
Benchmark***	6.51%	6.80%	1.65%	2.14%	2.08%	1.07%	3.53%	2.75%	3.16%

** Performance figures are net of ALL fees, including administrative fees. Benchmarks do not include administrative fees. ABF utilizes Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) screens (no Alcohol, Firearms, or Tobacco). Benchmarks do not.

*** Barclay's Intermediate Government (100%).

Investment Performances**

	2020 Y-T-D	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	3 YR	5 YR	10 YR
Stock Portfolio	15.25%	25.12%	-13.12%	21.23%	8.80%	-2.82%	11.08%	7.84%	9.13%
Benchmark***	15.31%	26.71%	-14.41%	23.20%	9.82%	-2.27%	11.83%	8.61%	10.60%

** Performance figures are net of ALL fees, including administrative fees. Benchmarks do not include administrative fees. ABF utilizes Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) screens (no Alcohol, Firearms, or Tobacco). Benchmarks do not.

*** Bench: S&P 500 (42%)/Russell 2500 (25%)/MSCI AC World (33%).



2020 ABHMS Palmer Grant Awardee

Out-of-School Time Enrichment & Virtual Program

“If I can help somebody” was the life motto of the Rev. Robert Burdette (1947-1999). Bob was the Associate Pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Charleston, West Virginia from 1986 until 1995 and the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Sistersville until his death from cancer. Adopted as a child, Bob possessed a sensitivity to children in need. The fulfillment of his vision “to help somebody” was the establishment of a center for an after school program that offered a safe-haven where students could receive homework assistance, a snack, and a safe recreational environment away from the perils of their high-crime neighborhood.



The center, which now bears his name, provides out-of-school time programming at four sites to 170 children in Kindergarten through 12th grade. They live on the West Side of Charleston, an area whose population is composed of 47% white, 37% black, and 14% multi-racial. A majority of the students (82%) come from homes considered as low income, and 17% are in a special-education status.

When the governor of West Virginia issued a stay-at-home order in March 2020, as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bob Burdette Center (BBC) responded by providing digital enrichment content on its Facebook page as well as virtual tutoring services. It also connected with students and families via telephone calls and letters.

Sam Sommerville, the President of BBC's Board, explains the steps to come:

“As a result of the Palmer Grant, which was awarded through the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), we plan to promote student social and emotional competencies through virtual programming as well as instruction, practice, and reflection using the Second Step Out-of-School Time curriculum. This resource is a research-based program that helps support youth development and build more positive communities through social-emotional learning. Moreover, it is proven that a sense of stability—resulting from relationships and social-emotional competencies—builds resilience and helps children thrive in challenging situations.”

Bob Burdette Center believes that adult-student relationships are important, particularly to children and youth who live in a community rife with broken and hurting families. Therefore, strategies are planned that will combine weekly in-person, digital, and virtual engagement with students in academic and enrichment programming provided both during the school year and the summer. BBC's inspiring goal is for the development of healthy futures for the students, based on the awareness that there is an adult present in their lives whom they can trust—a BBC staff member or mentor.



The **Virginia and Gordon Palmer Jr. Trust (VGPT)** of the American Baptist Foundation seeks to support priority ministries in partnership with our members: *American Baptist Home Missions Societies (ABHMS)*, the *Multi-Region Corporation (MRC)*, and *International Ministries (IM)*. The VGPT was created in 1999 as a permanent endowment to the *American Baptist Foundation (ABF)*. The Trust is to be administered by ABF in accordance with established guidelines and principles.



For 2020, ABF administered two grant cycles, with a total of 15 *International Ministries (IM)* and 44 *American Baptist Home Missions Societies (ABHMS)* grant awardees. The 2020 Palmer Grant Awardees are;

American Baptist Home Mission (ABHMS)

New Life Christian Fellowship

Connecting and Caring

Victory Hills Baptist Church

Community of Hope Assisted by Technology

Neighborhoods Focused On African-American Youth, Inc.

Community Study Hall - Network Of Connections

Somerset Academy Inc.

Study Circles

Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico

ConneCTED

Antioch in the Ville CDA

Food Stability

Bethlehem Baptist Church

Resiliency Initiative for Technology and Digital Infrastructure

Bob Burdette Center, Inc.

Bob Burdette Center Out-of-School Time Enrichment and Virtual Program

Praise Chapel World Outreach

PC Community Outreach Ministries

Salama Urban Ministries

Family Engagement Program

St. Paul's Baptist Church

Regaining Hope Through Collaboration/Project Hope

Chin Association of Maryland

Regaining Stability through Collaboration

Ottawa University

SilverLinings: Thought, Word, Deed

Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries MBMM

ACE Center COVID-19 Recovery Programs

Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches

Wholeness and Racial Reconciliation

Karen Baptist Churches in USA

Journey of Hope

Convent Avenue Baptist Church

YAs Advocating for Change

American Baptist Churches of LA, SW & HI

Youth Leadership Training Program

Shiloh Baptist Church

Tennis Rocks

Benedict College

BC Connects - BC Strong: Strengthening the Mind and Spirit

Friendship House of Christian Service

Friendship House of Christian Service Program for At-Risk Teens

JOYA Scholars

Junior High and High School College Readiness Programs

Detroit Friendship House

COVID Needs Assessment for Immigrant Population

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Building Resilience in a Time of Adversity

Bethel Neighborhood Center

The Bethel Refugees Crisis Intervention Program.

Bacone College

The Spiritual Circle of Sharing

Great Expectations Ministries

Great Expectations Music Project

Milwaukee Christian Center

MCC Older Adult Center: Wellness in the COVID era

First Baptist Church Middletown

Virtual Connections - "Helping Hearts Team"

Corporacion Milagros del Amor

Providing Stability to the homeless and undeserved

Heart Reach Neighborhood Ministries

Super Kids Advance

CrossWalk Community Church

Kitchen Renovation

American Baptist Home Mission (ABHMS) continued

Markey Church

*Race, Faith, & Justice - A Joint Pilgrimage between
First Baptist Detroit and Markey Church*

Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University

*Renewing Hope Among Spiritual Care-Givers: A Collaborative
Praxis Approach Among Palmer Theological Seminary's Alumni*

American Baptist Home Mission Societies

*Consultation and Training with Grantees of
"COVID Recovery Through Christian Witness and Ministry"*

Virginia Union University

*Caring for the Caregivers: Fostering Renewed Hope through
Virtual Collaboration amid COVID-19*

Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology

*Deliberate Dialogues: Hearing Past Division and
Defensiveness to Healing*

Harrisena Community Church

God's Love Beyond the Walls

Eloheh/Eagle's Wings

Reconnect Indigenous Portland-Metro

American Baptist Seminary of the West

Maintaining Stability in the Midst of a Pandemic

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska

Ministry in the Midst of Crisis

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Creating Community Through Baseball/Softball

Bridges Puentes Prison Ministry

Beyond The Walls

Preston Taylor Ministries

PTM Connect

International Ministries (IM)

International Ministries (IM) & IM partners in India

From Everywhere to Everyone in Action

International Ministries (IM) & the Ao Baptist Church Association

*Prepare Asian churches to share the gospel contextually and
relevantly in the Post-COVID era*

Real Hope Church in Mongolia

Restore hope and dignity of life in Christ

India Mission Coordination Committee (IMCC)

*Unite Telugu Baptists to advance evangelism, discipleship, and
church planting*

International Ministries

Bachelor of Theology for vulnerable groups

Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary

Providing Electricity to the Seminary Campus

Mission Partnerships, European Baptist Federation

Church Planting in Europe, Middle East and Central Asia

Lott Carey Baptist Mission School

Creating a "Smart Campus"

Trees of Peace, Africa

*Empowering Vulnerable Women through Tailoring and
Micro-Enterprise*

Kingdom of Peace and Development

*Peace Building and Sharing the Gospel through
Radio Talk Show Broadcast*

United Baptist Church of Zimbabwe

*Christian Leadership and Governance Training for UBCZ
Board Members*

Baptist Biblical Institute of Togo (IBBT)

Scholarships for Students at the Baptist Biblical Institute of Togo

Thailand Karen Baptist Convention

"Casket Empty" Translation

Samaritana Transformation Ministries, Inc.

Women's Economic Development Project



John Mason Peck Society

The John Mason Peck Society was established in 1996 as a way to acknowledge all those -past and present- who have worked with the Foundation to remember American Baptist ministry and mission in their charitable estate plans.

John Mason Peck Members*

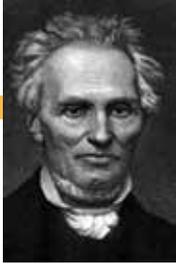
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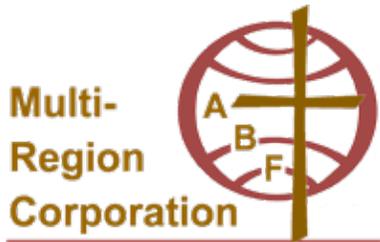
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