

The Welcoming Spirit

August  2025

Queer ✦ Baptist ✦ Relevant

A Dream Realized: FBC Pottstown Launches Prism LGBTQ+ Center



On July 31, a hot, humid, rainy evening in Pottstown, PA, a rainbow of color was celebrated as a standing room only crowd of churchgoers, township leaders, politicians, neighbors and members of the LGBTQ+ community gathered to dedicate the opening of The Prism LGBTQ+ Community Center of Pottstown, a program created by the First Baptist Church of Pottstown. With the leadership of Rev. Marcia Bailey, the vision of Rev. Joel Dugan, and the enthusiastic support of a dynamic congregation, more than the dedication of a new community resource was celebrated: a dream for the town came to life.

As described by the church, “This milestone event marks the beginning of a new chapter for the community, providing a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment where people of all identities can come together to uplift one another, empower their voices, and celebrate the unity that makes us stronger. PRISM isn’t just a center—it’s a beacon of hope, inclusion, and connection for all.” As church member Dennis Landon remarked during his dedicatory greetings,

“Prism is going to be a place where any person of faith or no faith can come to be fully and freely who they are. We want Prism to last for a long time in our community.”



Pictured above: Community members gather to support the grand opening of Prism

“Former AWAB Board Chair Rev. Jill McCrory, who attended the dedication, reflected, “It was a joy to see so many people from the community gather to welcome and bless the new Center to Pottstown. What a wonderful testament to the love, care, and welcome that is offered to the LGBTQ+ community. The dedication was beautiful, especially the ceremonial cutting of the rainbow ribbon, officially opening the Center. In the present environment, this is just the affirmation and reassurance we need at a time like this.”

The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists is grateful for the courage and determination of First Baptist Church of Pottstown and its persistence in seeing this resource come to fruition. In a time when so many news headlines keep us discouraged and even demoralized, it is energizing to see a community come together to do what not one person could do on their own. AWAB Executive Director Brian Henderson, who participated in the dedication program, said, “This is very exciting and in good Baptist fashion, it is good to see Baptists up to good trouble and being so committed to the ministry of inclusion for all. Too often folk think ‘Baptist’ and ‘LGBTQ+’ do not go together. First Baptist Church of Pottstown, like so many AWAB member churches, bears witness to the truth that yes they do.”



The Welcoming Spirit is a publication of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Association unless explicitly stated. To submit an article for consideration, please contact our Executive Director, Brian Henderson, at Brian@awab.org, or visit our website www.awab.org/newsletter for more information.

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The Executive Summary

Views & Inspiration from our Executive Director



Brian Henderson
Executive Director

“Lead in Love”

*We shall be known by the company we keep
By the ones who circle round to tend these fires
We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap
The seeds of change, alive from deep within the earth
It is time now, it is time now that we thrive
It is time we lead ourselves into the well
It is time now, and what a time to be alive
In this Great Turning we shall learn to lead in love
In this Great Turning we shall learn to lead in love*

These are the opening lyrics to a song by artist Karisha Longaker of the musical duo, MaMuse. If you haven’t listened to this song or experienced it sung live, I invite you to hear it here. Longaker invites listeners to learn to lead in love in these times of great turning. Truth be told, the word “great” is getting a lot of attention these days and for many, this isn’t so great. Is it? (Think: Make America *Great* Again.) To consider we are living through a time of “great” turning may be challenging for us to claim. Maybe to some it feels more like churning. Nonetheless, from my small corner of the world from which I look out, I want to invite you to consider how you can lead in love even as we witness and experience such overwhelming realities these days

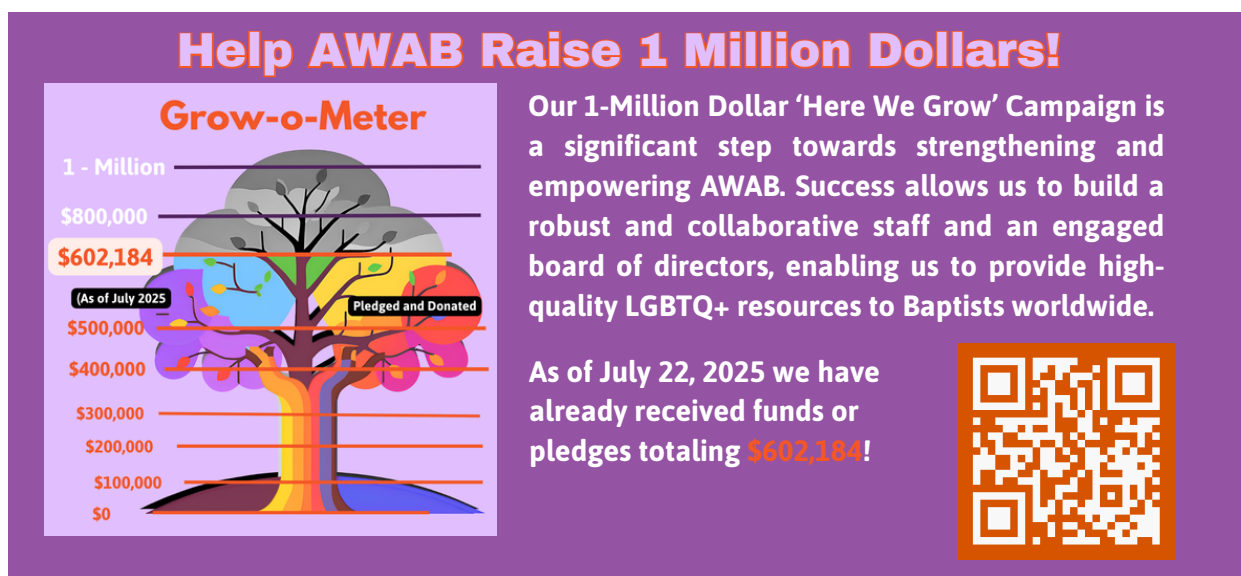
Over the last few months I’ve witnessed so many people learning to lead in love. And this has been great. It has been inspiring and motivating. And even better, it has been within the broader faith family of Baptists which I have seen such great things. From visiting congregations in various places of the US, to participating in national gatherings, through having one-on-one conversations with individuals who are courageously navigating their coming out journeys, to interactions with grantors who make it possible for us to do more than we can imagine, there is so much for which to be thankful.

As you read through this issue of The Welcoming Spirit I hope you will join me in being thankful for all who continue to make welcoming and affirming ministry in Baptist life so rich. The work of AWAB, with your support, is making a difference in the lives of congregations and individuals. Most recently, a few people from different parts of the country and world reached out specifically to share how they just learned about AWAB. Until this discovery, they did not know that one could be queer and Baptist. They found great hope in knowing they could be who they are and still be part of Baptist communities which will welcome and affirm them.

I think of another set of lyrics as sung by Ariel Merivil at the AWAB/BNG CBF General Assembly breakfast back in June:

*When your trust is all but shattered,
When your faith is all but killed,
You can give up bitter and battered,
Or you can slowly start to build!*

Thank you for helping AWAB build a welcoming and affirming movement across the Baptist landscape. While we will wrestle with these churning times, may we together keep learning to lead in love making possible always great hope for many.



The Collective of Queer Christian Leaders' Statement on U.S. v. Skrmetti



On the morning of June 18, 2025, the Supreme Court upheld the state of Tennessee's ban on gender-affirming care for trans youth in *U.S. v. Skrmetti* in a 6-3 decision. This comes in addition to executive actions by the Trump Administration that seek to cut off access for people under the age of 19. Twenty-five states currently have adopted such bans.

A recent study commissioned by GOP members of Utah's Department of Health and Human Services found that gender-affirming care for transgender youth generated overwhelmingly positive mental health and psychosocial outcomes. Despite scientific evidence of their incorrect stance, willful ignorance has persisted in taking away bodily autonomy from transgender and intersex young people and their doctors. "There doesn't seem to be an appetite to readdress it," Republican Utah Governor Spencer Cox glibly spoke of his state-level ban earlier this week.

Make no mistake that this decision will result in negative impacts on young lives, with the potential for severely detrimental physical and mental health outcomes. Justice Sotomayor leaves us with this from her dissenting opinion: "The Court's willingness to do so here does irrevocable damage to the Equal Protection Clause and invites legislatures to engage in discrimination by hiding blatant sex classifications in plain sight. It also authorizes, without second thought, untold harm to transgender children and the parents and families who love them. Because there is no constitutional justification for that result, I dissent.

This is a sobering moment in US History for all of us. Yet it is important to note, in the ACLU's statement following the decision, Chase Strangio, Co-Director of the ACLU's LGBTQ & HIV Project, writes that "Though this is a painful setback, it does not mean that transgender people and our allies are left with no options to defend our freedom, our health care, or our lives. The Court left undisturbed Supreme Court and lower court precedent that other examples of discrimination against transgender people are unlawful. We are as determined as ever to fight for the dignity and equality of every transgender person and we will continue to do so with defiant strength, a restless resolve, and a lasting commitment to our families, our communities, and the freedom we all deserve."

This Supreme Court ruling also comes in the wake of the House passing the so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (H.R. 1) on May 22nd. In the middle of the night, provisions were added that would prohibit federal Medicaid and CHIP funding being used for gender-affirming care for transgender people of all ages. This would be a ban that affects all transgender Americans, and is the most comprehensive federal effort to limit this life-saving care. This controversial social policy has been snuck into a fiscal matter, no doubt in an effort to let it slip by unnoticed.

PLEASE check in on the transgender youth in your lives, and let them know that they are valid and loved as they are. Tell them that you're not giving up on their well-being. Contact your representatives and urge them to vote against any national bans on gender-affirming care for transgender youth, especially H.R. 1, as there is already legislation in the pipeline that would make that a reality if passed. As people of faith, we have a responsibility to speak out against this injustice and to mobilize our people for a safer world. We have a responsibility to live out the commandment to love our neighbor as we love ourselves as Jesus tells us in the book of Mark (Mark 12:30-31). We have the responsibility to care for those in need, for as Matthew 25 tells us, to take care of the most marginalized is also in service to God himself.



Young people can reach out for crisis support 24/7 through the Trevor Project by texting START to 678-678, calling 1-866-488-7386, or visiting www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help/ to start a conversation via their online chat.

The lifesaving services of the LGBTQ+ subsection of the 988 Suicide Prevention Hotline are set to be shut down on July 17, 2025– sign the Trevor Project’s petition to stop the shutdown and keep this lifeline running.



The Trans Lifeline can be reached at (877) 565-8860. Run by and for transgender people, they offer microgrants and other resources at <https://translifeline.org/>.

In deep lament, and persistent solidarity,

Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists
Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests
More Light Presbyterians
Pride in the Pews
Q Christian Fellowship
Reconciling Ministries Network
ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation

Room for All
Transmission Ministry Collective

The Collective of Queer Christian Leaders is a Queer Christian Collective of organizational leaders dedicated to combating white Christian Supremacy through centering Queer people and innovative collaboration. You can learn more about the Collective at www.qchristian.org/cqcl.



Join today to keep awab here tomorrow!

Since June 1, we have added 16 new Rainbow Circle members.

Will you be next? Every monthly gift of any amount helps us do together what none of us can do on our own.



SCAN ME!

For as low as \$10 a month

You can help ensure
AWAB is better able to
make our welcoming and
affirming vision a reality.

Member Benefits Include:

- Special Quarterly Communications
- Free or discounted access to all AWAB events
- Special recognition in our newsletter and website



Philadelphia Baptist Association Associate Regional Executive Minister Rev. Jill Bradway, seen here with AWAB Executive Director Brian Henderson, is one of AWAB's newest Rainbow Circle members.

Will you consider joining Rev. Bradway today?

What is AWAB and Why is Northminster a Member?

by Craig Henry



Pictured above: The congregation of Northminster

Fifty years ago, a small group from the American Baptist Churches, USA had the audacity to speak for God's radical love and welcome for all. This group, named American Baptists Concerned, advocated for their own inclusion as well as for the congregations who were on the path to being disfellowshipped from ABCUSA for their affirmation of the LGBTQ+ community.

Twenty years later, the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists (AWAB) was formed to create, advocate for, and support a community of churches, organizations, and individuals committed not just to welcome but to affirmation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons in the full life and mission of Baptist churches. Today over 200 congregations from around the United States and Canada, the Caribbean, and across the continents of Africa and Europe, including Northminster Church, have joined with AWAB in its quest for equity.

Northminster was formed thirty-six years ago and, from our beginning, has welcomed and affirmed everyone including the LGBTQ+ community. However, for most of those years we did not, except sometimes in sermons, “preach what we practiced.” That is, we did not publicly affirm our inclusion and welcome of everyone. About four years ago we decided to change that.

The Coordinating Council presented to the congregation a welcoming and affirming statement that was unanimously adopted by the church. Following the adoption of the welcoming and affirming statement the Coordinating Council thought it appropriate that Northminster submit an application for membership in the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. In this manner we would further show our welcome and affirmation of the LGBTQ+ community at Northminster and join with other like-minded churches and individuals.

Here is Northminster Church's welcoming and affirming statement:

We the people of Northminster Church are a Welcoming and Affirming congregation. One of our most important founding principles, along with theological freedom of the individual member, is love and inclusion for all who enter our fellowship. Inclusion means not only acceptance and tolerance; it means full embracing love and respect for each other, a real desire to learn from each other, and an assurance that each member may participate fully in every aspect of ministry. We provide a safe, welcome, and nurturing place for all who have felt marginalized by the church or by society at large. We, as a body, confess the church's history of condemnation and exclusion of persons as being unworthy to be a part of the family of God. We further acknowledge this condemnation has harmed many lives in such forms as alienation, violence, and death.

We are committed to the work of justice and peace in our community and in the world for all people—not just the privileged few. In this work, we seek to follow the example set by Jesus in loving God and others as God loves us. We embrace all people with no regard to gender, age, race, ethnicity, immigration status, economic status, theological background, education, physical or mental condition, makeup of household, sexual orientation, or gender identity. We affirm and celebrate all loving and committed relationships.

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are God's beloved, just as you are. You are worthy! You are welcome!

The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists is glad to count Northminster Church as a member congregation and is grateful for its support. The late Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, pastor emeritus, served on AWAB's Board. To learn how your congregation can join AWAB, visit: <https://awab.org/membership/>

Passion for Equality Award

On Sunday, June 29, AWAB Executive Director Brian Henderson visited Noank Baptist Church in Noank, CT, to present a Passion for Equality Award to Pastor Junior White. Since 2013 AWAB has honored individuals with Passion for Equality Awards. The then Honorable Michael Hancock, Mayor of Denver and a Baptist, was the first to receive one of these. A Passion for Equality Award is not offered often or lightly, and recipients are chosen by staff and affirmed by the AWAB Awards Committee. In presenting this award to Pastor White, Executive Director Henderson commented, "The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists is pleased to honor Rev. Junior Austin White with the Passion for Equality Award because of his tireless commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion, even when faced with denominational and congregational voices that have suggested he think, believe, and act differently." Congratulations, Pastor White!



Pictured above: Our Executive Director Brian Henderson with Pastor Junior White

William M. Johnson Lecture Series

Hope in an Age of Cruelty & Despair



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Rev. Cody J.
Sanders

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
CONGREGATIONAL &
COMMUNITY CARE
LEADERSHIP AT LUTHER
SEMINARY

REGISTER HERE



 **AUGUST 16**

 **1:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

 **CRESCENT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
2800 FRANKFORT AVE., LOUISVILLE, KY**

WITH GUEST PANELISTS



**REV. ERICA
WHITAKER**
Moderator,
Professor & Director of
Development, BSK
Theological Seminary



DR. LEWIS BROGDON
Executive Director of
the Institute for Black
Church Studies, BSK
Theological Seminary



DR. ANNA BOWDEN
Associate Professor of
New Testament,
Louisville Presbyterian
Theological Seminary



**REV. DR. BRIAN
HENDERSON**
Executive Director,
Association of
Welcoming and
Affirming Baptists



HON. JERRY ABRAMSON
Former Louisville Mayor,
Lt. Governor, Special
Advisor to President
Barack Obama



DR. JASON JORDAN
Chair of the School of
Clinical Mental Health
Counseling,
Spalding University

The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists is glad to be part of this annual lecture at member congregation Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, KY. Use the QR code to register for in person attendance. A livestream link will be available on Crescent Hill Baptist Church's Facebook page.



PRESENTS
ANNUAL LECTURE 2025:



With Guest Lecturer
Rev. Dr. Justin Sabia-Tanis

**Lecturing: Reveal, Resist, and Revel:
Queer and Trans Artists' Visions of Spirituality**

Join Us:

6:30pm
Friday, September 19, 2025
Seattle First Baptist Church
Seattle, Washington

Admission

\$20
Purchase tickets online at
www.awab.org/lecture

Scan To Register



Join us for an inspiring evening as Rev. Dr. Sabia-Tanis explores "Reveal, Resist, and Revel: Queer and Trans Artists' Visions of Spirituality." Through art and theology, this lecture celebrates the sacredness of LGBTQIA+ lives and offers bold, healing visions of faith, resistance, and joy.

Rev. Dr. Sabia-Tanis is a scholar, pastor, and longtime advocate for LGBTQ+ justice. He serves as Associate Professor of Christian Ethics and Social Transformation at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and brings decades of experience in ministry, education, and activism.

Registration for our Annual Lecture is open now! We are proud to offer free tickets for students, Rainbow Circle Members, and select Sponsors. To revisit previous lectures, visit www.awab.org/lecture

AWAB Education Partner CRCDS Announces New Lead of Gender, Sexual, and Racial Justice Program

AWAB Education Partner Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (CRCDS) is pleased to announce the appointment of The Reverend Jeffrey Joseph (J.J.) Warren IV (he/him) as Assistant Professor



**Colgate
Rochester
Crozer**
DIVINITY SCHOOL

of (Queer) Theology and Lead of the Gender, Sexual, and Racial Justice (GSRJ) Program, effective July 16, 2025.

This appointment was made by President Dr. Angela D. Sims and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Emilio Alvarez, who affirmed Rev. Warren's bold commitment to justice, theological imagination, and scholarly excellence as powerfully aligned with the mission and vision of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

Rev. J.J. Warren is a public theologian, activist, and acclaimed author of *Reclaiming Church: A Call to Action for Religious Rejects* and *Where Two or Three are Connected: Being the Church in This New Era*. His viral speech in support of LGBTQ+ inclusion at the 2019 General Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) garnered national attention and has been featured by HuffPost, NBC, Brut Media, and WXXI Radio.





Pictured above: The Reverend Jeffrey Joseph (J.J.) Warren IV (he/him)

He holds a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from Boston University School of Theology ('22), and a Bachelor of Arts from Sarah Lawrence College ('19), where he focused on religion and creative writing. Rev. Warren also completed a year of undergraduate study at Oxford University, where he concentrated on Biblical Hebrew, Early Church history, and gender studies of late antiquity.

Since 2022, Rev. Warren has been pursuing a Ph.D. in Advanced Theological Studies at the University of Vienna, with anticipated completion in Fall 2025. His research engages Paul Tillich's theology in conversation with queer theology and ecclesiology. In June 2023, he was commissioned as a Provisional Member (clergy) in the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Warren currently serves as Executive Director of the Young Prophets Collective, a nonprofit that equips and empowers LGBTQIA+ religious leaders and allies worldwide. He also lectures at the University of Vienna and has contributed as faculty affiliate to Colgate Rochester Crozer's pioneering Doctor of Ministry in Queer and Trans Studies, which launched in Fall 2024.

Please join us in welcoming Rev. Warren to the Colgate Rochester Crozer community!

About Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (CRCDS):

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, a 206-year-old institution, is the only theologically progressive seminary in the region. At Colgate Rochester Crozer, we emphasize academic excellence and a faithful expression of a deep commitment to caring for others. Colgate Rochester Crozer offers degrees in Master of Arts, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry. In addition, the institution also offers Graduate Certificates in Anglican Studies; Gender, Sexual & Racial Justice; and Foundations for Theological Education.

For additional information or media inquiries, please contact Mr. David R. Riddell, Chief Development Officer at driddell@crcds.edu.



The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists grieves with the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago (ABCMC) with the announcement of the passing of its beloved leader, Rev. Dr. David Gregg. A devoted pastor, scholar, and advocate for inclusive ministry, Rev. Dr. Gregg served as Executive Regional Minister of ABCMC for seven years. Rev. Gregg was a past AWAB Board member and served as the first openly gay executive minister in American Baptist history.

AWAB & BNG Host 300-Person Breakfast at Annual CBF Gathering

AWAB was honored to co-host with Baptist News Global (BNG) a breakfast at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly in June. Over 300 guests attended. Music was provided by Ariel Merivil and Mark Hayes. AWAB presented the Randle R. Mixon Award for Christian Service to Rev. Dr. Jon Singletary, Dean of Baylor University's Diana R. Garland School of Social Work, and the Barbra MacNair Award for Christian Witness to musician and composer, Mark Hayes. The Rev. Dr. Paul Raushenbush gave the keynote address. Revs. Mark Wingfield and Brian Henderson delivered greetings as well as appeals for support from both BNG and AWAB respectively.



Pictured From L to R: Rev. Paul Raushenbush, Aubin Petersen, Bob Sittig, Rick Mixon, Jon Singletary, Mark Hayes, Laura Levens, Janet Cole and Brian Henderson



Ariel Merivil, Minister of Music at Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas



Keynote Speaker:
Rev. Paul Raushenbush

Open My Eyes

**By Janet Cole, AWAB
Administrative Coordinator**



I am a lifelong Baptist – granddaughter of a Baptist minister, former member of a Baptist church begun before Alabama became a state, now member of a church that was formerly the church for the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville (also former Administrative Assistant at that church for almost 30 years). The Alabama connection is important because I grew up there in the turbulence of the 60s with protests, riots, bombings, and boycotts.

We were not openly racist, I don't think, but there was great concern when a Black mother and son tried to join a downtown church. My high school had less than 10 Black students when I graduated. Members of my family supported George Wallace for President. There was no talk about homosexuality.

As I entered adulthood, I began to see things differently: I had no problem with the Black guy in my college swimming class, but felt I should not tell my father. I was friendly with the Black folks at work. My first husband studied opera stage direction, and we encountered many gay and lesbian artists during that period (my most uncomfortable time being when one of the women remarked on my pretty eyes). Life was good – but still mostly white and straight.

Further eye-opening came as I joined Crescent Hill Baptist. We had several LGBTQ+ members who were extremely active in church and community life. They were no different from me, and it became easy to see them in a new light – just as fellow members and friends. When Crescent Hill joined AWAB it seemed we had an explosion of new LGBTQ+ members who quickly assimilated into the fabric of our fellowship and assumed leadership roles.

They are treasured and beloved children of God who have found a safe space, some after trauma and discrimination which had turned them away from organized religion. It was through these connections that I became involved with AWAB and was exposed to a new landscape of acceptance.

Now to the General Assembly: This was my 4th year representing AWAB at our booth. Each year I talked with numerous folks who were inquiring about the organization, expressing their support, and generally making conversation. Most of these interchanges were fairly light in nature, and I probably gave a lot of stock answers and comments.

But this year was different. As I spoke with folks, including at least 16 of our Rainbow Circle members and 11 member church pastors, I engaged in more in-depth conversations. We talked about issues – and beliefs – and experiences. I told of times where I had reached new levels of appreciation of people simply by engaging them rather than by relying on past opinions – seeing who they really are. And I realized how much I have changed. I'm not perfect; I still stumble; but my eyes have been opened a little wider. Thanks be to God.

*Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key, that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see;
open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!
(Clara Scott, 1895)*



#NotThatKindOfBaptist



The #NotThatKind of Baptist bumper sticker is here! We've already seen them pop up on cars around the country, and now you can get yours, too! Donate \$20 or more to our Here We Grow Campaign at www.awab.org/HereWeGrow and we'll send one your way. Let's keep AWAB's visibility rolling—literally.

AWAB Hosted Largest Breakfast at ABC-USA Biennial



AWAB was thrilled to host the largest breakfast at the American Baptist Churches USA Mission Summit in Omaha, NE. With just over 200 participants, the energy and enthusiasm of this meal was most palpable. Official greetings were brought by AWAB Board Chair Lauren Ng, Jeff Haggray of American Baptist Home Mission Societies, Hector Garcia of International Ministries, and Josh Kagi, ABCUSA President Elect. AWAB Board Member Emeritus, Bob Sittig, was presented with the Barbra MacNair Award for Christian Witness. Tony McNeill offered moving music, and the Rev. Dr. Clifford Matthews, Jr., Senior Pastor of St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC, delivered an inspired sermon. You can watch Rev. Dr. Matthew's sermon at www.awab.org/awabbreakfast/

Pictured From L to R:
Lauren Ng, Bob Sittig,
Brian Henderson



Pictured From L to R: Rev.Dr. Cliff
Matthews, Erica Saunders, Bob Sittig,
Jason Mack, James Rice III, Lauren Ng,
Rick Mixon, Dave Hunt, Brian Henderson

Pictured From L to R:
Terrance Massey-Matthews
Brian Henderson and Rev.Dr.
Clifford Matthews



WELCOME TO

awab

Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists



We're Building a Church for Everyone!

**By vote of the Board of Directors
we welcome the following churches into our association:**



First Baptist Church,
Frankfort, KY



First Baptist Church of Peoria,
Peoria, IL



Stratford Street United Church,
West Roxbury, MA

awab Member Spotlight



Check out what's been happening around the association



Congratulations to Kurt Kaufman, former AWAB Communications Coordinator, who successfully defended his ordination paper at the Federated Church of Green Lake, WI. Kurt will be ordained by Federated Church on Sunday, August 31, 2025.



It is always good to be together with colleagues. AWAB Executive Director, Brian Henderson, is seen here with the Rev. Dr. Meredith Stone, Executive Director of Baptist Women in Ministry, while at the ABCUSA Mission Summit in Omaha, NE.



And with Rev. Dr. Marcia Bailey, former Interim General Secretary Susan Gillies, and Rev. Dr. Carol Sutton



and with Jazaiah Masters and Janna Louie of the Baptist Joint Committee

awab **Member Spotlight**



Check out what's been happening around the association



Rev. Gordy Hutchins proudly showed up in all rainbows for Tacoma, WA, Pride, along with Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards.



With Dr. Laura Miraz of ABHMS after the Biennial Bike & Walk



At the AWAB/BNG Cooperative Baptist Fellowship breakfast, former CBF Moderator Harriet Harral and her husband Paul, visited with keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Paul Raushenbush.

If you look closely, you will see Asa White wearing AWAB's sought-after quatrefoil lapel pin which he wears proudly.