

**Report of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies Meeting  
November 18-21, 2014**

**Highlights of the November meeting:**

**An opening luncheon featured speaker Joy Anderson, founder of the Criterion Institute, a think tank related to shaping markets to create social and environmental good.**

**The Rev. Eddie Cruz, ABHMS associate executive director for Mission Advancement, introduced the America for Christ Offering 2015 theme—“Discipleship: A Journey of Grace”—and recognized board members whose churches shared significant gifts during the 2014 offering.**

**The board unanimously elected The Rev. Dr. Amy Butler to a 2015-2017 term, and the following members to the 2015-2017 director class: Chiles, Thurman, Antonio Lombardi, the Rev. David Gregg, the Rev. Miriam Mendez and the Rev. Lauren Ng.**

**In consideration of Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III’s plan to retire in October 2015, board members invested a significant portion of time discussing and analyzing the present and future vision of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies; examining the strengths, opportunities and future ministries of ABHMS.**

**A professional consulting firm has been engaged to begin searching for a new executive director and a search committee was elected. The committee is presently engaged in the search process.**

**The American Baptist Home Mission Societies’ board of directors held a retreat in Charlotte, N.C., Feb. 10-12. The Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson, executive director of The Ministers Council of American Baptist Churches USA led members in examining the relationship between spiritual practice and effective leadership.**

**The meeting’s theme, “Breathe,” was based on John 20:22: “He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”**

**The meeting also included a visit to Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, an ABCUSA congregation in Charlotte. Board members toured the 100-plus-acre church campus and heard from the Rev. Dr. Clifford Jones Sr., pastor, about the congregation’s wide-ranging ministries that include a 26-bed transitional housing for single, homeless women; a catering division that provides culinary skills job training and nutrition education; and a resale boutique.**

**Respectfully,  
Jim Wolfe**