



## American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania & Delaware

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As I write this letter, it seems hard to believe less than two weeks ago we held our final online Biennial Leadership Conference event along with our ABCOPAD Regional Business meeting. The Biennial Leadership Conference featured Dr. Jolene Erlacher, author of the ***Daniel Generation, Godly Leadership in an Ungodly Culture*** and took place completely online via Zoom. The ABCOPAD Regional Business meeting normally taking place at the BLC was also held via Zoom with about 70 delegates representing 38 congregations participating. While being together in a face-to-face gathering was not possible due to the pandemic, thanks to the ingenuity of our Biennial Planning Committee and the willingness of our Regional family to try something new, the 2020 Biennial Leadership Conference DID happen and from the overall positive reactions posted in the evaluations we received it was a great success.

If you missed the Zoom meeting, all four BLC Sessions taught by Dr. Jolene are available on our ABCOPAD Youtube Channel as well as the videos of each opening session. As a result of moving the Biennial Leadership Conference to an online format, we were able to offer the event at no cost. Not only was there no charge for the event, but those that registered received Dr. Jolene's book for free.

For many people, the 2020 Biennial Leadership Conference offered a great resource with substantial savings. Because the event took place online, there was no need to travel so fuel expenses and the cost of a hotel was eliminated. No money needed to be spent on meals or on other incidental expenses. At a time when for many, COVID-19 has created a negative impact on the family budget, ABCOPAD was able to offer a great experience at no cost with substantial savings to every participant.

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, the ABCOPAD Staff wants to say THANK YOU for your partnership in ministry. Thank You for allowing us to serve you and your church family during the COVID-19 crisis. Thank You for your willingness to try many new models of ministry. Thank You for your continued financial support throughout 2020, even when giving was so challenging on many levels. We know for many it was difficult receiving contributions during several months of quarantine as well as being out of the church sanctuary for months (For some churches, we know they have not yet returned to their sanctuaries.) We THANK GOD for all our regional partners who have been so faithful.

If you enjoyed the online Biennial Leadership Conference, perhaps you would consider an end-of-year donation. Maybe you could donate some of what you saved as a result of the BLC event taking place via Zoom. Maybe you could donate the cost of dining out (the cost of a meal) you saved as a result of the online format. Maybe you could donate what you would have paid a hotel for a night but saved those dollars because the event took place online. Even if you did not attend the Biennial, perhaps one way to say Thank You to God for sustaining you and blessing you throughout the pandemic is through an end-of-year donation to our Regional Ministry (our Partners in Ministry Offering). Any end of year contribution would be greatly appreciated. You can give via our online donation webpage or send your Partners in Ministry donation via your church's monthly mission giving. (Designate your gift "ABCOPAD Partners in Ministry" and add it to your church offering plate.) We will also be participating in Giving Tuesday on Facebook.

Whether you are able to make a donation or not, please know how thankful and grateful we are for your partnership in ministry. May God continue to watch over you and keep you in the palm of his protective hand throughout the rest of 2020 and in the New Year.

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