

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 22, 2005

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE MINISTERS REACH AGREEMENT AT PARCHMENT  
VALLEY

RIPLEY, WV – Eight ABC-USA Executive Ministers from across the nation gathered at the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center at Parchment Valley. They forged an agreement that affirms historic covenantal relationships between regions. This points to a future of renewed cooperation in mission, based on mutually held core values.

This meeting was an expansion of the Mid-West Executive Ministers' semi-annual gathering. The American Baptist Churches of: Michigan, Ohio, Indiana/Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania/Delaware, New Jersey, Maine and the Pacific Southwest were represented at this meeting. Together these regions represent more than 2300 churches or 40% of ABC-USA congregations.

The agreement is as follows:

**Parchment Valley Agreement**  
**September 22, 2005**

- We are an association of Executive Ministers committed to authentic covenantal relationships with one another in order that our regions can cooperate in mission.
- We commit ourselves to the following core values:
  - Biblical Authority
  - Associational Integrity & Accountability among Regions
  - Leadership Development
  - Equipping our churches to impact the world for Christ.

“As American Baptist leaders, we foresee a bright future of mission and ministry together,” they stated.