

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY GRANTS NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2026

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Where Ministry Meets Impact: ABCUSA Grants Provided \$104,500

RESPONDING TO NEED, INSPIRING HOPE, GROWING THE CHURCH

Across American Baptist Churches USA, ministry takes many forms—responding in moments of crisis, nurturing new ideas, and creating spaces where faith can grow and communities can flourish.

Through ABCUSA grant programs, we are able to walk alongside these ministries in meaningful and tangible ways.



Responding in Times of Crisis CLERGY DISASTER RELIEF FUND

In 2025, as communities faced the devastating effects of flooding and tornadoes, ABCUSA responded with care and urgency.

Through the Clergy Disaster Relief Fund, \$4,500 in emergency assistance was provided to pastors whose homes were impacted by disaster—supporting critical repairs and helping restore stability during uncertain times.

Because crises do not follow a schedule, this fund remains open year-round—ready to respond when it is needed most.



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Encouraging Innovation in Ministry

MISSION INITIATIVE FUND

Ministry continues to evolve, and through the Mission Initiative Fund, ABCUSA is investing in bold, forward-thinking ideas.

In 2025, \$77,000 was awarded to support initiatives such as:

- Youth-centered programs fostering connection and spiritual growth
- Reflective ministry practices strengthening leadership and community life
- Multimedia outreach efforts expanding the Church's reach
- New expressions of church, including Dinner Church models

Many of these projects are designed for long-term impact, with funding supporting ministries over multiple years.



Mission Initiative Fund Grant



abc-usa.org

Strengthening Communities and Leadership

CHESTNUT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND



*The Chestnut St.
Baptist Church*

ENDOWMENT FUND
GRANT



ABCUSA remains committed to supporting ministries that serve diverse and growing communities.

In 2025, \$23,000 was awarded through the Chestnut Street Baptist Church Endowment Fund to ministries focused on:

- Asian American Baptist leadership development
- Hospitality for immigrant communities and international students
- Youth discipleship and cross-cultural engagement
- Advocacy efforts promoting justice and stability

These ministries are building bridges across cultures, generations, and communities of faith.

**United in Christ
Together in Mission**



The Generosity Project

Discover a Fresh Approach to Stewardship with The Generosity Project

Talking about money in the church can be challenging—but it doesn't have to be! The Generosity Project is designed to help pastors reframe the conversation around stewardship, making it more about joy, gratitude, and faith rather than obligation or stress.

This program brings together cohorts of pastors to learn, share, and grow in their leadership around generosity. Whether you're leading a small rural church, a thriving urban congregation, or something in between, this experience will give you tools to cultivate a culture of generosity—one that can transform both your ministry and your church's financial well-being.

What Pastors Are Saying:

"For years, I struggled with how to talk about stewardship in a way that didn't feel like a 'necessary evil.' The Generosity Project helped me shift the focus to gratitude, faith, and mission—without guilt or pressure."

"This project has changed the way I think about giving. My congregation is experiencing a greater sense of joy and purpose in generosity, and I've seen a real shift in our approach to stewardship."

"I love that this program keeps generosity in front of me all year long, not just at budget time!"

Who Can Join?

We're inviting pastors, church leaders, and stewardship teams to be part of this journey. Each region can form its own cohort of pastors, meeting online once a month for guided discussions, practical learning, and resource sharing. If you don't have enough participants locally, we can connect you with a wider group of pastors from other regions.

**United in Christ
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How it works!

- We're 6 Monthly Virtual Gatherings – No travel required! Meet with fellow pastors in flexible, supportive online settings led by a trained facilitator.
- Practical Tools & Resources – Participants receive free books, articles, and learning materials to help them lead conversations about generosity with confidence.
- Encouragement & Accountability – Stay engaged with ongoing support from your cohort as you try out new ideas in your church.
- Expert Insights – Once a quarter, enjoy a live webinar with national leaders in stewardship and church leadership.



**GENEROSITY
IS MORE THAN
GIVING—
IT'S LIVING**

**CULTIVATING GENEROSITY.
STRENGTHENING DISCIPLESHIP.
INSPIRING MISSION.**

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT:
THE GENEROSITY PROJECT 2026 COHORTS**

All books and resources are provided by
ABCUSA with the vital support of United Mission

More info: abc-usa.org/generosityproject

The Generosity Project 2026

Topics we cover!

- Moving from scarcity thinking to a culture of abundance
- Leading stewardship conversations with confidence and authenticity
- Shaping a joyful and mission-driven approach to giving

Apply now!

The next cohort of the Generosity Project will begin in July 2026.

Applications for January 2027 can be submitted in the Fall.

Contact GenerosityProject@abc-usa.org to learn more.

The Generosity Project is a collaborative effort between ABCUSA, regions, and local congregations. The Generosity Project aims to help pastors re-frame the conversation around stewardship and generosity in their congregations.

**United in Christ
Together in Mission**



A SHARED COMMITMENT

Together, these grant programs reflect a shared commitment to care, creativity, and community ensuring that ministries have the support they need to respond faithfully in every season.

EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES

We invite you to learn more about these grant programs and how they are supporting ministry across ABCUSA.

Explore eligibility, application details, and deadlines

<https://www.abc-usa.org/grants/>

“So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.” —1 Corinthians 3:7 (NRSV)

Every gift helps strengthen ministries, respond to urgent needs, and support communities across ABCUSA. We invite you to partner with us in this shared mission.

To make a gift and support ABCUSA Ministries, please visit: [abc-usa/give](https://www.abc-usa.org/give)

Explore the Resources at the Lake Institute

We have had several of our Regional Executive Ministers as well as pastors and leaders attend the Religious Fund Raising cohort. Check out what resources they offer. (used with permission from The Lake Institute)

<https://lakeinstitute.org/>

[WWW.ABC-USA.ORG](https://www.abc-usa.org)

