

mutual care among his congregations through his campaign to raise money for this needy church.

This is, in brief, the work of the Region—to foster a sense of connection and mutual care among our churches. We take our cue for this from the Bible. The model there is not independence and isolation but cooperation and mutual support. That is what Regional ministry is about. It's in the Bible.

It is through your gifts to this offering that the Region can continue to work in and through the local Associations, churches, and each of you.

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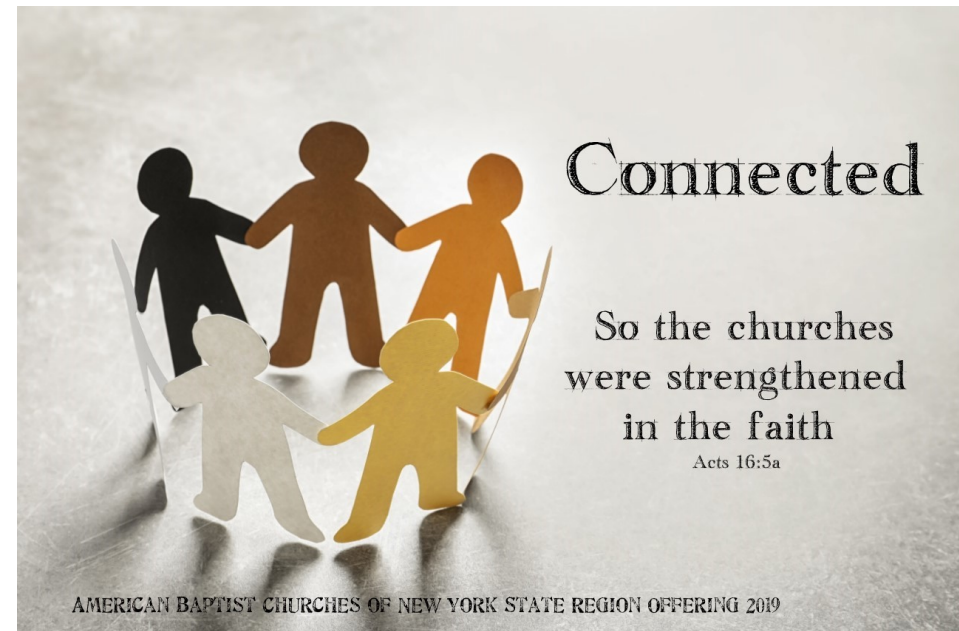
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Region

Baptists are high trust / low control people. We trust churches to follow the leading of the Spirit in their ministry. This does not mean that we are an isolated and independent people.

The scriptures (Romans 16:5, 15 & 16 and I Thessalonians 5:27 and Colossians 4:15) suggest interconnected clusters of churches in urban areas. The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:1-35 & 16:4-5) portrays a connected family of churches. The scriptures describe positions of church leadership that build bridges of cooperation among churches (Acts 14:23 & 20:17; Titus 1:5).

Paul raises up different themes in different letters, depending upon the needs of the church. The theme that runs most persistently throughout his letters is the collection he was taking up for the church in Jerusalem (Acts 11:27-30; Galatians 2:10; Romans 15:25-27; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 & 9:12-15). Paul worked to build a sense of connection and

mutual care among his congregations through his campaign to raise money for this needy church.

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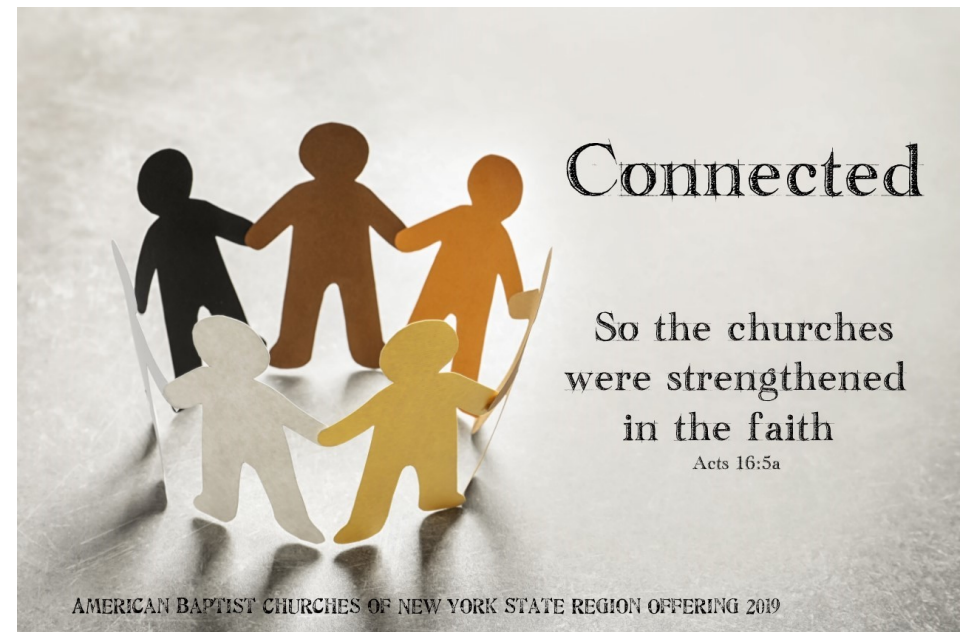
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