

*Without counsel plans fail,
but with many advisers
they succeed. (ESV)*

--Proverbs 15:22

INVESTMENT & ENDOWMENT SERVICES

Investment & Endowment Services

American Baptist Foundation (ABF) is a center for planned giving within our American Baptist family. Alongside our investment services and hands-on customized client relationships, ABF encourages the use of planned gifts to increase financial support for ministry and mission.

OVERVIEW:

American Baptist Foundation accepts, invests, and administers financial assets for the exclusive benefit of our American Baptist partners in ministry and mission. We offer a flexible and professionally managed platform that is responsive to the unique needs of our ministry partners.

INVESTMENT OVERSIGHT:

All aspects of the program are overseen by ABF's Finance Committee. The Finance Committee includes an Investment Sub-Committee that works closely with our investment consultants. These committees work closely together to continually monitor results and provide recommendations.

SOCIAL SCREENS:

To fulfill our **Socially Responsible Investing (SRI)** mandate, ABF's investment managers are prohibited from investment in firms primarily involved in gambling, defense, tobacco and alcohol. From time to time, additional screens may be added. Resulting from a process of review, there is assurance that investment managers are consistently aligned with the moral and ethical goals of our American Baptist family.



Does your investment tell your ministry story?

*Your investment is more than just an account – it accomplishes ministry. The power to inspire others to contribute to your investment in meaningful ways is often underutilized. As part of our ministry, ABF's **Strengthening Your Financial Future (SYFF)** program helps our investment partners transform their "accounts" into powerful ministry tools.*



INVESTMENT OPTIONS:

Fixed Portfolio



Blended Portfolio



Stock Portfolio



There are three different portfolio options available:

- ***Blended Portfolio*** – this portfolio is best suited for the investor looking for moderate growth and willing to take moderate risk. It has a target allocation of 60% stocks (equities) and 40% fixed income (bonds).
- ***Fixed Income Portfolio*** – this portfolio is best suited for the conservative investor looking to minimize risk. It has a 100% allocation to fixed income investments. This portfolio does not guarantee a fixed rate of return; however, it historically outperforms certificates of deposit and money market accounts.
- ***Stock Portfolio*** – this portfolio is best suited for the investor who is willing to take on more risk for the potential of higher returns. It has a 100% allocation to stocks (equities).

Partners may choose to hold more than one investment and have the flexibility to change investment choices.



VALUATIONS:

Each portfolio is valued at the end of each month.

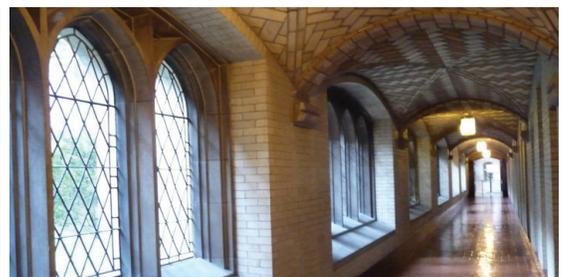
CONTRIBUTIONS:

Funds received during the month are invested at the beginning of the following month, after new valuations have been determined.

PAYOUT AND DISTRIBUTIONS:

ABF provides convenient payment and distribution options. Investors may also choose to reinvest and take distributions as they request. It is the responsibility of each ministry partner to monitor their account balances and take distributions that are in line with their current needs and future objectives.

To assist with periodic distributions, ABF computes an optional payout based on 5% of a rolling twenty (20) quarter average, independent of portfolio performance. This option has historically provided stable payments year over year, avoiding the impact of market fluctuations.



OTHER FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Managing the financial resources of a ministry is an important and necessary step. General considerations include:

- How will the funds be used?
- How will the assets be invested?
- How much of the fund can be spent each year?
- What will the name of the fund be?
- How will the fund be communicated?
- Who will govern the fund?

While the answers to the above questions will vary from organization to organization, there are certain similarities and it is instructive to discuss the possibilities. These discussions may lead to a Fund or Endowment Policy being established and ABF has resources to assist with the creation and maintenance of these policies.



HOW DO YOU GROW YOUR FUND?

Oftentimes ministries are dependent on investment returns alone. What separates ABF from most investment institutions is the ability to assist our partners in increasing financial support through additional contributions, with a focus on “planned gifts.” When applied effectively, resources for ministry can grow exponentially.

ABF’s *Strengthening Your Financial Future (SYFF)* is aimed at increasing and promoting awareness of your ministry objectives and goals. The program is implemented in three stages – **Vision. Communication. Celebration.**

SYFF Testimonial

What a blessing it has been for *Cuba First Baptist Church* to partner with the *American Baptist Foundation* in the **Strengthening Your Financial Future [SYFF]** program. We found the format to be designed in a user-friendly manner and the suggested process worked well to acquaint our church leaders with the resources of the Foundation.

Defining our vision and deciding on a couple specific objectives to set up as Endowment Funds were excellent exercises for our church leaders. The process helped us focus on our mission and gave us hope that putting these future ministry objectives into Endowment Fund opportunities would be a blessing to future generations.

The banners and brochure which were designed for us by the Foundation to highlight our goals and showcase the new Endowment Funds, are top of the line promotional resources and far beyond anything we could have produced on our own.

At a minimum, this experience encouraged us to focus on the future and it familiarized us with what the AB Foundation can offer. At best, we will find God moving among our congregation “to get in where you fit in” in terms of current gifts and/or planned giving.

This has been a positive and beneficial experience for us and we are excited to see how God will bless our congregation in the future because of the seeds that are being planted now.

Rev. Larry Poelma, Pastor
Cuba First Baptist Church
Cuba, NY

SYFF begins with a conversation between ABF and your leadership team. A few steps, and commitment to the process, will help transform your ministry’s vision into a powerful stewardship resource. For more information contact the ABF office.

REPORTING AND PERFORMANCE:

Quarterly statements are provided for each account. **Online access** is also available and an ABF representative will assist with all account-related matters during normal business hours.

LOW-COST ADMINISTRATION:

To make as much available for ministry, ABF strives to keep our fees as low as possible. Contact an ABF representative for specific fee information.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY:

ABF respects all of our partners' needs for privacy. To protect your interests, no account information is ever shared, exchanged, or sold.

INITIAL INVESTMENT:

An initial deposit of \$10,000 is typically required. Ministries that are not able to meet this minimum requirement are invited to speak with us – our planned giving services are designed to get you there and beyond.

ESTABLISHING AN ACCOUNT:

1. Request an endowment application from an ABF representative or download one from our website.

2. Complete and sign the application form then return to ABF by:

Mail: 420 W. Germantown Pike, East Norriton, PA 19403

Fax: 610-768-2213, or

Email: abfadmin@abc-usa.org

3. Fund your account with your initial deposit!

Our investment partners have access to a variety of resources aimed at increasing financial resources available for their ministries. Contact ABF for more information about available investment opportunities.

For more information:



Address: 420 W. Germantown Pike, East Norriton, PA 19403
phone: (610)768-2035
email: abfadmin@abc-usa.org
website: www.abcofgiving.org