**United Mission is the Vehicle
Children’s Sermon: It’s Train Time**

Let’s talk about trains. How many of you have ever seen a train? What sound does a train make? (*This is a good place to do chugga-chugga noises or train whistles. Consider toy train whistles as a prop.)* There are many kinds of trains, and each one has a job to do. There are freight trains, that carry cargo, and tanker trains that carry fuel. Passenger trains carry people. Maybe you’ve ridden on a train? (*If appropriate to your congregation, you could talk about subway or metro transit trains.*) Some passenger trains carry people very fast – 150 miles an hour! – and they’re called high speed rail trains.

Each train has its own job, the job it does best. By working together, all of these trains help make sure all the work gets done and everyone gets what they need. The cargo and gas go where they need to go, and the passengers are carried safely to their destination.

That’s how our church works too! There are lots and lots of American Baptists, and each and every one of them is different. Everyone has their own one-of-a-kind job to do. Can you think of any examples? (*Sunday school teachers, etc. – everyone the kids come up with will likely be a fairly visible member of the church.*) That’s right. There are other people, too, who maybe we don’t see as much. There are the trustees, who take care of our church home by making sure the building is safe and warm, and the custodian, who keeps everything clean. Everyone does their part to keep the church running. That’s just like United Mission. We don’t always see them, but they’re there, taking care of our church, and churches and missions all around the world.

When we work with other American Baptists, it’s called United Mission. That’s how we serve as the hands and feet of Christ. That’s what Jesus wants us to do. He even tells us in the Bible, in Matthew 18:20 that when two or three people come together to tackle big projects, Jesus will be there to help us. That means that when we work with each other, and with trust in God, we can do lots of good work. So every time you see a train going chugga-chugga-chugga down the tracks, I want you to remember that it’s by working together that we can get all the work done – and when we say working together, that means United Mission!

**Scripture Reference:**

Matthew 18:20 (NRSV)

20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”