

American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin: Camp Tamarack—CENTRAL Wisconsin—The POST

The American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin is an association of over 60 local churches and a myriad of Christian disciples, constituting one of the regions of the American Baptist Churches USA denomination. Our ministries are expressed in camping, education, church and ministerial resourcing, and innovative discipleship models, all within a culture of collaboration and inclusion. ABC/WI seeks to develop a team that is called and committed to the mission and vision of ABC/WI, who additionally affirm and strive for the values of integrity, diligence, accountability, and humility before God, and who are fulfilled with joy from the service to our constituency.



INNOVATIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Position: CIRCUIT MINISTER (participant in grant-funded project)
Location: Elm Grove, WI (home base); plus various locations in WI
Supervisor: Regional Executive Minister
Time Frame: 2017-2018 (18-24 month commitment), Approximate Start Date: 3/1/2017

I. Overview

- ABC Wisconsin is a fortunate recipient of a grant from the Virginia and Gordon Palmer Jr. Trust, as awarded by the American Baptist Foundation during the American Baptist Home Mission Societies 2016 grant cycle, focused on the theme “Alternative Models for Developing Leadership for Mission and Ministry.” This cycle focused on funding innovative projects and experiments with alternative models of leadership development and enhancement, using approaches that are context-appropriate and reflective of the realities of 21st-century church, culture, ministry and mission.
- “The Circuit” is one of the projects that are funded by the grant awarded to ABC Wisconsin. Through this project, ***ABC Wisconsin seeks individuals to constitute a specialized team of ministers to engage within an experimental ministry model that aims to journey with congregations who are experiencing decline and/or stagnancy and who are interested in and committed to exploring and pursuing faithful next steps toward renewed vibrancy and/or legacy.***
- During the formal experimental stage (2017-2018) a team of five Circuit ministers will journey with minimally two ABC Wisconsin congregations. There are four overarching objectives:
 - o develop a team of specially trained ministers for immediate intentional interim work, along with other transferable ministry skills
 - o lead participating congregations to a God-honoring decision about their future existence as a local congregation
 - o test and evaluate this approach to intentional interim ministry
- Furthermore, the hope is that the learning from the Circuit Project in test phase will inform the refinement of a sustainable and effective approach to intentional interim ministry for more congregations, with attention given to options for next steps and accompanying resources, opportunities, and approaches to ministry for both the participating ministers and congregations.

II. Expectations of Candidates

- Has a particular call and compassion to work with churches as described above
- Will study and understand the Circuit Project
- Can positively and constructively contribute to this team-orientated and collaborative project
- Will have the time and energy to commit to the project, which minimally includes
 - o Overnight group training sessions in Spring 2017 to be held at Camp Tamarack in Waupaca, WI, equivalent to no less than two three-day-long training sessions (configuration and dates to be determined)



- Half-day group training sessions in Spring-Summer 2017, no less than three, to be held in the greater Milwaukee Area (configuration and dates to be determined)
- Availability to work with multiple congregations through mid-2018 (specific assignments and locations to be determined; personal availability will be considered in both the formation of the team and in individual assignments)
- Individual time spent to reinforce learning, and prepare for and debrief ministry assignments
- Willing to explore change in new ways and apply tools that will be part of training process
- Provide input to assessment processes throughout the project so as to help evaluate this model, determine future efforts and discuss one's own participation in them

III. Qualifications

- Affirms and has capacity to support and pursue ABC Wisconsin vision and mission
- Professes and practices a Christian lifestyle
- Can meet the expectations as outlined above
- Minimally 5+ years experience and effective participation within local church ministry (of the free-church tradition) from a leadership perspective
- Has some proven ability to be aware of, control, and express one's emotions, to discern the emotions of others, and to handle interpersonal relationships judiciously and empathetically (emotional intelligence)
- Has some proven ability to engage effectively and compassionately with people from various socio-economic, geographic, racial, ethnic, national, and generational locations and identities (cultural intelligence)
- Has some understanding and acceptance of the different life cycles of the church
- Commits to outward, missionally-focused discipleship
- Collaborative work-style

IV. Value-Added Benefits

- While time spent in training will not be compensated, all training fees and related expenses will be covered by the grant
- Once trained, compensation for ministry services provided to congregations in relation to the Circuit Project will be determined from sources outside of the grant
- Throughout engagement with this project, Circuit Ministers will grow in a breadth of ministry skills, have opportunities for professional and personal growth, and gain experience in innovative program development and assessment
- Continuing Educational Units (CEU) certificates for formal training sessions provided upon request

V. Selection Process

- Submit a 1.) cover letter, expressing your interest in this project and why you are an ideal candidate, and 2.) current resume to ministry@abcofwi.org by **January 15, 2017**
- Potential candidates will be contacted by January 30, 2017 for a phone and/or in-person interview
- The target date to choose the final team is no later than February 28, 2017
- The final team will be chosen based on considerations of the qualifications of each candidate and how their qualifications complement one another