

Merrimack Valley

Berkshire

Central

Adoniram Judson

Samuel Stillman

Pioneer Valley Boston South-West

Old Colony



The American Baptist Churches of
MASSACHUSETTS
TABCOM



Uniting and Equipping Churches to Make Disciples of Jesus

2023

Annual

Report

TABCOM seeks to add value to the ministry to which God has called each congregation. These are the reports and reflections from the staff, officers and ministry teams for the year 2023.

Table of Contents

TABCOM 2023 Annual Report

EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S REPORT	03
OCEANWOOD UPDATE	05
PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION	06
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S SERVICE REPORT	07
TABCOM YEAR END FINANCIAL STATUS 2023	08
TABCOM YEAR END BALANCE SHEET 2023	09
GROTONWOOD REPORT ON MINISTRY	10
FRIENDS OF REGIONAL MINISTRIES REPORT	14
MA AMERICAN BAPTIST INVESTMENT TRUST (MABIT)	16
ADONIRAM JUDSON ASSOCIATION REPORT	17
BOSTON SOUTH WEST ASSOCIATION REPORT	18
MERRIMACK VALLEY ASSOCIATION REPORT	19
OLD COLONY ASSOCIATION REPORT	20
SAMUEL STILLMAN ASSOCIATION REPORT	21
PORTUGUESE LIAISON REPORT	22
MISSIONS MINISTRY REPORT	23
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR REPORT	24
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY REPORT	25
COMMISSION ON ORDAINED MINISTRY	26
OUR SPONSORS	27

Executive Minister's Report

TABCOM 2023 Annual Report

Welcome to the Annual Gathering (#TAG2024) themed “Renewed Paths, Redeemed Purpose,” inspired by the powerful words found in Isaiah 43:19: “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” From our Annual Gathering promotions: “This verse serves as a profound reminder that our God is a God of renewal, redemption, and innovation.”

This is indeed a powerful promise, a promise that calls us to be available and purposeful as we move into a future that seems, at times, both daunting and exciting. At TABCOM, we have a newly reframed statement of our purpose: *Uniting and equipping churches to make disciples of Jesus.*

We have identified four areas of focus for our ministry:

- ◇ Equipping churches for fruitful ministry
- ◇ Developing and supporting church leaders for faithful service
- ◇ Connecting churches for local and global mission
- ◇ Celebrating churches’ unity amid diversity.

I am so grateful for the leadership of our outgoing president Josh Cahan in this discernment process. These focus areas will guide us moving forward as we set our priorities as TABCOM staff and leaders.

Here are just some of the “New Things” that are happening in TABCOM:

- ◇ Celebrating new beginnings in our family: the joy of welcoming newly ordained ministers to the TABCOM family, and new pastoral leadership in our churches. Our Region is doing standout work in calling, blessing, and equipping church leadership. Our School of Ministry is a key pathway to ministry leadership and we praise God for its growth.
- ◇ Welcoming new churches! We had two additions to the family in 2023: New Life Christian Ministries of Lowell, Pastor Milton Thomas and Newmarket Community Church of Newmarket, New Hampshire, where Patty Marsden is Senior Pastor. We have several other churches “in process” to join the TABCOM family.
- ◇ The establishment of a new fund for supporting church planting and re-planting. While this is still in the early stages of development, we are so excited about the potential for bringing new and renewed churches to our family.

I want to share a personal word of appreciation for the significant financial gifts to TABCOM from the First Baptist Church of Weston and the Hill Memorial Baptist Church. Their generosity is opening the door to new ministries for us and we are grateful beyond words.

As many of you know, in February I returned from three months on sabbatical, a

truly amazing experience of rest and renewal in every way. I am grateful to TABCOM and the Region leadership who made my sabbatical possible, including but not limited to the Personnel Committee, Administration and Finance Committee, Board of Directors, and our TABCOM president, Josh Cahan. But it's good to be back doing what God has called me to do!

A very large thank you goes to the TABCOM staff who took care of things so competently and well in my absence, and continue to be the very best Region staff: Robyn Mars, Diane Badger, Maria Reilly, and Miranda Kwon. We have recently said a sad goodbye to Ronda Ferreira, who has departed from the position of director of administration and finance; we are blessed to welcome back our dear friend Richard Wolf who is serving as interim in this role as we move into our search for new staff in this area. A very big thank you goes out to our Associate Executive Minister, Ron Bouthillette, who ended up, due to some unexpected timing, leading two Regions at once (he is the interim exec in ABC of Vermont/New Hampshire). His ongoing leadership in search and call and in church renewal has truly been invaluable.

Our outgoing President, Josh Cahan, did a wonderful job in his report of thanking our TABCOM Officers and Board of Directors, so I will not name them all. I will say that it is a joy to work with such a vital and diverse group who have worked together faithfully and well. Even when we do not always agree (because, well, we're Baptists) there is a beautiful spirit of shared purpose.

We have been richly blessed by Josh Cahan's leadership as our region president. He has truly been just the right person for "such a time as this," and I have indeed been grateful for his commitment and vision. I know you will join me in welcoming Chris McWhite, who is moving into the role of TABCOM president. Each president brings something unique to this role, and I know that Chris will be a faithful and dynamic leader for TABCOM's next chapter.

I want to close by thanking Concord Baptist Church for hosting our Annual Gathering this year. This is our first Annual Gathering in a local church in over a decade. It is so fitting, as our focus in TABCOM is and has always been our local churches, doing vital ministries in communities across the Commonwealth. We are grateful for Pastors Rev. Dr. Conley Hughes and Rev. Dr. Moreen Hughes and their energetic staff and members, who have been tireless in preparing for this great event. God bless you all!

Serving Christ,

Rev. Mary D. Miller

Oceanwood Update

From Executive Minister Mary Day Miller

Friends, I know that you are all concerned about the situation at Oceanwood and I want to bring you an update.

Oceanwood has been facing many struggles, including but not limited to: ongoing major maintenance needs, difficulties in hiring staff (especially since the pandemic), general cost increases, and environmental challenges (such as significant flooding).

For this past year, Oceanwood has been operating as a conference center; hosting groups but not producing its own camping programming. This has stabilized things for now. But there is a need to discern a future direction for Oceanwood.

Many of you know that Ronda Ferreira has recently resigned from both of her roles as Oceanwood director and TABCOM finance director. We are sad to see her go and wish her many blessings moving forward.

Now let me share with you the steps that we are taking to address these challenges.

We have made the decision to hire an operations manager for Oceanwood to continue to operate the camp in the conference center model. I am happy to share that this person was hired just this week.

At this time, we are bringing together a small “**Oceanwood Vision Team**” who will be tasked with looking at our options for Oceanwood. This will include examining the entire range of possibilities for moving into the future, with “outside the box” thinking encouraged. We will likely utilize a consultant to assist us, especially with our research. My hope is for us to approach this process in a spirit of prayerful openness. My goal is for at least a preliminary report by the end of 2024.

I know that many of us in TABCOM have deep connections to Oceanwood, where powerful experiences have happened: times of re-creation, building connections, encounters with God, and so much more. I am also abundantly aware of the wide range of opinion about Oceanwood’s future. No matter what direction is chosen, there will be those who disagree. There is no outcome that will satisfy everyone.

What do I need from you, TABCOM family?

- ◇ Prayer. This is the foundation for all that we are doing.
- ◇ Support. Continue to use the facilities at Oceanwood for your events, retreats, etc.
- ◇ Grace and Trust. Understand that this is a difficult journey; know that I want nothing but the best for Oceanwood and our TABCOM family. As we all know, rumors and assumptions can be very damaging. Please ask questions of myself and others in leadership and verify information before sharing it.

I covet your prayerful support for this entire process, for other leaders, and for myself.

Serving Christ our Lord,

Rev. Dr. Mary Day Miller

President's Reflection

Dear TABCOM Churches,

It has been an honor to serve as President of the Board of Directors for the past two years. The past year has been filled with successes, challenges, and opportunities, yet praise God that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Heb. 13:8) and that our Lord is building his church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matt. 16:18).

In the past year we began a process of considering how TABCOM staff and teams can better serve our churches. We have refined our mission, transitioning our thinking of the TABCOM staff and teams from primarily doers of ministry to equippers of our churches as they minister for Christ in their communities. This focus has led us to a streamlined statement of our purpose: Uniting and equipping churches to make disciples of Jesus. Furthermore, we discerned the following strategies for how best to accomplish this: 1. Equipping churches for fruitful ministry; 2. Developing and supporting churches' leaders for faithful service; 3. Connecting churches for local and global mission; and 4. Celebrating churches' unity amid diversity. God willing, there is still much work to do to in the coming year refine our staff and structure to reflect this more focused emphasis, but I believe this is a great start even as we grow in communicating the many "wins" and celebrations happening in and through each of the churches in our region.

I am further excited for the possibility of a church replanting and planting fund both to support struggling churches and encourage the multiplication of churches in our region. Even though it is still in the planning stages, the Lord has blessed us financially with this potential, and I want to thank the faithful work of the TABCOM Administration and Finance Team: Dexter Bishop, Fred Drauschke, Gary Ludwig, Earl Norman, Daryn Stylianopoulos, Matt Wigton, Dana Gonsal, Tali Jamir, along with TABCOM staff members Mary Miller, Ronda Ferreira, Ed Guerard, and Richard Wolf. Thank you for all you do to wisely watch over our finances and consider how they can best be used for Christ's kingdom.

The majority of my focus and energy has been directed toward supporting our staff and leadership teams. It has been a joy to work together this the past year with our Board of Directors, seeing a diverse group come together for the sake of the Lord Jesus and his churches in our region. Special thanks to Barbara Headley, Jackson Oliveira, Ramona Farley, Jephthet Roseme, Sabrina Ozit, Daryn Stylianopoulos, Christopher McWhite, David Wright, Jennifer Layte, Gary Ludwig, Michael Harvey, Melinda Parry, and Barbara Drauschke for giving of your time and gifts on this team. Furthermore, I'm thankful to the TABCOM staff, including Mary Miller, Ron Bouthillette, Ronda Ferreira, and Richard Wolf, for their partnership in ministry over the past two years. I'm thrilled that we were able to grant Mary a sabbatical to rest and dream so that she can be energized for the coming years of leading our region, God willing.

I'm so grateful to you all for providing this opportunity to lead our region in this role as Board President, and I am excited to hand over the reins to the able hands of Chris McWhite. Chris has not only faithfully served on our board as Vice President these past two years, but is a student in TABCOM's School of Ministry and a deacon at Messiah Baptist Church in Brockton. I pray that TABCOM will continue to make progress in making disciples of Jesus in our communities together for God's glory!

Blessings,



Rev. Josh Cahan
Senior Pastor, Ruggles Baptist Church
President, TABCOM Board of Directors

Associate Executive Minister's Report

It has been a privilege and blessing to serve the TABCOM region over the last year. I have visited pastors and churches all over our region- from the west side of our state, north shore, south shore and down to Martha's Vineyard.

What exactly do I do for the region? My "job description" falls under the category of church relations. I meet with church boards/leadership to consult with them about moving forward to become a healthier church. I meet with search committees and assist them in the search and call process. Now, we have a plethora of part time churches seeking pastors.

The landscape for seeking pastors has changed dramatically in recent years. The clergy job market is a train wreck. A wave of older clergy will retire in the coming decade, with fewer seminary students in the pipeline to replace them. There are very few emerging leaders for our churches and possible candidates that come to us are more diverse than ever. These new leaders tend to be both extremely bright and charismatic. They were often non-conformists. They are trading traditional suits and clerical robes for skinny jeans and untucked shirts. They like using plugged in musicians in place of choirs and displaying virtuoso homiletic skills.

A struggling economy, the cost of living in Massachusetts and a decline in attendance in many of our churches have created fewer openings for seminary graduates seeking to become full-time pastors. Some are resorting to other means of service or are working at any job they can find. This means there are fewer recruits willing to be pioneers in a new spiritual landscape that requires them to juggle ministry and another form of income.

Finally, seminaries are in decline and are graduating fewer leaders for ministry. As I share information concerning this landscape with churches, it is increasingly disappointing for the leadership of the church who needs a pastor. I try to emphasize to our churches seeking assistance that we are no longer in the 1950's. Many of our churches are stuck in a mode of ministry that was created in the 1950's. The cry "we have never done it that way" reverberates throughout our churches. In many cases, the habits and structures of the leadership in our congregations continue to support a reality that no longer exists. I see this trend particularly in pastor search committees. Their criteria are sometimes unreasonable and unrealistic. In all of this, God continues to work in our midst.

I am available to assist the church to move forward. I am available to serve you- the church of Jesus Christ - in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Ron Bouthillette

TABCOM *Year End 2023 Financial Status*

Our thanks to Ronda Ferreira for her insightful approach to deferring the draw from or invested funds. This, and the final acts of generosity by FBC Weston as it became clear their time had come for closing.

These partial grants to TABCOM, and others, will serve to carry on ministry according to their wishes.

The TABCOM portion of funds from the sale of the Hill Memorial Baptist Church property, which it emerged had been partially owned by TABCOM for over 100 years, makes several steps possible. In the largest sense, when combined with the proceeds from the FBC Weston Church sale, provided for growth to an overall invested fund of just over \$5M. Further, \$500K in cash was set aside to resource the activity in support of Church Assistance and Planting. The development of a procedure for this should be an active process on several perspectives. The final \$319K from this sale is set aside for operations in 2024, and beyond.

All of this is after Hill Memorial Baptist Church received their portion of funds, to be used as they designate, within the limits of the law.

TABCOM 2023

January - December 2023	Jan - Dec 2023	Jan - Dec 2022 (PY)	Change	
Income				
41000 REGULAR U / M INCOME			0	
41005 Rev UM Allocation to Region	158,891	155,728	3,163	
Total 41000 REGULAR U / M INCOME	158,891	155,728	3,163	
41010 Um Receipts America for Christ	10,644	11,025	(381)	
41019 FORM Core	25,017	22,557	2,460	
41019a TRANSFORM Annual Rev	16,427		16,427	
Total 41019 FORM Core	41,444	22,557	18,887	
41020 B Rev MMF General All	12,536	20,856	(8,321)	
41021 Institutional Support	480	254	226	
41025 Rev G Wright Fund Core	25,000	25,000	0	
41035 Giving Tuesday	2,234		2,234	
41040 Website Donations	219		219	
41070 REV GRANTS	15,000	65,000	(50,000)	Partial Dist. of Weston operating Funds plus Brotherhood Insurance
41094 Property Income		77,247	(77,247)	Suspension of Inv Draw part way through 2022
41095 Other Rev	4,924	5,658	(734)	
41100 Events			0	
41088 Leadership Day	3,400		3,400	Income separated from net expense
41090 WMS&D / Mission Works	1,600		1,600	Income separated from net expense
41091 Events & Workshops	856		856	Income separated from net expense
Total 41100 Events	5,855	0	5,855	Income separated from net expense
49906 Extraordinary Income	200,000		200,000	Final Distribution of Weston Church Sale Operation Proceeds
49910 Investment Income	336	321	15	
49920 American Baptist Foundation REV	3,839	5,773	(1,934)	
Total 49910 Investment Income	4,175	6,094	(1,919)	
Total Income	481,403	389,419	91,983	
Gross Profit	481,403	389,419	91,983	
Expenses				
51035 Regular Staff Salaries Exp			0	
51036 Salaries Regular	239,963	189,590	50,372	
51025 FORM	10,746	10,746	0	
Total 51036 Salaries Regular	250,709	200,336	50,372	includes modified staff model for camp and property sales
51037 Housing	57,800	65,363	(7,563)	
52000 Coordinators & Contract Staff			0	
52140 Contract Services	7,616	8,446	(830)	
Total 52000 Coordinators & Contract Staff	7,616	8,446	(830)	
52110 Employee Medical & Retirement	26,047	27,528	(1,481)	
52120 Staff EXPENSE ACCTS	16,100	16,480	(380)	
51026 FORM Expenses	16,786	14,580	2,206	
Total 52120 Staff EXPENSE ACCTS	32,886	31,060	1,826	
Total 51035 Regular Staff Salaries Exp	375,058	332,733	42,325	
52248 Misc. Contributions and Funds	1,110	3,383	(2,273)	
52610 WEBSITE	355	609	(253)	
53050 Events Exp			0	
53059 Leadership Day	3,400		3,400	Expense separate from income
53060 WMS&D Mission works	1,600	2,000	(401)	Expense separate from income
53061 Annual Gathering	(1,867)	14,568	(16,435)	Expense separate from income
55060 Events & Workshops	832	271	561	Expense separate from income
Total 53050 Events Exp	3,965	16,839	(12,875)	Expense separate from income
54055 Insurance	33,559	29,008	4,551	
56000 Office & Administration			0	
53030 Office Expense	20,515	17,570	2,945	
54005 Telephone	5,550	6,384	(835)	
54065 Bank Charges & Other Fees	357	441	(84)	
Total 56000 Office & Administration	26,423	24,396	2,026	
59900 OTHER EXPENSES			0	
54045 Legal Fees	966		966	
Total 59900 OTHER EXPENSES	966	0	966	
59910 Property Expenses		500	(500)	
65000 Payroll Taxes	21,665	19,502	2,164	
66000 Payroll Expenses	11,104	8,382	2,722	
66050 Payroll Extra	7,754		7,754	
Total 66000 Payroll Expenses	18,857	8,382	10,475	
Total Expenses	481,958	435,352	46,606	
Net Operating Income	(555)	(45,933)	45,378	

TABCOM *Year End 2023 Balance Sheet*

Balance Sheet. As of December 31, 2023	Jan - Dec 2023	Dec 31, 2022 PY	Change	Comments
ASSETS				
Main St NM Bank	141,126	109,422	31,704	
Main Street Bus Basic	319,702		319,702	Holding Bank Acct Hill Operating Cash
Total Bank Accounts	460,827	109,422	351,405	
Total Accounts Receivable	67,564	59,282	8,282	
Total Other Current Assets	4,196	7,892	(3,696)	
Total Current Assets	532,587	176,596	355,991	
Other Assets				
15000 TABCOM Directed Assets				
15010 ABF EF1645 TransFORMATION	1,067,687	975,301	92,386	Contribution and Performance
15500 ML 02581 Invest for ANTS Hispanic	33,406	29,853	3,554	Performance
16020 ML 02068 AB Elder Ministries	898,773	835,748	63,025	Performance
16030 ML 02070 Church & Society Fund	275,235	254,952	20,284	Performance
16040 ML 02091 GWood Cell Tower	206,893	199,766	7,127	Performance
16046 ML 02069 NEBC / Oceanwood	14,770	12,915	1,854	Performance
16495 ML 02076 Property Fund	5,013,806	1,725,106	3,288,700	Property Fund Investment
Total 15000 TABCOM Directed Assets	7,510,571	4,033,641	3,476,929	
16500 TABCOM Custodial Assets				
16025 ML 02066 Charlestown Fund	1,192,445	973,385	219,060	Combination of consolidation and performance
16026 ML 02110 Church Planting	500,676	51,128	449,548	Balance from Hunt Education move and Planting Cash put in
16027 ML 02111 Charles Benevolent	7	75,656	(75,649)	Moved into Consolidate Charlestown Fund
16525 ML 02075 For AB Women	32,249	29,326	2,923	
16527 ML 02142 Honduras Mission	50,872	43,008	7,864	
16530 Boston Community Capital	10,000	10,000	0	
16535 AB Fund - Pappas & Warner 1205	12,945	12,873	73	
16537 Small Church Trust Fund	31,235	27,812	3,423	
16545 AB Ext Lakeshore Fund 053154	6,000	6,000	0	
16550 AB Extension Corporation 8044	10,000	10,000	0	
16555 Messiah Baptist Jubilee FCU	23,956	23,916	40	
16560 Deware Fund 50303	31,269	29,559	1,710	
Total 16500 TABCOM Custodial Assets	1,901,654	1,292,662	608,991	
Total Other Assets	9,412,224	5,326,303	4,085,921	
TOTAL ASSETS	9,944,811	5,502,899	4,441,912	
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Total Accounts Payable	16,549	3,586	12,963	
Total Other Current Liabilities	473,952	130,369	343,583	
Total Current Liabilities	490,501	133,954	356,546	Includes \$319K held for operating grants, as well as other designated funds
Total Liabilities	490,501	133,954	356,546	

The worksheets here, and the comments of explanation, speak to the financial conditions. They do not, however, address the wider question. When I was active in the role of finance, I tried to emphasize that it was more than just what the numbers are. What is more important is the story they are telling us. The numbers here indicate a condition that has come about from the closing of ministry in two of our congregations, both of which have been in worship for a hundred years. On the surface there is a profound sense of loss, and in these congregations determinations there is an expression of generosity and of hope.

TABCOM now has resources to support the denominational staff work, and the opportunity to develop new approaches. This can be good news, with a challenge. The question now becomes how is this generosity, and this opportunity, to be met? How will we move from what we can do, to what we should, and how will we do it?

Richard Wolf

Grotonwood Report on Ministry

Grotonwood Report On Ministry 2023

TABCOM 2023 Annual Report

Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center Statement of Activity

	Jan - Dec 2023	Jan - Dec 2022	Change
Revenue			
STORE Income	\$33,707	\$22,936	\$10,772
Revenue Conferencing	\$719,465	\$521,180	\$198,285
Natures Classroom	\$292,586	\$243,054	\$49,531
Total Camping Income	\$744,628	\$742,971	\$1,657
FORM	\$25,918	\$27,949	-\$2,031
RECURRING REVENUE	\$56,273	\$52,975	\$3,298
Total Revenue	\$1,872,577	\$1,611,066	\$261,511
Expenditures			
TOTAL SALARIES	\$323,342	\$320,596	\$2,745
TOTAL ADMIN	\$52,701	\$33,662	\$19,039
Utilities	\$103,065	\$117,022	-\$13,957
TOTAL KITCHEN	\$376,382	\$325,053	\$51,329
TOTAL MAINTENANCE	\$218,756	\$156,625	\$62,131
Housekeeping	\$76,998	\$55,452	\$21,546
TOTAL INSURANCE	\$50,069	\$33,398	\$16,671
TOTAL PROMOTION	\$4,040	\$3,867	\$172
Total Camping Program	\$499,681	\$476,604	\$23,077
Conference Supplies	\$7,158	\$1,721	\$5,437
TOTAL MISC EXPENSE	\$240	\$12,669	-\$12,429
Store	\$17,943	\$8,466	\$9,477
Store Sales Taxes.	\$49	\$314	-\$265
Interest payment	\$17,960	\$18,630	-\$670
Debt repayment		\$3	-\$3
Total Expenditures	\$1,748,384	\$1,564,084	\$184,300
Net Operating Revenue	\$124,193	\$46,982	\$77,211



Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center Statement of Financial Position

	As of Dec 31, 2023	As of Dec 31, 2022	Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Total Bank Accounts	\$234,661	\$218,269	\$16,392
Accounts Receivable	\$64,502	\$39,092	\$25,410
Total Other Current Assets	\$60,551	\$51,142	\$9,409
Total Current Assets	\$359,714	\$308,503	\$51,211
Total Other Assets	\$7,759,954	\$7,722,454	\$37,500
TOTAL ASSETS	\$8,119,668	\$8,030,957	\$88,711
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Current Liabilities			
Total Accounts Payable	\$16,000	\$48,191	-\$32,191
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$295,247	\$309,899	-\$14,653
Total Current Liabilities	\$311,247	\$358,090	-\$46,844
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$562,994	\$505,746	\$57,249
Total Liabilities	\$874,241	\$863,836	\$10,405

Retreats Ministry

Retreats income continues to grow and reached just under \$720,000 for 2023. This number is more than finances. It represents 1,000's of individuals that have come to camp to learn and discover more about Jesus. Grotonwood is huge asset to Christian groups as a place for spiritual growth. We strive to improve the experience these groups have by continuing our focus on quality service, facilities and food. Bookings are being made in 2025. We could serve more groups if we had more accommodation space and we require support from the TABCOM community to make this possible.

Camping Ministry

Our camping program, the one facet in which we get to directly provide spiritual nourishment to our campers and staff again surpassed what we could ever have imagined. We had the highest recorded income ever for a third year in a row. This means that more campers attended Grotonwood in 2023 vs any electronically recorded summer (which goes back to 2011).

Facility Improvements started or completed in 2023

- ◇ Fellowship Hall bathrooms are complete. This has added an additional three restrooms to our Main Dining Hall.
- ◇ A new commercial Fridge and Oven/Stove have been added to our Family Center Kitchen.
- ◇ The basement of Blanchard Hall has been converted/renovated into a three bedroom apartment suitable for use by staff.
- ◇ New downstairs ensuite and new flooring in the Clinic House, improving the facilities for our year round staff.
- ◇ Red Lodge roof has been replaced
- ◇ Main Dining Hall roof replaced
- ◇ 52a and 52b Duplex roof replaced
- ◇ The 1694 Office has been painted.
- ◇ The walk way into Blanchard Hall has been replaced with composite decking boards.
- ◇ A new archery shed has been installed at the archery range
- ◇ Lights replaced in Gym Lounge
- ◇ Two new screens in the chapel replace the projectors along with wall mounted speakers
- ◇ Road sign renovated
- ◇ Ceiling tiles have been replaced in the Gym Lounge entrance and Annex in the Main Dining Hall
- ◇ Going Cabins 1-3 are now fully complete and are in use by retreat groups. Going 4 will be complete by the end of February 2024.

Staffing Updates

Linda—a third full time chef, has been added to the staff. Linda is a published baker, who went to school in London UK and owned a bakery in Amsterdam before moving to Maine. She excels in baked goods and makes wonderful Indian food.

Tabitha—our Retreats and Events Manager. Tabitha brings several years of experience to our retreats ministry working for churches, in guest services and real estate.

Nandu—Program Coordinator—18 months internship. Nandu is an experienced outdoor adventurer. He run his own Christian camping program in India and has joined us to expand the year round programming offered to retreats, campers and our facilities.

Renu—Day Camp Unit Leader—18 months internship. Renu is a school teacher from India and has worked with many Christian camps. She is here to help grow our Day Camp program by offering year round activities and stability to our program.

Angie—Media Coordinator—18 month internship. For the last two summers Angie has worked for Grotonwood and is here to expand our year round outreach.

Eliza—Resource Assistant. Eliza supports Kitchen, Retreats and Maintenance departments by spending a portion of her week with each team.

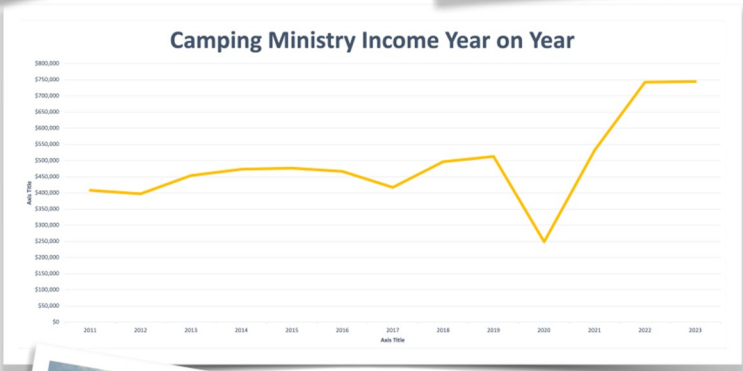
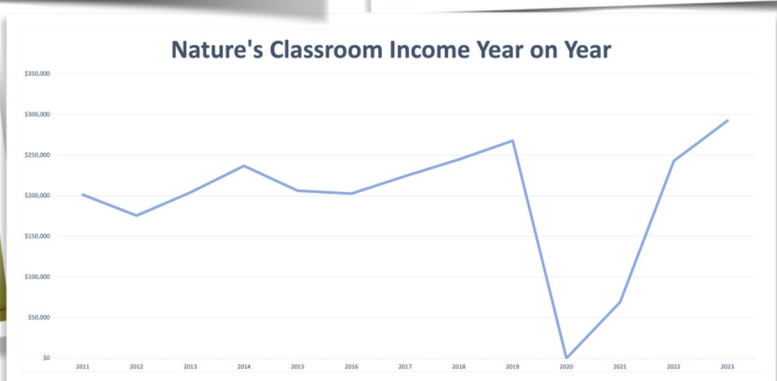
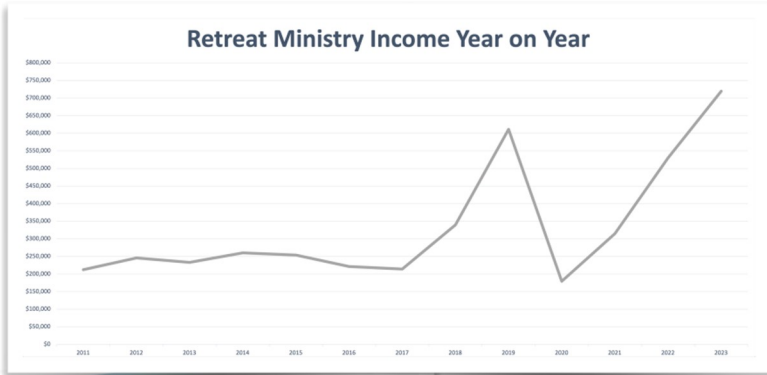
Caroline—Office Manager. Caroline replaces Susan in the office. Caroline’s three children grew up attending Grotonwood and her experience in IT, writing and customer care will be of amazing benefit to all those connected to camp.

Thank you to all our supporters who volunteered their time or contributed towards our capital improvements or campership fund. We couldn’t do all that we do without your faithful prayers, financial contributions and the gift of your time.

Lots of love and appreciation - Danny, Breeze, Alpine and all the Grotonwood staff



TABCOM 2023 Annual Report



Friends of Regional Ministries Report

TABCOM 2023 Annual Report

In 2023 The Friends of Regional Ministries could best be described as an "incomplete success." Donors gave \$363,850 which in itself reflected continued generosity and appreciation for the regional and camp ministries of TABCOM. However, in 2022, because of two one-time gifts totaling \$230,000, they gave \$674,771, the largest amount in any one year since FORM started. Since The Friends of Regional Ministries was introduced in 2003, donations now total \$6,441,280. That's a lot of money but more importantly THAT'S A LOT OF MINISTRY!

The best supported areas in 2023 were camperships, the replacement of the Grotonwood swim dock, and the remodeling of the Going Cabins at Grotonwood. The least supported areas were the replacement of the gym floor at Grotonwood, new resources and property improvements at Oceanwood, and the TransFORMATION Fund, each of which received less than 50% of the goal set at the beginning of the year. Overall donations reached a little over 70% of the \$520,000 goal approved for FORM in 2023.

Donors responded generously to a late arrival in the fund raising priorities, Preserving Baptist History. Even though this program came after the donation brochure was printed, they gave \$6,524 to this new initiative. They also supported the School of Ministry generously with gifts totaling \$10,696.

The TransFORMATION Fund celebrated its first year above the threshold of \$1,000,000 required for the use of its earnings and is now able to contribute to the ministries of the region and the camps.

Looking ahead, a goal of \$400,000 for FORM support has been set for 2024. That goal includes \$200,000 for Grotonwood, \$140,000 for Oceanwood, \$44,000 for core related ministries, and \$16,000 for the TransFORMATION Fund. Included in the Grotonwood goal is \$100,000 for the construction of a pavilion.

The Friends of Regional Ministries held a donor appreciation event in May that was attended by over 80 people as part of the continued emphasis to value the donor as well as the donation. As part of that emphasis, FORM staff visited 98 donors and prospects, sent two newsletters (the INFORMer), and added personal notes to every communication.

In January, FORM staff also presented a two day training session for

representatives from the District of Columbia Regional Staff to help them launch an individual based fund raising program for their region. FORM continues to work with the American Baptist Foundation to encourage donors to remember TABCOM and the camps in their estate planning and currently has developed an "expectancy file" approaching \$1,000,000.

Building the donor base continues to be a challenge. The average age of donors is 65+ and each year several are unable to continue their support for health and age reasons. While new donors have been added to maintain the total support base of around 600, many of the new donors give at a lower level. Efforts to build the donor base have had limited results but will be continued diligently.

In 2023 our "friends" gave over 400 donations ranging from \$5 to \$30,000, with 143 being \$500 or more. More than 50 have given every year since FORM began. These gifts not only help us maintain and grow our ministries, they send a message of appreciation and encouragement for the work we do. Yes, 2023 may have been an "incomplete success," but in no way does that diminish our appreciation for the generosity of our "friends" as they continue to help us use "money" to do "ministry."

Edmund R. Guerard, Coordinator
Friends of Regional Ministries

MA American Baptist Investment Trust

MABIT
c/o TABCOM
189 Prescott St.
Groton, MA 01450

TABCOM 2023 Annual Report

MABIT has provided a proven investment service for TABCOM churches and partners allowing them to pool investment funds for 30 years. The pooling of funds allows for upgraded financial management services and reduced management fees. MABIT offers three types of investment categories: equity, fixed income and equity dividend. Approximately 30 Massachusetts Baptist churches and TABCOM partners invest via MABIT. MABIT's balance is in excess of \$7M.

MABIT is partnered with Merrill Lynch's Barcomb, Tanguay and Associates to provide professional fiduciary management services. The MABIT Board of Trustees meets with the Barcomb/Tanguay advisors three times per year to review the overall portfolio, MABIT product offerings and discuss market issues. Socially responsible screening of investments is performed for all accounts. Each investing church has complete control over its account's asset allocation.

The 2023 financial markets had a good bounce back from the tough losses 2022. The bond market is slowly recovering from its record breaking loss of 18.5% in 2022. The equity markets were much stronger. 2023 ended with the second highest MABIT portfolio balance. MABIT's dividend equity product has been paying ~4.5% the last several years for those churches looking for a steady income stream. The overall portfolio gained 18.5% in 2023.

The Board of Trustees continues to strongly advise investors to review their risk tolerance and adjust their portfolio mix if appropriate. The Board also recommends a 60% equity and 40% fixed portfolio balance for most investors. Merrill Lynch advisors are available to assist you.

It is with sadness the Board shares the news of Bob Williams' resignation from the Board due to health issues. Bob was the faithful elder of the Board who always provided sensible ideas and asked thoughtful questions. We kindly ask that you keep Bob and his wife, Zelda, in your thoughts and prayers. The Board welcomes nominations for the newly opened position.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board,
David F. Lambert

MABIT Board of Trustees

David Lambert, Chair
First United Baptist, Lowell
mabit.trustee@gmail.com
978.459.6959

Bengt Hermanrud, Secretary
Community Baptist, Medford

Weimin Feng
First Baptist, Wakefield

Rev. Dr. Richard Haley, Treasurer
First Baptist, Chelmsford

Robert Williams
First Baptist, W. Acton

Rev. Diane Badger
First Baptist, Mansfield

Adoniram Judson Annual Report

Here is my Twelfth annual report as Area Ministry Coordinator for the Adoniram Judson Baptist Association.

I have met with several Pastors for lunch and discussion about their churches and ministries. I have preached in three other churches during the year. I have spoken with 10 Pastors on the telephone about various issues.

First Baptist Church of Malden is still meeting with Maplewood Baptist Church is a yoked ministry meeting at First Baptist Church. First Baptist Church of Stoneham has closed its ministry.

I have attended all the meetings of the Judson Association Executive Committee and work closely with them concerning the business of the Association.

FBC Wakefield has begun construction for their new building.

The Rev. Dr. Esther Pearson is still working as a Judson Association Liaison.

Currently, I am reaching out to the newer pastors in the Association to get to know them and to assess their involvement in the Association and TABCOM.

Let me close by saying that I am available to answer questions, meet with church leaders and/or pastors, and to assist in any other ways I can. I can best be reached by cellphone: 781-820-0847 or email: dkilpat@aol.com

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. David M. Kilpatrick
Adoniram Judson Baptist Association, Coordinator

Boston Southwest Annual Report

"Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV).

God continues to show himself to be faithful. His love never ceases. Not because of anything we have done but because of his compassion toward us. In recapitulating upon this year, it is evident that God's hand of mercy and his love continues to guide our churches as they resurge from a difficult period in history with the pandemic.

We were able to convene our Spring Association meeting on April 29, 2023, at Concord Baptist Church in Milton and our Fall meeting on October 14, 2023, at First Baptist in Wollaston, with participation from individuals representing the diverse population of our Association. Both gatherings were supported by pastors who were actively engaged in leading substantive workshops and giving effective presentations.

After our Association's meeting on October 14, we were blessed to participate in and witness the instillation for the Settled Pastor of FBC Wollaston – Rev. Dr. Andre` Morgan. The service was well attended by representatives from the Association and TABOM. Rev. Dr. Conley Hughes, Senior Pastor at Concord Baptist, was the speaker. A beautiful lunch was served afterwards.

The executive committee, under the leadership of our moderator, Rev. Andre` Morgan, continued faithfully with our monthly meetings via zoom; we also met once in person. These meetings have been a source of inspiration and accountability as we strive to support our pastors within the Association, keep abreast of the status of our churches, the business of the Association and engage with TABCOM. Three grants were offered to two churches and a community organization through funds from Boston Baptist Social Union.

We celebrated with Pastor Ashlee Weist-Laird her 20th Pastoral Anniversary on October 1, 2023.

Three of our churches continue with their food insecurity programs with groceries as well as hot meals for people throughout the Greater Boston Area and surrounding communities. For more information see their websites, Concord Baptist, Milton; First Baptist, Jamaica Plain and Twelfth Baptist, Roxbury.

After the sudden passing of Pastor Roberto Miranda Lion of Judah in Boston in 2022, the church called as its settled Pastor – Rev. Mercedes Lopez Miranda and Rev. Samuel Acevedo. She was installed on March 12, 2023, as the Senior Pastor.

We continue to pray for and work with First Baptist Church of Norwood, as they move forward in the search for a Settled Pastor. They are working with two interim ministers as they move through the process.

Regretfully, The Hill Memorial Church in Allston made a transition and closed its doors after serving the community for close to 130 years. The transition committee continues to work with the housing officials from Allston as they are in talks to convert the building into senior housing.

It is in service to the kingdom that I continue to have hope.

Respectfully Submitted,
Moreen P. Hughes (D Min.)
Association Resource Coordinator

Merrimack Valley Annual Report

TABCOM 2023 Annual Report

The past year in the Merrimack Valley Baptist Association saw one church lose its pastor, and three churches called a new settled pastor. In January, Rev. Nancy Willbanks left First Baptist Church of Littleton. The church subsequently called the Rev. Robyn Mars to be its interim pastor. New pastors were called to Hope Community Church in Newburyport, West Acton Baptist Church, and North Billerica Baptist Church. Hope Community Church called Rev. Deryk Richenburg, West Acton Baptist Church called Rev. Christine Schrade-Keddy, and North Billerica called Rev. Jocelyne Peirce.

In addition to the pastoral changes, the association at its annual meeting in November, held at Grotonwood, welcomed two new churches into the association and the TABCOM family. New Life Christian Ministry in Lowell, pastored by Rev. Milton Thomas, and Newmarket Community Church in Newmarket, NH, pastored by Rev. Patricia Marsden. NCC is a tri-affiliated congregation, also being a part of the UCC and UMC.

During the year, we have held monthly breakfast gatherings for the pastors and the IHop in Tewksbury, and I have been visiting churches on Sundays, as I wrapped up my time as the association coordinator. My last day as the association coordinator was March 31st. It has been a privilege to serve the association for these past 11^{1/2} years. This past year has been particularly joyful with the welcoming of two congregations and three pastors to the association's pulpits.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. James W. Leavitt

Old Colony Annual Report

TABCOM 2023 Annual Report

The Old Colony Baptist Association (OCBA) has now completed two centuries of working together, accomplishing ministry with the churches in our association. As an Association we adhere to the original purpose of our association which is:

- ◇ Promoting fellowship among churches.
- ◇ Affirming community held beliefs, providing counsel and assistance to local churches.
- ◇ Establishing structure to help with theological education, publishing mission work and ordination.

Our small and dedicated executive board has worked hard this year, trying to find ways that we can best serve and partner with our churches and pastors. We welcome ideas and comments from our churches and pastors. We are the largest association in TABCOM, we have 42 churches in an area covering the Cape and the Islands, Bristol and Plymouth Counties and parts of Norfolk County. The board is in need of a clerk; someone who can take minutes and help with the clerical tasks of the association.

We started our year in January with our annual breakfast at Messiah Baptist Church in Brockton. Rev. Jonathan Malone spoke on his new ministry of hiking and exploring God's world in nature.

In the Spring we met at First Baptist Fall River and listened to Rev. Cheryl Harris lead us in a discussion about Divinity, Diversity, Dialogue: Listening and Learning Our Way to the Beloved community.

In June, OCBA hosted a prayer service at First Baptist Church of Mansfield, led by Student Minister, Gregory Scalise of First Baptist Church Mansfield and Rev. Paris Bollinger of First Baptist Church of Dighton.

This fall everyone's calendar filled up so rapidly that we felt the best way to come together was through events being held at local churches. We encouraged our churches to get involved with First Baptist Church of Attleboro's initiative to build beds for children. First Baptist of Dighton had planned an outdoor worship event, which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

In addition to these activities, we reached out to our pastors and churches in other ways.

For the past two years, we have sent cards to our retirees four times a year: Easter, mid-summer, Thanksgiving and Christmas. A board member has taken on the task of mailing these cards.

Rev. Diane Badger became the Association Resource Coordinator (ARC) in June and has been working with our churches and pastors; sometimes just meeting for coffee, sometimes explaining the maze that is ordination or standing in our denomination and assisting churches with administrative issues.

Twice this year, she went to Martha's Vineyard to work with our 4 churches located on the Island helping these more distant churches to feel connected to our association.

Partnering with the Conference of Baptist Ministers in Massachusetts (CBMM), OCBA hosted a luncheon on the Cape for our retired and active pastors. It was a great time of fellowship and sharing. We hope to do the same on the south shore in the spring, meeting with our pastors and connecting with our retirees in the area.

Sincerely,

Rev. Diane L. Badger, Area Resource Coordinator for Old Colony Baptist Association

Samuel Stillman Annual Report

TABCOM 2023 Annual Report

This year I'm reminded of a favorite gospel hymn, by Albert A. Goodson: *"We've Come This Far by Faith,"* especially the last line: *"Can't turn around. We've come this far by faith."* As I look back on the past year, it's encouraging to see how far we've come. Not everything has gone as we would want, but it is clear that God has been moving.

This year the Stillman Association enjoyed meeting together in person or in hybrid gatherings. Events include: Association Summer Picnic hosted by Trinity Baptist in Arlington, a time of fun and fellowship. Stillman Fall Gathering in First Baptist Framingham, with program, "A Look at Race and Our History" featuring a presentation by Rev. John Odams, Moderator of Stillman and a reading by Kathy Zeman, Clerk of Stillman. Upcoming Stillman Annual Meeting in May, when new officers will be elected at Trinity Baptist in Arlington. Ordination council and ordination for Naro Pongen at Old Cambridge Baptist Church. Installation of Patrick McCorkle at First Baptist Arlington. Installation of Christine Keddy at West Acton Baptist. Monthly meeting of Stillman Pastors, beginning in November, organized by Rev. Jana Yeaton, Pastor of First Baptist Newton and Vice Moderator of the Stillman Association.

Transitions in Stillman Churches: New settled pastors were called to West Acton Baptist (Rev. Christine Keddy), First Baptist Church in Arlington (Rev. Patrick McCorkle), First Baptist Church of Bedford (Rev. Kevin T. Cunningham), and Union Church in Waban (TABCOM cousin church, (Rev. Megan Berkowitz). At the same time, several churches are without a pastor, and are in various stages of search and call. This includes: Trinity Baptist, Arlington, following the resignation of Rev. Karina Fontanez, First Baptist Framingham, following the resignation of Rev. Jason Rutherford, Union Baptist, Cambridge, following the resignation of Rev. Jaron Green, and Old Cambridge Baptist Church, following the resignation of Rev. Cody Sanders; Interim Rev. Randy Mixon is there. Rev. Dr. Ronald Bouthillette, TABCOM's Associate Executive Minister in Church Relations, has provided guidance and resources to churches in transition while I offer support as needed.

It is encouraging to see Stillman Association churches collaborating in new ways, whether to share advice on feeding programs or to consider sharing space. Our Christian ties include praying for each other. Please hold in prayer two churches whose congregations have deep ties to areas of conflict: Overseas Burmese Christian Fellowship (Rev. Maung Maung Htwe) and Source of Light International, a Haitian congregation serving many new immigrants (Rev. Dr. Pierre Miguel Chery). Also, in this time of political polarization and the upcoming national election, please pray for unity in our Association and in our churches, joined together by faith in Jesus Christ, our desire to serve him, and our American Baptist shared values and commitments.

Thank you to Rev. Dr. Mary Day Miller, TABCOM Executive Minister, Rev. Dr. Ronald Bouthillette, TABCOM Associate Executive Minister for Church Relations, and the Samuel Stillman Association for the opportunity to serve you.

Rev. Dr. Loretta Saint-Louis
Resource Coordinator Samuel Stillman Association

Portuguese Liaison Annual Report

TABCOM'S LIAISON FOR THE PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

Since the pandemic our Portuguese-Speaking community has been struggling. Some pastors are no longer in the States or involved with the ABC. Our churches have faced the problems of loss of members, divisions or closing down altogether. Unfortunately our community is not united or organized as it used to be. This represents a great challenge to us who want to see our community revitalized. I hope that little by little, through appropriate efforts, this will be achieved in the near future.

Though no special events, meetings or celebrations of Brazilian Pastors and churches have taken place lately, at least the TABCOM's Annual Gathering has made it possible for the Pastors to gather, as part of its program. I believe this is essential for the nurturing of our community.

Given the circumstances, as already described, it is no surprise that my activities have still been mostly limited to personal contacts with other Brazilian Pastors, either personally or through email or telephone. Something noteworthy was my role in helping Pastor Ronie Souza and his church, Igreja Batista Nova Vida (New Life Baptist Church), from Lowell, to enter the process of affiliation with the ABC/TABCOM.

An important part of my role is to make myself available to TABCOM officers whenever they need help in their interrelation with the Brazilian community. As it seems, this need has not been frequent lately. And I am still a member of the MBMM (Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministry) Board of Directors, which deals with our different ethnic groups, including Brazilians, naturally.

I urge my brothers and sisters to pray with me for our Brazilian community within TABCOM. And may God's grace and goodness rest upon us and all the churches so we may together honor and exalt Christ.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Dalton H. Said
March 13, 2024



Missions Ministry Annual Report

TABCOM 2023 Annual Report

I took on the role of TABCOM Director of Missions from the third week of June in 2023. My first responsibility was TABCOM's annual mission event called Missionworks. It was only about four months away, according to our customary calendar, so we had to quickly decide on a date of the event. The next critical thing was getting the speakers. Thankfully, 2023 ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit was happening soon—at the end of June—in San Juan, PR. So I went to the Biennial Mission Summit as the Director of Missions of TABCOM with one mission in mind—scouting speakers for TABCOM Missionworks.

I met so many wonderful Global Servants of International Ministries (IM, *a.k.a.*, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society), fellow ministers of Christ, and other brothers and sisters in Christ from all over the states of the US and the world. This was in fact my first time attending the Biennial Mission Summit in person; I attended the Mission Summit virtually in 2021 for the very first time, when it was held online only due to the pandemic. Prior to 2021, I had served in other denominational churches and worked with other mission organizations for 10 years.

At the Mission Summit, there was a luncheon hosted by MMBB, and I happened to sit with Rev. Dr. Toya Richards at the same table. She had been commissioned as a Global Servant to Cape Town, South Africa, and was fundraising to be sent off. She briefly shared with me how she became a Global Servant, what she was passionate about, and how her life so far has prepared her to be on that path. She ended up being the keynote speaker and a workshop leader for our Missionworks. Though she resigned from the position of a Global Servant of IM as of Feb. 2024, she continues carrying out the mission of God as a non-affiliated servant of God.

God enabled me to make many such wonderful contacts and connections with people throughout the Mission Summit, in particular with those affiliated with the IM, ABHMS (American Baptist Home Mission Society), and AAABC (Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches). Pieter and Nora Kalkman, Global Servants to Europe and the Middle East, whose info I initially got from the IM's display booth at the Summit, were also invited to be workshop speakers at our Missionworks. A fellow Asian minister Rev. Dr. Lily Soh of MA, who has served God and his people extensively in Singapore and other countries, and whom I was also very glad to see at the Mission Summit, became another workshop speaker of the Missionworks.

I had thus busy summer preparing for and working out the details of the Missionworks. Meanwhile, I also visited a few churches in the TABCOM and met with mission ministers and whoever else was interested in the local and global missions. One pastor of an ethnic Asian church expressed gratitude and remarked that no one from TABCOM has ever visited and preached at his church. In "mission" meetings with folks from the local churches, I had a privilege to hear from the young and the old, and the seasoned and the new.

When September rolled in, however, I had to be away in Ft. Jackson, SC, for a 13-week Army Basic Officer training for chaplains. I had been commissioned as an US Army chaplain in the Reserves in the spring of 2023. So, I had to do all my TABCOM Mission-related works remotely from SC. But I could not visit local churches in MA or meet with people in person. My zoom meetings were limited to weekday evenings or weekends. At least my late working hours was not much of a problem when talking via zoom with Global Servants or whoever was in the "mission field" of other states or even other countries of different time zones (later or much earlier time zones). Under these circumstances, I was nevertheless thankful that I could get a weekend pass to travel back to MA to attend the Missionworks on Oct. 21.

It rained heavily on the day of the Missionworks event. There was even an afternoon storm warning, so we shortened the last session (Q&A with Missionaries) in consideration of the folks who had a long way to drive home, especially those from the Cape. But, overall, the event went smoothly, thanks to God and all those through whom God has worked for his mission. We may not see any immediate impact with our own eyes or hear about it with our own ears, but as our Lord Christ Jesus said, those who believe in him will continue doing the works he has been doing, and they will do even greater things, sent and commissioned by the Son as he was sent by the Father, for the glory of God.

In Christ,
Rev. Miranda M. Kwon, TABCOM Director of Missions
Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church, Melrose, MA

Communications Annual Report

*You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah,
Here is your God!” Isaiah 40:9*

TABCOM 2023 Annual Report

As a TABCOM staff member, I undertake the responsibility of compiling TABCOM Notes and HalfNotes on the 1st and 15th of each month in collaboration with my colleagues. Alongside the newsletters, I maintain the TABCOM website, Facebook Instagram and Twitter pages and ensure that they are regularly updated to meet the latest requirements.

In March I was ordained at my church, I had been filling in for Pulpit Supply at First Baptist Church in Littleton and in September 2023, I began serving there as Interim Pastor.

In May we successfully conducted our second in-person Annual Gathering at Grotonwood. The theme was *Reconnect, Revive, Renew* (Ezekiel 37:5-6)

In October we organized the Missionworks: *Let Your Light Shine*.

For all of our events, I not only handle registration but designing all materials, and marketing each event on our website, and on all Social media platforms.

In His Service,

Rev. Robyn Monique Mars
TABCOM Communications Coordinator
Interim Pastor, First Baptist Church in Littleton



School of Ministry Annual Report

The School of Ministry (SoM) was established to meet a critical need from our churches to provide opportunities for Christ-led people to grow in their faith journey and when called to be the pastor that a church may be seeking.

2023 was a year we saw these transformations take place. Following are highlights from our decade of providing the SoM students with this hands-on, experiential training.

- ◇ An enrollment that reached our capacity for the year.
- ◇ Graduated 8 students in November 2023 adding to our combined alumni of 50 graduates.
- ◇ At least 12 of our graduates are serving as Pastors and 40 of our graduates are licensed ministers.
- ◇ Maintained a website and a Facebook page supporting students and staff.
- ◇ Our current staff includes 7 instructors including our Haitian Communication Liaison and an Administrator.
- ◇ Over the years our students have ranged from 30-80 years of age highlighting the testament of God's calling us at all stages in our lives.
- ◇ Our students come from our New England region, coming from Western to Eastern Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.
- ◇ Provide for continual evolution of the curriculum and experiences for the students responding to where God is leading the staff to address today's needs for our churches.
- ◇ Since SoM has been serving TABCOM for more than 13 years it has been one of TABCOM's longest running programs!
- ◇ SoM is dedicated to keeping its tuition as cost effective as possible with many options to students needs using grants and other resources.
- ◇ Refined our ongoing three-year curriculum (including transcripts to graduates):
 - Year of Teaching
 - Year of Preaching
 - Year of Healing
- ◇ Although we continue to reach our yearly capacity, we are encouraging you to sign up as early as possible for the next class. Limited slots are available, and a \$250 deposit ensures you will have one of them!

If you have felt the tug of the Lord to deepen your calling either pastorally or as a better equipped lay person, feel free to contact Kevin E. Porter (978) 250-7478 or Rev. Cheryl Moore (781) 392-4552 to discuss this exciting opportunity further for your faith Journey.

Submitted by KEP

Commission on Ordained Ministry Report

Committee on Ministerial Preparation: Rev. Diane Badger, Chair
Ministerial Standing Committee: Rev. Barbara Jean, Chair
WatchCare Coordinator: Rev. Anita Farber Robertson
COOM Coordinator: Rev. Diane Badger, Coordinator

Committee Members:

Ministry Preparation: Rev. Diane Badger, Chair, Rev. John Bio Asante, Rev. Adrienne Berry-Burton, Rev. Anita Farber Robertson, Rev. Dana Gonsal, (3/2024), and Rev. Johnnie Wilson.

Ministerial Standing Committee: Rev. Barbara Jean, Chair, Rev. Debra Lee, Rev. Leah Goodwin, Mr. Richard Jefferson, Rev. Catherine Miller, Rev. Jay Mulligan, Rev. Sheila Sholes-Ross, Rev. Jamie Spriggs, Rev. Ashley Weist-Laird, Rev. Mar Imsong, Chair of MBMM, and

TABCOM: Rev. Dr. Mary Day Miller, Executive Minister, Rev. Ron Bouthillette

And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?

As it is written, *"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"* Romans 10.15

It has been a pleasure to work with the members of COOM to advance the Christ centered profession of ordained ministry. I have a great appreciation for the commitment of these COOM leaders and volunteers who attend, and the many shared years of faith and knowledge. It is our charge and our honor to assist those who are called to ordained ministry, and to help our congregations receive candidates who will serve worthily as Disciples of Christ. Standards have been advanced and the process of confirming records is ongoing. The commission appreciates our Coordinator Rev. Diane Badger. The records from the TABCOM region continue to be confirmed and updated. For our committees, we have established Standing Rules to continue our work together as new members come on board. We continue to affirm The Ministers Council of the American Baptist Churches' Code of Ethics. We are asking anyone who seeks to preach or lead in a TABCOM church sign the current Code of Ethics. We encourage each Association to be ready to support candidates. Faith, excellence, and compassionate service go hand in hand.

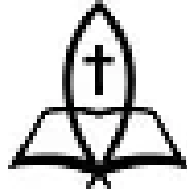
The website has been reviewed for clarity for ordination and standing candidates, and church congregations. Forms that detail the processes are available. The Church Administration course is available as a directed study when one is not accessible through the colleges. We have acknowledged the process for persons whose Call leads them to formal Chaplain positions. We continue to support the sending churches and candidates in answering that professional call.

Electronic video calls continued to reach across regions and associations as we serve together. From June 2023 to May 2024 the committee will have worked with 9 candidates of 27 from varied pathways seeking ordination and their supporting congregations, and with the TABCOM church associations. There is a diversity of candidates that mirrors our region's population and many cultures. The faith, congregational experiences, creativity and academic training of each successful candidate speaks well of our future as a very bright promise.

We have worked with 5 candidates seeking Standing. The review of professional and personal references is a complicated process. The health and care of our congregations and congregants is central to the Standing process. It is a pleasure when Standing can be approved.

In the Joy of the Lord,
Reverend Adrienne Berry-Burton

Our Sponsors




CONCORD BAPTIST CHURCH OF BOSTON IN MILTON



THE CONFERENCE OF BAPTIST MINISTERS
IN MASSACHUSETTS + EST. 1829



Andover Newton Seminary
AT YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL



SAVE THE DATE
MISSIONWORKS 2024
October 26, 2024

GROTONWOOD



GROTON, MA

Grotonwood
Camp & Conference Center
167 Prescott Street
Groton, MA 01450
Tel (978) 448-5763
Fax (978) 448-0025
Email office@grotonwood.org
URL www.grotonwood.org



The American Baptist Churches
Of Massachusetts
189 Prescott Street
Groton, MA 01450
Tel (978) 448-1445
Fax (978) 448-0025
Email tabcom@tabcom.org
URL www.tabcom.org



oceanwood

Oceanwood
Camp & Conference Center
17 Royal Street (PO Box 7338)
Ocean Park, ME 04063
Tel (207) 934-9655
Fax (207) 934-1586
Email office@oceanwood.org
URL www.oceanwood.org

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF MASSACHUSETTS

MAIL 189 Prescott Street, Groton, MA 01450 **PHONE** 978-448-1445 **FAX** 978-448-0025 **EMAIL** tabcom@tabcom.org **WEB** www.tabcom.org