



American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania & Delaware

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Friends:

With 2020 now in the rear-view mirror and 2021 front and center, it seems impossible to predict what awaits us in 2021. So many questions remain unanswered when it comes to planning for the next twelve months.

We started the New Year with two vaccines now available, promising some level of protection against the Coronavirus. With that said, the rollout of the vaccine has been slow and has faced numerous logistical challenges. Even without the logistical obstacles, there is for many, significant distrust in the vaccine, causing hesitation in receiving the shot. It is hard to predict how soon the majority of our US population will be inoculated, allowing us to safely return to face-to-face worship, ministry and mission.

With unemployment rates at record highs and many businesses struggling, our economy also feels unstable. Individuals who have worked all their lives are now on unemployment, facing food uncertainty and the inability to pay their rent or mortgage. Contributions to nonprofit organizations including churches have been hit hard by the pandemic, often with needs out pacing donations. Local congregations have invested funds into new equipment and technologies to do online ministry, using funds they had not budgeted but without in-person worship, weekly tithes and offerings have sometimes slowed significantly.

There is so much uncertainty in our personal lives and in the lives of our churches, and it is challenging trying to predict what we will encounter in 2021. That is why partnership has never been more important. During times like these, it is good to know we are NOT alone. We serve a God who promises to NEVER leave us or forsake us. Our God declares He will always be there for us even in the most difficult situations.

Along with the promises of God, the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABCOPAD) remain committed to our vision of creating healthy partnerships with churches, pastors and our wider ABC Family to fulfill Christ's mission in the world. We remain steadfast in our commitment to BE THERE for the churches and pastoral leaders in our Region. Whatever 2021 holds, our partnership will remain strong. We will be there to provide support, encouragement, resources and more to help during these rapidly changing days. Whether through online Zoom meetings, phone calls, grant money or being physically present, we promise to be a strong partner no matter what the challenge.

As we move through 2021, I hope you will consider making a contribution to our Regional Offering, Partners In Ministry (PIM). When you contribute to PIM, you make it possible for us to be there for you and for all our ABCOPAD Churches and Pastors. Your donations allow us to be there when you need us.

In 2020, despite the pandemic, ABCOPAD received the funding we needed to offer significant ministry at a time when churches and pastoral leaders needed us the most. We hope you and your church family will donate to Partners In Ministry this year. Your donations make a difference. On behalf of all our ABCOPAD Staff, (Full-Time Staff and Regional Ministry Associates) thank you for your contributions and for your commitment in being a Partner In Ministry.

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