

CABF – AGM
Alliance Of Baptists
Report – October 2021

The **Alliance of Baptists** (the Alliance) defines itself as *‘a faith community knit together by our love for one another and God, combining progressive inquiry, contemplative prayer, and prophetic action to bring justice and healing in a changing world.’* A great summary of who and what Alliance believes in and practices.

A few years ago, I had the immense pleasure of being on the Board for the Alliance. I met remarkably interesting people, learned many lessons, and experienced so many inviting, and enjoyable worship services that I felt guilty at times that I had so little to offer during those services. During my time as a board member, I had the opportunity to attend the yearly Convention. What an exciting, educational, and loving time! Even as a member of the Alliance, I feel sure anyone would feel the love as soon as they enter the environment.

Entering the Convention Hall, I was immediately embraced by a group of the most welcoming, diverse, and loving people that I had experienced in a long while! The love that oozed that morning continued with everyone I met during the workshops and worship services, of that weekend. I was overjoyed the entire weekend!

Paula Clayton-Demsey, Director of Partnerships was the first person I met. Paula’s endearing love for everyone, her invitations to participate and attend every service and her heart-warming friendship made the Alliance an easy friend! Throughout my time on the Board, and even in the years following the Alliance where I participated as an Alliance member, those I met were truly a friendship of Christ-like love and acceptance.

This past August I was privileged to send retirement greetings to Paula, on behalf of CABF. Paul is retiring this October. *‘After a broad search, the Alliance announced that Reverend Elijah Zehyoue is to become Co-Director following the retirement of Paula Clayton-Dempsey.’* I understand Rev. Zehyoue brings talents and experience from his time as pastor, preacher scholar and teacher. I feel sure the Alliance of Baptists board and its membership are sure to benefit from Rev. Zehyoue’s presence!

This fall, the Alliance of Baptists meets for their Fall Online Gathering and Business Meeting on Saturday, October 23 at 12 PM Eastern/9 AM Pacific. You may want to join in.

I strongly encourage everyone to take the opportunity to experience this love, commitment, and friendship.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Nicholas-Pattillo