

abwe

ABWE Board of Directors



We Are Passionate About Christ

We believe in doing the long, hard work of missions. We believe that the Great Commission means not only sharing the gospel but discipling new believers in the local church and helping biblical, healthy churches multiply and reach their own nations. By God's grace, we seek him to do what only he can do and spark global missions movements that extend beyond ourselves—through the power of the gospel.

Our passion for Christ and his Word are displayed in our organizational values:

- We put Jesus in first place
- We celebrate the gospel
- We strive for a biblical family atmosphere
- We pursue humble confidence
- We share our lives and possessions

We Are Experienced

We leverage our 94 years of experience to serve our 400 partner churches and thousands of supporting churches as they send and support our 1,000 missionaries reaching 84 countries.

Our Baptist roots keep us gospel-centered, providing a strong theological foundation that we carry into all the diverse cultures and people groups in which we minister. We equip our missionaries with deep theological understanding, engaging training, and practical financial and ministry help—so when they arrive on the mission field, they're free to focus on the evangelistic ministry to which God has called them.

We are United

As a collective of like-minded churches and thousands of supporting groups, with a singular focus, fulfilling the Great Commission and speaking with one voice. We're passionate about accomplishing that mission each and every healthy, biblical way possible. Each ministry of ABWE reflects that desire.

Board of Directors



Bill Amstutz

Board Member since 1997

Bill previously served as the president of Shepherds Ministries before becoming chancellor of Shepherds College. While maintaining the title of chancellor, he is now retired and living in Michigan. Earlier in his career, Bill served as associate pastor and administrator in Fruitport, MI for 14 years, and associate pastor and administrator in Cherry Hill, NJ for 13 years. Bill is a graduate of Cedarville University (BA), has a masters from Grand Rapids Seminary, and earned a D. Min. at Biblical Seminary in Hatfield, PA.



Bill has been happily married to Nancy for many years. They met at Cedarville University. Nancy is from eastern Michigan and is a tremendous support to Bill. Together they enjoy spending time with their grown kids and their wives, Jim and Beth Amstutz, Tim and Kim Amstutz, and Becky and Chuck Aman—and their nine grandchildren spread through three states, Michigan, Ohio, and North Carolina. Bill and Nancy also enjoy serving and teaching in their local church in Allendale, MI.

Bill has been with ABWE forever. His parents, Dr. Harold and Helen Amstutz, brought ABWE missions to his life in his early years. Many of his heroes are ABWE missionaries.

Bill started as an Advisory Board member in 1997 and then joined the full ABWE Board in 2007. He serves on both the Doctrine and Personnel Committees.

Jeff Burr

Board Member since 2022

Jeff and his wife Sheri have been serving in pastoral ministry at Forest Hills Baptist Church since 1995. They were able to be part of a revitalization work and see the church mobilized for Great Commission ministry. Jeff also enjoys encouraging area pastors and churches through his leadership of a regional pastor's fellowship. As part of his teaching ministry, he has led several study trips to Israel.



Jeff and his wife Sheri have seven children—and welcomed their first grandchild in 2021.

Jeff joined the ABWE Board in 2022 and serves on the Personnel Committee.

Mark Cizauskas

Board Member since 2019

Mark has been the senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Rochester, MI since June 2012. Prior to this, he served on the pastoral staff of West Cannon Baptist Church in Belmont, MI for 14 years. Mark is a graduate of Baptist Bible College in Clarks Summit, PA and attended Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.



Mark married his wife Marsha, also a BBC graduate, in 1996, and they have four children: Joshua, Katelyn, Kendra, and Kiley. In his free time, Mark enjoys spending time with his family and doing home projects.

Mark joined the ABWE Board in 2019 and serves on the Executive Committee and as the chair of the Board Development Committee.

Kezia Curry

Board Member since 2018

Kezia's passions are education and music. Born into a pastor's family and raised in Atlanta, GA, Kezia is named after one of Job's daughters in the Old Testament, whose name means "sweet smelling spice."

Kezia knows the inherent power of education and music rooted in the principles of God's Word. Her formal occupation is a university professor of education, and she loves to teach. She received her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from Cedarville University; an M.Ed. in Middle Grades Education from Mercer University in Atlanta, GA; and an Education Specialist Degree and Ph.D. in Multicultural Education from Emory University in Atlanta, GA. She taught elementary school in Georgia and has taught at Cedarville University, Georgia State University, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Chaminade University, Wayland Baptist University, and Columbia International University. She serves on several education and ministry boards. She is currently developing curriculum for her educational consulting company, Global Kaleidoscope LLC, and writing new music.



Kezia has travelled extensively in the US and internationally to teach and sing. She has recorded three music projects (www.keziamusic.com), and God has blessed her by allowing her to use her dual ministries of teaching and singing to share the message that God's Word applies to both the sacred and secular arenas of life. Since 2009, she has shared her blessed life with her U.S. Army Chaplain husband, Randy.

Kezia joined the ABWE Board in March 2018 and serves on the Board Development Committee.

Stephen Large

Board Member since 1999

Stephen is an ABWE MK whose parents served in Iquitos and Lima, Peru. He is employed as a lead audit manager with Internal Audit in Philadelphia, where he is involved in reviewing and reporting on information technology risk. Stephen is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Information Systems Auditor, and Certified Internal Auditor. He is a graduate of Penn State, Loyola University, Towson University, and Clarks Summit University.



Stephen's wife Terry serves as ABWE's director of short-term mobilization. They have one daughter Laura, who works an RN, while her husband Dr. Jesse Benack serves as a senior pastor in Paradise, PA. Stephen enjoys biking, kayaking, and flying stunt kites at the beach.

Stephen started on the Advisory Board in 1999 and joined the full ABWE Board in 2005. He serves on the Finance and Audit Committee.



George Martin

Board Member since 2018

George and his wife Jane both attended Duke University, Jane for undergraduate studies and George for his doctorate in chemistry. George was hired by a paper company to do quality control. He moved up the ranks as a plant manager, to Chief Operating Officer, to CEO. He retired a couple of years ago. Jane is a retired teacher and also previously served as the chairman of the board and executive director of the Miami Valley Women's Center.



The Martins have several adult children, are big fans of University of Dayton basketball, and love to travel.

George joined the ABWE Board in 2018 and serves on the Finance and Audit Committee.



Yvonna McGhee

Board Member since 2009

Yvonna and her husband, Rich, transitioned from 42 years of local church ministry in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Ohio to join the EveryEthne leadership team. Together, they serve as the Soul Care directors, helping to develop a ministry of spiritual encouragement to the EveryEthne team. They also are working with the Member Care team to develop a similar initiative for the ABWE GO family.



Yvonna and Rich met at Cedarville University and have enjoyed many years of marriage and ministry together. They have two adult children, and two adorable granddaughters. They enjoy being close to Lily and Violet, who live in Boone, NC. Yvonna and Rich now live in Lenoir, NC, where they are rehabbing an old house, using it as a place of hospitality and refreshment for many.

Yvonna started on the Advisory Council in 2005 and joined the full ABWE Board in 2009 as one of the first women to be invited to serve in that role. She serves on the Board Development Committee.



John Nemmers

Board Member since 2022

John Nemmers was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa. He grew up the youngest of 10 in a gospel-centered pastor's home. After years of running from the Lord, he came to a saving faith at 18 years old. He is now married to his wife Kaley, and they have four kids: Carter, Zion, Aslan, and Rhema.



John felt a general call to ministry shortly after his salvation and began studies at Clark Summit University and Liberty University. He joined the staff of Saylorville Church in Des Moines when he was 24 to lead the evangelism and outreach ministries.

John is currently the Engage Network church plant resident. He is getting ready to plant the eighth church plant with the Engage network in the fall of 2023.

John joined the ABWE Board in 2022 and serves on the Personnel Committee.



Wendy Perez-Contreras

Board Member since 2012

Wendy moved to the US in 1978 from Guatemala, Central America. She grew up in Brooklyn, NY, and attended Brooklyn Baptist Church, where she was involved in various children's ministries— including Sunday School and VBS—as well as women's ministries. In 2008, she moved to Indianapolis, IN, where she attended College Park Church and served as a director in the AWANA ministries. She is now a member of Pleasant Heights Baptist Church in Indianapolis, where she is involved with Sunday School ministries.



Wendy has been involved in the field of clinical research for many years. She is presently the senior director of Clinical Operations at Endocyte, a Novartis Company, in Indianapolis, IN. She has been with Endocyte for 11 years. Prior to Endocyte, she worked at Schering-Plough (now Merck) in NJ, Cardiovascular Research Foundation in NYC, and Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in NYC.

Wendy holds a BA in Biology from Brown University in Providence, RI, and a MPA in Health Care Policy from NYU Wagner School of Public Service. She is married to Brian Swingle, a retired Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department police officer.

Wendy started on the Advisory Council in 2011 and joined the full ABWE Board in 2012. She serves as the board vice-chair, a member of the Executive Committee, and chair of the Personnel Committee.

Sam Polson

Board Member since 2000

Sam Polson was born and raised in New Castle, IN. He is married to Susan, and they have three children, Ruth, Stephen, and Jessica. He received a bachelor's and a master's degree from Bob Jones University.



In 1986 he moved to Knoxville, where he is currently serving as the senior pastor of West Park Baptist Church. For Pastor Sam Polson, putting a finger on his favorite part of being a pastor is easy—seeing the Lord transform lives! Pastor Sam knows transformation first-hand.

“While I was in college, I had the opportunity to be involved with ministry to young people in under-privileged neighborhoods,” recalls Pastor Sam. “I received a real sense of fulfillment in sharing God’s love and word with them. Through many circumstances and through the encouragement of several godly individuals, God clearly revealed his plan for me was to serve in the ministry of his gospel.”

Pastor Sam’s duties are vast as lead pastor for the church. He serves as advisor to the pastoral team and staff, teaches in most services, and represents West Park in the greater community. He also serves as a godly father and husband and enjoys spending time with his family, especially through traveling and exploring new places together.

Sam started on the Advisory Council in 1994 and joined the full ABWE Board in 2000. He serves as the board chair and leads the Executive Committee.



Randy Redmer

Board Member since 2013

Randy is a businessman and entrepreneur. Randy and his wife Julie have four adult children. In his free time, Randy's passion is evangelism—sharing his faith with those around him.

Randy joined the ABWE Board in 2013 and serves on the Finance and Audit Committee.



Charles Smith

Board Member since 2020

Charles Smith is a member of Emmaus Church in Kansas City, Missouri. He is married to his wife, Ashley Smith, and has three daughters: Ellie, Annie, and Susie.

Charles serves as the senior vice president for Institutional Relations and assistant professor of Christian Leadership at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Spurgeon College. He also serves as co-founder and general editor of For The Church, a subsidiary of Midwestern that equips ministry leaders with gospel-centered resources, conferences, and leadership development. He is also the founder and host of The Leadership Project, a podcast designed to help Christians understand and embrace God's call to take initiative for the glory of God and the good of others.

Charles earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Mississippi College, his Master of Divinity in Theology from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and his Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Charles joined the ABWE Board in 2020 and serves on the Board Development Committee.



Don Southwell

Board Member since 2014

Don spent 42 years in the insurance business, starting as an actuarial student with the Prudential Insurance Company of America in 1973. He spent 22 years with Prudential in a variety of capacities. In 1996 he joined Unitrin, later renamed Kemper Corp, from which he retired in 2016 after serving 10 years as its CEO.



Don married his wife Glenna in 1971. They have four children and 20 grandchildren.

Don joined the ABWE Board in 2014 and serves on the Executive and Finance and Audit Committees.



Josh Teis

Board Member since 2020

Josh Teis grew up as a PK in Las Vegas, Nevada. After receiving Christ as Savior, Josh committed his life to pastoral ministry at the age of 15.

Josh and his wife, Heather, minister in Las Vegas at Southern Hills Baptist Church, a wonderful congregation which they established together nearly 20 years ago. The church has grown over 1,200 in weekly attendance.

Josh is also the founder and president of the Idea Network, a ministerial association dedicated to creating events and conferences conducive to collaboration and collective brainstorming.

Josh and Heather have one son, Jonathan David, and two daughters, Savannah Tyler and Scarlett Noel.

Josh joined the ABWE Board in 2020 and serves on the Board Development Committee.



Jeff Trout

Board Member since 2011

Jeff grew up in South America as a missionary kid (MK), his parents being long-time ABWE missionaries. He went to Bob Jones University, where he graduated with an accounting degree in 1991. He is a CPA and has worked in the non-profit accounting field for over 20 years. He also pastors a small church in Elizabeth, CO.



Jeff met his wife Sheri at Bob Jones University, and they were married in 1993. They have eight children and live on the eastern plains of Colorado.

Jeff joined the ABWE Board in 2011 and serves on the Executive Committee and as chair of the Finance and Audit Committee.

Chukwudum Uche

Board Member since 2022

Chukwudum was born and raised in Nigeria in a Christian home. He graduated from medical school in 1995. He practiced medicine in Nigeria, Jamaica and The Bahamas. He came to the USA in 2002 and continued his postgraduate medical training with an internal medicine internship in Cook County Hospital, Chicago, IL, an internal medicine residency in Wilson Mem Reg Med Ctr, Johnson City, NY and an infectious diseases fellowship in Thomas Jefferson Univ Hosp, Philadelphia, PA. He is board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases and has a particular interests in HIV medicine, viral hepatitis, travel and tropical medicine and general infectious disease. He is a member of Southern Hills Baptist Church, Las Vegas, NV. Soccer is his favorite sport and his favorite teams are Manchester United and Liverpool. Chukwudum is happily married and blessed with 2 girls.





Emeriti Council Members



Marvin Brubacher

Board Member since 2001

Marvin began serving as the executive director of MentorLink Canada in January 2012. MentorLink is a leadership training network in over 60 countries with an emphasis on developing leaders to lead like Jesus, with an emphasis on the leader's heart.



Previously, Marvin served for 21 years as the president of Heritage College and Seminary in Cambridge, Ontario, until April 2011. Before that, he served in pastoral ministry in London and St. Thomas, Ontario, for a total of 14 years. He has ministered in many churches and conferences throughout Ontario and Eastern Canada and has ministered extensively internationally. Marvin also serves on two international mission boards.

Marvin and Kay have three adult sons, two daughters-in-law, and six grandchildren. They are members of Forward Church in Cambridge, Ontario, where he continues to serve in various roles.

Marvin began on the Advisory Council in 1982 and joined the full ABWE Board in 2001. In 2018 he transitioned to emeritus status.



David Crandall

Board Member since 1994

Dr. Crandall began his ministry as a youth pastor in New York, and then pastored two dynamic churches in New York and Indiana. After 30 years in pastoral ministry, David became the international director of Gospel Literature Services, where he served for 13 years. He led this ministry to publish and distribute Christian literature in 117 languages, expanding to 138 countries.



Dr. Crandall has led numerous mission trips, including 23 tours to Israel and the Middle East. Since 1996, he has led nearly 2,000 people to do evangelism at the Olympic Games, where over 1,500 people have made professions of faith. He has written nine Olympic booklets with a distribution of 3.5 million copies in over 25 languages.

In 2006 Pastor Crandall joined the ministry of Answers in Genesis as international director and founder of AiG WorldWide Ministries. He was responsible for taking AiG apologetic materials around the globe and leading their translation into 176 languages. He and his wife Diana helped train nearly 100 internationals to return to their counties to establish creation ministries.

Dr. Crandall also founded the Emmanuel Baptist Academy in Penn Yan, New York.

David and Diana have four grown children: Lisa (Philadelphia, PA), Amy (Clarks Green, PA), Rev. David (Indianapolis, IN.), and Stefanie (Canton, MI.). All their children are married and serving the Lord. The Crandalls enjoy spending time with their 10 grandchildren. In 2015, David and Diana celebrated 50 years of marriage.

In their retirement, the Crandalls have continued travelling the world in ministry and Bible conference work. They recently ministered in Jerusalem to over 600 pastors and families from India. David currently serves as associate pastor at First Baptist Church, New Port Richey, FL. As God allows, they plan to continue ministering both nationally and internationally.

Dr. Crandall started on the Advisory Council in 1978 and joined the full ABWE Board in 1994. In 2017 he transitioned to emeritus status.

Steve Euler

Board Member since 1994

Dr. Steve Euler pastored Grace Baptist Church in Chattanooga, TN, for 37 years until his retirement in March 2015.

He and Mary are the proud parents of four children and 10 grandchildren.



Dr. Euler started on the Advisory Council in 1989 and joined the ABWE Board in 1994. He served on the Personnel Committee and as chair of the Doctrine Committee. In 2020 he transitioned to emeritus status.



Randy Faulkner

Board Member since 1990

Randy is a Bible teacher, writer, and disciple-maker. He serves as a chaplain at the Oklahoma County Jail through the Oklahoma Jail and Prison Ministry (OJPM), and as a board member of the Oklahoma Christian Counseling Center.



Randy has a B.A. from Tennessee Temple College, an M.Div. from Temple Baptist Theological Seminary, and a D. Min. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

He retired in 2018 after 47 years as a pastor, serving at Metropolitan Baptist Church, in Oklahoma City, OK, and Calvary Baptist Church, in Covington, KY.

He has been married since 1968 to Connie Thompson Faulkner and they are the parents of five adult children and twelve grandchildren. His hobbies include reading, hiking, bicycling, racquetball, and travel.

Randy is the author of *Meeting the Dawn at Jimmy's Egg* (2009), a book about disciple-making and spiritual multiplication (available on Amazon) and writes weekly on www.hiswillblog.com.

Randy started as an Advisory Board member in 1982 and then joined the full ABWE Board in 1990. He served on both the Doctrine and Personnel Committees. He transitioned to emeritus status in 2021.

James Geurink

Board Member since 1994



James (Jim) Geurink served in the administration of Baptist Children's Home, Valparaiso, IN, for over 40 years—serving 20 of those years as president. He has traveled in several other countries where Baptist Children's Home serves in partnership with national churches to care for children.

Jim and his wife Donna are graduates of Bob Jones University. Jim also has a master's degree in childcare administration from Nova University, Ft. Lauderdale. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 6, 2020.

Jim and Donna have three children, all of whom have mission field experience or are presently serving overseas. One of dozens of foster children they cared for claims them as dad and mom and also serves as a missionary.

Jim started as an Advisory Board member in 1992 and then joined the full ABWE Board in 1994, where he served on the Finance and Audit Committee. He transitioned to emeritus status in March 2022.



Jerry Kroll

Board Member since 2000

Dr. Jerry Kroll is Pastor Emeritus of Heritage Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he served as senior pastor for 27 years. His passion for evangelism and discipleship has led him to do missions conferences and pastoral training in Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia, North America, Latin America, and other parts of the world.



Dr. Kroll's desire to see local churches and mission agencies partner together in sending missionaries to the field led him to begin a series of Leading a World Missions Church seminars.

He started on ABWE's Advisory Council in 1994 and joined the full ABWE Board in 2000, where he served until retirement. In 2017 he transitioned to emeritus status.

Dr. Jerry Kroll and his wife, Linda, live in Lynchburg, Virginia.



Allen McFarland

Board Member since 2009

Dr. Allen R. McFarland has been the Senior Pastor of Calvary Evangelical Baptist Church of Portsmouth, VA since September 1982. He received a B.A. in Pastoral Studies from Liberty University, a Master of Divinity, a Doctor of Divinity, and a Doctor of Ministry from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Virginia.



The Black Christian News Network (BCNN1) honored him among the Nation's 70 most influential Black Christian History Makers who are living today and are serving Jesus Christ with their gifts and talents.

On November 12, 2019, he was elected President of Southern Baptist Convention of Virginia.

Pastor McFarland and Doris, his wife of fifty-two years, are the parents of four daughters and one son and the proud grandparents of 16 grandchildren.

Dr. McFarland started on the Advisory Council in 2007 and joined the full board in 2009. In 2018 he transitioned to Emeritus status.



Charles Ware

Board Member since 1994

Dr. A. Charles Ware serves as Executive Director, of Grace Relations and Special Assistant to the President at the College of Biblical Studies in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Before coming to CBS, Dr. Ware served as president and president emeritus of Crossroads Bible College Indianapolis, IN. Charles earned his B.R.E from Baptist Bible College and M.Div. from Capital Bible Seminary and an Honorary Doctorate from Baptist Bible Seminary. In addition to serving on the ABWE Board, he also serves on the following boards: ABHE (Association for Biblical Higher Education), Anchors Away, and The Biblical Counselling Coalition. Dr. Ware has authored, co-authored, and edited several books, among these, are: *One Race One Blood*, *Ferguson: How Should the Church Respond*, *Reuniting the Family of God*, and *Just Don't Marry One*.

Dr. Ware and Sharon celebrated 48 years of marriage just prior to her homegoing to Heaven in November 2021. They have six children, four daughters-in-law, one son-in-law, and four grandchildren.

Dr. Ware started on the Advisory Council in 1991 and joined the full board in 1994. In 2018 he transitioned to Emeritus status.







ONE MISSION. MULTIPLE MINISTRIES.

abweGO

SENDING MISSIONARIES

ABWE Go partners with nearly 400 churches to train, send, and support missionaries focused on evangelism, discipleship, training, and compassion ministries.

LIVEGLOBAL

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Live Global connects the local church with national partners living and ministering in some of the hardest-to-reach places around the globe.

EVERYETHNĒ

CHURCH PLANTING & RESOURCING

EveryEthne equips North American churches to grow, multiply, and cross cultures in their own communities.

LAUNCHPOINT

SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS

Launch Point focuses on creating short-term missions trips with a long-term impact.

GOODSOIL

EVANGELISM TRAINING & RESOURCES

Good Soil resources believers with evangelism and discipleship materials that help people understand and embrace the gospel.