



**PRESIDENT**  
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Dear Brethren,

Each year the annual messenger meeting of the churches of the American Baptist Association proves to be a time of good fellowship, mutual encouragement, and progress in the work of our Lord. Personally, I cannot imagine the month of June without the ABA messenger meeting!

While we enjoy the messenger meetings, we must also be aware of the fact that the expense of having these meetings continually increases. Regardless of where we meet or how many people attend, the expenses continue to rise. In addition to the expense of meeting, there is also the cost of printing the yearbooks. The latest yearbook shows that last year the combined cost of expense of meeting and printing the yearbooks was \$115,717.96. When the churches vote to send messengers to the 2010 meeting in Charleston, WV, I trust they will also consider increasing the amount of money they send for expense of meeting and minute books. I am not asking you to do something I am not willing to do. I plan to ask the church God allows me to pastor to increase the amount we send. If each church will do this, no church will be unduly burdened.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Charleston, WV!

Brotherly,

Roger Copeland