

Central Region Life

SEPTEMBER 2026

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS AT CENTRAL SEMINARY

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Central Seminary recently celebrated 125 years of preparing leaders to serve Christ, the church, and communities around the world. The Central community gathered to celebrate God's faithfulness throughout the Seminary's history with cake, fellowship, and stories from those whose lives and ministries have been shaped by Central. The celebration provided to remember where Central has been and to give thanks for the generations of students, faculty, staff, alumni, supporters, and friends who have been part of its continuing story.

As part of the celebration, memories, and reflections were shared by Warren Smith, MDiv 1969; Terry Rosell, who has served on Central's faculty since 1999; Melissa Newberry, MDiv 2003; and Rakmi Shaiza, MDiv 2004. Their stories reflected the lasting impact Central has had across generations and the many ways its ministry continues through those who have studied, taught, served, and formed a community there.

Central's story began on August 20, 1901, when the original charter of Kansas City Baptist Theological Seminary was executed in Kansas City, Kansas. What began more than a century ago as a commitment to theological education has grown into a 125-year legacy of equipping women and men to faithfully answer God's call and serve churches, ministries, and communities across the country and around the world. We give thanks for all who have been part of Central's journey and all who will help shape Central's story in the years to come.



Individual Registration

Childcare Registration

Register using the links above or visit
<https://www.abccr.org/annual-gathering-2026>

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
PRAIRIE BAPTIST CHURCH
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

September 25-26, 2026

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
REV. DR. GREG MAMULA

PRAIRIE BAPTIST CHURCH

7416 Roe Ave
Prairie Village, KS 66208

Registration Deadline: September 1, 2026 (Including delegates who are only attending the online business meeting).

Meals are not guaranteed for those who register after the deadline.

The 2026 ABCCR Annual Business meeting will be held via Zoom on September 15, 2026 at 7:00pm.

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula serves as the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska, where he helps congregations strengthen their shared life through collaboration, courageous leadership, and faithful imagination. He is deeply committed to the conviction that churches helping churches is not merely a strategy, but a spiritual calling rooted in the gospel.

As a preacher and teacher, Greg is shaped by biblical theology and a deep love for the local church. His scholarship focuses on the Jewish context of the New Testament, and his preaching consistently invites communities to live faithfully between the promises of God and the challenges of the present moment.

Those who hear him speak often describe his voice as both grounded and hopeful—honest about the realities facing the church, yet confident in the Spirit's ongoing work among God's people.

As an author, he explores how ordinary practices—especially shared meals—become sacred spaces where disciples are formed, and community is renewed.

Beyond his professional roles, Greg is a pastor at heart. He cares deeply about congregations of all sizes, especially those seeking renewal, courage, and clarity for ministry in changing times. He believes the church's future is not found in fear or retreat, but in deeper discipleship, shared leadership, and a renewed trust in God's presence among us.

Greg and his wife, Lisa, live in Nebraska with their two teenage children. He loves stories, history, baseball, and the quiet ways God forms people around tables and in community.



Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula
Executive Minister
ABC of Nebraska

2026 ANNUAL GATHERING SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 24

3:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting
5:30 PM	Ministers Council Dinner & Program at FBC Olathe

Friday, September 25

8:30 AM	Registration Begins at Prairie Baptist Church
9:30 AM	Session # 1
11:00 AM	Lunch
11:45 AM	ABW Meeting– Kristy Engel ABMen’s Meeting– Jon Good
1:15 PM	Session #2
2:45 PM	Break
3:00 PM	Workshop Session 1 #1 – Del Rae McCoullough, Church Safety and Security #2 – Kristy Engel, IM Global Servant #3 – Fun with Bible Baseball, Lois Chiles
4:15 PM	Workshop Session #2 #1 – Ministry with Senior Adults, Rev. Janet Crowl #2 – Church Revitalization, Rev. Chris Prater #3 – Paul Wood, Head Hunters Transformed
5:45 PM	Dinner
6:45 PM	Session #3
8:00 PM	Ice Cream Social & CBTS Birthday Celebration

Saturday, September 26

8:00 AM	Registration Continues at Prairie Baptist Church
8:30 AM	Devotion– Rev. Daphne Braswell
9:00 AM	Recap of Business Meeting Installation of Officers
9:30 AM	Session #4
10:30 AM	Break
10:45 AM	Worship & Communion
11:30 AM	Journey home

Please note that the ABCCR Annual Business meeting will be held via Zoom on September 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP SESSION #1

DEL RAE
MCCOULLOUGH

Church Safety and Security

Del Rae McCullough is the Regional Director for Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company in Kansas, specializing in ministry-focused risk management and church safety. She travels throughout the state helping churches build secure, customized liability and property policies

KRISTY
ENGEL

International Ministries, Global Servant

Kristy, a global consultant with a healthcare focus, is a trained pediatric nurse practitioner who served for 12 years in the Dominican Republic, leading teams and working with public health issues.

LOIS
CHILES

Batter Up! Fun With Bible Baseball

Join in the fun of a baseball challenge using Bible trivia to score points.

WORKSHOP SESSION #2

JANET
CROWL

Ministry with Senior Adults

Explore meaningful ways to engage, support, and empower older adults through compassionate and purposeful ministry.

CHRIS
PRATER

Church Revitalization

A brief introduction to Church Revitalization. We will discuss what the goal of Church Revitalization should be, along with a brief discussion on misconceptions about the process. A time of Q & A about the process.

PAUL
WOOD

Headhunters Transformed: The Story of God at Work in the Garo Hills of NE India

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, two Garo men were transformed and were used by God to begin the mission of bringing the Garo people to the saving knowledge of Christ. American Baptist missionaries to the Garo Hills followed in the footsteps of these men, and were used by God to spread the Word throughout the hills.



Lodging and Hotels

Please make lodging arrangements for the gathering as soon as possible, as it is race weekend in Kansas City and hotels are filling up fast! This is just for your information, there are no hotel blocks.

**Holiday Inn & Suites
Overland Park-West by IHG**
8787 Reeder St,
Overland Park, KS 66214
(913) 888-8440
13 minutes from Prairie Baptist

**Hampton Inn & Suites
Kansas City-Merriam**
7400 W Frontage Rd,
Merriam, KS 66203
(913) 236-0465
10 minutes from Prairie Baptist

**Drury Inn & Suites
Kansas City- Overland Park**
10963 Metcalf Ave,
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 345-1500
15 minutes from Prairie Baptist

**Embassy Suites by Hilton
Kansas City Overland Park**
10601 Metcalf Ave At I-435,
Overland Park, KS 66212
(913) 649-7060
13 minutes from Prairie Baptist

**Hilton Garden Inn
Overland Park**
5800 College Blvd,
Overland Park, KS 66211
(913) 345-2661
13 minutes from Prairie Baptist

**Courtyard Overland Park
Convention Center**
11001 Woodson St,
Overland Park, KS 66211
(913) 317-8500
13 minutes from Prairie Baptist

**Hampton Inn Kansas
City/Overland Park**
10591 E Metcalf Frontage Rd,
Overland Park, KS 66212
(913) 341-1551
13 minutes from Prairie Baptist

**Holiday Inn & Suites
Overland Park-Conv Ctr IHG**
10920 Nall Ave,
Overland Park, KS 66211
(913) 312-0900
12 minutes from Prairie Baptist

**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Kansas City - Overland Park**
10100 College Blvd,
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 451-6100
16 minutes from Prairie Baptist

**Hyatt Place Overland
Park/Convention Center**
5001 W 110th St,
Overland Park, KS 66211
(913) 491-9002
13 minutes from Prairie Baptist

**Aloft by Marriott Kansas
City Country Club Plaza**
393 W 46th St,
Kansas City, MO 64112
(816) 702-1780
15 minutes from Prairie Baptist

**SpringHill Suites
Overland Park Leawood**
4081 Indian Creek Pkwy,
Overland Park, KS 66207
(913) 340-7270
11 minutes from Prairie Baptist

ABCCR WOMEN IN MINISTRY LUNCH

September 26, 2026

12:15 PM

Please plan to join other women in ministry for lunch at Bethel Neighborhood Center after the 2026 ABCCR Annual Gathering.

Bethel Neighborhood Center
14 S. 7th St, Kansas City, KS 66101

Contact Nancy Killingsworth if you have any questions
nancyjsnyder@gmail.com



CLOTHING & FOOD DRIVE
FOR REFUGEES LESS THAN 5 YEARS IN THE US

DISTRIBUTION ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
AT 14 S 7TH ST. TRAFFICWAY KANSAS CITY, KS 66101
TIME 1:00-4:00PM

Please Help Us Feed and Clothe Refugees

- Your generosity will make a BIG difference!
- We accept GENTLY USED clothing, shoes, coats, winter jackets, and NEW underwear & socks for all ages and gender.
- Culturally appropriate food items - Fufu, beans, rice, lentil (masoor dal), chicken noodles, and cash for ethnic foods.

Every Donation, Big or Small, Is a Blessing!

Drop off location

Bethel Neighborhood Center
14 S 7th Street Trafficway
Kansas City, KS 66101.

Drop off Hours

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Monday-Friday

For any questions,
please call us at
(913) 371-8218.

**Your generosity is a
reminder to refugee families
that they are NOT alone.**

HAVE I GOT A PLAN FOR YOU

REV. JAN SMITH, ABBCR MINISTRY CONSULTANT

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." That's Jeremiah 29:11 and every so often it haunts me! God shows us over and over again He has a plan for us, but those plans don't always happen according to our time line.

Jeremiah 29:1 & 2 tells us this verse is part of a letter Jeremiah wrote to the Israelites who were in exile. Having turned away from God and His commandments God warned His chosen people to repent and to return to covenant living; but they didn't. And so God removed His protection from them and as a result the nation of Babylon invaded and conquered Israel. The city of Jerusalem was destroyed. The temple was torn down. The land was made infertile and finally, all those who were educated or skilled were taken into captivity and shipped off to the city of Babylon.

Overwhelmed by what had just happened to them they cried out in anguish. Surely this was the end. Surely this is where they would die. Surely in this far off land God had abandoned them and they had become a God-Forsaken people. But God said to them: **Have I got a plan for you!**

Someone once said: **We often put periods where God often puts a comma.** I think that's a very true statement! Too often we look at situations and circumstances and get discouraged or disheartened. Periods and commas serve two important jobs; a period serves to tell us to stop, or that we are at the end of a thought. But commas serve as an inflection, for us to pause. Commas serve to remind us that more is yet to come, that the thought is not yet finished.

Throughout the course of human history God has moved in the lives of people in the midst of situations where it seemed a period had been placed. Joseph the son of Jacob had such a life. He ran into periods that seemed would be the end of it all, but God turned those periods into commas. Joseph, while on a mission for his father, was placed in a pit to die by his own brother, sold as slave, and falsely imprisoned for rape. It seemed like he was forgotten by fellow prisoners and friends, but those were commas in Joseph's life. All that Joseph faced throughout his life, brought him to the place where he could be used to save his family and ultimately bring salvation to the world as an heir of Abraham and ancestor of the Lord Jesus Christ. All those commas became a promise: **Have I got a plan for you!**

I want to remind you, God has always had a plan. He had a plan way back at the beginning of creation when He created Adam. He had a plan when He saw that **"it is not good for the man to be alone"** and so created Eve.

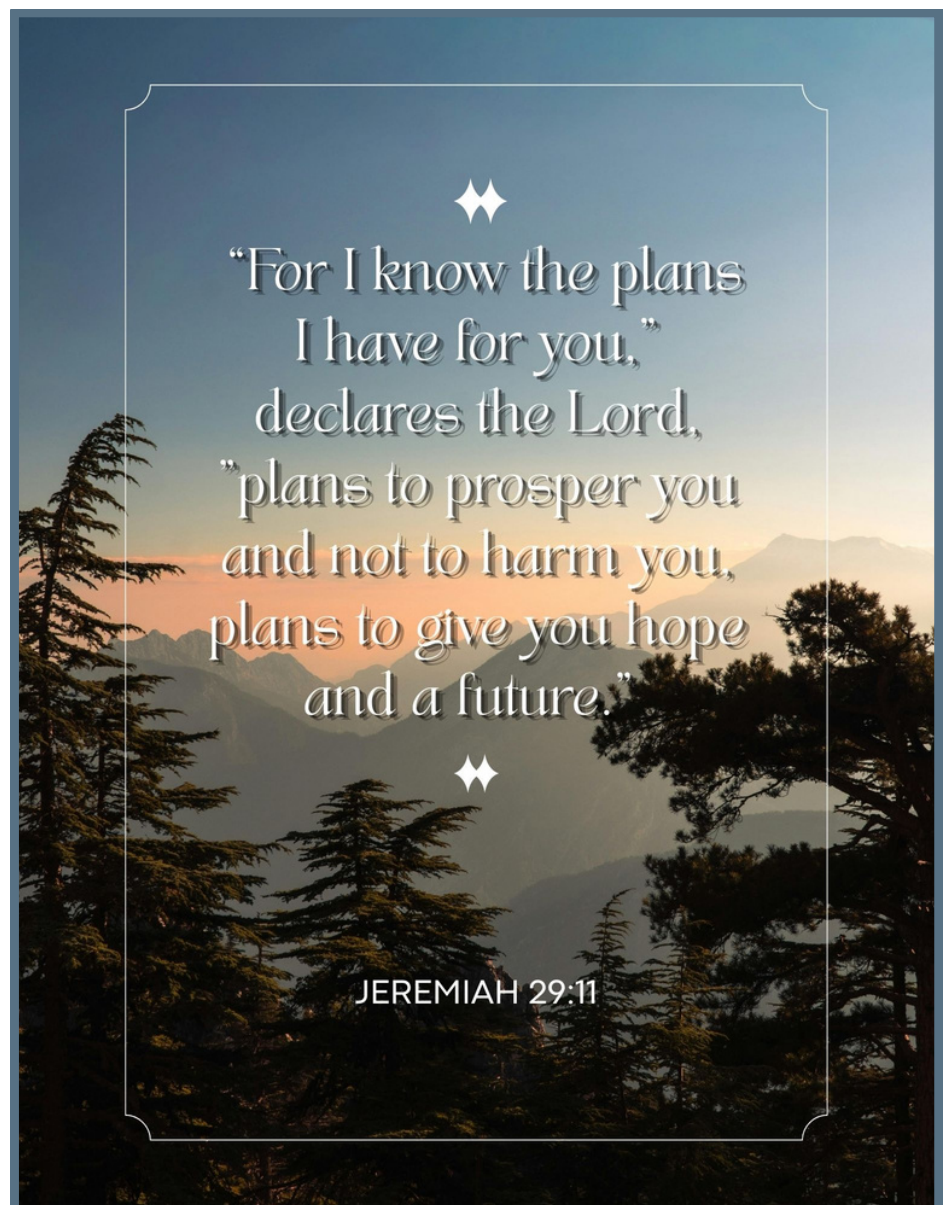
God had a plan for a relationship with Adam and Eve that was going well until they put their own commas in their lives when they decided to disobey God and do their own thing. Then sin entered the world through the human heart and soul. But God still had a plan – a plan of redemption; a plan to save the human race.

That plan included a people called the Israelites whom God rescued out of slavery in Egypt and told them that they would be His people and He would be their God. And through that relationship God would redeem the human race by sending His one and only Son, Jesus Christ to die on behalf of our sins and thereby make us right with God. A lot of people were a part of that plan – Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, and ... Jeremiah. The plan of forgiveness that God was working out ran right through our passage of scripture.

As we look at examples of those who have gone before us, who placed their trust in God we see how God brought them through. Then we, too, see that **God knows the plans He has for us.** If you are discouraged, or think God has forgotten you, remember what Jeremiah 29:13 tells us: **"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."**

And so I challenge you to seek God's plans. Pray to Him. Remember that God's time isn't our time. As frustrated as I sometimes get, the thing I know for sure is that everything works better when it goes according to plan. And God reminds us: **Have I got a plan for you!** All we have to do is get to the spot God has set for us through Jesus Christ and He will to love us and prosper us and give us hope.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."





4TEN is cutting edge leadership skills training for youth entering 10-12th grades during the fall. 4TEN was formed by the scripture 1 Peter 4:10.

It exists to empower our youth to employ their gifts to serve Jesus and set an example.

Youth are the leaders of the future; we need them to step up NOW in their local churches!

Students who are chosen for this program are young people who love Jesus and are willing to grow in their relationship with Christ. Students do not need to feel a call to full-time ministry but do have the gifts and desires to be leaders in their churches.

If you would like to nominate someone, send their name, church, and phone number to Rev. Jennifer Schneider or scan the QR code that will take you to then website where you can fill out an application.



jennifer.schneider@abccr.org



**FIRST EVENT
OCTOBER
9-11**

SETTING PACE IN THE REVITALIZATION PROCESS

REV. CHRIS PRATER, ABBCCR MINISTRY CONSULTANT

I'm not much of a runner at this point in my life. I ran track my senior year of high school. Not that I liked to run but to get in shape because I knew I was going to Marine Corp boot camp and I was going to have to run whether I wanted to or not. Throughout my Marine Corps career, I did plenty of running. The one thing I remember from all that running experience was the importance that pacing oneself plays.

When using pace, ideally you pace yourself against someone who runs slightly faster than yourself so that you are pushing yourself to better your running time. Working your muscles and lungs in a way that will end in building endurance and speed so that you will be able to run at a faster pace over time.

As it pertains to churches and revitalization, there is a slight difference. We don't use others to pace the church; we look at and use the church's history to consider the pace we use during the revitalization journey. While we consider the church's history, it is only one of the factors considered. We can't allow that to be the determining factor because quite honestly most churches have a history of moving way too slowly.

When we consider the church's history, we are looking at and for some specific things. First, historically, how fast or slow has your church moved in implementing change in the past. A good gage here is to consider your last successfully implemented change. How long did that change take to implement in the church. How many meetings were held to discuss the change? From suggestion to implementation, how much time passed. This will give you some idea as pastor/leadership in what to prepare for as you set objectives and goals when setting the pace for the congregation. Be willing to push them a little but be realistic.

Secondly, it tells you something about the congregation's openness, willingness, and readiness for change. There are several assessment tools out there that you can use to measure the congregation's readiness for change. The level of readiness is important because it is through this readiness that buy-in or pushback will be coming. If there is a low level of readiness, the higher the level of resistance will be toward the change that revitalization usually requires.

While history is one tool for setting the pace, a more influential tool might be reality. The reality of the church's situation may require the church to move at a faster pace than they have moved historically. That means the congregation must have an honest assessment of the reality in which it is striving to do ministry.

Here is another example of how things can have an impact across the P's we will be considering. The reality the congregation finds itself in should have also been considered when we set last month's three to four Priorities for the congregation to work through. Reality will also require that each of those Priorities be worked on at various Paces. Just as you run a race at a fluctuating pace throughout the race, you will travel the revitalization journey the same way (for best results anyway).

Another aspect of reality to be considered by the leadership as it pertains to pace is in setting a realistic pace for the congregation. Revitalization can't be rushed – no matter how much we might want to try. By setting an unrealistic pace we set the congregation up for failure. Especially early in the process, it is better to move a little slower to ensure some early successes. These early successes provide some fuel and motivation for incrementally increasing pace in other priorities set throughout the revitalization journey.

We've stated several times that each congregation's revitalization journey will be unique to that congregation. Pace is just another element that will make it unique. That means the leadership will need to have a level of contextual and situational awareness. While the leadership may set an overall pace for the journey, these two items may require you to either speed up or slow down when considering and working on some of the individual priorities that have been set. Also be aware that the initial set pace may not be the pace that is used throughout addressing the specific priority. Always be willing to revisit and adjust any of the seven p's we will discuss.

Priorities and Pace. You now have two of the seven P's of revitalization. I am here to help you and the congregation you serve on this journey to be the church that God would have you to become. Let's have a conversation on how I might be of assistance.

Rev. G. Chris Prater
Pastor, First Baptist Church of Hays, KS
Consultant on Church Revitalization, ABCCR
chris.prater@abccr.org



ABCCR

Women in Ministry Retreat



October 17, 2026

First Baptist Church
Topeka, Kansas

\$20 a person

RETREAT INFORMATION

Please save the date for our Women in Ministry Retreat on **Saturday, October 17th** at 9:00 a.m. We'll gather at First Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas.

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Andrea Roth as our facilitator, guiding us through meaningful conversations, study, and fellowship. Rev. Andrea Roth is a Staff Chaplain at The University of Kansas Hospital specializing in Palliative Care and is a Certified Bereavement Care specialist. This role is a fulfillment of decades of experience in age & stage ministries with children and youth as well as years working as a writer and editor for the United Methodist Publishing House. An Ordained Elder in the Great Plains Conference of the UMC, Andrea is a sought-after retreat leader, lecturer, and mentor for ministry and medical residents and fellows. With degrees from Kansas State University, Vanderbilt Divinity School, and Iliff School of Theology, Andrea's academic background has prepared her for multi-generational, trauma-informed, and intersectionally-sensitive ministry. She and her husband, Rev. Dr. Wallace Smith, have five children, a dog, and two cats, so cups of hot tea, audiobooks, and crochet are some of her favorite entries into mindfulness and rest.

For more information, contact Nancy Killingsworth:
nancyjsnyder@gmail.com



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

I'm going to interrupt the previously scheduled series on the history of planned giving this month because sometimes the Holy Spirit just moves in you and you need to share something about it!

On June 25th, I attended a free webinar from the software provider for the foundation, PG calc, which was on the topic of planned giving marketing. The webinar was led by Andrew Palmer, and he has been working in the field of philanthropy, planned giving and fundraising for many, many years. He spoke on and shared so many important things related to the topic, but there are two that stand out to me.

He shared that the response rate to direct mail marketing related to charities and gift-giving ranged between 1/2 and 1%. Now most of us know that everything is done electronically today, but in case you're still sending out direct mail, you will be aware of the response rate.

The more important observation from him was that personal visits, conversations and relationship building are the most important parts of planned giving. I would definitely agree with that!

If I had known that 6 years ago when Rev. Dr. Gregg Hemmen called me on the phone and said your name has been put forward to be considered as the next director of planned giving, I probably would have said "yes" immediately. You see I didn't know a thing about planned giving and I thought it was all about money, taxes, charitable gifts, deductions, wills, trusts and philanthropy. While it is about those important aspects of planned giving, anyone who works in the field professionally can tell you that it is all about relationships and keeping in touch through conversations and visits.

So even though I was trained very well by Rev. Wilma Engle in 2021, I still knew that I had a high learning curve and so much more to learn related to the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation and the work I would be doing there. Like a lot of people, change is often difficult and even though I said "yes" to this new chapter of ministry, I didn't have the confidence and reassurance right away that I could do this. Now just to qualify that, when I have taken on a new area of ministry over the past 32 years, I have never given up or quit doing that work unless I was forced out of a position due to financial reasons and budget cuts. So ultimately I knew I could do the job, but I just needed more of what Julie Andrews sang about in the movie, "The Sound of Music" which is confidence!

This is where the Holy Spirit was moving as I was reading recently about the death of Lyle Adcock, an important American Baptist leader and brother in Christ in the central region. You see, during the first couple of years as the new director of planned giving, I was invited to attend one region board meeting each year, which was the January board meeting, which was usually held in person instead of online. While I had met Lyle before, I hadn't had a good conversation with him until I saw him at the ABCCR region board meeting in January a few years ago. I would have to say to begin with that I already knew that he was a man of integrity and a strong faith, but I did not know him that well. He began talking to me about the articles that I was writing on planned giving every month for the Central Region Life.

He said that he thought they were educational and interesting and he liked the way that I wrote. We continued on with more conversation about that and then we talked about other things in our lives before the meeting began again. I really enjoyed visiting with him even though I was just getting to know him better.

We would see each other at other region events and visit more and continue that friendship and relationship in Christ. The last time I saw him and visited with him, which was a while ago, he was walking with a cane, so I knew his health situation was changing, but that wasn't a distraction. It's just an observation. So if I get to live that long, I might have to graduate to one of those, but that will be okay.

Anyway, I knew that I hadn't seen Lyle in quite a while and I was thinking of him recently when I saw the email from the region telling about the end of his life and his new beginning of life in heaven. As I read his obituary very carefully and meticulously, I discovered that he was a writer as well. The obituary said that he served in the Marine Corps Reserves in Topeka for 6 years and that his duties included writing timely articles for various publications and that he served as general communications director for his unit. I did not know this and when I read that you could have knocked me over with a feather, as the Brits would say. Now that I discovered this about his own writing skills and experiences, that just made the previous conversation that I had with him a few years ago mean the world to me! It was like getting an even bigger shot in the arm now and I am so grateful for the opportunities that I had to visit with him and have wonderful conversations. I'm sorry that I couldn't attend his funeral as I would have looked for an opportunity to share this story.

As I share this from my heart, I do also want to say that it's not like I haven't received many other words of encouragement from my colleagues on the region and foundation staff or from many of you, I certainly have. This is just one of those interesting, quirky and meaningful memories that are stored in my head.

Just as a reminder, I will refer back to the beginning of the article and Mr Andrew Palmer, who said that planned giving is all about conversations and relationships. So if you are interested in funding a charitable gift annuity, please get a hold of me by phone, text, email or voicemail and I will be happy to have a conversation with you about that. You can choose yourself or yourself and your spouse as the beneficiaries and receive the proceeds from the gift annuity for the rest of your life. Or if you want to financially bless someone that you have a relationship with like your children or your grandchildren, you can fund a gift annuity and choose them to be the beneficiaries. Please let me know if I can be of service to you and I will be delighted to help you out in this process. Thanks for your consideration.

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA



American Baptist
Churches USA

WESTERN AREA *Gathering*

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12TH

CAMP CHRISTY

BEGINNING AT 10:00 AM

EVENT SCHEDULE



10:00 AM

Greeting



10:05 AM

Business Meeting



10:30 AM

Grant Writing

presented by Ms. Linda Mills



11:30 AM

Lunch



12:30 PM

Camp Christy Update



1:00 PM

AI Creations

presented by Rev. Dr. Stephen Mills

2:00 PM

Dismissal



Camp Provides
the Main Dish

Please bring a side dish or
dessert to share with the group.



Come for the
fellowship.

Leave with fresh
vision and purpose!

*"Two are better than one, because they have a good
reward for their labor." — Ecclesiastes 4:9*

All Are Welcome!

LET'S WORSHIP, LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER
IN CHRIST.



This flyer was created with AI technology.
Powered by creativity. Focused on ministry.

Southeast Area ANNUAL GATHERING



SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



CHERRY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

297 Hwy 69
Garland, KS



We will begin at 3:00 with a short business meeting, followed by breakout sessions focusing on our youth and what the region offers our congregations.



We will enjoy musical entertainment, followed by a meal.



A love offering will be taken for the meal.

UNITY • PURPOSE • IMPACT

TOGETHER FOR THE GOSPEL

SIX THINKING HATS

A BETTER WAY TO THINK TOGETHER

Presented by

DR. GREGG HEMMEN
ABCCR Executive Minister



Six different perspectives.
One better conversation.
Better decisions.
Stronger together.



**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026**



NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH
3601 SW 10th Ave,
Topeka, KS 66604
www.nlbctop.org



**NEW LIFE
BAPTIST CHURCH**

LOVING GOD. LOVING PEOPLE. LIVING HOPE.

SCHEDULE

4:00 PM	Mission Update
4:30 PM	Business Meeting
5:00 PM	Supper
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Program Six Thinking Hats



SUPPER

A **FREEWILL OFFERING** will be received to help cover the cost of the meal. **Come enjoy good food, great fellowship, and time to build friendships!**



MISSION PROJECT

LIBERIA BRICK-BY-BRICK PROJECT

Help us raise \$10,000.00 in matching funds to build a new church in Liberia, West Africa



JOIN US!

Fellowship. Business. Learning.
Mission. Making a difference together
for God's kingdom.

*We look forward to
seeing you there!*

HOWELL MACEDONIA CHURCH PLANT

15TH GATE - KAKATA HIGHWAY
MONTSERRADO CO. - LIBERIA, AFRICA

Members
Making Blocks

If 20 Liberians can
raise \$1,000
in two weeks, what
can our American
churches
do?

New Church
Plant Site

BRICK
BY
BRICK

Rev. Timothy
Queh

NORTHEAST AREA



OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
OF THE CENTRAL REGION

\$10K
MATCHING
FUND
CHALLENGE



Let us pray for our ABCCR annual gathering and all of the staff, ministers, volunteers and church members on the planning committee, that everything will run smoothly with the final preparations, set up and during the event as well.

Let us pray for all who will be traveling to the event from throughout the states of Kansas and Oklahoma, that they will have safety coming to the event and returning home.

Let us pray for Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula that the holy spirit will give him wisdom and knowledge and Jesus will guide him in his preparations, study and preaching. Might we also pray for the other speakers, workshop leaders, musicians, volunteers and everyone who will assist throughout the event for strength, patience, energy and inspiration.

Let us give thanks to Prairie Baptist Church and Pastor Kathy Pickett for offering their sacred space to host the annual gathering, when a needed change was made recently.

Finally, let us pray that all who take part in the event will rejoice, worship, learn, share, grow, have fun and honor each other as brothers and sisters in Christ! As our theme scripture reminds us:

"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)

**2026
ANNUAL
GATHERING**

THIS HOPE IS A STRONG AND
TRUSTWORTHY ANCHOR FOR OUR
SOULS. IT LEADS US THROUGH
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HEBREWS 6:19 (NLT)

American Baptist Churches
Central Region

**SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2026
PRAIRIE BAPTIST CHURCH
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS**



RISE YOUTH 2026

JEREMIAH 29:11-14

SEPTEMBER 13th
4-8pm

Keynote Speaker: Jodie Karsak, FCA Olathe

Student Speaker: William Jewell College

Worship: Porter Band, Gardner

First Baptist Church Olathe
2024 E 151st St, Olathe, KS 66062
913.764.7088
www.fbcolathe.org/youth



Hosted by:
FBC Olathe &
East Central Area of
ABCCR

Join us for Games, Worship, Food, & Discipleship!



Antioch Center

AT CENTRAL SEMINARY

ONLINE CERTIFICATES OFFERED THIS FALL

TECHNOLOGY AND FAITHFUL INNOVATION IN MINISTRY

This five-week certificate course includes "Generosity, Stewardship, and Technology," "AI and Pastoral Ministry," "Social Media and Mission," "The Theology of Technology," and "Email as an Extension of Outreach." Led by experts in the field, this course explores the opportunities and challenges of technology in ministry.

- Tuesdays, 7:00pm – 9:00pm (CT)
- September 29 – October 27
- \$125



CREATING A BLUEPRINT FOR MINISTRY TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Join Rev. Jessica Asbell Oravec for this four-week certificate course and learn how to develop a practical ministry blueprint tailored for your church. As part of the course, participants will receive a complimentary copy of "Building Blocks of Faith: Teaching the Bible to Children."

- Mondays, 6:30pm – 8:30pm (CT)
- November 2 – 23
- \$100



antiochcenter.cbts.edu



How a Practiced Religious Freedom Helps Christians Respond to Rising Authoritarianism and Theocracy

The
Buttry Center
for Peace and Nonviolence

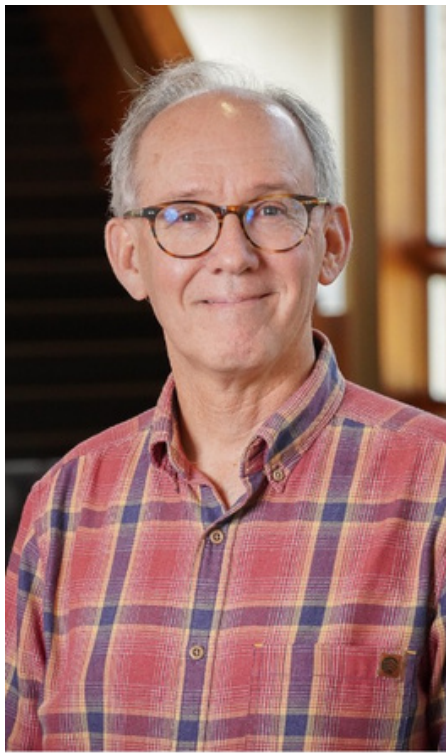
Amanda Tyler, ED of Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty

Thursday, September 17 at 12 noon - 1 pm (Central time)

Zoom registration link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/OfAuHzitQdCnrrCfK0e7Ow>

Description: Religious freedom is more than a set of principles or constitutional protections. Religious freedom is a practice that requires discipline, particularly from a religious group that has majority status in a community. Amanda will explain what a practiced religious freedom looks like and how it can contribute to a pluralistic democracy. She will point to examples of advocacy against rising Christian nationalism in public schools and threats to free and fair elections, giving actionable ideas for faith leaders to engage in some of today's most pressing challenges.

Bio: Amanda Tyler is executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC), leading the organization as it upholds the historic Baptist principle of religious liberty: defending the free exercise of religion and protecting against its establishment by government. She is the co-host of BJC's Respecting Religion podcast and the author of How to End Christian Nationalism.



Justifying War's Violence or Teaching Nonviolence?

Two-Part Series

The
Buttry Center
for Peace and Nonviolence

Dr. David May, Professor of New Testament Emeritus, Central Seminary

***"Justifying War's Violence or Teaching Nonviolence:
How are We to Understand the Bible, as Followers of Jesus?"***

Part I: Weaponizing the Bible for Violence –

Thursday, October 8 at 12:00-1:00 pm (Central time)

Part II. Jesus' Response to Violence –

Thursday, October 15 at 12:00-1:00 pm (Central time)

Zoom registration link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/KWFNxebSRcq2ZfReSVpREQ>

Description: In some of the Bible's most challenging passages, violence appears to be commanded or sanctioned by God, leading some political leaders and some people in the pew to conclude that violence can, under certain circumstances, be justified for God's people. Yet a careful reading of Scripture challenges whether these "texts of violence" should be understood as establishing a normative ethic for followers of Jesus. These two Zoom sessions will explore the interpretive approaches that shape how Christians read difficult passages in both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Together, we will consider how Jesus' life, teachings, and response to violence provide an interpretive lens for understanding Scripture and the Christian call to nonviolence.

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT 2027

EXPLORING A FLOURISHING FINISH
PHILIPPIANS 1:6 MSG

"A Flourishing Finish" is a phrase rooted in the Bible. It means that life will not end in defeat, but in victory, restoration, and fulfilled dreams. The phrase comes from Philippians 1:6, which states that God will bring the work He started in a person to a flourishing finish until Christ returns. It represents the belief that God completes what He begins rather than leaving a person broken or defeat

Mark your calendar for April 28-29, 2027 for the Sr. Adult Retreat at First Baptist Church, Lawrence, KS. You will find Fun, Fellowship and Friends gathering together to Explore, Find and Celebrate how God is and will work within us.

MID-WINTER MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Who is My Neighbor? Mission at Home

Mid-Winter Missions Conference

January 15-16, 2027

First Baptist Church - Emporia, KS

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Robin Stoops

Registration coming soon!



Matthew 22:37-39

The Word in a Weary World

PREACHING HOPE FOR TIRED HEARTS



APRIL 5-7, 2027

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OF GREATER DES MOINES**

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CONFERENCE