



ABCNJ Council Reorganization – Your Feedback is Vital!

In a constantly changing world, the church is challenged to be faithful to the Gospel and remain vital and effective. Toward that end the Moderators of the ABCNJ Associations and the ABCNJ Council have been working on a new model of ministry for our Region that encourages and supports our commitment to congregational health and faithfulness.

The change we are presenting to you, for your information and feedback, populates our Council according to a networked mission model because ABCNJ is a network of ministries and churches seeking to follow God. The proposed model envisions Council being composed of one representative from each of the region's existing ministries. Each church would be encouraged to send representatives to all the various ministries they are interested in supporting. The proposal also allows for the creation of new areas of ministry/mission or the dropping of any regional ministries that cease to function.

How does your church fit in? A key component of this model of ministry is the creation of the Association Covenant Groups (ACG). Association Covenant Groups will be composed of between 12 and 30 churches. The ACG will focus on the common mission and ministry of the participating churches. Each ACG is responsible for the following areas of associational life:

- Sending 1 representative to the Professional Ministries Committee
- Ordinations
- Accepting new churches into ABC life
- Cooperative mission and ministry among our local churches
- Worship and fellowship with member churches
- Training local lay leaders

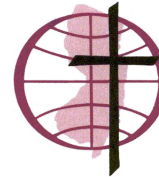
We encourage you to discuss this proposal as congregations and as associations. Each association will set up at least one Town Hall type forum to discuss this proposal during the first half of 2010. Members of the ABCNJ Council and Regional Ministry Team are eager to hear from you, provide further information and to answer questions.

Your participation and input is a vital part of our renewal process. Go to <http://www.abcnj.net/regional-events/2010-regional-reorganization> to take our online survey about the reorganization! The intent behind this restructuring is to increase our ability to remain faithful participants in the mission and ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ. If the churches provide positive feedback and support, this proposal will be brought to a vote at the 2010 ABCNJ Annual Session on September 24-25, 2010.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Teresa Ely, ABCNJ Council President

ABCNJ Regional Reorganization Feedback Survey



The American Baptist Churches of New Jersey is a denominational family and network of 286 churches. We journey together in fellowship and common mission. The ABCNJ Council provides oversight over the ministries of ABCNJ. It sets region policies, supervises the region's ministry team and budget, and administers region business through its committees. Each association sends 3 representatives (clergy/male/ female lay people) plus its Moderator to Council. There are extra members representing groups such as Ministers Council and American Baptist Women.

In recent years, Associations have had difficulty finding interested and qualified representatives for Council. In 2009, the Moderators were empowered by the ABCNJ Council to study this issue and to make recommendations for a new Council structure better suited for twenty-first century regional life and mission.

The ABCNJ Council seeks your feedback and counsel on its **Council of Regional Ministries Proposal**. There are three ways to provide feedback:

1. Attend an association listening session. The schedule is listed on our web site at:

<http://www.abcnj.net/regional-events/2010-regional-reorganization>

2. Take the online ABCNJ Reorganization Survey.

3. Fill out the survey on paper. Copies can be downloaded from the web site. You can also call or email the region office for a copy.

Before participating in the survey, please read the proposal! If you fill in this survey online, you should not fill in a paper survey. This online survey will input your responses directly into our survey databank.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Teresa Ely, ABCNJ Council President