WIND DRIVEN FIRE DESTROYS RAINY MOUNTAIN KIOWA INDIAN BAPTIST CHURCH

On March 14, at approximately 2:42 pm, Rainy Mountain Kiowa Indian Baptist Church Pastor, Gerald Haunpo and Moderator, Terry Hunter along with deacons and congregation members, were notified that the back area of the church was ablaze. This began when power lines located behind the church, were knocked down due to dangerously high winds. Due to these high winds, it was difficult to contain the fire and it spread rapidly, engulfing the remainder of the church's structure, which had been standing since its November 1949 dedication after a previous fire in 1948.

Gotebo Hall (dining hall) located next to the church also received considerable window and roof damage due to fire hose water pressure and winds.

The spirit of Rainy Mountain Kiowa Indian Baptist Church has been alive for 131 years and has been a pillar of our Kiowa Tribe, surrounding communities and countless families & individuals from all directions. As we seek to repair and rebuild after such devastation, we ask for all means of support through prayer, financial aids, & spiritual strengthening. Generations of Kiowas, beginning with the earliest converts, made this church their spiritual home and their families today, continue on in this manner. We know Daw-Kee (our God) will lay a strong foundation once again for the church and we continue to praise Him through it all.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" -John 14:27

The Central Region, OIABA (Oklahoma Indian American Baptist Association), ABHMS (American Baptist Home Mission Society), and larger American Baptist family are coordinating efforts to support the Rainy Mountain congregation in prayer and financial support. If you would like to financially support rebuilding efforts, you can give a number of different ways. 100% of any donation given through the Central Region will go

- Churches can designate any support with "Rainy Mountain" on their Mission Support Form.
- Checks can be sent to the Region Office (American Baptist Churches of the Central Region, 5889 SW 29th St, Topeka, KS 66614) and please write "Rainy Mountain" on your check.
- Use the QR code to make your donation. Type "Rainy Mountain" in the designation line.

directly to the Rainy Mountain congregation.

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Camping 2025

ABW Summer Conference

2025 Mission Summit

MPYC 2026



WELCOMING A STRANGER: INSIGHTS FROM THE PEW

REV. JENNIFER SCHNEIDER, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE MINISTER

"When I came on region staff, one of the greatest adjustments for me was not going to the same church every Sunday morning. Being part of a local church family is one of the greatest blessings. These days, each Sunday, I find myself in a different church. Over time, that has become a new kind of blessing.

However, it was an adjustment. When I attended worship on Sundays before I was on staff, I knew the basics at my own church. I knew what time worship started, the names of church staff, if there was Sunday School, and if so, when it began. Now, each week, I look for that information about the church I plan to attend on Sunday morning.

The first thing I do is initiate an internet search. I am looking for the church address, service time, and other important information. Sometimes, finding that information is challenging. If your church is hoping for visitors, these are some things you might consider.

- If you have a website, make sure it is easy to navigate. Have pastors' names, service times, and contact information easily accessible.
- If your church doesn't have a website but instead uses Facebook, make sure to use the "about" tab. Have pastors' names, service times, Sunday School times, and contact information easily found. You might know that information, but visitors don't.
- If you do not have either of those, the only people visiting will probably be invited by a church attendee. Today's young adults will use the internet to learn about local churches. I once visited a church that didn't have a website or a Facebook profile, and when I tried to call the church number, there wasn't any information about worship times on the voicemail message. I even tried Google Earth to see if I could read the church sign. It was unreadable.

Most days, when I visit one of our ABCCR churches, I find people I know. Yet, that wasn't true when I first came on staff. On many Sundays, I was a first-time visitor. Some of the observations I made were:

- Sometimes, knowing what building or door I should enter was hard.
- Once inside, sometimes nobody was there to greet me.
- I didn't know where the bathrooms were, where the sanctuary was located, or if I was there for Sunday School where I should go. I looked for signage if there was nobody to ask.
- Once, I was seated in a pew in the sanctuary; sometimes, people said hello and introduced themselves, but other times, nobody approached me.

- As a first-time visitor, I was unsure of the rhythms of worship. When do I stand or sit? How is the offering taken or communion served? It was helpful when I had a bulletin with that information or directions projected on the screen up front. Visitors feel more comfortable when they know what is going on without asking.
- After worship, I always make a point of seeking out the pastor. I want to introduce myself (if he or she doesn't know me) and share my appreciation for his or her ministry. I am also curious to see if anyone else makes time to greet me and invite me to come back.

I understand that Sunday mornings are busy. Pastors and leaders are focused on their responsibilities for the day. Additionally, church attendees are insiders who know how their church operates. Moreover, church budgets are often tight and may not always have funds for websites and expensive sound and video equipment. However, if we want information about our church to be easily accessible and visitors to feel welcome when they enter, it may be time to reconsider how you promote your church and your strategy for making visitors feel included and valued.

I am thankful for the opportunity to worship at our ABCCR churches. If there is anything region staff can do to help your church become more visible and welcoming, please let us know.

SOUL TALK PODCAST

If you are one who likes Podcasts as a way to reflect and learn, you might want to check out ABCCR Pastor Rick Qualls' podcast called, "Soul Talk." Most of the podcasts are 10-15 minutes long and there are currently 91 different podcasts available.

Pastor Rick has served in the Central Region both in called positions and interim roles. He's also walked through the ordination process with a number of ABCCR pastors. If there are any other pastors or church leaders in the region who are doing regular podcasts, <u>please let us know</u> in the region office so we can promote your work as well!







Reconciliation
Soul Talk

II Pause

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

BOUNDARIES TRAINING

Registration Deadline: May 21, 2025

To register, email:
Rev. Jennifer Schneider,
Associate Executive Minister



Friday, May 23, 2025 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM









Rev. Jennifer Schneider, Associate Executive Minister jennifer.schneider@abrr.org

PLANNED GIVING

HELPING YOU TO GIVE GENEROUSLY, REV. TIM SCHWARTZ KBCF DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING 913-424-9939/785-272-7622 TIMMANS39@GMAIL.COM TIM.SCHWARTZ@ABCCR.ORG

This year we are observing a significant anniversary of a historic, watershed event in world history— the end of World War II in Europe!! On VE Day, May 8th, 1945 the war ended and this year we remember, honor and celebrate the 80th anniversary of that magnanimous event! Possibly a few of you were alive then and remember that event, or perhaps you heard your parents or family members talking about the end of World War II, but I would guess that many or most of us were born in the baby boom era that was to follow the end of World War II or beyond that. I also have a hypothesis that some of those men and women who served in World War II, came home to Kansas and Oklahoma and continued being good Baptists and helped to found the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation in 1959.

There's another significant and important anniversary this year, although on a different level. It is the 60th anniversary of the magnificent movie musical," The Sound of Music." The movie tells the story of a nun named Maria, who came to be the governess of the Von Trapp family children during World War II and who eventually fell in love with the captain, who was supposed to be conscripted into the Nazi navy, but he and his family escaped over the mountains into Switzerland for safety.

In that movie, one of the songs is entitled, "Edelweiss" which is a traditional Austrian folk song that is written about a plant or wildflower that grows rampantly across the country. One of the lines in the song goes like this, "Blossom of snow, may you bloom and grow, bloom and grow forever."

If you donate money or fund a charitable gift annuity with the Kansas Baptist convention Foundation, your donation or gift will bloom and grow forever. What do I mean by that? Well let's just make up a hypothetical example. If you were to fund a gift annuity with \$10,000, and you are 75 years old and you choose yourself as the beneficiary, then you would receive payments of \$700 each year, based on a 7% return rate, for the rest of your life, based on your life expectancy, which is set by the actuary for ACGA. Your money would bloom throughout the rest of your life!

Then when it is time to leave and go home to God, the money that is left which is the remainder/residuum, will continue to grow in the spiritual sense as you leave those funds to various mission agencies and partners. For example, if you leave your remainder to your local church, they may plan a new outreach program that would help others to come to Christ and grow in that way. Or if you leave the remainder to our region, it's possible that the money could be used to help our pastors grow in preaching, teaching and evangelism skills. Or if you leave your remainder to one of the four yearly offerings it would grow and give new life to people in need, specifically through the one great hour of sharing offering or the retired ministers and missionaries offering. If you leave your remainder to International Ministries, they can use it to provide new training or opportunities for missionaries to grow deeper in faith and service. If you leave your remainder to an individual missionary or a mission organization like "Night Light" in Bangkok or The New Life Center in Chiang Mai, Thailand, your money could help women, who are prostitutes or are the victims of human trafficking, to come out of those situations to learn a new skill or trade, hear about Jesus Christ and receive him as their savior, and grow in their new work, life, faith and love for God and neighbor. There are a myriad of ways that your remainder from your charitable gift annuity can help people grow in this life. The possibilities are endless!

So if you are interested not only in benefiting yourself financially, but also in helping your money to bloom and grow in the lives of people that you have never met, that could come to Christ, please contact me about funding a charitable gift annuity. You can call, email or text me or you can leave me a voicemail as well. I will be ready and willing to help you right away. Thank you for your consideration and may God bless you always!

PRAIRIE HOMESTEAD SENIOR LIVING RESPONDS TO YATES CENTER NURSING HOME FIRE

On March 14th, a devastating grass fire rapidly spread towards the Yates Center nursing home in southeast Kansas. Luckily, all 38 residents were safely evacuated. Unfortunately, none of their clothing or personal items could be saved. Most residents were relocated to nearby nursing homes, but their needs remained urgent.

Brenda Janda, Executive Director of Prairie Homestead Senior Living in Wichita, recognized the call for help and sprang into action. She organized a "Stuff the Truck" drive, rallying her residents and staff to donate clothing of all sizes, shoes and other essential items. Within hours, the truck was packed full of supplies, ready for delivery.

Brenda, showing incredible dedication, drove over 2 hours to deliver the much-needed donations to the affected residents. This outpouring of generosity from the Prairie Homestead community highlights the strong family culture and Christian spirit that define their values. Prairie Homestead is a senior living community that offers independent and assisted living housing options on a beautiful 26-acre campus where the luxuries of the city blend with a deep sense of care and compassion for others. Their actions demonstrate that, in times of need, their culture of service and giving is always at the heart of everything they do.





Yvonne Loftis

Director of Sales & Marketing Prairie Homestead Senior Living



1605 West May Street | Wichita | KS 67213 P: 316.201.6505 | F: 316.265.9904 www.prairiehomestead.org



YOUNG ADULT OPPORTUNITY URBANA '25 December 27 - January 1 in Phoenix, AZ

International Ministries is coordinating a team of 10 young adults to attend Urbana, a lifechanging mission conference designed to inspire, motivate, and challenge young adults to dig deeper into their faith and impact the world for Christ.

https://www.urbana.org/

COST

International Ministries wants to support the spiritual life of young adults across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. To that end, IM will cover the cost of Urbana registration, food, and lodging for up to ten young adults. Participants are responsible to make and pay for their own travel arrangements to/from Phoenix, plus a \$50 IM registration fee.

Up to 10 young adults ages 17-26 from American Baptist
Churches in the U.S. and Puerto Rico

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

HOW IT WORKS Pastors and church leaders pray and talk to young adults they believe would be interested and ready to attend the event, then submit a nomination form found here: https://forms.office.com/r/ziykxxPkDX

Two IM leaders will coordinate the group and facilitate meaningful connection before, during, and after the conference

For more information contact Nicole Cox, Youth and Young Adults Associate at IM ncox@internationalministries.org



This month, let us pray for the Rainy Mountain Kiowa Indian Baptist Church, that suffered great damage after a recent storm. First, let us say prayers of Thanksgiving that no one from the church was hurt or killed during the storm.

Then let us pray for the church pastor, leadership and people that God will help them pick up the pieces and

prepare for a new building and a new chapter in ministry there.

Let us offer prayers of petition to Jesus and ask him to guide, direct and lead the congregation as they consider ways to rebuild the church building and carry on in such important ministry there.

Next, let us pray that the Holy Spirit will pour out comfort, care and consolation on the church family as they grieve the loss of their worship space and all of the wonderful times they shared there praising God, helping others, praying, doing outreach and caring for the community there.

Finally let us pray in a different way, as we ask God to give us wisdom as to how we can help the church carry on in ministry and how we can help them build a new building? Let us consider opening our checkbooks, purses and wallets so that we might give a financial gift to help our Native American brothers and sisters in Christ during this difficult time of change









"The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down."

Psalm 145:14 (NIV)

You can register by scanning the **QR** Code



Age is determined by what grade the student is entering in the fall of 2025.

CAMP CHRISTY

JUNE 2-6

JUNE 23-25

26-27

JULY

14-18

High School Camp: (\$280) before May 1 (\$300) after May 1

Director: Damion Denison Registration Deadline: May 19, 2025

Middle School Camp: (\$280) before May 1 (\$300) after May 1 JUNE 9-13

Director: Damion Denison Registration Deadline: May 26, 2025

Junior Camp: (\$280) before May 1 (\$300) after May 1 JUNE 16-20

Director: Erin Isham Registration Deadline: June 2, 2025

Primary Camp: (\$140) before May 1 (\$150) after May 1

Director: Becky Rider Registration Deadline: June 9, 2025

JUNE Day Camp: (\$90) before May 1 (\$100) after May 1

> Director: Tonya Koehn Registration Deadline: June 9, 2025

CAMP WHITE MEMORIAL

High School Camp: (\$395) before June 1 (\$415) after June 1

Directors: Morgan Aspinwall Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025 & David Vandiver

Middle School Camp: (\$395) before June 1 (\$415) after June 1 JULY 14-18

Director: Wallace Smith Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025

Junior Camp: (\$395) before May 1 (\$415) after June 1 JULY 21-25

Director: Kami Minor Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025

No registrations will be accepted after the cutoff date.



ABW Summer Conference Mini Project

A family attending First Baptist Church of Herington has had multiple medical and financial difficulties. The father was in a bad accident about a year ago and was off work for many months. During this time their 3 year old son was diagnosed with leukemia. Dad went back to work, but Mom is now off work to care for the son. They have a 3 hour round trip commute 3 times a week for medical treatments. With all that has happened, they have found themselves in a time of need. Please consider helping them by bringing to the 2025 Summer Conference non-perishable food items, paper products, and/or cash to aid them during this difficult time.

AB Women's Ministries Central Region Summer Conference June 6-7, 2025 First Baptist Church 201 E. Hawley St., Herington, KS 67449



FOR REGISTRAR USE ONLY

Amount Received_____

Date Received _____ Check # ____

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6-7 NIV

(One form per person, please)

Refund Policy: Cancellation before May 31

subject to a \$25 Administrative Fee. NO

by registrar only.

refund after May 31. Substitution permitted

ABW MINISTRIES VITAL PARTNER
First Name
Church
Zip
l
UMBER for EACH session from the following descriptions)
1st Choice 2nd Choice
Abbreviated Program Schedule Fri.9:00 - 9:45 am Registration Gathering 9:45 - 11:55am & Session Lunch 12:00 pm 1:30 Workshops Workshops - 2:30 pm 2:40 Devotional Dinner - 3:40 pm 3:50 Session Registration - 4:15pm 5:15 Devotional Workshops - 6:30 pm 6:30 Session Lunch & - 7:45 pm Business Mtg. Session Sat.8:30 - 9:00 am 8:30 - 8:50 am 9:00 - 10:00 am 10:10 - 11:55 am 12:00 - 1:35 pm 1:45 -
Special Diet Needed - We will attempt to accommodate but we can't guarantee all items can be provided. Please specify

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

(Please designate by NUMBER your 1st and 2 thoice options for each session on the front page of this form.)

Session #1 - Friday, 1:30-2:30pm Session #2 - Friday, 2:40-3:40pm Session #3 - Saturday, 9:00-10:00am

1. Busting Out... – Lois Chiles

Session #1

Join in making a piece of art "busting out" of its safe place by mimicking the look of a damaged canvas with a creative twist. The workshop is limited to 25 and cost is \$6. Come have some fun and be adventurous and courageous!

2. Awake American Baptists: Help Welcome Jesus Into the Arab World - Dan Chetti

Session #1

There are unprecedented changes taking place in the Arab World. As children of pioneering missionaries William Carey and Adoniram Judson, we must learn how to read the signs of "missional times". This is a moment of greatest opportunity in the Middle East & North Africa. As the missiologist David Gerrison wrote, there is "A Wind in the House of Islam" sweeping towards Jesus. The signs are discernable to those who are observant. How can American Baptist Churches read the signs, heed the call, and respond boldly?

3. Courage Outside the Walls - Janet Crowl

Session #1

You will be encouraged to discover how you can reach outside the walls you have built on your own or others have built for you to be able to participate in helping others in your community. There will be a focus on overcoming barriers and being bold and courageous. Suggestions will be presented for possible community connections in your home area.

4. Bell Choir – Jan Smith

Session #2

Do you ever wonder what it would be like to ring church bells? If you know your colors, join in the fun of ringing! You will have a fun time in preparing for a musical special to be shared on Saturday during our final session.

5. A Bangle With Baubles – Mona Huggins

Session #2

Come be a part of President Mona's workshop as she leads you through the gems of the Bible using Scripture while you make a lovely bracelet. Cost is \$3. This workshop is limited to 25.

6. Rooted: Practices - Jessica Henks

Session #2

Go deeper with Jessica to unpack "Rooted: Practices" as she guides you through the practical applications of Lectio Divina, Kingdom Prayer, Sabbath, and Hospitality. Learn how developing these spiritual habits help us to root ourselves more deeply in God!

7. Special Project - 2024-25 - Sheryl Stemmons

Session #3

Join us as we discover how our International Ministries global servants are using education to share the Gospel message with girls in Southeast Asia and Central and South America. We will discuss ways we can bless our global servants so they can continue to bless these precious kids.

8. Jeopardy - Jordan Fritz

Session #3

Come test your Bible knowledge in four different categories. You might learn something new or even learn something more than you already know. So, put knowledge to the test and join Jordan.

9. Honey, Your Roots Are Showing - Kami Minor

Session #3

Being a well watered woman in a thirsty world. Join in to do a "roots" check by digging deep into God's promise from Isaiah 58:11 that He will satisfy your needs and you will be a well-watered garden in a sun-scorched land.



American Baptist Churches USA **BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT** July 3–6, 2025 Omaha, NE

Join us for the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit designed to inspire collaboration and action within local communities. This vibrant 'family reunion' will foster meaningful connections across generations. With engaging activities for all ages—including child-friendly options—workshops, and discussions, the event promises to inspire fellowship and spiritual growth.



Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain is a dynamic leader serving as the General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA



Rev. Dr. Zau Sam Lahtaw is a devoted senior pastor of the First Kachin Baptist Church of America in Omaha, NE



Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula is a dedicated executive minister and region missionary of American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



Rev. Dr. TaNikka Sheppard is a leader of leaders who is regional executive minister of the Cleveland Baptist Association and general secretary for the North American Baptist Fellowship

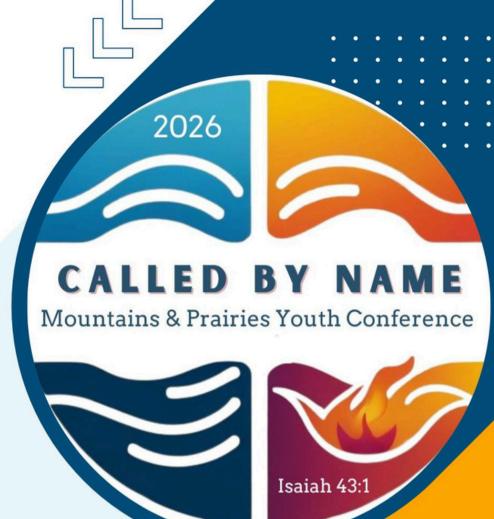


Register now at www.americanbaptists2025.com.

The Biennial Mission Summit is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025! We will honor supporters of the event through the Biennial Golden Jubilee Society. Become a member with a gift of \$500 or more. Contributions made by May 1, 2025, will receive special recognition in the printed event program and a unique memento distributed at the event. Learn more and make a donation at www.abc-usa.org/Jubilee.



mpyc-abc.org



MOUNTAINS & PRAIRIES Jouth Conference

JUNE 14-18, 2026

YMCA OF THE ROCKIES SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH GRANBY, COLORADO



Keynote Speaker REV. JOY MARTINEZ- MARSHALL



FUN ABCCR FAMILY QUIZ

Fun Quiz for ABCCR Family- For any and all of our ABCCR congregations

We want your opinions!!

We are asking you to take a few minutes to complete this SHORT, FUN quiz.

Drawings by area from completed responses will result in six \$25 gift card winners.

One response per person.

The church with the largest percentage responses will win ONE paid individual registration to the Annual Gathering on September 26-27.

Let's see how much fun we can have!!!

Ways to play:

Respond online by April 21

Mail a paper copy to: Rita Adams, c/o ABCCR, 5889 SW 29th St, Topeka KS 66614

Email to: rcagrizzly@aol.com

Share the QR code to all your church members for a link to the questionnaire.

Thank you for your time and your work to distribute this to your congregation.

In His Service,

Rita Adams, ABCCR Board Member On behalf of the Areas/Clusters/RCOM Committee 5889 SW 29th Street Topeka KS 66614



Fun Quiz for ABCCR Family

*Indicates required question

We want your opinions!! And you could win!!! We are asking you to take a few minutes to complete this SHORT, FUN questionnaire. Drawings by area from completed responses will result in six \$25 gift card winners. One response per person. The church with the largest percentage responses will win ONE paid individual registration to the Annual Gathering on September 26-27.

Let's see how much fun we can have!!! Please respond by April 21, 2025.

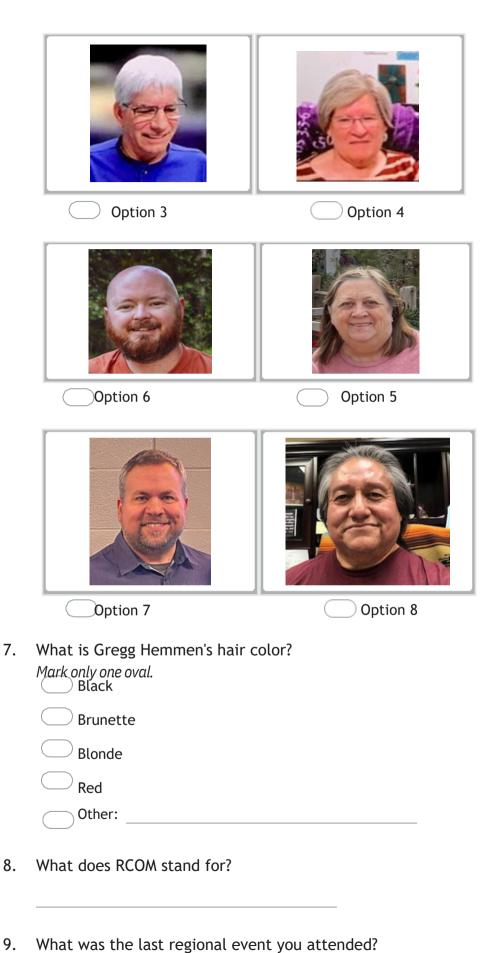
There is no scoring and no penalties for wrong responses. $\circ \circ$ Have fun!

1	First and Last Name	*
•	Email	*
2	Name of Your Church and Town	*
	Your position in your church *	
34	Mark only one oval. Pastor Leadership Member Attendee	
5.	Which area do you think your church is in? Mark only one oval. Crossroads East Central Northeast OIABA Southeast Western I don't know	
6.	Who is your area moderator? Mark only one oval.	





Option 1 Option 2



9. What was the last regional event you attend

10.	Where was the event?
11.	What year?
12.	Approximately how many hours did you drive to that event?
13.	Where is this year's annual gathering?
14.	Is the region office in Topeka? Mark only one oval. Yes No I don't know
15.	What does ABCCR stand for?
16.	Tell us how your church relates to your area or the Central Region? (Mark all that apply) Check all that apply.
	Our church provides mission support to the Region Our church attends area/region events Our church has used the Region for an Interim pastor and help to find a new pastor Other:
17.	What are ways the Region can help your church with a want or need? (mark all that apply) Check all that apply.
	Able to ask for pulpit supply assistance Call upon Region staff to visit church Is the first "go to" when a pastor resigns Can answer mission questions Offers a seminar on "What It Means to be ABC" Other:

18.	What word best describes the Central Region?
19.	What word best describes your area?
20.	Would you be willing to complete an additional questionnaire? If yes, please give us your phone number. Mark only one oval.
	Yes No
	Phone Number

Ways to play:

Respond online by April 21

Mail a hard copy to: Rita Adams, c/o ABCCR, 5889 SW 29th St, Topeka KS 66614

Email to: rcagrizzly@aol.com

Share the QR code to all your church members for a link to the questionnaire.