

In a letter to Dr. Michael Williams, Executive Minister of ABC, MI, dated July 28, 2009, the American Baptist Student Foundation at Michigan State University let him know they would not be re-starting the campus ministry at MSU for this fall, and would be ceasing operations by the end of 2009. It was a sad letter to acknowledge after 50 years, ABSF would no longer be doing outreach to the campus students.

Today, we write you to let you know that as a Region supporter of ABSF, we are facing the all-to-often occurrence to small non-profits organizations that we do not have the operating capital to continue. You and your church, the Region of American Baptist Churches, and individuals throughout the years have been extremely faithful and kind in your giving toward this ministry. But support has continued to drop over the last few years, and we cannot in good faith open this year knowing that we do not have commitments to fund the ministry so it can be effective and dynamic.

We are in a transitional time and we ask for your continued prayer support as we close down the ministry, turn over files for historical preservation, and notify our supporters. We have let the Region know that we are turning over the “Blue House” that has housed campus ministers for several decades, and been the meeting place of countless students throughout the years. In this transition, we want to let you know that both University Baptist Church and Peoples Church in East Lansing are still continuing student ministry outreach and they are two identifiable ABC groups that you could support in the upcoming year.

ABSF, MSU has been a constant reminder over the decades that we need to touch the lives of students during their academic years. We have seen countless students come through our doors and grow into Christian maturity and leadership. Several have gone into ministry vocations, and continue to touch the lives of other generations. There is a real sense of pride in the work that has been able to be done, and the committed relationship that we have had with the ABC of Michigan.

We want to thank especially all those who have served through the years, like Ardith Lang, and our campus ministers, Jim Didier, Roger Palms, Jack Bailey, Vivan Martindale, Bill Wolfe, Patti Kenney, and Sharon McAuley. In the past couple of years, we want to thank also Jeff and Katie Rector who have worked so diligently as our Campus Ministry Facilitator, and Mark and Connie Kemner on our Campus Board. Thanks also to Dr. Mike Williams who has worked with us in so many different ways to help enable the ministry to continue as long as it has. And to each of you who have provided for the ministry in a multitude of ways, we say THANK YOU.

While this is an ending, we know that the Lord will find yet new ways to reach out and continue the spirit and hope of the American Baptist Student Foundation at Michigan State University. Blessings to you all.

Frank McAuley  
For the ABSF, MSU Board