

# Annual Report

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## **What is the *Annual Report*?**

The Annual Report is a tool used to collect information from each American Baptist church. Filling out this report helps keep the data current for each church within the denomination. This information is used collectively throughout the denomination in a variety of ways to support the work of American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA).

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## **Why should your church fill out its *Annual Report*?**

Filling out your Annual Report shows that your church is a vital partner with the American Baptist Churches USA denomination. This partnership allows you to take advantage of benefits for your church, such as:

### **▶ TAX EXEMPTION**

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When your church provides its EIN and completes an application, ABCUSA may add the church under the Group Tax Exemption. This becomes proof of affiliation with ABCUSA that your church may use in legal concerns as well as for grants, donations, special purchases, etc.

### **▶ OFFERING MATERIALS**

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Make sure your church is able to receive the offering materials by keeping its contact information current.

### **▶ FIND A CHURCH**

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Let visitors find your church on the web through the *Find a Church* feature located on the ABCUSA website. They can look up churches by state and city or by zip code and radius combinations. Once the resulting church list is displayed on their device, they then may click on the church's website link to see its contact information, times of services, etc.

### **▶ HELP US CELEBRATE OUR ETHNIC DIVERSITY**

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Your church membership counts and ethnicity are needed to tabulate the total membership and ethnic counts for the entire denomination. The results help support the fact that American Baptist Churches USA is one of the most ethnically diverse Baptist denominations in the United States.

### **▶ INCREASED VOTING POWER AT THE BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT**

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American Baptist churches have voting rights at the Biennial Mission Summit. The number of delegates assigned to each church is higher when the church provides their annual membership figures each year through the Annual Report.

## ▶ **IRS COMPLIANCE**

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It is important that every American Baptist church provide accurate and current contact information, such as location and mailing addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses, keeping in compliance with the IRS requirements.

## ▶ **ABC AND WORDWIDE ECUMENICAL PARTNERS**

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Every year, summarized statistics are generated and sent to several religious research organizations, where they are included in publications that show the latest religious trends in America. Every American Baptist church, including yours, should be included in these summarized statistics so that the denomination is accurately represented and reported.

Another benefit of reporting complete membership is that ABCUSA earns more delegates and has a greater voice with worldwide ecumenical partners like the Baptist World Alliance (BWA).



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## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have any additional questions, you may contact your region or national staff:

1. Regional Office: To get the contact information for your region, go to the ABCUSA website ([www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org)) and click on How We Serve> American Baptist Regions> and click on your state/area on the map below.
2. National Office:  
Email [ABCISTeam@abc-usa.org](mailto:ABCISTeam@abc-usa.org), or call (800) ABC-3USA and enter extension:

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