

Included in  
this Issue:

Greetings from Japan  
...pg 1 & 2

Biennial Mission  
Summit  
...pg 3

Planned Giving  
...pg 4

Annual Gathering 2021  
Special Ministry Grant  
...pg 5

Special Ministry Grant  
Application  
...pg 6

"Selfless" Camping  
2021  
...pg 7

ABW Summer  
Conference  
...pg 8

ABW H-A-M  
Application  
...pg 9

Summer Conference  
Registration  
...pg 9

## Greetings from Japan from Gordon and Lee Ann Hwang



We made it to Japan March 3! Thank you for all your prayers!! I wonder why we worry so much. The anxiety we felt did nothing to make matters better. God took care of everything!

We tested negative for Covid in Seattle. The test center printed out our test results on the Japanese form at SeaTac airport (Japan is very particular about having the correct forms!).

We got to visit with Lee Ann's sister in Hawaii overnight and Gordon had no allergy problems staying in their house with 4 dogs! Getting to SeaTac and Honolulu airports went very smoothly! The flights were turbulence free!!! Japan immigration screening was long, as predicted, but uneventful. Again, Covid test was negative. No questions on our paperwork!

For the first 14 days in Japan, we are not allowed to take public transportation and we're not supposed to be in public areas. We wanted to have 2 of our 4 suitcases delivered from the airport. This is a common practice in Japan but we didn't know if we could interact with anyone. We also didn't know how late the special "Q" (Quarantine!) shuttle bus ran. God had our flight arrive 1 hour early and there were no people in the area for sending bags!

We waited outside for the "Q" bus and caught it right before we turned into popsicles! We got to our hotel! The airlines had cancelled our flights from the US three times. God allowed us to a) have an overnight in Hawaii and see Lee Ann's sister; b) have enough time to get our 2nd Covid vaccination and c) stay in a hotel the first night. The rescheduled airport is 1 hour farther away from Yokohama and it was more difficult to find someone to pick us



“So, which one of you by worrying could add anything to your life?”  
Matthew 6:27



Our mailing address is:  
6110 Glen Mary Ln SE Apt C  
Lacey, WA 98503-2971

The hotel stay made our re-entry easier. We had a good night’s rest before tackling the cleaning and packing at the Soshin house.

It poured down rain a few days ago. The water run-off problem is still the same! The sandbags were applied a little late, however once it stopped raining, it was fine!

We have way more stuff left in the house than we thought. Packing is going OK. We still have opportunity to throw away, give away or sell more things!!! Please pray for wisdom in what to keep and provision in where to store everything. And pray that Gordon can prioritize his list of packing, cleaning and other responsibilities.

We need your prayers. We are like the Old Testament Israelites who experienced the deliverance from Pharaoh’s army only to complain about the lack of water and food in the wilderness.

After our miraculous journey to Japan, we haven’t found immediate job offers at our partner schools. Additionally, the Kanto Gakuin campus housing we were anticipating living in, may not be available. We need God’s guidance for the next steps.

We have meetings on Mar 19, 20 and 22 or 23. Ask God to direct us to the people we need to talk to.

Please pray we find a storage location for our furniture and belongings.

Please continue to pray that God will raise the remaining personalized support IM needs to fully underwrite our ministry in Japan. We hope to return mid-year to Japan.

Blessings,  
Gordon and Lee Ann





# imagine

## American Baptist Churches USA

### BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

An Online Experience | June 24-26, 2021

## OVERVIEW

### What to Expect at the 2021 Biennial Mission Summit

Plan to experience the vitality of our American Baptist family together with other American Baptists from all corners of the United States and the world through the June 2021 online Biennial Mission Summit event! Join one of the most diverse Baptist denominations as we *imagine* new possibilities and celebrate together the love of Christ and the joy of being a part of American Baptist Churches USA. The online Biennial Mission Summit will feature scheduled programming on each of the three event days, June 24-26, 2021. Participants will draw from a library of pre-recorded sessions, along with resources and offerings for prayer, worship, live workshops, inspiration, fellowship, and online fun, all while connecting with both regular attendees as well as American Baptists who have not attended an in-person event before!

## SPEAKERS

### Meet our Keynote Speakers

An exciting array of speakers and workshop leaders will bring fresh ideas and experiences to the forefront in the minds of attendees. Featuring skilled keynote speakers, engaging workshops, a special comedy presentation, and a digital library of pre-recorded presentations, you will not want to miss the online 2021 Biennial Mission Summit!



Rev. Dr. Winterbourne LaPucelle Harrison-Jones  
Friday Evening Keynote Speaker



Rev. Dr. Brianna Parker  
Saturday Evening Keynote Speaker

### Registration Information Below

[www.americanbaptists2021.com](http://www.americanbaptists2021.com)

Participant/Household of Two (non-Delegates) - \$125

Church Delegate - \$125

Watch Party, 6 or fewer persons - \$399



- ❖ FOCUS is a newsletter published for professional church leaders in the Central Region, and it is distributed monthly. It is on the Region website, <https://abccr.org/>.
- ❖ The deadline for FOCUS is the first of the month of publication.
- ❖ A variation in content and format is required for copy to be printed in two or more successive issues.

*American Baptist Churches  
of the Central Region*  
5833 S.W. 29th St., Ste. A  
Topeka, KS 66614-5505  
[katherine.cunningham@abccr.org](mailto:katherine.cunningham@abccr.org)  
785/272-7622  
<https://abccr.org/>



Follow your Region staff on the ABC Central Region Facebook page as they provide information on resources and services, as well as events and happenings across our Region — <https://www.facebook.com/ABC-CRegion/>

Check our ABC Central Region Twitter link — <https://twitter.com/ABCCRegion>

Please like and share the posts made on these Central Region social media accounts to help us spread the news!

## Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation

# Planned Giving

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

### Never Alone!

During the last year of being confined to our homes, many have suffered from loneliness. The hurt of feeling alone isn't new to our day, indeed, the pain of isolation echoes off the pages of the ancient book of Ecclesiastes. Often attributed to King Solomon, the book captures the sorrow of those who seem to lack any meaningful relationships. The speaker lamented that it's possible to acquire significant wealth and yet experience no value from it because there's no one to share with.

But the speaker also recognized the beauty of companionship, writing that friends can help you accomplish more than you could achieve on your own. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 "Two are better than one...If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.")

Loneliness is a significant struggle – God created us to offer and receive the benefits of friendship and community. Hopefully, we will soon be able to join with one another in worship and fellowship – sharing handshakes and hugs. However, in the meantime, remember those who might be feeling lonely with a phone call or card.

We know that we are never truly alone because Jesus' Spirit is always with us, but it sure helps sometimes to be acknowledged by another human.

I'm still willing to come visit you to discuss how you might be able to help others through financial blessings. I have a mask and have also had my COVID shots, so feel free to give me a call. I'd love to discuss your financial plans with you.

Rev. Wilma E. Engle, Director of Planned Giving  
Cell: 316-644-2069  
6745 Interurban, Wichita, KS 67204-1323  
E-mail: [wilmaengle@juno.com](mailto:wilmaengle@juno.com)

Rev. Timothy Schwartz, Assistant Director of Planned Giving  
E-mail: [timmans39@gmail.com](mailto:timmans39@gmail.com)  
Cell: 913-424-9939

# Recalibrate! Reset! Refresh!



**Annual Gathering 2021**

**October 1-2, 2021**

First Baptist Church, Salina, KS

You were told that your foolish desires will destroy you and that you must give up your old way of life with all its bad habits. Let the Spirit change your way of thinking and make you into a new person. You were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy. — Eph. 4:22-24

## Special Ministry Grant

On February 15, 2021, the Special Ministry Grant application period will open and will continue until April 15, 2021. Special Ministry Grants are designed for those ministry opportunities you come across but lack the funding to implement. Grants will not exceed \$5,000.00 and will be approved by the ABCCR Board of Directors at their May 2021 meeting. If you are interested, you can see the Special Ministry Grants brochure by clicking [here](#).

**DEADLINE FOR APPLYING**

**IS APRIL 15, 2021**

**APPLICATION**



# Special Ministry Grant Application

Due to Region Office by April 15

Church/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Project/Proposal Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below (or attach separate paper), please provide items 2b - 2e in the brochure. (Explanation of project or ministry, Target group for this ministry, church investment, and how the church will report ministry effectiveness and use of grant monies.)



For more information, contact the Region Office at 785-272-7622  
or email [gregg.hemmen@abccr.org](mailto:gregg.hemmen@abccr.org)  
or [jennifer.schneider@abccr.org](mailto:jennifer.schneider@abccr.org)





FOR IN PERSON CAMPING, SAFETY PERCAUTIONS WILL BE IN PLACE SUCH AS TEMPERATURE TAKING, HEALTH QUESTIONAIRES, CLEANING PROTOCOLS, AND DAILY HEALTH ASSESMENTS. ANY STUDENT OR STAFF THAT SHOWS SIGNS OF ILLNESS WILL BE ISOLATED FROM OTHER CAMPERS. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO WAY GUARANTEE NO ONE WILL BECOME SICK, WE HAVE PLANS AND PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO KEEP EVERYONE AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE.

## Camp Christy

<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b>   GRADES 9-12   JUNE 7-11   STEVEN & DANIELLE MASSAGLIA.....	\$180
<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>   GRADES 6-7   JUNE 14-18   STEVEN & DANIELLE MASSAGLIA.....	\$180
<b>JUNIOR</b>   GRADES 4-6   JUNE 21- 25   JAMES BLAKE.....	\$180
<b>PRIMARY</b>   GRADES 2-4   JUNE 28-30   VALERIE TERRAZAS.....	\$125
<b>DAY</b>   GRADES K-2   JULY 1-2   TONYA KOEHN.....	\$70

## Cross Wind

<b>DAY</b>   GRADES K-2   JUNE 2-4   JOEL GRIZZLE.....	\$130
<b>PRIMARY</b>   GRADES 2-4   JUNE 18-20   VALERIE TERRAZAS.....	\$180
<b>JUNIOR</b>   GRADES 4-6   JULY 26- 30  KAMI MINOR.....	\$280

## Ottawa University

<b>MIDDLE &amp; HIGH SCHOOL</b>   GRADES 6-12   JULY 12- 16   MORGAN BANDY.....	\$280
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IF DUE TO COVID WE ARE UNABLE TO HAVE OVERNIGHT CAMP WE WILL HAVE ONE DAY OF CAMP IN PERSON AND SEND HOME A BOX FOR THE OTHER FOUR DAYS. EACH AGE GROUP WILL MEET A DIFFERENT DAY. THAT WEEK WOULD BE JUNE 7-11 AT CAMP CHRISTY AND JULY 26-30 AT CROSS WINDS

Your ABWM Conference Committee has been busy at work planning for the 2021 summer conference to be held at FBC-Topeka on June 4 - 5. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Sandra Wimpelberg, volunteer and co-manager of Worldwide Gifts at Green Lake Conference Center.

This conference will be held both in-person and online. Cost for the two-day in-person conference will be \$90.00 and in-person one-day will be \$45.00. Because there are costs associated with having the conference online, the cost for distance participation will be \$10.00 a day. Since there are no lodging accommodations at FBC-Topeka, lodging will be on your own. There are several motels close to the church.

We will be celebrating our 100th Year Anniversary by having a special banquet on Friday evening. There is an appointed celebration committee separate from the Conference Committee who are working tirelessly to prepare a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and thankfulness to God for His magnificent support to ABWM during the past 100 years!

Please mark your calendars for June 4 - 5 in Topeka. Lift special prayers for your conference and celebration committees to be led by God as they prepare for this conference. Also, pray for yourselves for discernment whether to attend the conference in-person or online.

Mona Huggins  
ABWM Conference Intern



**WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS** (Please designate by NUMBER your 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice options for each session on the front page of this form.) \*hybrid means both in-person & virtual

Session #1 - Friday, 1:30-2:30pm

Session #2 - Friday, 2:40-3:40pm

Session #3 - Saturday, 9:00-10:00am

1. Serving Together (hybrid\*) Sherill Carlson & Melissa Newberry **Session #1**  
Come discover how Elizabeth and Mary's relationship created the opportunity for mentorship and blessing.
2. 100-Year Banner Creation (in-person) Vonda Brecheisen & Mona Huggins (limit 25) **Session #1**  
Bring your pointed scissors, glue guns and glue to this creative workshop. Using foam pieces, you'll create a new ABWomen's Ministry banner.
3. Tijuana Border Ministries (hybrid\*) Deliris & Moise Carrion-Joseph **Session #1**  
Deliris & Moise Carrion-Joseph serve in Tijuana, Mexico. Moise works with Haitian and African migrants. Deliris will share her work with Deborah's House, a refuge for women and their children who are victims of Domestic Violence. Come hear about their experiences in the Tijuana Border Ministries.
4. Growing With Grants (hybrid\*) Kimberly Fulk & Carmel Pinegar **Session #2**  
Area outreach projects have been growing with the assistance of ABCCR Special Ministry Grants. Carmen Pinegar of Bethany Baptist Church (Bentley) will describe their "Day of Service" and Kimberly Fulk of First Baptist Church (Manhattan) will share how they adapted to COVID restrictions for their Back-to-School Backpack program.
5. Let Go My Ego! (hybrid\*) Sandra Wimpelberg **Session #2**  
Join our speaker, Sandra Wimpelberg, as she shares insights into life and faith.
6. Chalk Couture Designs (in-person) Paula Rhodes (painting fee \$12; limit 15) **Session #2**  
Join Paula Rhodes, a Chalk Couture Designer, for an hour of crafting as we make a sign using silk screen transfers and chalk paste. All supplies will be provided, and you will make an inspirational wooden sign to display in your home. No prior crafting skills needed!
7. Praising God in Journaling (hybrid\*) Valerie Terrazas **Session #3**  
Bible Journaling is a creative way to grow in your Faith and spend time immersing yourself in God's Word. Bring your Bible, a favorite Scripture or passage and spend time fellowshiping with other women while praising the Lord with our hands. A variety of supplies will be provided for this hands-on workshop. No artistic ability is required as you can journal with words or pictures!
8. White Cross , Alive & Well!!! (hybrid\*) Mary Etta Copeland & Theresa Hodges **Session #3**  
After changes over the past several years, with confusion and lack of direction, we're "on the road again"!! EXCITEMENT and OPPORTUNITY are two words aptly describing where we are and where we are headed. Presentation and handouts will include information for both home and overseas mission opportunities for local groups of Central Region to become involved with.
9. Let's Get Quizzical (in-person) Lois Chiles **Session #3**  
You won't want to miss Lois' workshop where ABW facts will be shared in a fun way. Come and enjoy! Let's get "quizzide"!

Choir (in-person) Mary Etta Copeland - **During free time Friday 3:40-4:40 pm**

Music will include compositions by son JON COPELAND and the incredible MARK HAYES!!!

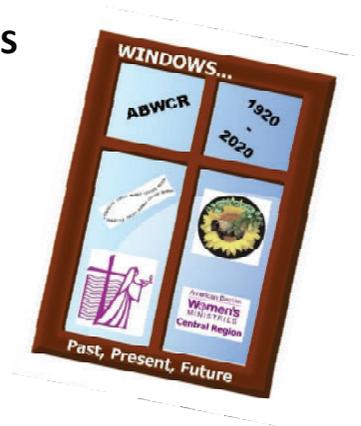


CENTRAL REGION AB WOMEN'S MINISTRIES  
HONOR-A-MENTOR (H-A-M)  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

\$50 Scholarship Available  
to any woman in an AB church  
ABWCR SUMMER CONFERENCE  
June 4-5, 2021

First Baptist Church, Topeka KS

(Recipients will pay only balance of registration fee.)



Please complete this form or submit information online at <https://abw-cr.squarespace.com>.

**DEADLINE: May 1, 2021**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be a First Time Attendee? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Church/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please print clearly)**

In 100 words or less describe your interest in attending the 2021 Summer Conference and what benefits you expect to gain with attendance.

Send application via email to: [revnewberry@yahoo.com](mailto:revnewberry@yahoo.com)

Or Mail to: ABWCR  
c/o Melissa Newberry  
1502 Pawnee  
Leavenworth KS 66048-2173

**DEADLINE:  
May 1, 2021**





AB Women's Ministries Central Region  
 Summer Conference  
 June 4-5, 2021  
 Topeka First Baptist Church  
 3033 SW MacVicar, Topeka, KS



*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8 NIV*

(One form per person, please)

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**      **PLEASE MARK ATTENDANCE: FIRST TIME** \_\_\_\_\_

---

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Costs**

Full Conference \$90 (includes 3 meals) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

One Day \$45 Fri. \_\_\_ Sat. \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Virtual \* \$10/day Fri. \_\_\_ Sat. \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If postmarked after May 26<sup>th</sup> add \$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If Scholarship Recipient deduct amount received \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Attach scholarship documentation)

**Total submitted** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Virtual includes keynote speaker & workshops  
 Hotel arrangements are your own responsibility

**Abbreviated Program Schedule**

Fri. 9:00 - 9:45 am	Registration
9:45 -	Gathering Session
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Workshops
2:40 - 3:40 pm	Workshops
3:40 - 4:40 pm	Choir
3:40 - 6:00 pm	Preparation for banquet
6:00 -	Banquet & Program
Sat. 8:30 - 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 - 10:00 am	Workshops
10:15 -	General Session
3:00	Home/cleanup

You are encouraged to wear any ABW logo shirts and dress up for the banquet Friday evening. Pictures will be taken!

**Special Diet Needed**

Diabetic \_\_\_\_\_

Gluten Free \_\_\_\_\_

**WORKSHOP selections** (Indicate your 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> choice by **NUMBER for EACH session** from the following descriptions)

	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice
Friday 1:30 - 2:30 pm (Session One)	_____	_____
Friday 2:40 - 3:40 pm (Session Two)	_____	_____
Saturday 9:00 - 10:00 am (Session Three)	_____	_____

**Refund Policy:** Cancellation before May 26 subject to a \$25 Administrative Fee/NO refund after May 26/Substitution permitted by registrar.

**Please make check payable to:**  
 AB Women's Ministries CR  
**Add \$10 late fee if postmarked after May 26<sup>th</sup>**  
 Mail registration and payment to: Lois Chiles  
 201 Cottonwood Dr., Lansing, KS 66043  
 913.727.2232/913.683.8680  
 Lchiles@kc.rr.com

**FOR REGISTRAR USE ONLY**

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Received \_\_\_\_\_