

2013 Report of the President

2013 has been a year for developing a passion for ministry within our ABCORI family. We have been blessed to have The Rev. Tom Wiles join us early in the year and he has provided a tremendous spark to our church life. Tom is a man of deep devotion to the Lord and he has shared his gifts of ministry to many of our ABCORI churches and has provided stability after a number of years of transition. The Executive Minister Search Committee should be commended for their excellent recommendation.

We have held seven Board of Ministries meetings during the year. We were hosted by our Canonics Summer staff at our August meeting and we had the opportunity to share and reflect on the value of our camping programs. We are blessed to have Melanie Towle and her visionary leadership. At our October meeting, Stan Lemons gave us a tour of First Baptist America. We have a shared history that is worthy of remembrance.

The ABCORI teams are providing visionary leadership in helping to plan peace advocacy training, church school teacher training and cluster gatherings for pastors. I pray that our roles as ministry teams continue to expand and grow along with the Spirit's prompting.

On Sunday, April 28th, The Congregational Life and Pastoral Leadership Teams planned and held an inspiring All Church worship at First Baptist of America. Rev. Tom Wiles was our featured speaker and we took the occasion to thank Rev. Nikita McCalister for all her work as Operations Manager. We were also thankful that Nikita continues serving our church family in her present financial overseer role.

On Sunday, July 21st, our body installed The Rev. Tom Wiles as our new Executive Minister. It was a privilege to participate in the inspiring service of worship. May God continue to bless Tom with wisdom and His Spirit as we go forward into the future.

On Sunday, September 8, 2013, I was privileged to attend a portion of a worship service at Foster Center Baptist Church and welcome them into our ABCORI family. I pray that other church families may be encouraged to join our ABCORI family in the future.

In 2013, I was very grateful for the work done in the area of finances by Tom Wiles, Jim Essex, Nikita McCalister, Bob Butzier and John Tucker. We "held the line" on expenses as much as that was possible and we recommend a budget for 2014 that is very close to balanced. Praise God for the resources available to us and His ministries!

Marie Carpenter has continued to offer exciting programs and activities for our seniors and those serving that population through her position as Elder Care Director. ABCORI should appreciate the fact that we are one of the few denominations that provides this ministry. Let us never forget the value and worth of each and every person in God's Kingdom from the youngest to the oldest.

I also want to extend a word of thanks to our staff at Canonicus who help communicate our common mission by serving in a number of different capacities. The next time you see one of our staff members, please say thanks for a job well done.

I want to personally thank Donna Sherman for her mentorship as she acted as the Nominating Committee chair for this cycle. Thank you to all who have accepted positions and special thanks to those who have served and are taking a well-deserved break. May we all continue to honor God as we share our gifts of ministry.

In His Service,

Bob Auld