



American Baptist Churches of Oregon Executive Minister Candidate

Rev. Steve Bills

Steve Bills is presently an Associate Executive Minister with the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska where he has served for six years. His previous ministry experience includes college teaching and administration (1979-89), parachurch ministry (1989-1991), and two pastorates (1991-2003). Steve earned his Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies from Southeastern Bible College, his Bachelor of Theology from Florida Bible College and his Bachelor of Arts from Colorado Bible College. He was ordained in 1979.

Steve came into the ABC on a non-traditional path. His ABPS narrative includes this paragraph, *"I am an American Baptist by choice. I was not born into an American Baptist family or even a part of an ABC church until a little over ten years ago. However, all of my years of education and experience in ministry prior to 1997 enabled me to recognize and appreciate the solid biblical foundation of the Baptist principles (in general) and American Baptist distinctives (in particular) that I have discovered."*

One of our American Baptist distinctives that Steve especially values is our rich diversity and our commitment to working together, *"While others have been distracted by divisive struggles that have paralyzed mission and ministry, in Nebraska and in Oregon we have managed to avoid such destructive behaviors. This has been accomplished in large measure by an intentional strategy to emphasize our common values and mission and to hold them up as far more valuable than any divergent perspectives. We want to define who we are by what we value together, not by that about which we disagree."*

Steve serves as the National Evangelism Team (NET) Associate for ABC/NE and ABC/Dakotas. The training provided by National Ministries uses an "evangelism styles" approach based on the differences in people's personalities and different ways of relating to others. In this capacity Steve is able to help congregations discover the types and styles of evangelism that work best for them and then train them in those styles.

He is the Vice-President (Communications) of the Ministers Council. He previously served as president of the ABC/NE Ministers Council and represented them as their senator.

Steve represents ABC/NE on the board of Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska. IMN is an interfaith ecumenical council of over a dozen denominations similar to Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. As a member of the finance committee he sees firsthand how much more we can do together than any of us could ever accomplish alone.

He enjoys his work with the ABC Emergency Services Center at the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Steve and Trudi celebrated their 31st anniversary earlier this year and enjoy taking trips together on their motorcycles. They have three children (Bonnie, 27 and Bethany, 24 in Omaha and Stephen, 21 currently deployed to Afghanistan) and four grandchildren (Angel, Jasmine, Sicily, and Italia, all in Omaha).