

March 4, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Two years ago, the American Baptist Churches of Michigan (ABC-MI) launched its first ever Region Offering under the theme “Sowing Seeds of Ministry.” Offering materials, including the booklet *Sowing Seeds of Ministry: Stories of Faith, Hope and Love in the American Baptist Churches of Michigan*, shared stories of people who are actively sowing seeds of ministry across the state of Michigan. These stories revealed the variety of ways that our ABC-MI Region staff support our pastors, congregations, and affiliates so each may continue to grow in health and vitality.

The third annual Sowing Seeds of Ministry Region Offering is almost here! May is designated as the promotional month for the offering, though it may be taken at any time throughout the year. Offering packets containing promotional and support materials will arrive at your church in early April, and will include quality print materials such as bulletin inserts and posters as well as offering envelopes. Many resources, such as the offering logo and prior years’ bulletin inserts, will be available for download at www.abc-mi.org.

In order to remain faithful in our stewardship of God’s resources, we have included a pre-stamped postcard. If you intend to promote the Region Offering this year, or are unsure of whether you will use the promotional materials, simply do nothing, and your congregation will continue to receive the promotional offering materials as usual. However, if you know that your congregation will not be able to participate in this year’s Region Offering, or you include the Region Offering as a budgeted item, please return this postcard indicating that your church will not need promotional materials. This will allow us to save the cost of postage and printing for these materials—every little bit counts! **If you do intend to return the postcard to us, please drop it in the mail no later than Monday, March 15.**

Let me encourage you to participate in this year’s offering, especially because **any new and increased gifts will be matched dollar-for-dollar from a special mission fund that you will hear more about when the promotional materials arrive.** We all want to continue reaching our communities for Jesus Christ. By supporting the 2010 Sowing Seeds of Ministry Region Offering, you will help the Region in its efforts to cultivate the vitality of our churches, nurture the gifts of our pastors and laity, encourage the planting of new congregations, and sow seeds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In Christ’s Service,

Erica Van Brakle

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President, American Baptist Churches of Michigan