

News & Views

May 2022

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ABW President's Report – May 2022

Greetings Ladies of ABW Michigan. I hope all of you are doing well and enjoying this spring season. I hope you had a peaceful Easter and a wonderful Mother's Day.



I look forward to seeing you in person at our annual conference/retreat the first weekend in June in DeWitt. I hope you are making plans to attend. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Christine Smith, National President of American Baptist Women's Ministries. Kim Michowski and her committee have been busy planning the activities and our schedule. Please invite someone to attend the conference with you. You know we will have a wonderful time.

Please do not forget about our offerings – Scholarship, National Support, Special Interest Missionaries, and Women & Girls Fund. Don't forget to renew your subscription to New & Views. Be in the know with ABW-MI for only \$12 per year.

We still have openings on the Region Executive Committee for Coordinator of Missions with Women and Girls, Coordinator of AB Girls and Coordinator of Women & Girls Mission Fund. We also have openings for Presidents for the North, Flint Cluster and Central Areas. Please let me know if you are interested or know someone whom you think would be excellent for these positions.

I have been involved with the National American Baptist Women Ministries via zoom calls for board meetings. I ask that you consider becoming a Vital Partner by giving regularly to National Support of American Baptist Women's Ministries. For more information visit the American Baptist Women's Ministries webpage at abwomensministries.org. I will also notify you of national activities. Look for that information on the ABW-MI Facebook page and in News & Views.

In July I will be part of a region group traveling to Puerto Rico for mission work. I look forward to meeting new friends and putting what little carpentry skills I have to work. Hopefully, I'll be part of the painting team.

Dates to Remember

June 3, 4 & 5: ABW-MI Annual Conference & Retreat, DeWitt, MI

July 22 – 24: National Women & Girls Conference, Virtual & in-person, King of Prussia, PA

At our June meeting we will elect a new president for ABW-MI. I have enjoyed my three years as president. I know we haven't been able to meet in person, which is why I look forward to seeing you at conference. I wish ABW-MI continued success.

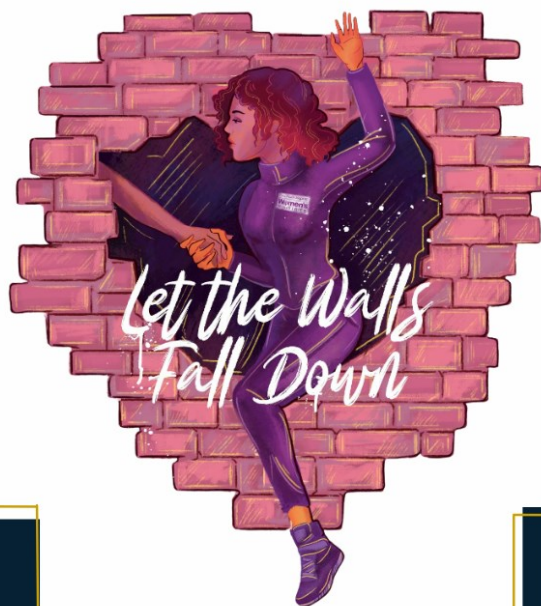
May God richly bless all of you.

Brenda Threatt

ABW-MI Region President

American Baptist Women's
Annual Conference
JUNE 3-5

St. Francis Retreat Center Dewitt, MI



Key Verse: **EPHESIANS 2:14**

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility

Speaker: **REV. CHRISTINE A. SMITH**



- Senior Pastor of Restoration Ministries of Greater Cleveland
- Founder of Women Together in Ministry of Greater Cleveland
- Author of Beyond the Stained Glass Ceiling: Equipping and Encouraging Female Pastors

Timeline Details:

- Check In Begins - Friday at 12 pm
- Conference Begins - Friday at 2 pm
- Conference Ends - Sunday Morning

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES
OF MICHIGAN



For General Information
ms_kimm@live.com



For Registration Details
lreed4624@comcast.net

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Church: _____ City: _____

Area: Central North Flint River West Metro Detroit

First Time At Conference? Y N

Full Time (Friday Afternoon—Sunday Morning):

Single \$225 Double \$195

Meals Needed: Fri Dinner Sat Breakfast
 Sat Lunch Sat Dinner Sun Breakfast

Saturday Only: \$85 (No room needed)

Meals: Sat Breakfast Sat Lunch Sat Dinner

Friday night + Saturday activities:

Single \$165 Double \$150

Meals Needed: Fri Dinner Sat Breakfast
 Sat Lunch Sat Dinner

Saturday activities + Saturday night:

Single \$165 Double \$150

Meals Needed: Sat Breakfast Sat Lunch
 Sat Dinner Sun Breakfast

Handicap Needed Roommate: _____

Pick a roommate for me

Payment Options:

Zelle pay or PayPal to abwmsec@gmail.com —
please email picture or copy of registration
form to the same email or text 517-474-3250.

Venmo to @Laurel-Reed-5 — email registration

Mail check with registration form to Laurel
Reed, 624 Narrow Way, Clarklake, MI 49234

Registration Deadline: MAY 21, 2022



*American Baptist Women's
Ministries Annual Conference*

At

**St. Francis Retreat Center
703 E. Main St., Dewitt, MI
517-669-8321**

June 3-5, 2022

With Special Guest Speaker

Rev. Christine A. Smith



Biography of Rev. Christine A. Smith

Rev. Christine A. Smith was called to serve as senior pastor of Covenant Baptist Church, Wickliffe, Ohio in 2006. In 2014 the church relocated to Euclid, Ohio. Subsequently, in 2019, the church changed its name to “Restoration Ministries of Greater Cleveland, Inc.” She is the founder of “Women Together in Ministry of Greater Cleveland,” and author of the blog, “Shepastor,” dedicated to equipping and encouraging female clergy. Her first book, *Beyond the Stained Glass Ceiling: Equipping and Encouraging Female Pastors* was published by Judson Press in 2013. In addition to her service as pastor of a local congregation, Rev. Smith is engaged in community service and outreach through work with local clergy groups, hospitals, educational institutions and her congregation. During the Pandemic, her congregation worked with the City of Euclid and other congregations to offer drive-thru COVID testing, free masks and other cleansing items.

Rev. Smith has authored articles and chapters in a variety of books, covering topics on pastoral care, inter-culturalism and diversity. From 2012-2019, Rev. Smith served as adjunct faculty for Ashland Theological Seminary. In 2016, Rev. Smith and her husband accompanied then national president, Dr. James Perkins as members of a delegation representing the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (PNBC), and guests of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, on a Missions trip to Israel. She served as the representative for PNBC Women in Ministry. In 2017, Rev. Smith became the first female senior pastor to host the PNBC Midwest Region. She is also a regular contributor to the PNBC devotional, *The Worker*.

Since 1993, Rev. Smith has been engaged locally with American Baptist Women’s Ministries of Greater Cleveland. She has served as workshop leader, keynote speaker, Bible study leader and host for AB Women annual days and retreats. In July, 2021, Rev. Smith was elected to become the National President of American Baptist Women’s Ministries. Rev. Smith earned a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree from the University of Akron and a Master of Divinity Degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse School of Religion, specializing in Systematic Theology and Women’s Studies.

Rev. Smith was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in 1995 (Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., ordaining pastor). Rev. Smith and her husband, Aristide Smith, Jr., have three children, Aristide III, Caleb and Aris. For all of these blessings, Rev. Smith simply says, “To God be the glory for the great things He has done!”

Mission Offering Opportunities

We will be taking four Mission offerings throughout the conference. Please be prepared to share as God leads in these areas:

1. Scholarship Women
2. National Support
3. Special Interest Missionaries
4. Women & Girls Fund

These offerings will be taken at meal times Friday and Saturday, or you can write one check and designate how much for which.

Leisure Activities

- Crochet or knit hats for cancer kids — only patterns supplied
- Make tied blankets for cancer kid transport. Please let us know when you register so we have enough kits.
- Enjoy a prayer walk.
- Games or puzzles available.
- Talk with friends or new acquaintances.

Workshops Available — Pick Two

- Rev. Christine Smith — digging deeper into our theme
- Cindy Evans — Human trafficking (National)
- Rev. Jeni Pedzinski — Human trafficking (International)
- Rev. D. Irene Key — Worship Arts: More Than Just Music!
- Rev. Sheree Gidcomb Clark — Raised Right

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?

If you have special dietary needs, contact the Kitchen at 517-669-8321 one week prior to arrival.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO

Emergency Phone #: Bethany House after 5 p.m. 517-669-2431

REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

First-time ABW attendees are eligible for a \$50 scholarship from the region. Call or text Laurel Reed at 517-474-3250 or email abwmnsec@gmail.com before registering. NOTE: Some areas also offer scholarships. Please contact your area president or treasurer for details.

Conference Project: Hats for Cancer Victims

Our 2022 conference project is knitting or crocheting hats for kids (ages 3-18) being treated for cancer. If you need a pattern, please contact Laurel Reed (lreed4624@comcast.net) and specify knit or crochet pattern or find your own on line. Hobbii.com as well as other sites have many patterns that may be downloaded for free.

Please only use soft baby yarn (virgin yarn graded 9-12, Caron brand for example) for the Cancer recipients. Chemo and other skin disorders make the skin really thin so anything but the softest yarn will cut the scalp. Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of MI based out of St. Clair Shores usually services about 90% girls and 10% boys with comfort bags which include games and travel pillows, for example.

Should you prefer to use another quality of yarn that you already have, the hats can still go to other hospitals, senior centers and homeless shelters.

IF YOU DON'T KNIT OR CROCHET, we'll be making 48x60 knotted fleece blankets at conference to keep patients warm when transporting to and from chemotherapy.

Collection of completed projects will be at the 2022 conference in DeWitt.



URGENT: Hurricane Response in Puerto Rico

This hurricane season has broken records...for all the wrong reasons.

On August 27, Hurricane Laura slammed into the Gulf Coast as a Category 4 storm with 150 mile-per-hour winds.

We are working with partners on the ground to create a response plan that will likely include CWS Kits, Emergency Cleanup Buckets and Blankets as well as long-term recovery support.

When you donate, you will be part of this vital relief effort. You will ship precious supplies to affected communities. You will help our partners on the front lines to reach those who may otherwise be forgotten in the response.

Will you join us?

Please send your contributions to the regional treasurer along with your other offerings on the designated form toward the end of this newsletter.



**American Baptist Women's Ministry of MI
Nominating Recommendations
2022**

**These are Three year terms:
Ending Conference 2024**

To be Nominated are as follows:

Secretary/Treasurer: Laurel Reed

Coordinator of Scholarship: Lori Zupan

Coordinator of White Cross:

Coordinator of Young Adult Women: Dr. Vanessa E. P. Ghant

Coordinator of Women & Girls Mission Fund:

Coordinator of Missions with Women and Girls:

Coordinator of AB Girls:

Scholarship Report

Please join me in congratulating our 2022-23 scholarship recipients! Returning are Rachel Good (attending college in Hungary where her parents are missionaries), Trinity Scott (attending Kalamazoo Valley Community College), and Luisa Tittle (attending U-M Flint).



New recipients are Morgan Scott (Trinity's younger sister), who will be attending Western Michigan University, and Sarah Kocsis (an M.Div student at Cornerstone University, with a major in counseling). She is from Michigan Avenue Baptist in Saginaw. She is looking to go into counseling, pastoral care, or be a chaplain.

Welcome to our newcomers and congratulations to all!

As always, contributions to the scholarship fund are gratefully accepted.

Lori Zupan
Scholarship Coordinator

Our 2021-2022 scholarship recipients:

Miranda Brooks Birthday: Aug. 31

Home address: 19930 Maplewood St., Livonia, MI 48152

Email: mirandabrooks649@gmail.com Landmark College in Vermont

Home Church: Crosspointe Meadows, Novi

Trinity Scott Birthday: Aug. 31

Home Address: 1608 Darlington Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Email: trinity318@icloud.com Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Home Church: Galilee Baptist Church, Kalamazoo

Luisa Tittle Birthday: Aug. 16

Home address: 4740 Shellbark Dr., Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Email: luisareina2@att.net University of Michigan—Flint

Home Church: First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti

Rachel Good Birthday: Oct. 25

Home address: Apafi Utca 21 Debrecen, Hungary 4028

Email: rachelcgood@icloud.com University of Debrecen, Hungary

Home Church: Covenant Baptist Church, West Bloomfield



ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS: Any woman who is a member of an American Baptist Church in Michigan, who gives evidence of a call to follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, whether in a secular position or in ministry, shall be eligible. We are all called to be ministers for Jesus wherever we are.

Applicants must complete and sign this application and also provide the following additional data:

1. Letter of recommendation from your pastor.
2. Statement of Christian experience/call to ministry.
3. Brief statement of your vocational expectations and goals.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

(PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME - NO NICKNAMES)

HOME ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ CELL PHONE _____

PARENT'S NAMES _____ HOME PHONE _____

NAME OF HOME CHURCH _____

CHURCH ADDRESS _____ PASTOR _____

HIGH SCHOOL _____ YEAR GRADUATED _____

COLLEGE YOU ARE ENROLLED AT _____

MAJOR _____ YEAR _____

IS YOUR FAMILY ABLE TO HELP YOU FINANCIALLY? _____

IF SO, WHAT PERCENT CAN THEY PROVIDE? _____

DO YOU EXPECT TO WORK WHILE IN SCHOOL? _____

CAN AND WILL YOUR CHURCH PROVIDE FINANCIAL HELP? _____

STATE SPECIFICALLY ANY OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME AVAILABLE, SUCH AS YOUR OWN SAVINGS, OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS, ETC. _____

GIVE NAMES OF TWO (2) PEOPLE OTHER THAN FAMILY AS REFERENCES:

NAME: _____ NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ADDRESS: _____

I recognize that this scholarship is a gift from the American Baptist Women's Ministries of Michigan for the purpose of helping me prepare myself for whatever God would have me do with my life. I pledge myself to sincere preparation and eagerly seeking to know and to follow His will. I understand that should God call me to serve in a Christian vocation, I will plan to serve in the American Baptist Churches, USA.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT _____ DATE _____

*PLEASE ENCLOSE A **NON-PROFESSIONAL PICTURE** OR ONE THAT CAN BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT NEEDING COPYRIGHT PERMISSION. IF POSSIBLE, SEND A DIGITAL VERSION TO loriz@tsshome.com.

This application and the additional data sheets are to be **returned to the Scholarship Coordinator before the deadline, March 1. Lori Zupan, loriz@tsshome.com, 581 Canterbury Dr., Saline, MI 48176.**

Coordinator of Women & Girls Mission Fund Report

ABC-MI Region Transitional Pastor Leadership Group (MLG) and
American Baptist Women MI. Zoom Internet Technician (I.T.)

Dr. Vanessa Ghant

My new address is

P O Box 51325

Webster, TX 77598

dr.ghant@gmail.com



Also Rev. Nikita McCalister replaced Rev. Ed Owens as Consultant for Transitional Ministries, ABC-MI Region

I am a Transitional Minister in the Metropolitan Area working under Rev. Nikita McCalister. Some of the ladies may have an interest in transitional ministry training. If you are a veteran transitional pastor in our Region or interested in serving as a transitional pastor, the region holds an Annual Transitional Pastor training class for those people who may have an interest in serving in this unique ministry with ABC-MI churches between pastors. It will prepare people new to this ministry as well as serve as a beneficial review for those who are experienced with this specialized ministry. This year's training is over, but there are other meetings throughout the year. If you are interested in learning more, call me with questions or concerns at (248) 470-6348.

If you need help with technology, contact Dr. Vanessa E.P. Ghant, Michigan Technology Chair.

To financially support this group, contact Virtual Fundraiser Organizer Group, Dr Vanessa E.P. Ghant, dr.ghant@gmail.com. Funds raised support the national region, to support our local Michigan region, contact Laurel Reed at lreed4624@comcast.net.

Continue to stay safe and mask up as required.

Submitted by, Dr. Vanessa E. P. Ghant

Convent Baptist Church, 5800 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322, 248.855.9191

Vital Partners

Our ministry with women and girls
Can't happen without you!

Vital Partners are individuals or groups that give regularly (\$228 or more per year) to National Support of American Baptist Women's Ministries. **Vital Partners** give monthly, quarterly, or annually, and they may also set up automated giving by direct withdrawal from their bank account or credit card. Vital Partners have a vision for the future of AB Women's Ministries and financially support our work with women and girls. Your support of national AB Women's Ministries, whether great or small, collectively makes possible great things!

As a **Vital Partner** in this ministry, your support will:

- **Develop** strong and exciting ministries with girls, building courageous and enthusiastic disciples of Jesus Christ.
- **Build** a ministry dedicated to growing leadership skills in women, so they can create, plan, and implement ministry visions.
- **Empower** American Baptist Women's Ministries to reach new heights in envisioning programs, producing resources for your ministries, and expanding ministries for young adult women.
- **Ensure** the future of American Baptist Women's Ministries; today's funding reaches tomorrow's leaders!



*"Training leaders, deepening my relationship with God and other women, and growing and expanding my gifts are part of the reasons that I love AB Women's Ministries and support Vital Partners."
(Dianne from Iowa)*

*"Anything we can do to strengthen AB Women's Ministries is important.
Our gifts will impact the next generation!"
(Jan from South Dakota)*

Vital Partners Yearly Giving Levels

Inspired by our mission statement, "AB Women's Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God," AB Women's Ministries recognizes these Vital Partner yearly giving levels:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| \$228 - \$499 | Sustaining Partner |
| \$500 - \$999 | Encouraging Partner |
| \$1000 + | Empowering Partner |

Become a Vital Partner!

- **To make a gift by credit card**, go to <https://secure.usaepay.com/interface/epayform/28kr57etaCsKk09HdOH627F444Fj57sT/> to give a one-time gift from your credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover).
- **To make a gift by paper check**, please mail it to: AB Women's Ministries, 1075 First Ave STE C-210, King of Prussia, PA 19406. A receipt will be sent to you by email or regular mail. Please provide your email address.
- **To give automatically from credit card**, please go to <https://secure.usaepay.com/interface/epayform/28kr57etaCsKk09HdOH627F444Fj57sT/> to set up your automatic donation. A receipt will be sent to you by email or regular mail. Please provide your email address.

Links for donations are available at <https://abwomensministries.org//page.aspx/contentId/39/Vital-Partners/>

American Baptist Women's Ministries

Offering/Subscription Payment Information 2022-2023

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Please only send one check and indicate how the funds should be allocated here:

News & Views Subscription(s) Aug. 2022 until May 2023 \$ _____

Women's Scholarships \$ _____

National Support \$ _____

Women & Girls Fund \$ _____

Special Interest Missionaries \$ _____

Special Missions Project: Goal \$2500

2022-2023 Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief \$ _____

Other: _____ \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Payment by: _____ Check # _____ Venmo to @Laurel-Reed-5
 _____ PayPal (paypal.me/ABWMMI or pay abwmsec@gmail.com)
 _____ Zelle Pay to abwmsec@gmail.com



AREA REPORT FORM

FROM: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ AREA: _____

Please make all checks payable to ABW MINISTRIES OF MI.

Enclosed check for special funds as follows:

- Region Support \$ _____
- Scholarship \$ _____
- Special Mission Project \$ _____
- Special Interest Missionaries \$ _____
- Women's & Girl Fund \$ _____
- Refit Fund \$ _____
- National Support \$ _____
- Leadership Development \$ _____
- Endowment Fund \$ _____
- \$ _____
- Camp Lael \$ _____
- Higher Ground at Lake Louise \$ _____
- Miscellaneous \$ _____
- \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

MAIL TO: Laurel Reed
 624 Narrow Way
 Clarklake, MI 49234-9300

Delivery via Email 2022-2023

News & Views Renewal / Sign-Up

Subscription runs from August 2021 to May 2022

Cost \$12 (4 issues plus directory)

Please Renew my subscription

Sign Me Up

I would like to give this subscription as a gift
(Given by) _____

Area: Central North MDA West

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Cell: _____

Home Phone: _____

Church: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to:

ABW Ministries, MI

Send to: **Laurel Reed**
624 Narrow Way
Clarklake, MI 49234-9300
abwmsec@gmail.com

EMAIL

Delivery via U.S. Mail 2022-2023

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Sign Me Up

I would like to give this subscription as a gift
(Given by) _____

Area: Central North MDA West

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Cell: _____

Home Phone: _____

Church: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to:

ABW Ministries, MI

Send to: **Laurel Reed**
624 Narrow Way
Clarklake, MI 49234-9300
abwmsec@gmail.com

U. S. MAIL

American Baptist Women of Michigan
2023 Woman of the Year Award

Tell us about the woman you are nominating. You may include your response in the spaces below or write your response in a narrative which includes this information. Use as much space as you need to introduce us to your nominee. Please feel free to use the back of the form if you need more room.

Name of Nominee: _____

Church/Area: _____

How does she contribute to God's kingdom?

What has she done to further God's kingdom?

Why are you nominating this person?

Why is she worthy of this award?

Nominator Information:

Name: _____

Church/Area: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Return to the region president by April 15, 2023.