

# Legacy



FALL/WINTER 2023

American Baptist  
**FOUNDATION**

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

*(Matthew 28:18-20, NIV).*

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## Responding to Jesus' Call

In a time of economic uncertainty, rising inflation, and war in Ukraine, it would be easy to despair. When our world feels crazy, that feeling can't help but have an impact on our actions and attitudes. Imagine pushing against all the despair in our world without the energy that your faith provides! According to Matthew, one of Christ's final activities on earth was to call us to action, to share the Good News he brought us. Share it with whom and where? With all our neighbors—not only locally but across the world.

Although the following words may be well-known, ponder them with new eyes as the Great Commission they are:

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."  
(Matthew 28:18-20, NIV).*

Who will pass on the peace we know through our relationship with Christ? Who will share the Good News with coming generations? Each of us can be part of making disciples, baptizing and teaching them about Jesus! Through our planned gifts—our wills, trusts and legacy giving—each of us can be part of sharing the Good News with a world in need!

As you consider what your faith means to you, consider also the ways in which you can be part of sharing that faith with others. Of course, that is a daily task. But you also can make plans for that critical response to the Great Commission to continue beyond your lifetime. It can be accomplished through the exciting and fruitful work of our American Baptist family of mission. I invite you—indeed, I encourage you—to contact one of our American Baptist Foundation Planned Giving Advisors today. Their information is on page \_\_\_\_\_. Let that experienced, sensitive person help you create a personal legacy for reaching new disciples for generations to come. It will truly be an awesome way for responding to Jesus' call!

Yours in Christ,

*(Rev. Dr. Chris Rough)*

**Chief Executive Officer**

MATTHEW 28:8

- 1469 Divine Leader
- 1468 Divine Direction
- 1384 Galilee
- 509 Spiritual Vision
- 2619 Obedience to Christ
- 3899 Immediate Service
- 3036 Godly Fear
- 1927 Great Joy, Lk 24:52
- 3900 Joy in Service
- 2074 God's Messengers

Christ Appears After His Resurrection

- 2415 Resurrection (9), 28:17
- 3409 Salutations (1), Lk 1:28
- 2616 Obedience (3)
- 3922 Christ Worshiped, Lk 24:52
- 1020 Encouragement (2)
- 1019 Encouragement (1)
- 741 Spiritual Brothers

- 3781 Guard†
  - 3605 Witnessing (3)
  - 862 Sanhedrin
- p.p. Mt 27:65

- 2079 Elders (2)
- 2779 Plotting (2)
- 2549 Bribery (2), Mk 14:11
- 3704 Lying, Ac 5:8
- 3703 Liars

'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

"So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. **10**Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Guards' Report

**11**While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. **12**When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, **13**telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away

while we were asleep.' **14**If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." **15**So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

The Great Commission

**16**Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17**When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18**Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- 2715 Evil Influence (2)
- 2708 Phases
- 2707 Disciples
- 2182 Great (2)
- 2588 Temptation (4)
- 2827 False Witness (2), Mk 14:56

- 2081 Apostles (2)
- 2619 Obedience to Christ
- 4308 Tree of Jesus' Life—253
- 2415 Resurrection (9), Mk 16:9
- 3922 Christ Worshiped
- 1224 Doubt (2), Jn 11:39
- 710 Christ's Authority, Mk 1:27
- 3807 Christ's Power, Lk 8:25
- 717 Christ's Dominion
- The Great Commission**
- 2088 Preaching (b)
- 1442 Gospel Universal, Mk 13:10
- 756 Baptism (1), Mk 16:16
- 1060 Ministers' Duty, Mk 16:15
- 3694 The Trinity, Jn 14:26
- 2379 Missions, Mk 13:10
- 2092 Teachers of Word, 1Ti 3:2
- 790 Christ's Commands, Jn 13:34
- 1271 Divine Presence
- 4172 Inseparable Christ, Jn 10:28
- 1126 End of the World

The Office and Work of John the Baptist, Lk 1:1-19  
Jn 1:24  
1440 Gospel (1)  
701 Christ Divine (1)  
707 Son of God, Lk 1:35

2800 Christ Prophecies  
1903 John the Baptist  
1562 Obstacles Remo

1904 Forerunner  
2953 Spir. Prepar

**The Ministry of Baptism**  
760 Baptism by Lk 3:12  
2706 Preaching  
3127 Repentance  
310 Forgiveness  
1954 Awakened Judea  
18 Confess Lk 5:8

# Giving Your Testimony through a Legacy Plan

Before Jesus ascended into heaven he said to his followers,

*“You shall be my witnesses....”*  
(Acts 1:8)

To be a witness of God’s love revealed in Christ is like giving a testimony in court—it reflects the beliefs and feelings of the one on the stand. **The C. Austin Earle Family Legacy Endowment**, managed by the *American Baptist Foundation*, is such a testimony.

**W**hen God called the Earle family to be good stewards of all He gave them, they listened! Beginning with C. Austin Earle—an American Baptist pastor emeritus of Martin’s Pond Union Baptist Church in North Reading, Massachusetts, and Army Chaplain in World War II—Earle family members have given their testimony through their generosity. They also learned the importance of legacy giving when their father set up endowments for his church and for Gordon College.

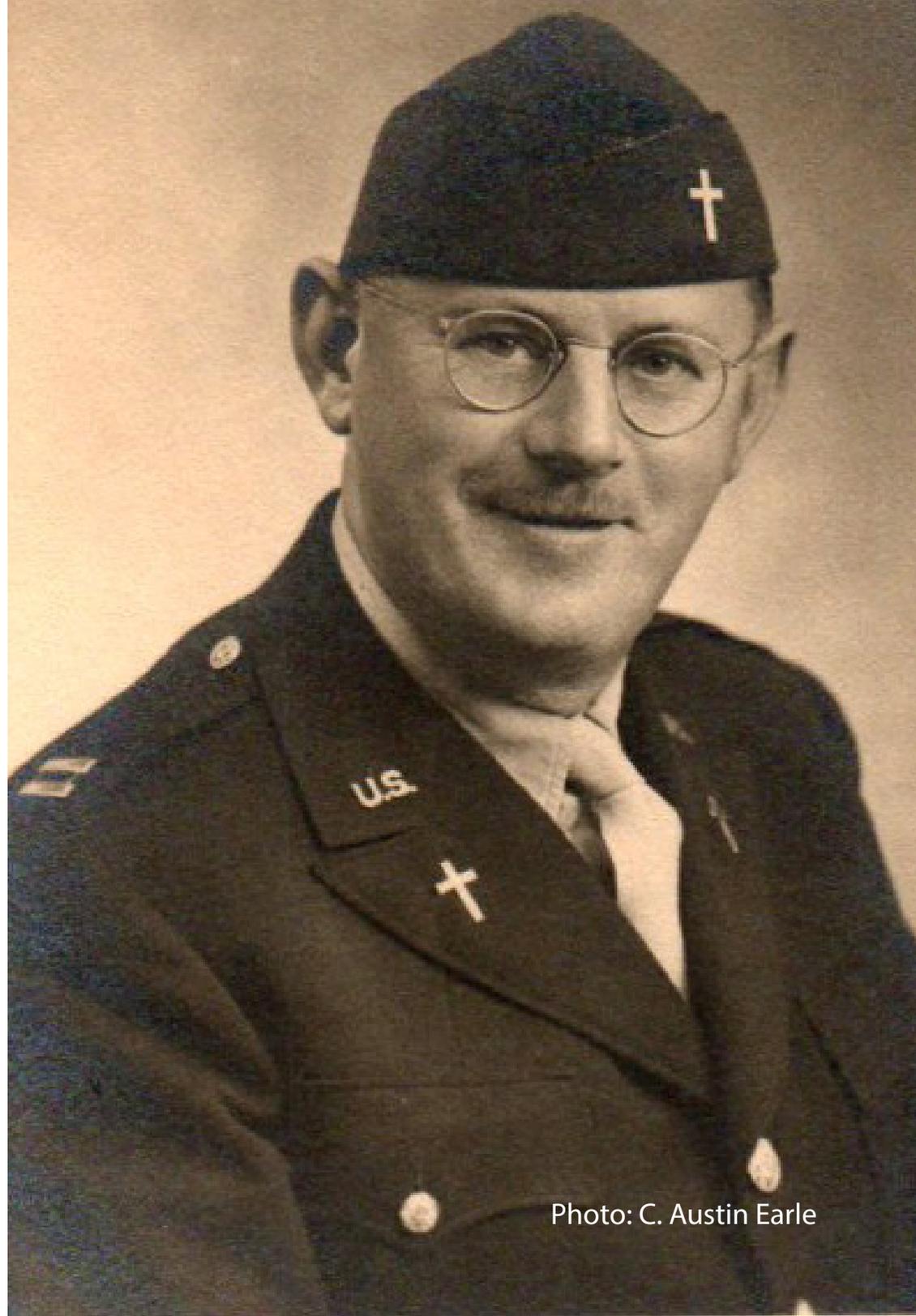


Photo: C. Austin Earle

Following in his footsteps, his son, Ralph, has dedicated his life to honoring God through good stewardship, using his resources to help others. He graduated from Northeastern University in 1966 with a degree in mathematics and physics. He served as an officer in the U.S. Army, including a year in Korea during the time when experimental satellite communications were being introduced. Ralph was one of only seven authorized personnel to have access codes for them. Then after a remarkable career with Teledyne, where he had top secret clearance as a Senior Systems Analyst, he retired. That reveals the “professional” Ralph.



The “personal” Ralph is even more impressive. He is a soft-spoken, humble man who describes himself as “using the talents that God has given me, honoring God with my life, and being a good steward.” He has demonstrated these qualities by devoting his time, talent, and treasure as Christ would have him do so. He especially shares these gifts with his church, where his father was once pastor and where he leads in worship when needed and is always a teacher by word and example.

Ralph loves his church and supports it generously, including making it one of the beneficiaries of several planned gifts managed by the American Baptist Foundation. He liberally supports the regional ministries of the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts with both annual and planned gifts. He especially appreciates the region's School of Ministry program because he believes in the importance of training leaders in discipleship.

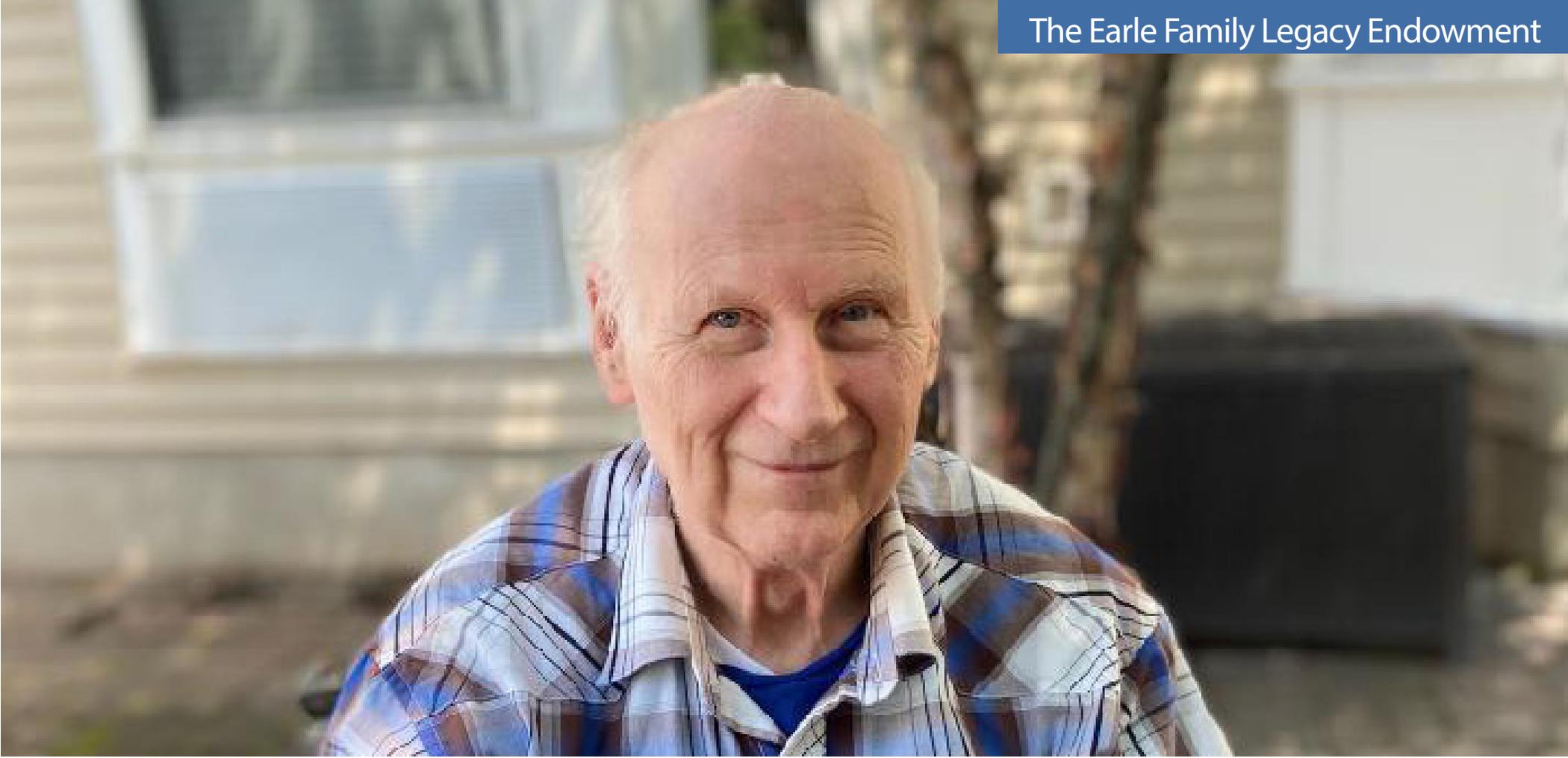


Left t to Right: *Ed Guerard, TABCOM Coordinator Friends of Regional Ministries, Ralph Earle and Linda Cassel, ABF's Assoc. Executive Director during their summer 2023 legacy planning meeting.*

Ralph has shared his gift of generosity by volunteering his time as well, no matter where he has lived. When he lived in Alabama, he conducted nursing home worship services every Sunday, serving communion and praying with the residents. When one of the church's members required long-term care, Ralph visited her almost daily for more than two years. When he returned to Massachusetts, he collected day-old bread from a bakery and delivered it to the North Reading Food Pantry for years.

Upon his decision to sell his home in Alabama and move to Massachusetts to help his ailing brother, it came to Ralph's attention that there was a family of foreign nationals who needed a house. But they had not established a good credit rating. Ralph sold his home to them and held the mortgage, which would help them build their credit rating.

Ralph has taken "service and stewardship" very seriously; they are an important part of his testimony. He is committed to leaving a legacy as his father did, by creating the C. Austin Earle Family Legacy Endowment.



In the words of Susan, his sister in-law,

*“Ralph has touched so many lives with compassion and generosity. I can’t begin to count the ways, but I do know his favorite Bible verse from Matthew 6:21, which he shares with us always.”*

This verse certainly helps explain the testimony he has given through creating his legacy plan:

*“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

As 2023 comes to an end, consider the many ways you can help support American Baptist ministries and missions while enjoying tax and income benefits. Here are a few end of the year gift suggestions:

### ***Charitable IRA Rollover***

Congress made permanent the law that allows people age 70½ or older who own an IRA to make gifts directly from their IRA to charity. For many people, this is the best tax-wise way to give. An IRA rollover gift will not be included in your taxable income and may qualify for your required minimum distribution.

### ***Gifts of Stock***

An outright gift of stock or other appreciated marketable securities is an excellent way to contribute to ministry while receiving attractive tax benefits. Stocks can also be used to create an income paying gift, such as a CGA or charitable trust.

This option works best for individuals who:

- Have investments that have grown over time
- Are concerned with paying capital gain taxes

There are many planned giving options available to you. Whether it be a gift of life insurance, a bequest through your will, or a gift of real estate, ABF can work with you and your advisors to establish a gift plan that works best for you, your loved ones and the ministries you hold dear.

For your convenience, ABF will work with your financial advisor or institution to facilitate your desired gift.

Many Christian individuals and families desire to remember their favorite ministries and charitable organizations through their current giving and estate plans. One way to accomplish this goal is to establish a legacy, or memorial, endowment bearing the family name or that of a particular family member or friend.

### ***Why establish a Legacy Endowment?***

By establishing a legacy endowment with American Baptist Foundation (ABF), an individual or a family can be certain that the American Baptist ministries and missions they hold dear are supported for years to come. Planting a seed may encourage other family members and friends to add to the fund over time. God has blessed each of us and we have an opportunity to make a difference.

A Legacy endowment creates a chance to communicate your lifetime commitment to American Baptist ministry and mission while providing a living witness that can ensure the continuance of ministry for generations to come.

### **Benefits of a Legacy Endowment**

- Fund using cash contributions and/or a variety of assets
- Create a charitable deduction
- Produce steady stream of income to support ministries

If you would like to learn more about establishing a Legacy Endowment contact our offices by calling (610)-768-2035.

# Strengthening Your Financial Future

## Custom Planned Giving Solutions for Ministry & Mission

American Baptist Foundation (ABF) is committed to improving the long-term financial health of our American Baptist partners in ministry and mission. As such, we provide a variety of services and resources aimed at growing resources and encouraging greater stewardship over time. ABF's Strengthening Your Financial Future (SYFF) program provides customized solutions to support each ministry's vision while breaking down barriers that inhibit stewardship.

### VISION

- Helps break down barriers that inhibit stewardship
- Begins with a conversation between ABF and key leaders of your ministry
- Ultimate goal is the development of a customized planned giving program that is tailored to your ministry

### COMMUNICATION

#### *Delivering your stewardship message*

- Clear, concise messaging is critical to realizing success
- ABF assists developing marketing materials

#### *Planned Giving Education*

- Creative giving to better understand how to give by: Bequests (wills), stock and marketable securities, real estate, life insurance and through other planned giving options

#### *Gift Cultivation*

- As interested supporters are identified, ABF has planned giving expertise to work with individuals, families, and their advisors, to help ensure that appropriate and effective planned giving options are explored - allowing your ministry to focus on what is most important - communicating your vision

### CELEBRATION

- Successful programs increase ministry awareness and provide greater assurance that your organization will be fruitful for generations to come, share each story
- ABF provides creative ways to celebrate and encourage your members and supporters

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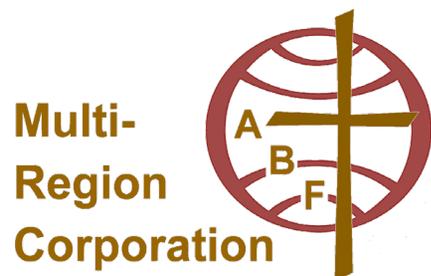


**Rev. James Layton**  
*Communications Consultant*

\* All names and titles for Board Members and Staff as of 09/01/2023

Thank you to our partners, American Baptist Regions (Multi-Region Corporation), American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), and American Baptist International Ministries (IM).

The Foundation encourages the support of these ministries.



### EASY STEPS TO STAY CONNECTED TO ABF ONLINE:

1. Follow and Like us on Facebook and/or Instagram
2. Share our Post with your donors, ministry leaders, friends, family, etc.
3. Visit our website and Subscribe to our eNewsletter



For easy access to the following, scan this QR Code using the camera on your mobile device and/or tablet:

- Our website
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