



## ***Sowing Seeds in Thorny Times***

### **ABCNYS Region Offering 2023**

*“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)*

A common set of issues for ABCNYS churches is finances and budgets, property challenges and deferred maintenance, and a sustainable approach to local church governance (boards/committees, etc.).

ABCNYS staff routinely field calls from our churches asking for help and insight into what other congregations are finding useful. Our active church memberships tend to be smaller than their historic buildings, and the energy and volunteerism for lay leadership is different than when many constitutions and bylaws were written or revised. Sometimes ABCNYS staff assist churches considering hard decisions about property and plans for sustainability.

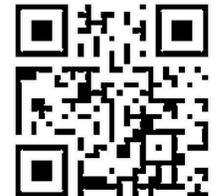
Recently, Second Baptist, Edmeston contacted the Region for help rethinking their bylaws. Pastor Andy Johnson of Second Baptist, Edmeston, observes:

*“The most significant challenge in our small rural town is effective evangelism. With guidance from the region ministers, we were able to adapt a single-board governance model to better fit the needs of our organization. In turn, we expect to become the missional church our communities need.”*

Every ABCNYS congregation benefits from the ability to call, write or ZOOM(!) with Region staff to wrestle with emerging challenges and having necessary (yet often overdue) conversations about “big picture” issues impacting their church’s ministry.



***To help ABCNYS in our work of helping churches “serve and thrive together”, give to the 2023 Region Offering through your church’s offering plate or send a check (noting Region Offering) to: ABCNYS, 3218 James Street, Syracuse, NY 13206.***



***You can also give right now through [www.abc-nys.org](http://www.abc-nys.org) and click on the “donate” button! Thank you for supporting the ministry of ABCNYS!***

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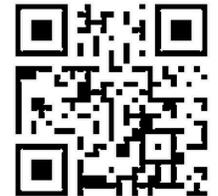
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