



Regional Profile

American Baptist Churches of New York State

Location & Mailing Address: 3218 James St., Syracuse, NY 13206

Web: www.abc-nys.org

Geography:

- The American Baptist Churches of New York State Region (ABC-NYS) is comprised of 267 churches in New York State.
- Our churches are divided into 16 Associations. Each cluster of Associations has its own unique landscape replete with gorges, lakes, beaches, and wilderness areas. We have large cities, small villages, quaint towns, and many rural farming communities. ABC-NYS is a Region rich in history, culture, and diversity.
- Not all churches located in New York State are part of our ABC Region. ABC of Rochester/Genesee and ABC of Metro NY are located in New York State but are not part of ABC-NYS.

Mission & Vision:

The American Baptist Churches of New York State is a fellowship of local churches committed to nurturing and developing strong, vibrant and growing congregations that impact their communities and world for Jesus Christ by:

- Supporting congregations and the Region through leadership development
- Coordinating opportunities for Mission
- Challenging Youth in outreach and fellowship
- Building connectedness between churches within the Region and with the wider community of ABCUSA



Core Operational Values: “As American Baptists of NYS, we will embrace God’s future with these core operational values: honesty, connectedness and hope. We will uphold our operational values in every aspect of our common ministry.”

Staff:

Currently the Region of ABC-NYS is served by a full-time Executive Minister and a full-time Associate Executive Minister, as well as office staff.

Churches/Ministries:

Regional Enhancement Team: a team of volunteer clergy and laity who are endorsed by their associations to nurture and assist churches through times of transition and/or difficulty. The full-time Associate Executive Minister trains, supervises and coordinates this team.

Several Grant Opportunities through the Region are available to ABC-NYS Churches:

- *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us* encourages churches in helping refugees.
- *PSALM Fund* provides for emergency needs for pastors and congregations.
- *Lynette Martin Fund* provides encouragement for continuing education for pastors and lay leaders.
- *Youth Mission Support* provides funds for youth mission endeavors.
- *Mission Support for Evangelism and Renewal* has monies available to churches seeking new ways to serve in mission.

ABC-NYS is a diverse region. The region includes large and small churches and churches located in urban, suburban, town and open countryside communities. We are an incredibly diverse Region: ethnic/racial, economic, geographic and generational. Our churches also have leaders and congregations that span a broad theological spectrum.



There are several existing or new congregations within ABC-NYS that have significant numbers of Karen and/or Chin refugees. These groups include the following:

- Tabernacle, Utica – primarily Karen
- First Baptist, Rome – an emerging Karen group is forming
- Chin Christian Fellowship – Syracuse
- Karen Baptist Church – Syracuse
- Albany – Chin Baptists are forming a congregation in Albany
- Kenmore Baptist – Kenmore (suburban Buffalo) Karen and Chin

Pastors/Pastoral Support

- **ABC-NYS Region Pastoral Care Team:** a Region ministry providing pastoral care to ministers and their families. Pastoral care is essential to maintaining positive relationships with ministers and ABC-NYS.
- There is an active **Minister's Council** in the Region.
- ABC-NYS has had 10-12 **Together in Ministry** Groups. These groups are collegial groups designed by the Minister's Council, created thanks to two Lilly Foundation grants. Members gather together regularly for fellowship, support, growth, and mutual accountability. The purpose is to help overcome the isolation experienced by many pastors, encourage health and wellness, promote professional and personal growth, and develop collegial relationships among clergy.

Lay Involvement: Strong lay involvement is a hallmark of ABC-NYS:

American Baptist Women's Ministries:

There are annual state gatherings for both youth and adult women. There are scholarships available for youth to attend National Conferences. They are mission minded and focused on justice. For example, they raised funds and contributed over \$28,000 to the National Women's Project, "Break the Chains – Ending Slavery in the 21st Century. They are also involved in White Cross ministries.

American Baptist Men:

Providing teams in times of disaster is the hallmark of our American Baptist Men. Our teams have served in New York after the bombing of the World Trade Centers and during major devastation caused by hurricanes and tornados in New York State and across the nation. We are continually ready for deployment with two disaster relief trailers. We attend National and State Conferences, and hold an annual Men's Gathering weekend. A Booster Club raises additional funds to help camping and immigrant ministries.

American Baptist Youth:

Our youth are actively involved in planning their Annual Regional ABYouth Conference. A planning board meets regularly to determine activities, entertainment, and their annual mission focus. They raise thousands of dollars each year for ministry and mission work dear to their hearts. And they are actively involved in mission work. For example, several attended our event at Community Missions in Niagara Falls, one of the many Validated Ministries in the Region.



Outdoor Ministries:

Our Outdoor Ministries are conducted through *Vick and Pathfinder Camp and Conference Ministries*. These two camps are located in the Eastern and Western parts of the State. Both camps provide opportunities for family camping, group events, and traditional summer camp opportunities for youth.

Lay Study Program:

An Association-directed, Region-monitored program designed to help individuals gain greater knowledge and understanding of God, and the Bible, and foster relationships with Jesus Christ. It also seeks to develop strong leaders for the local church.

For some individuals, the program is used to earn a certificate in Lay Pastor Studies, which provides an educational background for those seeking to be pastors. Ordination is also available for these pastors. In fact, many of our small church and/or part-time pastors were certified through this program. To increase participation, many of these courses are offered on-line

Validated Ministries: These ministries are approved by the ABC-NYS Board of Mission to be reportable for financial support (through "Specifics")

- **Baptist House at Chautauqua**, Box 1155, Chautauqua, NY 14722
- **Barnabus House Homeless Shelter & Services**, PO Box 495, Malone, NY 12953 Phone 518-521-3754
- **Buffalo City Mission**, 100 E. Tupper Street, Buffalo, NY 14203
- **Cameron Community Ministries**, 48 Cameron Street, Rochester, NY 14606 <http://www.cameronministries.org> Phone: 585-254-2697
- **Chautauqua Adult Day Care Centers**, 358 E. Fifth Street, Jamestown, NY 14722
- **Community Missions** 1570 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14303 <http://www.communitymissions.org> Phone: 716-285-3403
- **Love Tnats** (Thy Neighbor as Thyself) PO Box 1324, Buffalo, NY 14215
- **Pleasant Meadows Ministry** PO Box 476, Evans Mills, NY 13637
- **Racetrack Chaplaincy of America**, 232 Hillsdale Avenue, Eureka, CA 95501
- **Refugee Ministry**, c/o Tabernacle Baptist Church, 13 Clark Place, Utica, NY 13501
- **Rural & Migrant Ministry**, PO Box 4757, Poughkeepsie, NY 12302
- **The Place** (Neighborhood Christian Center of Norwich) 20 East Main Street, Norwich, NY 13815 <http://www.theplace-cncn.org> Phone:607-336-9696
- **Vick and Pathfinder Camp and Conference Ministries**, PO Box 559, Manlius, NY 13104

Affiliated Institutions:

- **Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School**, 20 E. Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604 www.crds.edu
- **Baptist Health Nursing & Rehabilitation Center**, 297 N. Ballston Avenue, Scotia, NY 12302 www.bapthealth.com
- **Baptist Manor**, 276 Linwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209
- **Fairport Baptist Home**, 4646 Nine Mile Point Road, Fairport, NY 14450 <http://www.fairportbaptisthomes.org> Phone: 585-377-0350
- **Keuka College**, Central Avenue, Keuka Park, NY 14479 www.keuka.edu
- **Springbrook**, (formerly Upstate Homes) 2705 State Hwy 28, Oneonta, NY 13820 www.springbrookny.org
- **The Baptist Home**, 198 Route 308, PO Box 129, Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Financial Basis:

United Mission (UM) is the source that runs our mission. Churches are encouraged to use UM for their mission giving as a way to support our ABC family. 65% of it stays in our region to support ABC-NYS churches, which are the fundamental unit of mission, while the remainder supports various national ABC ministries. We participate in the 4 major ABCUSA offerings per year as well as a Regional Offering. ABC-NYS is also in partnership with the **American Baptist Foundation** and **Ministers & Missionaries Benefit Board** (MMBB).

Current Contact Information:

Rev. Dr. John Buskey, Pastor, First Baptist Church, 408 Pleasant St., Manlius, NY 315-682-8941. E-mail to: ABCNYSExecSearch@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Jeff Woods (ABCUSA Staff)
PO Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851
Email: jeff.woods@abc-usa.org

Appendix on Page 6: Spaces circled in black on the following maps represent communities where our churches are currently located. The first map is the Upstate portion of New York. The second map highlights the Mid-Hudson Union Association.

APPENDIX



