

Kansas Baptist Convention, Inc.  
5833 S.W. 29th St., Ste. A, Topeka, KS 66614-5505

Change Service Requested



January 2022

## Grandview Baptist Church: Selling the Building, Building

*Behold, I will do a new thing,  
Now it shall spring forth;  
Shall you not know it?  
I will even make a road in the wilderness  
And rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19*

These ancient words from the prophet Isaiah, believed to be penned during the reign of King Heze, wooden exterior doors of Grandview Baptist Church in the summer of 2017. In that moment, the cor who had attended church in that location for over 8 decades) had a choice to make. While the cho reality of a change in attendance as well as a structure in need of major TLC, it was present none conversations and a period of discernment, the congregation made the courageous decision to sell together as a church (thus finding a new location to meet).

This proclamation given by YHWH to Isaiah for the people of Israel became a poignant reality for C was sold by the summer of 2018 and we began to meet in our new location (housed in FBC, KCKS) o the questions before us remained... what did God have in mind for us going forward and what was

The answer came in the form of the Thriving Congregations Initiative via Central Baptist Theologi Foundation. Through a grant from Lily (via Central) and a small investment from us, we were able program of ReShape as offered by Pinnacle Leadership Associates beginning in January of 2021.

While the details of the venture are too numerous to mention, with the process and outcomes we e to our church, it was more than worth our time and effort to partake in this opportunity. Perhaps th was our recognition that, as this body of Christ, we not only deeply value relationships, we also dee neighbors.

As a result (and with funding from a grant) we have begun a partnership with a local elementary s have been so blessed to be able to provide non-perishable food items for their student food pantry bags for their staff and faculty.

If the prophetic words living in the forty third chapter of Isaiah currently resonate with you or you invite you to begin the discerning process regarding the ReShape journey. And, if the Lord has a di are being called, pursue that with the mindset of actively seeking the new thing God is springing fo

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Mission and Evangelism

## Handshakes, Hugs & Halle

April 27-28, 2022

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Joel Grizzle

First Baptist Church, McPherson.

### Highlighted Interest C

#### Voices in Praise...Hallelujah!

Join others in forming the Retreat Choir by sharing your voices. Crowl, pianist will lead.

#### Remembering Hugs & Hallelujahs – Mary Hemphill

Make a simple folded mini-book with embellishments. This project offers many possibilities – like fishing with a grandchild, a birthday party. Possibilities are endless!

#### Elderlaw Matters – Walter Schoemaker

Discuss issues encountered by senior adults in retirement.

#### Christian Hospitality – The Forgotten Grace - Mang Sanna

Rev. Mang Sanna, Executive Director of Bethel Neighborhood Church, shares reflections on the power of Christian hospitality to impact and demonstrate the "good news" we seek to proclaim.

#### The Bells are Ringing...Hallelujah!

Join Jan Smith in a fun time of ringing bells to music.

#### Handshakes, Hugs and Hallelujah Bingo --- Lois Chiles

Have fun and learn the way of expressions of handshakes, hugs, and kisses. Prizes, card/s for prizes.

#### A Peculiar People --- John Williams

What do church folk look like? Join Dr. Williams as he reflects on the strange creatures we call Baptists. In a humorist reflection, John shares stories as well as some Biblical reflections that highlight some of the people who come with a life-time of service in our American Baptist family.

Registration forms can be found at [www.abccr.org](http://www.abccr.org) or through the registration desk on Monday, April 11. Contact John Williams (785) 761-1111.

## Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation

# Planned Giving

*A Ministry of American Baptist Churches of the Central Region*

Many make New Year's resolutions only to forget about them within a few weeks (or days). For me, it's just better to ask God every morning what He has planned for me to do. That way I don't have to try to remember what "I" decided that I should do in the new year.

For the last eleven years I have tried to remind all of us that God didn't create us to be secure self-protective hoarders, but to become the conduit through which his generosity flows! I know that many plan on how much they can leave their children and grandchildren, but if we are being truly good stewards of all that God has given us to manage for Him, shouldn't we consider leaving something to many people so they can pass it on to others rather than just to our family? As Christians, we want to give with a greater impact, because God's world is bigger than just our family.

However, you can do both with a Charitable Gift Annuity. You can make the donation to the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation, Inc. and they will give a designated amount to your child or grandchild or great grandchild each year during his/her lifetime (amount is determined by age) and then the gift will be distributed to the ABC ministries that you have designated. It's a win-win situation!

Rev. Tim Schwartz will be the Director of Planned Giving now, so please contact him about how you can best use the financial blessings that God has given you to manage. I am

## Sr. Adult Retreat to have C Joel Grizzle as Keyn



# MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER WEEKEND

## "CRAZY FRIENDS"

JANUARY 28-29, 2022  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
410 S HICKORY ST, OTTAWA, KS 66067

**SPEAKER:** ERIC MOSHER, LIVING A LEGACY CHURCH, NEWTON, KS

\$35 A STUDENT IF REGISTERED BY JANUARY 14TH  
\$50 LATE REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 6:30PM ON FRIDAY.  
DEPARTURE IS AT 5:30PM ON SATURDAY.



## 7 TIPS FOR BOOSTING YOUR BRAIN: MEMORY HELP FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Prairie Homestead

Does it seem as if you are having more trouble coming up with the word you want? Do you misplace your car keys more often? Did you forget an important anniversary? If you have any serious worries about your own forgetfulness or that of a loved one, talk to a health-care professional, but there is some simple help for those smaller frustrations of memory.

**Exercise.** You don't have to take up tennis or jogging, but starting exercise in older age can help reverse memory decline or delay degeneration. Active walking has been shown to help strengthen brain activity.

**Supplements** are often said to improve the mind or delay dementia, but, until there is more testing, there are no guarantees that any over-the-counter supplements will help boost your brain. Good results have been seen with Omega-3 fatty acid and Ginkgo biloba. Vitamin E has also shown some promise, but, as with any medication or supplement, you should check with your doctor before you add anything to your daily regimen.

**Take a nap.** Snoozing for 6 to 45 minutes has been shown to help cognitive activity. Especially if you have trouble sleeping at night as you age, a quick nap in the afternoon can improve

# Central Reg 117 Ye

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## CENTRAL REG

News of the American Baptist Church

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100% Church Membership, 1 y

PRAYE  
EMPHASI

As we begin the new year and w  
Days of Christmas, which end on J  
as epiphany or Little Christmas, l  
as we focus our prayers this mon

# SEARCH & CALL

## How to Listen To A Sermon & Question Your Thinking

Search and Call Committees are eager to hear a candidate preach. COVID has made this much easier, because so many of our candidates have worked virtually, and recorded vociferously.

The Good News... there is a repository of sermons online for most of the candidates a Search Committee will. The Bad News... it is very easy to be an ill-equipped sermon critic.

### *How Effective Are You as A Sermon Critic?*

Most of us have a fair amount of experience in assessing a sermon. We know what we like and what we don't like. But quantifying what makes a sermon good or become fuzzy for many Search Committees.

### *Five Mistakes of a Sermon Critic...*

**1st- Looking for the familiar.** The sermon critic may seek familiar terms, phrases, or activities as a litmus test. Here are some familiar things the sermon critic might look for: lots of Bible verses sprinkled throughout message, an altar call at the end of the service, the use of the Lord's Prayer or possibly the use of the Doxology or even a request for 'Amens is comfortable for some.

- Did the message need an altar call? Or was it a ritual?
- Were lots of Bible verses used to make a message Biblical? Or were the versus simple 'proof-texting?'
- Does asking 'Can I get an 'Amen,' help the worship?
- Are the use of the Lord's Prayer, Apostles Creed or the Doxology required, appreciated, excluded? Why?

**2nd- Looking for the Gospel.** The desire to find a candidate who 'Preaches the Gospel' is usually a high priority. But when a Search Committee is asked what the 'Gospel' looks (or sounds like) they may not know. Here are a few well-used definitions of Gospel Preaching. Do they match your thinking?

- Does the message reflect Christ's life, death, resurrection and ascension?
- Does the message draw the listener toward commitment to Christ?

•Are 'Hell, fire and damnation' needed components? How

## Here's a Sermon Listening check

- Sermons teach, evangelize, motivate should always glorify Christ and candidate draw you closer to God? you to say 'Amen?' Has the message or even days later?

- Look for a thread that connects ev the sermon. Does the candidate pro follow or engage? Does the messag Position yourself for blessing. The the candidate, but to discover a w worship; to learn, grow and be insp

- Does the candidate preach in a m Does the message pull you in, cau message is for you?

- After listening to a sermon, are yo message your own? Did the candid application that speaks to your lif something you can use or apply to y

- As you listen, are you hearing a he message? Were the verses, illustra presented in a manner that challer forced to have 'Ears to hear?'

- As a Search and Call Committee pr sermons, they should take a momen sermon sounds like. Some well-kr genuine, humble spirit and they ove There is no one right way to preach the Bible, the Search and Call Comm sermon critique.

The ABCCR Search and Call Team ha They can facilitate an open and exc desired when a candidate speaks. C

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Radical.  
Redeemed.  
Ready.





### **What is ReShaping Church?**

ReShaping Church is a guided process for capturing and integrating the innovation and adaptation life experiences, transforming churches into greater expressions of the body of Christ.

Central Seminary's ReShaping Church: Thriving Congregations program is a partnership with Pinates and generously funded by the Lilly Endowment.

### **Why Participate in ReShaping Church?**

How has your church responded to the multiple crises and pandemics we have and continue to face? Which aspects of yesterday's "normal" are worth keeping and which ones to let go? What happens in a pandemic, leading in a liminal season, or responding to a crisis lasts much longer than you expect? What does "normal" look like for your congregation as it seeks to be transformed and to transform?

If you are thinking about these topics, you are not alone. Faith leaders and communities all over the world are asking the same questions. Central Seminary invites you to join the dialogue with other pastors and churches, sharing their predictable experiences, processing them in community, and using them to grow more fully into your Body of Christ.

Our world is growing less stable with increasing volatility. Extreme economic disparity, racial tensions, political polarization, distrust for institutions...we could go on. No wonder conversations, research, and actions are becoming more volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) conditions is ramping up. These are some of the conditions we are likely to see in the near future. All of this in a culture which was already undergoing major shifts from the modern to postmodern era.

Though no one wants volatile events to come our way more frequently, we recognize that this is our current experience. So what do followers of Jesus do when VUCA conditions arise? How do we respond? What is our perspective or posture toward these kinds of experiences? What does effective church leadership look like in this kind of world?

This is the focus of the Reshaping Church Congregational Leadership Collective. Church leaders are invited to join the Collective, February – June, 2022.

### **Anticipated Outcomes:**

- A greater and more accurate understanding of our VUCA context, along with the greater understanding of how churches are responding
- Increased confidence and competence for leading effectively during volatile times
- Learning emerging church leadership practices which help open the door for missional ministry for the church for effective ministry during volatile times
- Collaborative learning with other congregational leaders

### **Activities and Format**

Three primary activities are the heart of this Congregational Leadership Collective.

Monthly Online Seminar - Third Tuesdays, 1:00-2:15 p.m. (CST), February – June; Participate in an online seminar once a month (75 minutes), facilitated by Mark Tideworth, author of *ReShaping Church*.



# ReShaping Church Conversations

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (CS)

**June 17** Ministry in Times of Conspiracy Theories and Disinformation

**July 29** Adaptive Leadership in Times of Crisis

**August 19** Faith Formation in Times of Crisis

**September 23** We Cry Justice: How the Freedom Church of the Poor is Reshaping

**October 28** Preaching Punchlines

**November 18** Storytelling for Racial Healing



## AB Women's Ministries

National Theme:

Let the Walls Fall Down

American  
WOMEN'S  
MINISTRIES

Summer Conference – June 3-4, 2022  
Theme: Reshaping in His Image



## Meet Global Servant: Mercy Gonzalez- Barnes



Mercy Gonzalez-Barnes has been serving as a global servant with International Ministries since the year 2000. Before serving with IM Mercy served with the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut as a Resource Minister for ethnic ministries and New Church Planting.

Mercy is a product of our American Baptist work both here in the States and in Puerto Rico. She jokes that even though her first church in Brooklyn was a 'Defenders of the Faith' congregation, the pastor was a Cuban Baptist. She says: "My church family in Puerto Rico (Iglesia Bautista de Carraízo) nurtured my gifts and faith.

Mercy is an alum (89) of Central Baptist Theological Seminary. "My time at Central transformed me and gave me clarity about my call." At Central she met her husband Rick (90) and they have three adult children, Aida, Rich and Josh and their son in law Isaac. Before serving with IM, they served congregations in Iowa and Massachusetts. Rick is currently serving as an endorsed chaplain at a Detention and Immigration Center located close to the border with Mexico.

Mercy's first 15 years as a missionary was spent teaching at the seminary in Mexicali and preparing interactive materials for learning in the local church. In 2015 her ministry changed to that of a Regional Global Servant in Theological Education for Iberoamérica and the Caribbean. In 2016 she was part of

# One G HO OF S H A

## American Baptists Co Hour of Sharing D Response to Recen

American Baptists hold in prayer Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee and 38 tornadoes recently caused significant tragic loss of lives. More than 70 de and persons are still missing.

"We are in communication with An regional leaders and partners," say Edwards, ABHMS' national coordin Mobilization & Disaster-response life and extent of damage tied to t especially devastating during this hold those who are experiencing have heard from American Baptist support, and we encourage the us of support."

How you can help:

Please pray for relief efforts in the

"We are grieving with the commun the tornadoes and for the families Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, ABHMS executi praying for those healing from inju with what is next, as they stand in destruction and struggle to remain those who are able to donate to rec

"Our prayers are with the families o tornado outbreak that extended Kentucky. We especially lift up the Kentucky. May God bring comfort a through the hands and feet of thos with the recovery efforts," said Inte C. Jeff Woods.

# HAVE YOU HEARD?



TODAY, we're launching the 2022 Missions & Evangelism Annual Conference. We don't want you to miss out on all the features and tools that can help you grow your church.

Regardless of COVID, this conference will be in-person and simultaneous.

This is not just about missions. You will receive tools that make missions practical. The tools you need to grow your church!

We'll see you there!

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Central Region  
Annual Missions Conference

It's LIVE and It's ONLINE.



## MISSION & EVANGELISM ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

January 14-15

Name:

Church Name:

City:

Cell Phone:

Email:

**\$25.<sup>00</sup>/Person**

The Mission & Evangelism Committee has \$750 in matching funds. For every dollar the region receives above your \$25 fee, up to \$750, will be matched. The monies received will be divided equally between the four special offerings: America For Christ, One Great Hour of Sharing, World Mission Offering, and Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering. Can you help us reach our goal of \$1500.<sup>00</sup>?

Check One:

Yes – I'll Be there!

My Registration Fee

\$25.<sup>00</sup>

Additional  
Offering

No – I can't make it.

But I Still Want to