



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
OF THE CENTRAL REGION

Annual Gathering 2025

September 26-27, 2025

First Baptist Church of Salina

TOGETHER AT THE TABLE

"You'll be—and experience—a blessing"

Luke 14: 12-15

ABCCR 165th Annual Gathering
First Baptist Church
Salina, KS
September 26-27, 2025

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Jacqueline Saxon



Rev. Jacqueline “Jackie” L. Saxon grew up in Rochester, New York, and was nurtured in the faith by the members of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, where she was baptized at the age of 12. She attended Howard University and received a Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance and Banking. She began her career as a Financial Analyst at IBM in Endicott, New York, and was soon transferred to Austin, Texas, where she became an Advisory Financial Analyst. While working for IBM, she contemplated attending seminary and pursuing a life in ministry. It was a seed planted in her youth while attending the New York State Girls Guild Conference (now known as ABGirls) every summer and nurtured as an adult by active membership as a layperson in ABCUSA churches in New York and Texas.

After much prayer, discernment, and 12 ½ years of work experience, Jackie resigned from IBM and enrolled as a full-time student and Presidential Scholar at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where she earned her Master of Divinity degree. While she was a seminarian, University Baptist Church of Austin called her to be their Associate Pastor and promptly ordained her in 2001 upon graduation. Contrary to popular belief there really are American Baptist Churches in Texas. She served as their Associate Pastor for eight years when Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary invited her to be the Admission Counselor Recruiter, which led to becoming the Vice President for Student Affairs and Vocation, which she served in that capacity for a total of eight years before resigning in March of 2017.

She once described herself as “swimming in waters that were not her own as a ‘Bapti-method-terian’” because she found herself in the company of not only Baptist congregations but Methodist and Presbyterian congregations, preaching, teaching, and leading workshops. She is a gifted leader with proven competencies in Administration, Pastoral Care, Financial Management, Preaching, and public speaking, to name a few. Her colleagues and friends greatly appreciate her creativity, humor, imagination, teamwork, and collegiality.

In May 2017, she walked the Way of St. James, also known as the Camino de Santiago, a 500-mile Pilgrimage that starts in St. Jean Pied de Port, France, and ends in Santiago de Compostela, located on the northwest coast of Spain. In the last two years, she has completed this pilgrimage twice, and the coastal route that starts in Portugal. She wrote a book about her experiences on the Camino, which has recently been published, entitled: *Tales from the Trail: Keeping it Real on the Camino de Santiago—One African American Woman’s Quest for Clarity*.

In October 2018, she was called to be the Executive Minister for the Mid-American Region of Iowa and Minnesota. She says that she traded one capital city for another. She now resides in the Des Moines, Iowa, area and is learning all about the Midwest. She is delighted to have the opportunity to serve the Iowa and Minnesota ABCUSA church family in this capacity.

Rev. Dr. Wallace Smith and Jackie have been friends since serving together at ABCUSA National Youth Gatherings held at Estes Park, Colorado in the 1990s and 2000s.

2025 ANNUAL GATHERING SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2025

Thursday, September 25

- 3:00 PM** Minister's Council Executive Meeting at FBC Salina
- 5:30 PM** Dinner
- 6:30 PM** Business Meeting and Worship

Friday, September 26

- 8:30 AM** Registration Begins at First Baptist Church Salina
- 9:30 AM** Session #1
- 11:00 AM** Lunch
- 11:45 AM** ABW & AB Men Meetings
- 1:15 PM** Session #2: Keynote Speaker- Jackie Saxon
- 2:45 PM** Break
- 3:00 PM** Workshop Session #1
- 4:15 PM** Workshop Session #2
- 5:45 PM** Dinner
- 6:45 PM** Session #3: Speakers- 4TEN Students, Alaska Mission Trip
- 8:00 PM** Ice Cream Social

Saturday, September 27

- 7:00 AM** Camping Conversation and Refreshments
- 8:00 AM** Registration Continues at First Baptist Church Salina
- 8:30 AM** Devotion
- 9:00 AM** Business Meeting
- 9:30 AM** Session #4: Keynote Speaker - Jackie Saxon
- 10:30 AM** Break
- 10:45 AM** Worship & Communion
- 11:30 AM** Journey Home
- 12: 15 PM** Women in Ministry Lunch

HOTELS & LODGING

There are many lodging options in Salina. You can choose between a large selection of hotels, bed and breakfasts, and Airbnb or VRBO options. You can find a list of hotels in order from closest to furthest from the church below.

Homewood Suites Downtown- 1.6 miles

115 E. Mulberry St. Salina, KS 67401
785-515-2600

Baymont by Wyndham- 2.5 miles

1740 W. Crawford Salina, KS 67401
785-823-6900

Sleep Inn & Suites- 2.5 miles

1820 W. Crawford Salina, KS 67401
785-826-1711

Days Inn South- 2.8 miles

632 Westport Blvd.
785-827-9315

Candlewood Suites- 3.0 miles

2650 Planet Ave. Salina, KS 67401
785-823-6939

Quality Inn & Suites- 3.1 miles

2110 W. Crawford
785-825-211

Country Inn & Suites- 3.2 miles

2760 S. Ninth St. Salina, KS 67401
785-827-1271

Book with Airbnb

www.airbnb.com

Fairfield Inn by Marriott- 3.3 miles

2455 Virginia Dr. Salina, KS 67401
785-515-5333

Holiday Inn- 3.8 miles

3145 S. Ninth Salina, KS 67401
785-404-6767

Hampton Inn & Suites- 3.8 miles

401 W. Schilling Rd. Salina, KS 67401
785-823-9800

Courtyard by Marriott- 3.9 miles

3020 Riffel Dr. Salina, KS 67401
785-309-1300

Hilton Garden Inn- 4.2 miles

3320 S. Ninth Salina, KS 67401
785-309-0440

Best Western Inn & Suites- 4.3 miles

745 W. Schilling Rd.
785-493-9800

Super 8 by Wyndham- 4.4 miles

705 W. Schilling Rd.
785-404-2771

Book with Vrbo

www.vrbo.com

SALINA RESCUE MISSION

MINISTRY PROJECT ITEMS



TOILET PAPER

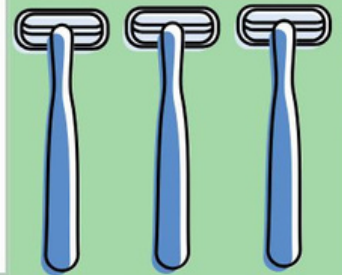
Possible Brand Options:

Angel Soft, Cottonelle, Charmin, Scott

DISPOSABLE RAZORS

Possible Brand Options:

BIC, Shick, Gillette



MEN'S JEANS

Any size

Greater need for smaller sizes- 30 -36 waist

LAUNDRY DETERGENT

Preferred Brand:

Free and Clear



For the 2025 ABCCR Annual Gathering mission project, we will be collecting the items above to donate to the Salina Rescue Mission.

Salina Rescue Mission offers programs to **Rescue and Restore** lives by sharing the life-changing message of Jesus Christ, while also providing shelter, employment, New Life program, medical and mental health services, and street outreach. Each program is personalized to meet individual needs and encourages a relationship with the Lord.

Workshops

Rev. Jackie Saxton , our keynote speaker will continue the conversation on the theme "Together at the Table."

Global Servants, Lori and Matt Mann, will be sharing about their ministry in Laos and Thailand. Their ministry priorities include abolishing global slavery, promoting education, and fostering economic development.

Pastor Chad Young from the Salina Rescue Mission will be sharing about their ministry to the homeless in the Salina community.

Rev. Dr. Matt Sturtevant and Dr. Timothy Bonner, authors of the book "From Trust to Distrust," will share tools to help churches navigate disagreements with love and compassion.

Morgan Aspinwall will be leading a workshop on accessibility and inclusivity in the church, exploring both theological perspectives and practical steps for creating welcoming spaces for people with disabilities.

ABCCR WOMEN IN MINISTRY LUNCH

September 27, 2025
12:15 PM

Please plan to join other women in ministry for lunch
after the 2025 ABCCR Annual Gathering.

Old Chicago
214 South Santa Fe Street

Email Nancy Killingsworth to RSVP :
nancyjsnyder@gmail.com

Thank you for joining our 2025 Annual Gathering and a HUGE thank you to our 2025 Annual Gathering Committee:

Nancy Killingsworth, Wallace Smith, Lois Chiles, Ruth Clark, Joel Odoni, Cindy Lamer, and region staff!

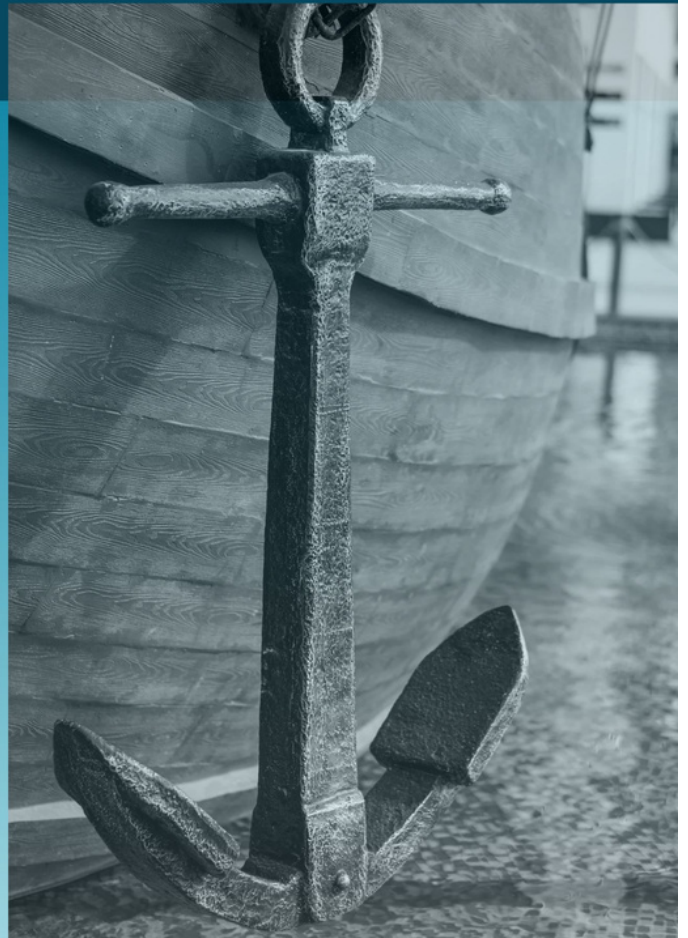
We would also like to thank Rev. Jackie Saxon, Matt and Lori Mann, the staff and volunteers of FBC Salina, and those who led worship, shared special music, and led workshops.

We invite you to join us at our 2026 Annual Gathering at Kansas Lautu Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kansas!

2026 ANNUAL GATHERING

THIS HOPE IS A STRONG AND
TRUSTWORTHY ANCHOR FOR OUR
SOULS. IT LEADS US THROUGH
THE CURTAIN INTO GOD'S INNER
SANCTUARY.

HEBREWS 6:19 (NLT)



SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2026
KANSAS LAUTU BAPTIST CHURCH
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS