BIENNIAL WORKSHOPS

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Morning Sessions: 10:30 AM | Afternoon Sessions: 2:15 PM

▶ **"The American Baptist Foundation and YOU!"** (Morning only)
Rev. Dr. Patricia Hernandez, American Baptist Foundation

How can the ABF help individual & church needs? Learn about estate planning, charitable gift annuities, church endowments, and more!

Rev. Dr. Patricia Hernandez *grew up in upstate New York as an American Baptist PK and then after seminary, she had her first call to ministry in an ABCNYS church! Dr. Hernandez has experience serving on regional and national denominational staff and recently began her work with the American Baptist Foundation.*

▶ **"Youth: A Thriving Faith in Jesus"** (Morning only)
Rev. Stephanie Schneider

More than 1 million youth leave the faith each year. This workshop explores a Faith Formation Framework from Tenx10 - perfect for churches with 1 or 100 youth.

Rev. Stephanie Schneider *serves as Pastor of First Baptist Church of Glens Falls and Village Baptist, Fort Edward, as well as on the ABCNYS staff as our ABY Coordinator. She lives in Glens Falls with her husband, Andrew, and their sons, Lucas and Caleb, along with Bruce Wayne, their dog.*

▶ **"Called to Care: Haitian Mission in the D.R."** (Morning & Afternoon)
Rev. Ketly and Vitale Pierre, Global Servants

Learn about their ministry to Haitians in La Romana, Dominican Republic and how to approach ministry like a missionary.

Rev. Ketly and Vitale Pierre *serve as Global Servants for International Ministries, ABCUSA. They are traveling the United States at this time, sharing about their mission work and seeking churches to support their critical work with Haitians in the Dominican Republic.*

▶ **"American Baptist 101"** (Morning only)
Rev. Jerrod Hugenot, facilitator

American Baptists partner together with local churches, regional and national partners. Come and learn about how all of us work together in American Baptist ministry and mission with national and regional partner organizations attending our ABCNYS Biennial!

Rev. Jerrod Hugenot *serves as the ABCNYS Executive Minister and has lifelong experience with ABCUSA as a pastor in KS and VT and served on regional and national boards. Connecting American Baptists to one another to build missional affinity is his passion!*

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▶ **"Technology & the Church"** (Morning & Afternoon)
Rev. Dr. Paul Bailey & Rev. Dr. Jonathan David Lawrence, facilitators

What are churches doing with tech that makes sense in your church? Come and learn and share!

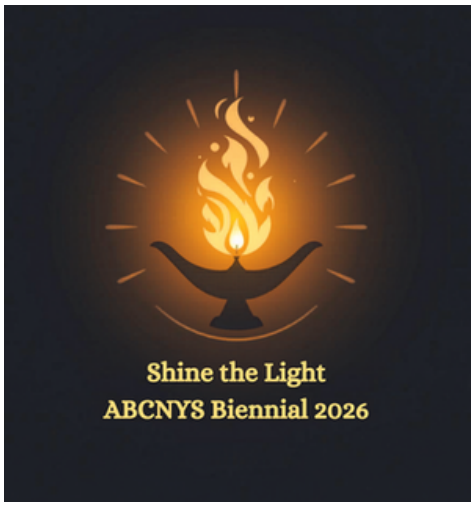
Rev. Dr. Paul Bailey *is host of the new "ABCNYS Today" podcast and a retired American Baptist pastor.* ***Rev. Jonathan David Lawrence*** *is Moderator of the Niagara Area Baptist Association and serves on the religious studies faculty of Canisius University.*

▶ **"Estranged Adult Children: A Growing Concern"** (Afternoon only)
Rev. George Stefani

One in every eight parent-adult child relationships is broken, and only 10% reconcile. This workshop focuses on understanding estrangements and providing compassionate ministry.

Rev. George Stefani *serves as Pastor of Latham Community Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Saratoga Springs. He serves as moderator of the Capital Area Baptist Association. George and his wife Becky have two children and five grandchildren.*

▶ **"Opening the Door or Closing the Window: Options for Your Small Church"** (Afternoon only)
Rev. J. Steven Reynolds

Is your small church holding its own or struggling? Explore George Bullard's "Life Cycles of the Church" and options for small churches facing new challenges.

Rev. J Steven Reynolds *has served as an ordained pastor in the American Baptist Churches for over 40 years and has had a wide variety of experiences in a number of church contexts. He is a member of Memorial Park, Vestal (Broome-Tioga) and serves on the Region's Board of Mission as well as the Regional Enhancement Team. Married to Marilyn (Brett) Reynolds, Steve is frequently in Region churches as a guest preacher and provides support to congregations in pastoral transition or rethinking their ministry's future.*