



The American Baptist Churches of  
**MASSACHUSETTS**  
**TABCOM**

*Uniting and Equipping Churches to Make Disciples of Jesus*



# Annual Gathering

**MAY 2-3, 2025**



**2024 ANNUAL REPORT BEGINS ON PAGE 24**

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF MASSACHUSETTS

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# Our Hosts

## Grotonwood Camps and Conference Center

Grotonwood is a Christian camp and conference center located in the beautiful town of Groton, MA.

Nestled among 247 acres of private woodland, camp is a treasure trove of outdoor fun and recreation. Through summer camp and retreat hosting, they have been ministering to children, adults with physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities, families, church communities and not for profit organizations since 1956! It is their desire and commitment to be a resource to ALL God's people, encouraging spiritual growth (and adventure!) in the tranquility of a natural environment.

Their summer camp and year-round programs give way to beautiful encounters, lifelong learning experiences and relationship building opportunities. At the heart of this are beautiful facilities and a committed group of staff that will support and encourage you in the process of spiritual growth.



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# Agenda

## FRIDAY: MAY 2, 2025

### 57th Annual Gathering | May 2-3, 2025

|                 |                                                                                                                                        |                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1:00pm          | Registration                                                                                                                           |                  |
| 2:00pm - 3:15pm | <b>WORKSHOP #1</b>                                                                                                                     |                  |
|                 | † <i>Understanding Pastoral Compensation</i><br>Rev. Diane Badger                                                                      | TABCOM Office    |
|                 | † <i>It's Time for a Change Part I</i><br>Rev. Ron Bouthillette                                                                        | Chapel           |
|                 | † <i>Excellence in Black Preaching</i><br>Rev. Kenneth Young                                                                           | Lounge above Gym |
| 3:15pm—3:30pm   | Break                                                                                                                                  |                  |
| 3:30pm—4:45pm   | <b>WORKSHOP #2</b>                                                                                                                     |                  |
|                 | † <i>Organizing Your Church History</i><br>Rev. Diane Badger                                                                           | TABCOM Office    |
|                 | † <i>New Neighbors and Religious Freedom with the Massachusetts Council of Churches</i><br>Rev. Laura Everett & Rev. Cristina Rathbone | Lounge above Gym |
|                 | † <i>It's Time for a Change Part II</i><br>Rev. Ron Bouthillette                                                                       | Chapel           |
| 5:00pm—6:00pm   | Dinner                                                                                                                                 |                  |
| 6:00pm          | Business Meeting                                                                                                                       |                  |
| 7:00pm          | Worship                                                                                                                                | Chapel           |

# Agenda

## SATURDAY: MAY 3, 2025

### 57th Annual Gathering | May 2-3, 2025

|                   |                                                                                        |                |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 7:00am            | Registration                                                                           |                |
| 8:00am            | Breakfast                                                                              |                |
| 9:00am-10:15am    | <b>WORKSHOP #1</b>                                                                     |                |
|                   | ◇ <i>Church Revitalization with a Five-Fold Acts Strategy</i><br>Rev. Dr. Yaliang Zhao | TABCOM Office  |
|                   | ◇ <i>Presence Based Witness</i><br>Rev. David Fitch                                    | Chapel         |
|                   | ◇ <i>The Church of Tomorrow</i><br>Rev. Ron Bouthillette                               | Prescott Lodge |
| 10:45am - 11:00am | Break                                                                                  |                |
| 11:00am - 12:00pm | <b>WORKSHOP #2</b>                                                                     |                |
|                   | ◇ <i>Missions at the Border</i><br>Rev Dr. Mary Day Hamel                              | TABCOM Office  |
|                   | ◇ <i>From Servants to Jesus' Friends</i><br>Rev. Jennifer Layte                        | Chapel         |
|                   | ◇ <i>Rediscovering the Centrality of the Church</i><br>Rev. Rick Harrington            | Prescott Lodge |
| 12:15pm - 1:00pm  | Lunch                                                                                  |                |
| 1:15pm            | Closing Worship/ Communion                                                             |                |
| Benediction       | Rev. Dr. Mary Day Miller                                                               |                |

# Friday Worship Program

**MAY 2, 2025**

**Welcome**—Rev. Dr. Ron Bouthillette

**Call to Worship**—Rev. Robyn M. Mars

**Invocation**—Rev. Miranda Kwon

**Music**—Rev. Dr. Geoff Hicks

**Scripture**—Matthew 11:2-21

**Offering/Offertory Prayer**

Rev. Dr. Mary Hamel & Rev. Miranda Kwon

**Church Anniversaries**—Rev. Dr. Mary Hamel & Rev. Diane Badger

**Introduction of Keynote**—Rev. Dr. Mary Day Hamel

**Music**—Rev. Dr. Geoff Hicks

**Keynote Message**—Rev. Dr. David Fitch

*Christ among the Powers: How Christ's power works versus the ways of the world*

**Closing Remarks**—Rev. Dr. Mary Hamel

**Music**—Rev. Dr. Geoff Hicks

**Benediction**—Rev. Dr. Ron Bouthillette

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# Saturday Worship Program

**MAY 3, 2025**

**Welcome**—Rev. Dr. Mary Day Hamel

**Call to Worship**—Rev. Diane Badger

**Invocation**—Rev. Robyn M. Mars

**Music**—Rev. Dr. Geoff Hicks

**Scripture**—Ephesians 1:17-23

**Offering/ Offertory Prayer**

**Music**—First Baptist Church Fitchburg Praise Choir  
*His Hands*

**Introduction of Keynote**—Rev. Dr. Ron Bouthillette

**Music**—Rev. Dr. Geoff Hicks

**Keynote Speaker**—Rev. Dr. David Fitch

*Know the Power:* Discerning the power of Christ in the midst of our troubled times.

**Milestones**—Conference of Baptist Ministers in Massachusetts (CBMM)

**Communion**—*Let Us Break Bread Together*

**Closing remarks**—Rev. Dr. Mary Day Hamel

**Closing Song**—*Bless Be the Tie That Binds*

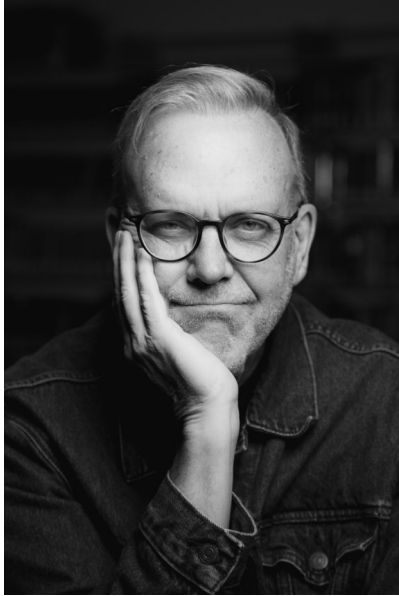
**Benediction**—Rev. Dr. Mary Day Hamel

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# Keynote Speaker

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*Rev. David Fitch*



Rev. David Fitch (Ph.D Northwestern University) has pastored for 30 years, been involved in 8 church-plants over the course of his ministry. He is the Lindner Chair of Evangelical Theology at Northern Seminary Chicago. He teaches in the fields of church and mission, culture studies, political theory, Neo-Anabaptist theology and ethics. He speaks on the challenges of church in mission in the changing cultural challenges of our times. He has written 9 books, published in multiple academic journals, for Christianity Today, Outreach Magazine, ChurchLeaders.com, and EthicsDaily.

He writes regularly on Fitch's Provocations (<https://davidfitch.substack.com/>), leads discussion on his facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/fitchest>) and on twitter at [@fitchest](#).

David is married to Rae Ann and they have one son named Max. He is an ordained pastor in the Christian and Missionary Alliance. He's coached hockey for the YMCA USA Hockey program for seven years. His theme for us is *Reckoning With Power: Discerning God's Power, Navigating Worldly Power in Leadership, Conflict, and Mission*.

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# Workshop Facilitators

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## **GOD'S LOVE AT THE BORDER**

Reflections on my recent experience in Tijuana with the Border Church and other ministries.

*Rev. Dr. Mary Day Hamel*



Rev. Dr. Mary Day Miller was called to serve as TABCOM's executive minister in August 2015. From 2012-2015, Mary served as Associate Executive Minister of Mid-American Baptist Churches, a region serving churches in Iowa and Minnesota. She has held two long-term pastorates, at the First Baptist Church in Fredericktown, Ohio and Memorial Baptist Church in Indianapolis.

She holds a Doctor of Ministry from Central Baptist Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Mary has taught and consulted in the area of church conflict. She is certified by FaithTrust Institute to provide training in Clergy Ethics and Boundaries, which she teaches regularly. Mary is an officer of the Regional Executive Minister's Council of ABC/USA.

# Workshop Facilitators

## FROM SERVANTS TO JESUS' FRIENDS

In his final meal with his disciples before his crucifixion, Jesus expressed what has been the heart of God since God created humans in the beginning: "I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father" (John 15:15, NRSVUE). Among the many reasons for church decline in the United States in recent years, rarely is friendship with Jesus mentioned. Yet for all the talk in some traditions about how "it's not a religion, it's a relationship," many if not most churches are ill-equipped to foster the intimate friendship with Jesus that he himself is looking for with his disciples.

In this workshop we'll discuss some field-tested discipleship and Bible reading techniques that nurture an openness to friendship with God. You will have the opportunity to share some of your own experiences and ideas. We will also explore ways that perhaps we as pastors and Christian leaders have neglected our own friendship with Jesus and how we can renew it, for our own good and that of our congregations.

*Rev. Jennifer A. G. Layte*



Jennifer A. G. Layte is an online spiritual director, in-person pastor, and founder of The Pilgrimage (<https://the-pilgrimage.org>), an online spiritual formation community. Her background in literature and theology gives her imaginative ways of retelling the stories of the Bible and of others, encouraging people to live within their own stories better. She is an amateur artist and the author of two novels, *Trees in the Pavement* and *Favored One*. Her most recent book, *Follower: How Getting Close to Jesus Brings You to Yourself*, is a study of identity in Christ through the story of Simon Peter.

Jennifer lives with her husband, Paul, and their two rescue dogs in the "ruralburbs" of southern Massachusetts.

# Workshop Facilitators

## EXCELLENCE IN BLACK PREACHING

Black preaching stands as a vibrant and transformative expression of faith that resonates deeply within the African American community and beyond. Rooted in a rich historical context, it encompasses a unique blend of emotional engagement, rhythmic cadence, and powerful storytelling that captivates congregations. This dynamic form of preaching not only serves to convey the word of God but also fosters a communal identity, encourages resilience, and facilitates personal spiritual awakening. By emphasizing liberation theology and the preacher's role as a prophetic voice, Black preaching emerges as a powerful catalyst for transformation, inviting listeners to reflect, connect, and engage with their faith in profound ways. In contemporary settings, acknowledging and supporting the traditions of Black preaching can enhance spiritual experiences and promote inclusivity across faith communities.

### *Rev. Kenneth Young*

Rev. Kenneth Young earned a bachelor's degree in Bible and Theology from American Baptist College, graduating with honors, in 2010. While in Nashville, he served as Overseer of Christian Education for the College Ministry of over 2,500 students at Mount Zion Baptist Church, Bishop Joseph Walker III, pastor. He also worked as a manager at Kroger where he was nominated for the Division's President's Award.



He has completed a Master of Arts in Religion and a Master's Degree in Church History graduating with honors at the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, MA. He is a: Michael Haynes Scholar, Byington Scholar, member of the Theta Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, and served as president of the Black Student Association. He is honored to serve as Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Haverhill, MA.

Rev. Young believes that ministry needs to take root in desolate areas. He hopes to carry his ministry to impoverished regions helping in areas of education and employment. Rev. Young is a native of Sylvester, GA. He is the middle of three children to Robert and Sue Young. Rev. Young is married to the love of his life, Adrienne D. Gladden-Young.

# Workshop Facilitators

## NEW NEIGHBORS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WITH THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

At the Massachusetts Council of Churches, we know that many people in many congregations feel a deep need to do something – anything! – to help their immigrant neighbors during these hostile & perilous times. Figuring out how to do this, however, can be daunting.

Time and again we've heard the same anguished question: How can we offer our gifts right now? We want to help but what should we do? Can you help us get involved?

The good news is that we can. Thanks be to God, there are many organizations across the Commonwealth doing extraordinary, vital, and deep-reaching work with, through and for local immigrant communities. Join Rev. Laura Everett, Executive Director and Rev. Tina Rathbone, Congregational Coordinator to learn about what we can do together to support our immigrant neighbors. Learn about the federal lawsuit Mennonite Church USA et al vs Department of Homeland Security, of which the Massachusetts Council of Churches (and therefore TABCOM is a part) to protect all of our freedom to worship without fear, and stop ICE from intruding into worship, and how you can support our case.

We aim to leave this workshop equipped with new tools and strategies to connect with local immigrant organizations closest to you and start the transformative process of gathering your people and stepping up in whatever small, real way is best for you.

### *Rev. Laura Everett*



Rev. Laura Everett serves as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches. A graduate of Brown University, Laura received her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School. Ordained by the United Church of Christ, Laura is formed by many parts of the Church. She is happiest exploring somewhere new, preferably by bike. A dedicated urbanist and bicycle evangelist, Rev. Laura is the author of *Holy Spokes: The Search for Urban Spirituality on Two Wheels*.

Committed to the renewal and thriving of vibrant Christian institutions, she serves as an advisor with Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School. Laura is also the co-host of the podcast *Can These Bones* with Bill Lamar, from Faith & Leadership at Duke Divinity School. Laura aims for attraction not persuasion. A moderately competent seamstress, Laura loves working with her hands.

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# Workshop Facilitators

## Rev. Cristina Rathbone



Rev. Cristina Rathbone has spent most of the last 15 years birthing new faith communities. As Canon Missioner of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, she founded MANNA (Many Angels Needed Now and Always) which remains a thriving and multi-faceted ministry with unhoused people from the Boston area. The daughter of Cuban refugees on her mother's side, Cristina went on to develop The Bridge Chaplaincy for the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande, helping them find plausible, pastoral and incarnate ways to serve migrants and asylum seekers along the international border with Mexico. Following the onset of COVID, she partnered with Episcopal Migration Ministries, a national network designed to connect, support and train congregations who work with newly arrived asylum seekers in their local US contexts. Between August 2021 and November 2024, she served as Rector of Grace Church: An Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires, a parish which sold their building in order to focus more deeply on God's mission in the world.

Cristina recently completed her third book, The [Asylum Seekers: A Chronicle of Life, Death and Community at the Border](#), which was published in March 2025. She currently leads an ecumenical workshop for chaplains through Brandeis University's Chaplaincy Innovation Lab, and is the author of two earlier, award-winning non-fiction books: [A World Apart: Women, Prison and Life Behind Bars](#) and [On the Outside Looking In: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City High School](#).

Cristina is the mother of two grown sons and lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

# Workshop Facilitators

## REDISCOVERING THE CENTRALITY OF THE CHURCH

Over forty million people have left the church in the past twenty-five years in the United States. The local church is seen as an optional club, and gathering with other Christians is a sort of side issue in the real business of following Jesus. This workshop seeks to push against the cultural tide. It musters together an argument biblically, historically, and practically on behalf of the church.

*Rev. Rick Harrington*



Pastor Rick has been serving FBC Haverhill as the senior pastor for 14 years and on staff for over 20 years. Rick grew up in Haverhill, and loves to travel the world, read good books, drink quality coffee, and spend time with his wife and two kids. His passion is to see the church deeply in love with Jesus, spreading the fame of His Name throughout the globe.

Pastor Rick graduated from Gordon College (B.A.) and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (M.Div), and holds a doctorate degree in preaching from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (D.Min). Rick serves as the Provost of the Multiplication Center of the Baptist Churches of New England.

He is the author of *Churching: Rediscovering the Centrality of the Church in the Christian Life*. Rick has published with Baptist Press, The Baptist Paper, and The New York Times.



# Workshop Facilitators

## CHURCH REVITALIZATION WITH A FIVE-FOLD ACTS OF STRATEGY

What does Christ think about the declined churches in our time and place? Did the Bible give any instructions on church growth and revitalization? Yaliang tackled these questions and captured her work in the doctoral thesis that she finished in 2024. In this workshop, she will lead this discussion and share her findings.

### *Rev. Dr. Yaliang Zhao*



Rev. Dr. Yaliang Zhao was born and raised in Xi'an, China. She was taught to be an atheist and later turned agnostic in her teenage years. She graduated from Peking University with a B.S. degree in Biochemistry, and from Northwestern University (Evanston, IL) with a Ph.D. degree in Neuroscience.

She was compelled to follow Christ in 2000 and first heard God's call to "drop your job and serve the church" in 2005 when she worked as a senior scientist at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals (now Pfizer).

She struggled with "the Call" and finally went back to school in 2012, this time to the seminary. She graduated with an M.A. degree in Religion under the mentorship of Dr. Alice Mathews (the former Academic Dean at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, GCTS). Alice is instrumental in helping her sort through the theology behind women in church leadership. Yaliang also earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Theology in Practice under the mentorship of Dr. David Currie at GCTS. Her thesis subject was Revitalization of a Declined Church Using a Five-Fold Acts Strategy, a much-needed topic for many of our churches.

Rev. Dr. Yaliang Zhao has ten years of leadership experience in a Chinese Christian church in Brookline, two years of service as the youth pastor in Newton, and six years as the lead pastor at the First Baptist Church in Woburn.

Yaliang is grateful to be married to Dr. Yan Feng, her college classmate, for over 30 years. Together, they have three lovely kids and one son-in-law: Kimberly, Samuel, Timothy, and Larry. When not working, you will find her playing tennis or tending to her chickens and puppies.

# Workshop Facilitators

## IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE

Discussion and planning on how to change from an archaic way of governing a church to a new efficient way.

## THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW

This workshop will explore our future as the church. How does the church move forward in culture that is rapidly changing. We will also discuss the disconnected digital malaise and funding for the future.

### *Rev. Dr. Ronald Bouthillette*



Rev. Bouthillette is on the TABCOM staff. He is focused on working with our associations in “search and call,” and providing resources around church renewal.

Ron is a native New Englander. He is a graduate of Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, where he serves as an Adjunct Professor in Practical Theology. Ron teaches courses in pastoral ministry, leadership and church revitalization. Ron specializes in Church Leadership and Revitalization.

Ron has pastored churches large and small for over 40 years. He brings this experience to all of his ministries – especially within the areas of church revitalization, churches in transition, leadership and in his mentoring ministry. He is also involved in church consulting with American Baptist Churches throughout the US. Ron is the Associate Executive Minister in Leadership in the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire. He is married to Cathy Bouthillette. They have two grown children and six grandchildren.

# Workshop Facilitators

## PASTORAL COMPENSATION FOR PASTORS

Paying a pastor properly, in accordance with IRS regulations is complicated. This workshop will bring clarity to how you pay your pastor correctly. What is cash salary, what is housing, what are benefits, what are reimbursable expenses. Join us as we wade through the complexities of pastoral compensation and make it easier to understand.

## ORGANIZING YOUR CHURCH RECORDS

Whether your church is 20 years old or 300 years old, you have created records that tell the story of your church. This workshop will give you the basics on how to organize all these records; what to keep and what to toss. We will discuss what methods and materials work best for preserving your records.

### *Rev. Diane Badger*



The Reverend Diane L. Badger is an ordained American Baptist Minister. She graduated from Eastern Nazarene College with a Bachelor's in Business Administration. She served in Nonprofit administrative and financial positions for nearly twenty years prior to being called to the pastoral ministry. She received her Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School in May 2009 and was ordained that same year. While still at seminary, Rev. Badger was called to be the pastor of Community Baptist Church of Marion, MA and

served there until 2014. During that time, she also served as a hospice chaplain on Cape Cod.

Rev. Badger has served on the Executive Board of the Old Colony Baptist Association since 1998, first as clerk and now as treasurer. She also serves on the board of the Conference of Baptist Ministers in Massachusetts (CBMM) and the Massachusetts American Baptist Investment Trust (MABIT). Since August 2021, Rev. Badger has worked for TABCOM as the administrator for the Commission on Ordained Ministry ushering candidates for ordination through the maze of paperwork and requirements to become ordained ministers.

In her spare time, Rev. Badger does research on genealogy and Massachusetts Baptist History uncovering our past before it gets lost in the mists of time.



## *Dr. Geoffrey Dana Hicks*

Dr. Hicks is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music (BM in composition, '76), the University of Massachusetts (Lowell), (MM in Pianist, composer, performer, lecturer, recording artist, arranger, and conductor, Geoffrey Dana Hicks is a musician of many talents.

In February of 2002, the Geoffrey Hicks Quartet entertained hundreds of guests at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, to celebrate Senator Edward M. Kennedy's seventieth birthday, in an evening celebration that also featured cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

Dr. Hicks has performed as a singer/pianist at most major Boston Hotels, including the Westin Hotel, the Ritz-Carlton, Le Meridien, the Copley Plaza, the Charles Hotel (in Cambridge), and many others. He has also conducted several choral groups; including the New England Conservatory Youth Chorale, the Rosie's Place Jazz Choir, the Nativity Prep Boy's Choir of Roxbury, and many more. Familiar with such performance facilities as Boston's Jordan Hall, Symphony Hall, the Hatch Shell, the Tsai Performance Center, Carnegie Hall, and the White House, he has performed before congressmen, presidents, and several international dignitaries.

# Notes

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# *Exhibitor List*

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Andover Newton @ Yale Divinity School  
All Hands in  
American Baptist Foundation  
American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS)  
Archives  
Beloved Community  
Brotherhood Insurance  
Christian Youth Conference (CYC)  
Conference of Baptist Ministers in Mass / Career Center  
Friends of the Regional Ministries (FORM)  
Grotonwood Camp & Conference Center  
Harbor of Hope  
International Ministries (IM)  
Judson Foundation  
Massachusetts Baptist Charitable Society  
Massachusetts Council of Churches  
New England Seafarers Mission  
Palestinian Crafts  
Oceanwood  
TABCOM Finances  
TABCOM Missions  
TABCOM School of Ministry

# *In Memory Of:*

## 57th Annual Gathering | May 2-3, 2025

|                            |                    |                  |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Rev. Lloyd E. Howard       | Feb, 28, 1931      | Feb 18, 2024     |
| Rev. Robert Wallace        | August 2, 1933     | April 8, 2024    |
| Rev. Irving E. Mullette    | April 23, 1938     | April 13, 2024   |
| Rev. Florence King         | September 25, 1941 | May 10, 2024     |
| Rev. Daniel Nicewonger     | July 18, 1968      | May 17, 2024     |
| Rev. Dr. Fred S. Downs     | Feb. 15, 1932      | May 19, 2024     |
| Rev. Richard G. Harris     | July 8, 1945       | May 22, 2024     |
| Rev. Dr. Orvel Hooker      | January 8, 1929    | July 9, 2024     |
| Rev. Roger A. McDonald     | Jan 7, 1932        | August 1, 2024   |
| Pastor Joy Aran            | March 1, 1950      | August 12, 2024  |
| Rev. Albert Damrose        | Feb 16, 1929       | Sept 20, 2024    |
| Rev. Robert E. Overstreet  | March 12, 1934     | October 9, 2024  |
| Rev. Dr. Jon Hevelone      | March 17, 1934     | October 10, 2024 |
| Rev. Lawrence French       | May 6, 1930        | October 13, 2024 |
| Rev. Rudolph Featherstone  | Dec 26, 1934       | Nov 8, 2024      |
| Rev. Virgil Alexander Wood | April 6, 1931      | Dec. 28, 2024    |
| Rev. Robert E. Stetson     | April 14, 1938     | March 31, 2025   |

# Ordinations

| Names           | Location                            | Date         |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Gregory Scalise | Brewster Baptist Church, Brewster   | May 19, 2024 |
| Shelton Miller  | First Baptist Church, Westwood      | Jun 8, 2024  |
| Kevin Porter    | First United Baptist Church, Lowell | Jul 28, 2024 |
| C. J. Fowler    | Old Cambridge Baptist, Cambridge    | Sep 8, 2024  |
| Monica Paige    | Morning Star Baptist Church, Boston | Dec 8, 2024  |
| Annette Thomas  | Messiah Baptist Church, Brockton    | Dec 29, 2024 |

# Standing Granted

| Names        | Location              | Date           |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Doris Barron | First Baptist, Sharon | March 13, 2025 |
| Robyn Mars   | First Baptist, Saugus | March 13, 2025 |

# Church Anniversaries

|           |                                                  |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 225 years | The Baptist Church of Grafton                    |
| 150 years | Roslindale Baptist Church                        |
| 50 years  | First Hispanic Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain   |
| 25 years  | Morning Star Community Baptist Church, S. Hadley |
| 25 years  | Philadelphia Haitian Missionary Baptist Church   |

# 2025-2026 Nominating Ballot

Date is when the term ends; superscript is number of consecutive terms. **Names for election are in bold.**

## OFFICERS

|                  |                |                                         |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 26               | President      | Chris McWhite—Brockton, Messiah Baptist |
| 26 <sup>2</sup>  | Vice President | Danielle Gantt—Milton, Concord BC       |
| 26 <sup>21</sup> | Clerk          | Barbara Drauschke—Medford, FBC          |
| 26 <sup>2</sup>  | Treasurer      | Gary Ludwig—FBC Hingham                 |
| 26 <sup>2</sup>  | Past President | Rev. Josh Cahan—Boston, Ruggles Baptist |

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|    |                                                   |                 |                                                  |
|----|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 72 | Rev. David Wright—Boston, Peoples Baptist         | 27 <sup>1</sup> | Rev. Victoria Pina—Hanson, FBC                   |
| 52 | Rev. Annie Belmer—Galilee Ministries              | 27 <sup>1</sup> | Christine Yancey—Roxbury, Twelfth Baptist Church |
| 51 | Rev. Jeffrey Snyder, North Andover, First-Calvary | 26 <sup>1</sup> | Kevin Porter, Lowell, First United BC            |
| 71 | Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney—Framingham, FBC        | 25 <sup>2</sup> | OPEN POSITION—seeking Western MA director        |

## ETHNIC REPRESENTATIVES TO BE RATIFIED

|                 |                                                                  |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 26 <sup>1</sup> | <b>Carlos Mingéli</b> —Jamaica Plain, Iglesia Reformada Emanuel  | Spanish speaking representative    |
| 27 <sup>8</sup> | Rev. Jackson Oliveira—Acton, Renewed Life Baptist Church         | Portuguese speaking representative |
| 26 <sup>1</sup> | Rev. Yaliang Zhao—Woburn, First Baptist Church                   | Asian representative               |
| 25 <sup>4</sup> | Rev. Jephthet Roseme—Everett, Eglise Baptiste Haitienne de Siloe | Haitian representative             |

**Board of General Ministries** – Rev. Dr. Doug Scalise—Brewster, Brewster Baptist

## COMMISSION ON ORDAINED MINISTRY

\*indicates those members that are appointed by the Conference of Baptist Ministers

### Ministerial Standing

|   |                                                     |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | Rev. Jason Rutherford—Mass. Baptist Charitable      |
| 3 | Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird—Jamaica Plain, FBC          |
| 3 | Richard Jefferson—Newton, Myrtle Baptist            |
| 2 | Rev. Jamie Spriggs—Fall River, First Baptist Church |
| 4 | Rev. Karina Fontanez—Chelmsford FBC                 |

### Ministerial Preparation

|                 |                                                       |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 27 <sup>2</sup> | Rev. Anita Farber-Robinson—Lynn, Zion Baptist         |
| 26 <sup>3</sup> | Rev. Dr. Dana Gonsal—Dorchester, First Baptist Church |
| 26 <sup>3</sup> | Rev. Jay Mulligan, retired                            |
| 27 <sup>3</sup> | Rev. John Bio Asante—Milbury, New Creation Baptist    |
| 27 <sup>2</sup> | Rev. Debra Lee—Swansea/Warren RI—COOM Chair           |
| 27 <sup>3</sup> | Rev. Johnny Wilson, retired                           |

## APPOINTEES FROM THE CONFERENCE OF BAPTIST MINISTERS IN MASSACHUSETTS

|                                              |                                        |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Rev. Barbara Jean—Somerset, Somerset Baptist | Rev. Amy Feldman—Waban, Union Church   |
| Rev. Lois Pinton, retired                    | Rev. Diane Badger—Mansfield, FBC—Chair |

### Additional COOM representatives:

Rev. Ryan Bradley—School of Ministry  
 Rev. Dr. Mar Imsong—Mass. Baptist Multicultural Ministries  
 Rev. Dr. Mary Hamel—TABCOM

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*

2024

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 2024.**



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# Executive Minister's Report

Welcome to the **Annual Gathering (#TAG2025)**, themed ***"The Authentic Church in Challenging Times,"*** inspired by the powerful words of **Hebrews 10:23-25**:

*"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* (NIV)

This verse is a profound reminder that our God is faithful, and He calls us to remain steadfast in hope, to uplift one another, and to be a light in the midst of uncertainty. As we gather, we will explore what it means to be **an authentic church**—a people of bold faith, resilient love, and unwavering commitment to the Gospel, even in the face of difficulty.

At TABCOM, we have recently reframed our statement of 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.

Here are just some of the "New Things" happening in TABCOM:

- † **Welcoming new churches!** We had three additions to the family in 2024: Lively Stones Christian Center of Brockton, Pastor Cindy Cabral; Igreja Batista Nova Vida (New Life Baptist Church) in Lowell, Pastor Ronie Souza; and Nouvelle Assemblée Chretienne (New Christian Assembly) in Haverhill, Pastor Benony St. Victor. We have several other churches "in process" to join the TABCOM family.
- † A new vision for our **Oceanwood Camp**, which will be shared in more detail during our business meeting.
- † Exciting growth in facilities and ministry at our **Grotonwood Camp**. How thankful we are for their hospitality during our Annual Gathering!
- † Celebrating new beginnings in our family: the joy of welcoming newly ordained ministers to TABCOM, and new pastoral leadership in our

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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.

- † **Expanded TABCOM grants**, including our new Elder Ministry grants, the George Wright Fund, and the establishment of a new fund for supporting church planting and re-planting.
- † A priority to **support our pastors** and church leaders, with special concern for our immigrant churches in the unique challenges they are facing.

A large thank you goes to the TABCOM staff, the very best Region team: our Associate Executive Minister Ron Bouthillette, Robyn Mars, Diane Badger, Maria Reilly, and Miranda Kwan. We welcomed Jeff Ellis as our new Director of Finance, who has enthusiastically engaged our shared mission.

Last year we said goodbye to our beloved Ed Guerard, who served TABCOM so fruitfully for so many years. We honor his memory as a truly “good and faithful servant.” Currently we are seeking the right person for an expanded Director of Development position on our TABCOM staff.

How grateful I am for the leadership of Chris McWhite as TABCOM president. He and the rest of our officers, the members of the Board of Directors, and all our volunteers serve with dedication and make a real difference for our mission. God bless you all!

Even in the current climate of uncertainty and with the challenges we all face, now more than ever, we are called to stand together in faith, unity, and encouragement. As the body of Christ, we are not alone—we are strengthened by one another and by the unwavering faithfulness of our God.

Serving Christ,

*Rev. Dr. Mary Ann Hamel*

# Associate Executive Minister's Report

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First, I want to say that it has been a blessing and a joy to serve TABCOM in this capacity. In July, it will be my third year serving this region.

Last year was incredibly busy. I was the interim Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire and continued to serve TABCOM.

My responsibilities as the Associate Executive Minister in the area of church relations includes assisting churches in transition or conflict. I also work with Diane Badger to oversee finding interim pastors for churches in transition and I helped search committees in finding their new pastor.

Every year it is more difficult to find new pastors because “the pool” is very limited. Seminaries are no longer producing local church pastors and there is a lack of interest in people wanting to be a pastor and there are very few wanting to be a part-time pastor.

I work with our ARC (Association Resource Coordinator) personnel and I helped organize various activities for TABCOM.

Perhaps what I enjoy the most is the opportunity I have to walk along pastors, especially those who are new in TABCOM and the ministry. This is the part of my calling where I get the greatest satisfaction.

Again, thank you for your support and prayers. Thank you for being gracious when my imperfection shows itself!

In God's Grace,

Ronald Bouthillette

# Friends of Regional Ministries Report



## End of year Donations Report for 2024

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| CORE                              | \$21,116  |
| Transformation Fund               | \$36,649  |
| School of Ministry                | \$25,520  |
| Preserve Baptist History          | \$8,551   |
| Grotonwood & Improvement projects | \$293,762 |
| Memorial Garden Upkeep & items    | \$6,610   |
| Oceanwood & Improvement projects  | \$50,534  |

**Year end Total 2024 \$442,742**

Friends of the Region” was introduced in 2003 by Ed Guerard. Last year our dear friend and coworker passed away on June 30th. His donors responded generously.. The donations came in for 2024 at \$78,912; higher than 2023.

We are so grateful for all of Ed’s work and dedication to TABCOM, Grotonwood, Oceanwood and the School of Ministry.

As Ed mentioned last year, many of his donors were over the age of 65. Sadly, we report that two of the donors passed last year and we want to honor them and their support for our missions.

We would like to thank Ralph Earle and Lawrence French who gave faithfully to TABCOM, Grotonwood and Oceanwood. We would also like to thank Ralph Earle’s family for continuing his legacy in still giving to Friends of the Region.

Please visit Friends of the Region exhibit table at the Grotonwood Gym and thank Ed’s family for their support and enjoy a chocolate chip cookie from Joan Guerard.

Submitted by,  
Maria Reilly

57th Annual Gathering | May 2-3, 2025



# TABCOM 2024 Financial Highlights

57th Annual Gathering | May 2-3, 2025

TABCOM experienced a strong financial year during 2024. TABCOM ended the fiscal year with a \$22,000 surplus. Overall revenues remain strong resulting from consistently good returns in the stock market. We have noted a decline in donations from member churches as pressure on their cash flows increase with higher costs and lower attendance. TABCOM is blessed to have diversity in its revenue streams of offset a downturn in historical revenue sources. Our operating expense remains in good control. Most of the operating expenses are payroll related. However, there are opportunities to reduce costs going forward in the areas of utilities, insurance and office related expenses.

The Property Fund, TABCOM's primary asset to fund general operating costs, continued to grow in value. The Property Fund's yearend balance has increased to \$5.7M and based on a planned 4% distribution rate, the fund will provide approximately \$220,000 per year towards TABCOM's future operating costs. The Transformation fund had a yearend balance of \$1.1 million. In early 2025 the fund received a very generous gift from the late Ralph Earle which has nearly doubled the fund balance and going forward the fund will provide TABCOM and the camps with an annual distribution of \$80,000. Donations from our member churches, although under financial pressure, remain a critical funding source for TABCOM. In 2024, TABCOM received approximately \$150,000 in member church donations. Lastly, private donations have become an important means of funding special projects within TABCOM. Ed Guerard, who championed this effort over the years, developed key relationships with individuals looking to donate to both TABCOM and the camps. Sadly, Ed passed away recently, and TABCOM is actively looking to fill this important position and continue Ed's legacy forward.

Lastly, during 2024 TABCOM was able to provide significant grants to numerous member churches from donated funds and returns on assets managed directly and indirectly by TABCOM such as the Charlestown and Elder Ministry funds.

I would like to acknowledge Richard Wolf's many years of service as TABCOM's Director of Finance. Richard will continue as the Chair of a newly established Investment Committee. Richard will ensure our funds are invested properly to provide adequate cash flow to TABCOM on an annual basis while also generating long-term growth in our portfolios. It is truly an honor to replace Richard, and I hope I can continue his work into the future.

# TABCOM *Year End Financial Results*

## TABCOM 2025 Profit and Loss

### Revenues

|                                         |           |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Annual donations from member churches.  | \$149,000 |
| TABCOM Property Fund/ Weston Land Sale. | 235,000   |
| FORM                                    | 39,000    |
| George Wright Fund                      | 25,000    |
| Other                                   | 54,000    |
| Total                                   | \$502,000 |
| Operational Expenses                    | \$480,000 |
| Year End Surplus                        | \$22,000  |

## TABCOM Balance Sheet as of 12/31/24

### Assets

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Cash & Other Current Assets | \$272,000    |
| Invested Assets:            |              |
| Property Fund.              | \$5,670,000  |
| Plantings Fund.             | 564,000      |
| Transformation Fund.        | 1,155,000    |
| Elderly Ministry Fund       | 1,020,000    |
| Charlestown Fund.           | 1,218,000    |
| Other Investments           | 1,013,000    |
| Sub Total                   | \$10,640,000 |
| Total Assets.               | \$10,912,000 |

### Liabilities & Equity

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Short Term Liabilities     | \$111,000    |
| Restricted Funds           | 101,000      |
| Long Term Liabilities      | 0            |
| Equity                     | \$10,700,000 |
| Total Liabilities & Equity | \$10,912,000 |

Annual Gathering | May 2-3, 2025

# Grotonwood Report on Ministries

## Grotonwood Report On Ministries 2024

### Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center Statement of Activity

|                               | Jan - Dec<br>2024  | Jan - Dec<br>2023  | Change           |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Revenue                       |                    |                    |                  |
| Store Income                  | \$34,247           | \$34,073           | \$174            |
| Revenue Conferencing          | \$756,362          | \$719,465          | \$36,897         |
| Natures Classroom             | \$277,188          | \$292,586          | -\$15,398        |
| Camping Income                | \$828,127          | \$744,628          | \$83,499         |
| Form                          | \$18,674           | \$25,918           | -\$7,244         |
| Recurring Revenue             | \$54,600           | \$56,225           | -\$1,625         |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>          | <b>\$1,969,198</b> | <b>\$1,872,895</b> | <b>\$96,303</b>  |
| Expenditures                  |                    |                    |                  |
| Total Salaries                | \$371,370          | \$336,855          | \$34,516         |
| Total Admin                   | \$34,692           | \$40,499           | -\$5,807         |
| Utilities                     | \$124,104          | \$108,432          | \$15,672         |
| Total Kitchen                 | \$389,039          | \$376,382          | \$12,657         |
| Total Maintenance             | \$176,682          | \$218,756          | -\$42,074        |
| Housekeeping                  | \$84,349           | \$76,236           | \$8,112          |
| Total Insurance               | \$52,583           | \$50,069           | \$2,514          |
| Total Promotion               | \$18,314           | \$4,040            | \$14,274         |
| Total Camping Program Expense | \$591,018          | \$504,613          | \$86,405         |
| Conference Development        | \$74               |                    | \$74             |
| Conference Supplies           | \$9,272            | \$7,158            | \$2,113          |
| Total Misc Expense            | \$300              | \$240              | \$60             |
| Store                         | \$43,005           | \$17,943           | \$25,062         |
| Store Sales Taxes             | \$123              | \$49               | \$74             |
| Interest Payment              | \$17,384           | \$17,995           | -\$612           |
| Purchases                     | \$571              |                    | \$571            |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>     | <b>\$1,912,879</b> | <b>\$1,759,267</b> | <b>\$153,612</b> |
| <b>Net Operating Revenue</b>  | <b>\$56,319</b>    | <b>\$113,628</b>   | <b>-\$57,309</b> |



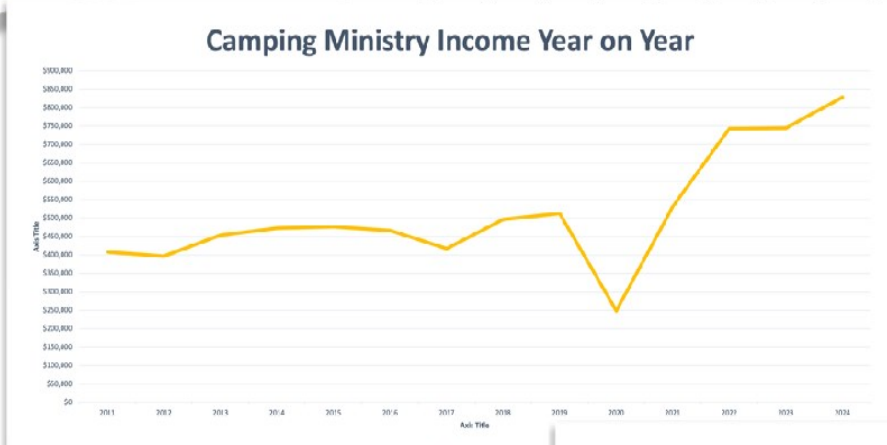
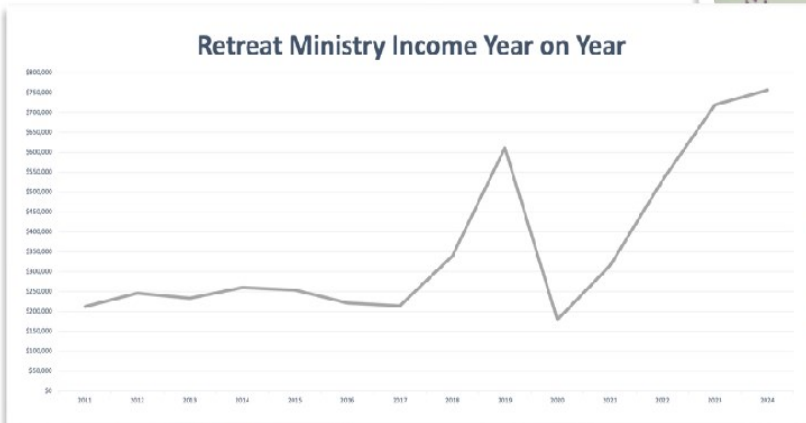
### Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center Statement of Financial Position

|                                 | As of Dec 31,<br>2024 | As of Dec 31,<br>2023 | Change           |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| ASSETS                          |                       |                       |                  |
| Current Assets                  |                       |                       |                  |
| Total Bank Accounts             | \$361,290             | \$238,647             | \$122,643        |
| Total Accounts Receivable       | \$40,544              | \$60,096              | -\$19,552        |
| Total Other Current Assets      | \$33,320              | \$56,208              | -\$22,888        |
| Total Current Assets            | \$435,153             | \$354,951             | \$80,203         |
| Total Other Assets              | \$7,846,946           | \$7,759,954           | \$86,993         |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>             | <b>\$8,282,100</b>    | <b>\$8,114,904</b>    | <b>\$167,195</b> |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY          |                       |                       |                  |
| Total Accounts Payable          | \$29,723              | \$38,482              | -\$8,759         |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | \$447,203             | \$281,651             | \$165,552        |
| Total Current Liabilities       | \$476,926             | \$320,133             | \$156,793        |
| Total Long-Term Liabilities     | \$619,091             | \$563,030             | \$56,062         |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>        | <b>\$1,096,017</b>    | <b>\$883,163</b>      | <b>\$212,854</b> |

57th Annual Gathering | May 2-3, 2025



# 57th Annual Gathering | May 2-3, 2025



## Retreats Ministry

Grotonwood Retreat Center is huge asset to Christian groups as a place for spiritual growth. We strive to improve the experience these groups have by continuing to increase the quality of service, our facilities and food. The number of guests who attend continues to grow, but we are “playing Tetris” with our accommodation and meeting spaces. We have the demand to serve more groups, however more accommodation space is needed. The cost for building such a space would be in the region of \$5m, which we do not have. Is anyone in the TABCOM community able 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. Our Bible themed “Stories from the Sea” underpinned the worship, message and activities our camper engaged with throughout the season.

New activities added in 2024 included a brand new low ropes course in Pioneer Village, remote controlled cars, an air-soft target range, wheelchair ramp for the picnic stage, a new jet boat, new Gaga pit and a new swim dock for the beach.

We have seen an increase in demand for our specialist camps such as our 1:1 ratio Day Camp program and Adults with Disabilities program. To help support this demand we will be extending our summer camp program from eight to nine weeks in 2025. We had the highest recorded income ever for a fourth year in a row. This means that more campers attended Grotonwood in 2024 vs any electronically recorded summer (which goes back to 2011).

## Facility Improvements started or completed in 2024

- † All of Going Cabin refurbishments are complete.
- † Air Conditioning has been added to the gym lounge
- † Blanchard Hall has been completely repainted inside
- † 20 x beds and mattresses replaced in Blanchard Hall
- † The Main Dining Hall dumpster area and hill to TABCOM was paved.
- † Directors House roof has been replaced.
- † Boat House exterior has been painted.
- † Smart thermostats have been installed in all Judson cabins.
- † Prescott Lodge has been completely painted inside.
- † New kitchen area added to Prescott Lodge

† Pine Lodge has been demolished

### Pavilion Update

Thank you for all your support in raising funds for the Pavilion, which will replace Pine Lodge. We have almost raised enough money to complete the whole building. We have paid for Pine (Health) Lodge to be demolished. The cost for this did come in a little higher, as a number of unexpected requirements were needed, such as a pest control plan and asbestos was found in some of the flooring tiles. With the building and foundation removed and the ground leveled we are close to getting ready to install the slab. We are currently waiting for the architect to redraw the front elevation and for the engineer to recalculate the snow load. Once we have this we should be able to gain the permit to start work.

### Staffing Updates

Linda left our kitchen to manage the one at Oceanwood. She's missed, but we're really excited for her to help support the retreats happening there.

Lesley-Ann has been hired as our new Office Manager. She brings lots of HR and process experience with her from FedEx and is a wonderful woman of Christ.

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, Ocean, Alpine and all the Grotonwood staff!





# Missions Ministry Annual Report

57th Annual Gathering | May 2-3, 2025

2024 was my first full year as the Director of Missions—the role I took on in late June of 2023. And it was a year of discernment. As the new year of 2024 rolled in with greetings from the Global Servants of the IM (International Ministries/American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies), including those who were the guests at TABCOM MissionWorks 2023, those serving at American Baptist Home Mission Societies and other ABCUSA affiliated organizations, those from other mission and Christian non-profit organizations, and numerous others ordained and lay ministers of Christ serving at local churches, I was reminded and convinced anew that God was indeed at work everywhere through all these servants of His—all followers of Christ whom our Lord Christ Jesus sent out as the Father had sent him. Indeed, Christianity is a “sending” religion, as one prominent Christian Mission scholar put it—needless to say that the word “mission” comes from the biblical Greek words for “sending.”

In particular, it has been the “foot soldiers” of Christ, the faithful servants of Christ on the front lines of ministry, whether they are professional “missionaries” or volunteer ministers/servants, whether they have a formal title or role, who bore witness to Christ to the local people as they carried on the works of Christ in their day-to-day, face-to-face services to others, embodying the love of Christ. The faithfulness of these fellow Christian brothers and sisters was palpable at every church I visited and at every “mission” and outreach event that I was part of—such as at the mission training at Morning Star Baptist Church, Jasmine Outreach, ECG Outreach, WIT Outreach, New England Missions Network gathering, Global Encounter and Reach the Nations events, to name a few. As the Director of Missions, I have had occasions to meet and talk with scholars and professors in the field of Christian mission. When I asked what is most needed in Christian mission now, one prominent scholar of missiology and Christian history said that it is the ministers/servants of Christ serving others in the world, thus carrying on the works of Christ.

It is almost cliché to say that Christian mission is from everyone to everywhere. One needs not be a “Global Servant” or “missionary” serving in the global-South or -East, though such servants of Christ are in great demand in those regions. But what is also needed is local servants of Christ ministering at local foodbanks, homeless shelters, temporary housing facilities for refugees and immigrants, safehouses for exploited women and victims of

domestic violence, prisons, and other such places in the shadow of society in our own town, city, and State. What is needed is for us to look beyond our own natural boundaries, such as racial, ethnic, and cultural boundaries, and comfort zones for the mission of God.

It was with all these in mind that the theme of TABCOM MissionWorks 2024 was set: *Crossing Boundaries: Intercultural Ministries in the Mission of God*. It was apropos since MA has seen a significant increase in diversity since 2010, with the minority population growing faster than the national average. In 2020, the Diversity index was 61%, meaning that 61% of MA residents were part of a racial or ethnic minority. Meanwhile, only 52% of adults in MA identify themselves as Christians according to a recent Pew Research data. Indeed the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. May the Lord of the harvest send out workers into His harvest field, even right here in MA.

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

# Communications Coordinator Report

*Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. Habakkuk 2:2 (NRSV)*

As Communications Coordinator for TABCOM, I have the privilege of helping to connect, inform, and uplift our diverse network of churches through a variety of communication channels. Over the past year, I have continued to focus on enhancing the visibility of our ministries, events, and shared mission through consistent and meaningful outreach.

One of the primary tools in this effort has been the bi-weekly TABCOM newsletter. This publication continues to be a vital platform for celebrating the work of our churches, promoting upcoming events, sharing leadership transitions, and offering resources to support ministry. I am committed to making the newsletter engaging and accessible, and I am always seeking contributions from our churches to highlight the rich and varied life of our TABCOM family.

In addition to the newsletter, I manage the TABCOM website ([www.tabcom.org](http://www.tabcom.org)), ensuring it remains a reliable source of up-to-date information. This includes event announcements, conference registrations, leadership updates, and other content that reflects our mission and values. Regular updates and improvements have helped increase usability and engagement.

I also oversee TABCOM's social media presence on Facebook and Instagram. These platforms allow us to share inspiring stories, photos, scripture, and reminders in real-time, helping us reach a broader audience and stay connected with members between newsletters. Social media continues to be an important space for real-time updates, ministry highlights, and building community online.

Throughout the year, I've had the opportunity to attend TABCOM-sponsored events and regional gatherings, where I provide live coverage, take photos, and share updates through our digital channels.

Looking ahead, I hope to expand our communications efforts by exploring new tools and formats for storytelling, enhancing collaboration with regional leaders, and building a stronger network of church communicators. I invite all of our congregations to continue sharing their news, milestones, and ministry highlights so that we may celebrate and learn from one another.

It is an honor to serve as Communications Coordinator, and I am grateful for the opportunity to help amplify the voice of the Spirit moving through the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts.

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

57th Annual Gathering | May 2-3, 2025

# 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. Anita Farber Robertson, and Rev. Johnnie Wilson, Rev. Debra Lee, Rev. Dana Gonsal, Rev. Amy Feldman

Ministerial Standing Committee: Rev. Barbara Jean, Chair, Rev. Leah Goodwin, Rev. Richard Jefferson, Rev. Jamie Spriggs, Rev. Ashley Weist-Laird, Rev. Ryan Bradley, and Rev. Dr. Mary Hamel

TABCOM: Rev. Dr. Mary Hamel, Executive Minister, Rev. Ron Bouthillette, Associate Executive Minister

## Thoughts from the Coordinator

I have enjoyed working with the folks who volunteer their services for The Conference On Ordained Ministry. Time is such a sought after commodity these days, their dedication to the mission of the organization is very much appreciated. Their combined experience and knowledge are Blessed gifts to the cause of Christ in finding competent, faithful leaders for the existing and future cause of Christ in the world. We are one generation away from non-existence as people of faith, so there is indeed work to be done, and faithful people are needed to do that work.

The Commission owes a huge debt of gratitude to Rev. Diane Badger for her administrative genius. Despite her own personal health crisis she never missed a beat, which is a testament to her dedication to the program, and her level of leadership/expertise.

The Committees continue to meet virtually and or hybrid because this works out for everyone's ever challenging schedules.

## Ordinations

| Names           | Location                            | Dates             |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Gregory Scalise | Brewster Baptist Church, Brewster   | May 19, 2024      |
| Shelton Miller  | First Baptist Church, Westwood      | June 8, 2024      |
| Kevin Porter    | First United Baptist Church, Lowell | July 28, 2024     |
| C. J. Fowler    | Old Cambridge Baptist, Cambridge    | September 8, 2024 |
| Monica Paige    | Morning Star Baptist, Boston        | December 8, 2024  |
| Annette Thomas  | Messiah Baptist, Brockton           | December 29, 2024 |

## Standing Granted

| Names        | Location              | Dates          |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Doris Barron | First Baptist, Sharon | March 13, 2025 |
| Robyn Mars   | First Baptist, Saugus | March 13, 2025 |

In His Service,  
Rev. Debra Lee, MPA, MDIV  
Chair of COOM

57th Annual Gathering | May 2-3, 2025

# Boston Southwest Annual Report

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*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)*

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In recapitulating this year's events, I am delighted to report that God's plans for our association continues to unfold as we follow his lead.

With the leadership of our Executive Board and Chairs of Committees, we have met monthly via Zoom with - Moderator, Rev. André Morgan, Assistant Moderator, Rev. Dana Gonsal; Clerk, Mrs. Nancy Terp-Elder; Treasurer - Ms. Lewann Mina; Chair. Committee for Ordination, Rev. James Fripp; Chair. - Nominating Committee, Rev. Danielle Gantt, Chair. - Committee for Missions - Rev. Daniel Aguste and Chair, Boston Baptist Social Union, Rev. Arthur Gerald.

The purpose of these being to keep abreast of the association churches, to discuss ways to support our pastors and communities. To work with candidates in the ordination process.

A great accomplishment for BSW in 2024 was to see the rebuilding of our website. The focus for this new site is to highlight the ministry of each church, to allow for connectivity among the churches, and to be a source of information for TABCOM and the denomination. We encourage all to visit. If you have any information to post please reach out to us.

We were able to convene our Spring Association meeting on April 4, 2024, at First Baptist Church, Westwood, Rev. Catherine Miller, host Pastor and our Fall meeting on November 2, 2024, at First Baptist Dorchester, Rev. Dana Gonsal, host Pastor. Both gatherings were supported by pastors, ministers, as well as lay participation. The meetings began with a continental breakfast, followed by time of devotion; business meeting; group discussion closing with lunch and fellowship. Thanks to Rev. Dr. Mary Hamel for her support at our Fall meeting.

On March 9, we witnessed a double blessing for FBC Westwood with the instillation of their settled pastor, The Rev. Catherine Miller. What a glorious service seeing pastor and people coming together with a dynamic message from our Moderator Rev. Dr. André Morgan. Earlier that morning, (3/9) we were blessed to have the ordination council for Min. Sheldon Miller supported by association churches and guests. Returned to FBC Westwood on June 9th, for the ordination service of Min. Sheldon Miller to Christian

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ministry. The message for the occasion was delivered by Rev. Danielle Gantt.

On November 3, FBC Westwood celebrated 200 years of ministry with community and church celebration.

Again, we witnessed the plan of God through the ordination council for Min. Monica Paige on June 22. Her ordination service was later held on December 8, both convening at Morning Star Baptist Church, Bishop John Borders, Pastor.

On June 14th we celebrated with People's Baptist in the Retirement Gala at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Boston, for Rev. Dr. Wesley Roberts. A letter was sent from the association along with a monetary gift.

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 other surrounding communities. For more information see their websites, [Concord Baptist Church](#), Milton; [First Baptist Church](#), Jamaica Plain and [Twelfth Baptist Church](#), Roxbury.

First Baptist Church of Norwood continues in the search and call process. They've decided to work with Rev. John Ames in the capacity of pulpit supply for continuity until a decision can be made for a settled pastor.

In January 2024, letters were sent to all Settled Pastors within the association reminding them of our support and commitment to each, as well as our continued prayers for them and their families. Along with the letter, a \$25 gift card was sent as a reminder to take a coffee/tea break and some quality time to focus on self.

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

# Old Colony Annual Report

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January 2024 started off with our Annual Breakfast at Messiah Baptist Church. Our guest speaker was Rev. Moreen Hughes of Concord Baptist who spoke about her book, *"A Woman's Journey with God: Engaging in the Spiritual Disciplines"*. Always a favorite event of the Old Colony we had about 50 people in attendance. This meeting served as our spring meeting. I was able to spend time throughout the year connecting with pastors throughout our association via email, meeting for coffee, and visiting churches. My time was spent connecting churches and pastors with resources that might help them in their ministry. I worked on making posts more applicable to the work and ministry of our association churches. This also became a way to make them aware of various events in the region that could help them and their churches.

In September, Brewster Baptist Church hosted our fall meeting in conjunction with their 200th anniversary. At our September meeting we were pleased to be able to vote in, unanimously, a new member church: Lively Stones Christian Center of Brockton. They were present with us that day and received a warm welcome from the churches present.

- † During the year, we said congratulations and good-bye to Rev. Rebecca Driscoll Mygatt of FBC Attleboro; Congratulations on her marriage and good-bye as she was called to a church in Pennsylvania.
- † United Parish of Carver will be closing their doors and merging with an independent Baptist Church from Hanson in June 2025.
- † FBC Mansfield called their second student minister, David Baga in May. Their previous pastor, Rev. Greg Scalise graduated in May and was ordained at his home church in Brewster and then called to serve the Baptist Church in Manchester, New Hampshire.
- † Pastor Cordell Wells, from Norwood, was called as pastor to FBC Dighton after their Pastor, Rev. Paris Bollinger, resigned to spend more time with his family.

Submitted by Rev Diane Badger

2024 was another year for highlights and new initiatives for the TABCOM School of Ministry (SoM).

- † Graduated 8 students
- † Enhanced our website and Facebook page
- † Re-conceptualized our offerings to include specific ministry callings in addition to general equipment.

# Portuguese Liaison Annual Report

## TABCOM'S LIAISON TO THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER FOR THE PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

It is a privilege to serve the Lord and each other in the name of Christ. As we do that it's a blessing to be able to look back, from time to time, to see what the Lord has done in our lives, our families, and our ministries.

As part of TABCOM's Brazilian Community (also known as Portuguese-Speaking Community), we look back with gratitude for what the Lord did and allowed us to do in his name in the past year, no matter how small such things could seem to be at times. Everything we're able to do for Him, enabled by Him, brings Him glory.

Here is a small list of some activities that took place within the Brazilian community and denominational events that somehow involved its members. I want to express my gratitude to my colleagues Rev. Jackson Oliveira and Rev. Miguel R. daSilva for helping me to put this list together. I anticipate my apologies in case any imprecision would be found in it.

1. We had a meeting for Brazilians during the 2024 Annual Meeting.
2. There was a virtual meeting in June with a number of pastors.
3. On June 15 there was a special service for the Brazilian churches at the New Life Baptist Church (Igreja Batista Nova Vida) in Lowell.
4. Several members of the Brazilian Community, pastors and lay leaders, participated in the MBMM Allelon Gathering last September, promoted by MBMM with the support of ABHMS.
5. On September 29 the ABC Latin Ministries Coordinator, Rev. Abner Coto-Bonilla, preached at the Brazilian church Igreja Baptista Renovada (Renewed Baptist Church) of Pastor Jackson Oliveira in Acton.
6. On October 5, Brazilians met at the church of Pastor Ronie Souza in Lowell to celebrate the church's anniversary.
7. On November 16 some members of our community participated in a Brazilian Caucus virtual meeting.
8. The church Igreja Batista Vida Nova, under the leadership of Pastor Ronie Souza, was received by TABCOM as a member. Pastor Jackson and I took part of the process, providing assistance to both sides.
9. There was a virtual meeting of the Brazilian Caucus and its representatives last February.

It is good to see our community coming back to life after the limitations imposed by the pandemic and its aftermath. It seems that the dry land crossing is over. Let's keep on praying and expecting great things from God.

In the love of Christ, our Lord, I humbly submit the present report.

Rev. Dr. Dalton H. Said

# Samuel Stillman Annual Report

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Christ is with us. As churches and as an association, we support each other in remembering Christ's presence and power, even in the current storm. We help each other to move forward with open eyes, seeing that, though we are all in the storm, we are not all the same, and we do not all experience the storm in the same way. Consider, for example, immigrant churches facing unprecedented pressure now. Even as Christ sees us, let us pray that we can see each other. Even as Christ expressed his love through washing his disciples' feet (John 13:1-15), let us, as churches and as an association, wash each other's feet, and reach out to others to wash feet, as a palpable, mutual expressions of God's love.

There is a hymn that emerged in the 1960s that expresses this mutuality well. It is called "*They'll know we are Christians by our love.*" The song was written by a Catholic priest, Peter Scholtes, who served a church on the South Side of Chicago. According to Hymnary.org (<https://hymnary.org/text/we-are-one-in-the-spirit>), "At the time, he was leading a youth choir out of the church basement and was looking for an appropriate song for a series of ecumenical, interracial events. When he couldn't find such a song, he wrote the now-famous hymn in a single day." Similarly, let us pray for Holy Spirit-inspired creative resilience to help our Christian unity when the well seems dry.

In my role as Association Resource Coordinator of the Samuel Stillman Association I act as a liaison between TABCOM, the Stillman Association, and its more than 30 churches in and around Boston, including urban and suburban and many different languages. I act as an encourager of the association itself, in all its functions, trying to ensure that things do not fall through the cracks. I pray for the churches; preach when asked; consult to pastors, laypeople, and pastoral search committees when asked; counsel candidates for ordination; and engage people in working together across boundaries. I also share news from TABCOM and ABCUSA with the Stillman Association and share Stillman concerns with TABCOM administration.

Here are some updates:

- † Current Stillman Association officers include Rev. John Odams, moderator; Deb Mel, treasurer; Cathy Zeman, clerk; Rev. Jason Rutherford, Chair of Ordination Committee; Rev. Xinyu Li, Chair of Nominations Committee; and two members at large, Earl Norman and Deborah Porter.

- † An ad hoc committee of the Executive Committee is working together to get the Stillman Website restored.
- † Last summer Trinity Baptist Church in Arlington hosted the Stillman Association for its annual picnic and annual meeting. We hope to return this summer.
- † In December Rev. Xinyu Li invited the Association to his church, Lincoln Park, Newton, for a Chinese Christmas Concert. This served as the fall gathering of the Stillman Association.
- † This year, C.J. Fowler (Old Cambridge Baptist Church) and Erik Nordbye (International Community Church) were ordained to Christian ministry. Rev. Fowler is serving as the Minister with Children and Families at Second Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. Rev. Nordbye is soon to be installed as pastor at International Community Church.
- † The Monthly meeting of Stillman Pastors, begun last year, will soon recommence, hosted by Rev. Patrick McCorkle at First Baptist Arlington.
- † Two churches called new pastors: Old Cambridge Baptist Church called Rev. Sarah Lusche, and Union Church of Waban, a TABCOM cousin church, called Rev. Megan Berkowitz.
- † Three churches are in various points in search and call: Trinity Baptist in Arlington is using supply pastors from TABCOM, First Baptist Framingham, is served by interim Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney, and Union Baptist Church in Cambridge is very close to calling a pastor. At Union, the ministry staff and various guest preachers cover the pulpit. Prayer ministry, led by Min. Debra Mosley, meets three times a week and Rev. Loretta continues to lead weekly Bible Study on Zoom.

As might be clear here, I am experiencing a Kum Bah Ya moment. Kum Bah Ya means Come by here. God, we need you. Come by here.

Yours in Christian Love,  
Rev. Dr. Loretta Saint-Louis



# School of Ministry Annual Report

2024 was another year for highlights and new initiatives for the TABCOM School of Ministry (SoM).

- † Graduated 8 students
- † Enhanced our website and Facebook page
- † Re-conceptualized our offerings to include specific ministry callings in addition to general equipment.
- † 14 years in, we are one of TABCOM's longest running programs!
- † Refined our ongoing, three-year curriculum: Year of Foundations, Communication, and Leadership to the Year of Teaching, Preaching, & Healing to more reflect the walk of Christ Jesus

We are encouraging you to sign up as early as possible for 2026 year of our 3-year revolving program. 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 contact either Rev. Kevin Porter (978) 250-7478 or Rev. Cheryl Moore (857) 770-1450 to discuss this exciting opportunity further.

—Submitted by Min. Cheryl Moore

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# MA American Baptist Investment Trust

**MABIT**  
**c/o TABCOM**

**189 Prescott Street, Groton, MA 01450**

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 investment categories: Growth, Moderate and Conservative. Approximately 30 Massachusetts Baptist churches and TABCOM partners invest via MABIT. MABIT's balance is in excess of \$8M.

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 2024 financial markets continued to bounce back from the tough losses in 2022. The bond market has been slow to recover from its record breaking loss of 18.5% in 2022. The bond market is expected to improve in 2025. The equity markets performed well in 2024. 2024 ended with MABIT's highest portfolio balance with a \$2M gain in the past two years. The overall portfolio gained 12.25% in 2024. A new contractor, PG Calc, was hired to improve sub accounting and reporting services.

The Board continues to advise investors to annually review their risks. Individual accounts will be rebalanced quarterly with the new PG Calc services. The Board also recommends the Moderate investment option with a 60% equity and 40% fixed portfolio for most investors. Barcomb advisors are available to assist you.

The Board is very pleased to announce that Nelda Cronin of Chelmsford's First Baptist Church has joined MABIT's Board of Trustees.

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

## MABIT Board of Trustees

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

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# Notes

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## TABCOM ANNUAL GATHERING OFFERING

Your gifts to the TABCOM Annual Offering  
will be divided between these two vital projects:

### Support for our Brothers and Sisters in Myanmar devastated by the recent earthquake



The earthquake that caused widespread devastation in central Myanmar occurred on Friday, March 28, 2025. To date, it's been reported that more than 2,900 have died and more than 3,400 have been injured in Myanmar, although it is difficult to obtain accurate information.

International Ministries has sent an initial grant of \$10,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) emergency relief to partners who are providing humanitarian relief to the victims of this disaster. IM Chief Program Officer Rev. Jim Bell notes, "This natural disaster presents a need and an opportunity to stand with and support the body of Christ in Myanmar, which was birthed two hundred years ago through the work of IM's pioneering missionaries Ann and Adoniram Judson. Through IM's network of Baptist and other Christian partners, your giving will reach places and people likely to have no other sources of relief and will bear testimony to the ultimate help and hope to be found in Christ."

Your offering will be shared through OGHS in their relief efforts. All funds will directly assist those in need. Your prayers and financial support will make a significant difference in helping those affected by this devastating earthquake in Myanmar.



### Support for our local Burmese Brothers and Sisters in the newly established Adoniram Judson Heritage Foundation

With great joy and thanksgiving, we announce the establishment of the Adoniram Judson Heritage Foundation and the acquisition of Adoniram Judson's birthplace at 145 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts. This sacred site commemorates the life and legacy of Judson, as some refer to as the "Apostle to Burma," whose devotion to Christ forever shaped Burmese Christianity.

**AJHF Mission and Goals:** To honor Adoniram Judson and represent Burmese believers worldwide. Key goals include:

- **Honor the Judsons:** Pay tribute to Adoniram, Ann, Sarah Emily Judson for their tireless contributions to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, education, and religious freedom in Burma.
- **Preserve History:** Maintain the historical integrity of the Judson birthplace, the oldest house in Malden, MA. (The Holy Ground)
- **Showcase Legacy:** Display the mission work, portraits, and artifacts of the Judsons, alongside stories of other missionaries in Burma.
- **Mission Study Center:** Create a welcoming space for visitors to learn, reflect, and explore their own call to the Great Commission.

Thank you for your generosity to the **TABCOM Annual Gathering Offering** for these important ministries!

#### Ways to Donate:

- To use the QR Code, you will need to have a PayPal account.
- Send check to 189 Prescott St, Groton, MA 01450 – reference TAG2025
- Use our "donate" link <https://tabcom.org/payments/>



# **SAVE THE DATE**

## **MISSIONWORKS 2025**

### **October 25, 2025**



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