



Rev. Sooji Whitten Ford
Executive Minister
sooziford@abc-indiana.org

April 2017

Dear Pastor, Church Clerk or Treasurer,

Enclosed you will find your church's Annual Clerk Report for 2016 and your Congregational Profile.

It will be much easier if your Church's Pastor, Clerk and Treasurer partner together to complete the reporting process for your church. We hope you will do your part to bring our Region to 100% participation this year. By doing so,

- you will help us to improve the reliability of the data for our wider American Baptist family, which allows us to:
 - prove diversity
 - assess needs & provide resources
 - keep you informed & connected
- your church has tangible evidence of your relationship with us for privileges that include:
 - having a voice in how we continue to do ministry together in the future
 - non-profit tax exemption eligibility through our denomination
 - resources and support when legal questions arise
 - eligibility when grant or inheritance distribution issues arise which relate to churches in relationship with us

The information you provide will help us plan to serve and communicate with your congregation more effectively. *For instance, as we make greater use of technology as we seek to be good stewards of God's resources, it is helpful to have e-mail addresses for every pastor and church, as well as church website (URL) addresses. Therefore, we encourage you to include email addresses along with other contact information to assist us with this effort.*

We also know that numbers are only a small part of what is happening. Please help us hear, understand, and tell your story by responding to the questions on the attached page.

In addition, we invite you & your church leadership to connect with us via:

- our website (www.abc-indiana.org)
- on Facebook (like us at "American Baptist Churches of Indiana & Kentucky")
- by signing up to receive our e-newsletter, "Observations", using the link at the bottom of the homepage on our website.

As we are more connected, our partnership becomes greater and more effective. I would personally welcome the opportunity to meet with you, your leaders, and/or nearby pastors. Please contact me (e-mail above, or the phone number below) to make those arrangements.

Please read the enclosed instructions carefully. They will walk you through the report and explain what is needed in each section. Please fill out the report as completely as you can. Also, be sure to make a copy for your records.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact **Jennifer Greene at jennifergreene@abc-indiana.org or 317-635-3552 x 221.** Thank you in advance for your assistance in helping us minister to you and your congregation in the future!

Please return the completed report to our office BEFORE MAY 10, 2017.

Together - With You - On God's Abundant Journey,

Soozi Whitten Ford