

Our churches are pastored by ministers who serve mostly in part-time calls. Other employment may come from serving an additional church or working for other employers. They may serve with a previous job's pension helping supplement income. We work with pastors to help them better understand the changing context for ministry and mission and encourage lay leaders to seek out Region training opportunities as well. With strengthening all church leaders, congregations have a better opportunity to build up resilience and seek ways to deepen the discipleship of all congregants!

*It is through your gifts to the Region Offering that we can continue to work in and through the local church.*

Please place your envelope in your church's offering.  
Checks can be made out to your church  
with "ABC/NYS Region Offering" in the memo.

American Baptist Churches of New York State  
3218 James Street, Syracuse, NY 13206  
315.863.7148 (office)



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## FOCUS ON THE LOCAL CHURCH

ABC/NYS focuses on strengthening congregations and church leaders, advising in times of conflict or change, and urging ministry and encouraging mission. In upstate New York, our 288 churches define who we are as a Region, a cross-section of small church and big church, open country and inner city, suburban and small town, speaking various languages and serving in a multitude of ways. Indeed, "the body is not made up of one part but of many." (1 Corinthians 12:14)

When visiting and working alongside our churches, we hear some common questions about the Region and its churches.

*For example, what is the average ABC church in upstate New York?*

You might say "smaller membership". You could also say "multi-lingual." Words like "inner city" and "open country" also apply. The definitions of what defines an "average" ABC/NYS church are many, and our Region works with each congregation with respect and sensitivity to help strengthen leaders and churches alike!