

IMPACT REPORT



JUNE
2025



Here We Grow Again

“Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,

sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.”

— Jeremiah 17:7–8 (NRSV)

BY FAITH, WE FLOURISH

In a world where justice work is under attack and even the most affirming spaces face rising pressures, AWAB continues to grow—not because the terrain is easy, but because our roots are deep.

'24-'25 reminded us that faith is not about waiting for the perfect season. It's about trusting the stream beneath the soil even when drought surrounds us. From Pride celebrations stripped of corporate support to the ongoing fight against anti-trans legislation, our work demanded boldness. And by God's grace, we showed up.

"We can do more together
than we can ever do
apart."

Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson Executive Director

We welcomed new churches and educational partners. We held space for grief, joy, advocacy, and truth-telling. We planted seeds, watered relationships, and—yes—watched growth take place even in dry conditions.

As Jeremiah 17 proclaims: "They shall be like a tree planted by water... In the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit."

That's who we are. That's who we're becoming. That's why we're still here.

22

New Member Churches

36

Church and Minister Visits

2X

Our fundraising efforts have doubled year over year.

STAFF

Brian Henderson - Executive Director
James Rice III - Communications Coordinator
Janet Cole - Administrative Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Green	Lauren Ng, Chair	Aubin Petersen
Victor Crentsil	Jason Mack, Vice-Chair	Donnie Anderson
Bob Sittig, Emeritus	Dave Hunt, Treasurer	Jordan Conley
Rick Mixon, Emeritus	Erica Saunders, Secretary	Laura Levens
	Cliff Matthews, At-Large	



THE YEAR IN REVIEW



GROWTH & EXPANSION

In a season marked by shifting landscapes and fresh possibilities, AWAB experienced remarkable growth. Over the course of the 2024–2025 season, we welcomed 22 new congregations into the AWAB network. We also honored the faithful legacy of two congregations that closed: Good Shepherd Community of Faith (Buffalo, NY) and Underwood Memorial Baptist Church (Milwaukee, WI).

We also celebrated the addition of a new Educational Partner, The Crossing Campus Ministry at the University of Wisconsin–Madison bringing student voices and bold campus witness into the movement.



CONNECTIONS & COMMUNITY

Across the 2024–2025 season, AWAB strengthened our national and international connections. We conducted 36 church and minister visits across the United States and made an international visit to Canada, expanding our global witness. We hosted community-building virtual spaces, including Friday Fellowships, Queer Clergy Conversations, and Election Day Prayer Vigils, creating safe and sacred opportunities for joy, grief, advocacy, and solidarity.

Our work reached a broad audience through features in USA Today, Baptist News Global, Good Faith Media, Christian Citizen, and other prominent outlets. We estimate over 6,000 people were engaged in person throughout the year, with thousands more reached through online content, webinars, and digital campaigns.

RESOURCES & EDUCATION

Throughout the 2024–2025 season, we equipped churches and leaders with resources to cultivate faithful, inclusive ministries. We created online directories for Lent, Easter, Pride, and Advent church activities; mailed AWAB brochures and materials to every member congregation; and distributed over 90 boxes of free Pride swag across the country to help churches show up and show out during Pride season.

We hosted a range of webinars and workshops, including:

- Supporting Trans & Non-binary Youth
- Trans in 2024 with Rev. Dr. Donnie Anderson
- MinistrElife 101 with Rev. Meg Biddle (ABC-USA)

AWAB also offered screenings of the documentary *Mama Bears* in member churches, and produced six rich issues of *The Welcoming Spirit* newsletter, filled with theological reflection, community stories, and curated resources.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



AWAB AWARDS 2025

Each year, AWAB honors individuals whose lives reflect the values of justice, inclusion, and radical welcome. In the 2024–2025 season, we proudly presented the Randle R. Mixon Award for Christian Service to Rev. Dr. Reid Trulson and Rev. Dr. Jon Singletary for their transformative leadership and advocacy within Baptist institutions. We also celebrated Mark Hayes and Bob Sittig with the Barbra MacNair Award for Christian Witness, recognizing their faithful, creative, and unwavering contributions to LGBTQ+ inclusion across the wider Baptist community. These honorees exemplify the heart of AWAB’s mission, and we are grateful for their bold witness.



EVENTS & PRESENCE

In our 2024–2025 season, AWAB showed up in sacred and strategic spaces across the country and beyond. We attended or sponsored 18 conferences and gatherings, including our own dynamic AWAB Reception & Concert at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly, featuring Walker Burroughs. We gathered for in-person board and staff retreats, grounding our movement in rest and renewal, and we took our prophetic voice to the academy through our Annual Lecture at Harvard University, where Rev. Dr. Brandon Crowley offered a powerful message on Black Queer Hermeneutics and Homiletics.



FINANCES

In the 2024–2025 season, AWAB raised \$362,640, nearly double what was received the year prior. This remarkable growth reflects the strength of our community and the deep trust in our mission.

Support from churches and individual donors held steady and strong, with church giving rising by 44% and Rainbow Circle contributions increasing by over 47%. Foundation support nearly doubled, providing crucial backing for our expanding programs.

We also launched dedicated tracking of our 'Here We Grow' campaign for the first time, and in just one season, it generated over \$70,000. Support for events and sponsorships grew more than fourfold, proving that our visibility and impact are resonating louder than ever.

Together, these numbers don't just reflect giving, they reflect belief. In AWAB. In this movement. In the Church we are building.

TOTAL RAISED:
\$362,640

FOUNDATIONS
\$126,429

HERE WE GROW:
\$70,266

CHURCH GIFTS:
\$59,288

RAINBOW CIRCLE GIFTS:
\$47,303

SPONSORSHIPS:
\$21,746



We'd like to thank all our donors for their generous support.

This year tested our roots—and proved their strength. When institutional support faded and budgets tightened, our community stepped up. When leadership shifts created uncertainty, we leaned into purpose. When the world grew harsher, our witness grew bolder.

The truth is: AWAB doesn't just survive off of funding, media coverage, or denominational recognition.

We flourish by faith.

We grow because the Spirit is still moving.

And we keep showing up—together—because the Church deserves to be a place of healing, justice, and full inclusion.

Thank you for planting with us, praying with us, and building with us. Because of you, what was once a seed is now a sanctuary.

Here we grow again. 

**WE FLOURISH
IN FAITH. WE
GROW IN LOVE.**