

Central Region Life

OCTOBER 2026

2026 ANNUAL GATHERING

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The 2026 Annual Gathering weekend began Thursday evening as members of the Ministers Council gathered at First Baptist Church of Olathe for dinner and fellowship. During the evening, Rev. Warren Smith was honored with the Ministers Council Legacy Award, recognizing his faithful ministry, leadership, and service.

On Friday and Saturday, friends from across the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region gathered at Prairie Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kansas, for our 167th Annual Gathering. Rev. Dr. Greg Mamula, Executive Minister of ABC Nebraska, served as our keynote speaker, and the weekend included uplifting messages, fabulous music, worship, fellowship, and workshops on topics ranging from church safety and international ministries to senior adult ministry and church revitalization.

We are grateful to everyone who helped make this year's gathering possible and to all who joined us. We hope to see you next year at Central Baptist Church in Great Bend, Kansas!



EMBRACING THE FACT WE'RE THEOLOGICAL MUTTS

REV. DR. GREGG HEMMEN, EXECUTIVE MINISTER

This summer, I finished reading through Baptists in America: A History by Thomas S. Kidd and Barry Hankins. Although I've taken several classes on Church history and Baptist history, you can always learn something new. It's kind of like going to a family reunion and thinking you know your family, but then someone tells a story about crazy Uncle Larry and then a whole new aspect of your family is revealed. Baptist life can be like that. It is also challenging to understand who we are as Baptists because there are many different strands of our beginning that are important to consider. In some ways, we are theological "mutts." We're a little of this, and some of that, and hopefully we have incorporated all the best parts of the different strands of faith in our make up. But if we're honest, we have our fair share of toxins as well as vitamins. I'm often asked, "How many different kinds of Baptists are there?" and I wish I could give you an exact answer but the best I can do is estimate there are at least 60 different kinds of Baptists in North America and over 200 different strands of Baptist belief worldwide. That's not very precise is it? There is something in our Baptist DNA that challenges the thinking of others, and these challenges have caused us to emphasize different aspects of our faith, often leading us to divide and multiply. So, at risk of picking a fight, what are those key aspects of my Baptist belief in order of priority?

I will begin any discussion of my own faith by saying first and foremost, I am a follower of Jesus. Some might describe this as the Lordship of Christ. Some might say we are to be first-followers of Jesus. No matter the language or the words we use, the priority of Jesus is first on my list. It does catch some by surprise when I talk about the priority of Jesus over everything else because some think that because I promote American Baptist endeavors that I must be Baptist first. Not so! My Baptist identity comes further down the list. Being a follower of Jesus comes first. Anything else is after that.

Second, my identity as a Baptist means that I'm a person of the book – the Bible. The Bible is God's revelation to humanity and this revelation points to the person and work of Jesus. I have had some interesting discussions with people over the years who would put the Bible first on their list of identity markers. In some cases and in my opinion, the Bible has even supplanted the person and work of Jesus. It makes sense to me that the Bible points me to Jesus, not the other way around.

The third identity marker as a Baptist is that salvation is offered to me as a gift by the grace of God. God's part is offering grace to me for the ways in which my sin has separated me from God. My part is an expression of faith. The earliest Baptists believed that one must make a conscious decision to step toward this gift of grace. We may not fully understand all aspects of theology when we make this deliberate choice, but it's something we choose based on our extensive or limited understanding. We step toward God and receive God's gift of grace, at the time when our level of understanding has been nudged by the Holy Spirit. I've often said that the first step of faith is the step we take when we cannot explain or fully comprehend what's next. It's stepping into the unknown, yet still choosing to take that step.

We then come to the fourth identity marker – believer’s baptism. Around the time of the Reformation in the early 1500s, all kinds of things were being questioned in the Roman Catholic Church. Martin Luther led what became the Protestant Reformation and among the practices being questioned was the baptism of infants. Those seeking to be faithful began practicing believer’s baptism, which angered those who practiced infant baptism because it conveyed the practice of infant baptism was somehow less spiritual. I’ve often heard people say that Baptists emphasize immersion more than anything but as I read Church history, it was believer’s baptism that was the priority, and yes, immersion is our preferred mode of baptism, but it’s more about believer’s baptism than the mode.

The fifth identity marker is the recognition that all believers have direct access to God and responsibilities come with that access to ourselves and to others. The Church has talked about this using language of soul liberty and the priesthood of all believers. Baptists firmly believe that none of us has to go through some hierarchical Church structure to gain access to God. We just access God when we want or sense the Holy Spirit’s prompting.

If you’re still with me in the identity markers, the sixth marker champions religious liberty for all and the separation of Church and state. Around the time of the Reformation, the link between civic life, and the Church was so close that to be in society meant you had to support the Church. Government authorities were policing people’s expressions of faith. Baptists were among those who believed that people must choose to be in relationship with God. You cannot legislate it or mandate support of it. The closer the Church and the civic authorities become, the further away from being Baptist you have moved.

A cousin to the religious liberty and separation of Church and state is our seventh identity marker – congregational autonomy. Each Baptist church is a locally autonomous body of believers. In the case of American Baptists, no one from the Region office in Topeka, or King of Prussia, PA (where our ABC USA offices are located) tells the local church what that church is to do. I can be a voice of influence in the local church, but the only authority I have in the local church is what that church may grant me. This feature of Baptist life is one of the real distinctives. In other faith traditions, a Bishop could come in and tell the local church they needed to do something and that local church would need to heed the Bishop’s directive. If I tried to do that, I’m just asking for a fight.

The healthy part of congregational autonomy brings up the last identity marker I’ll mention – cooperative mission. Baptists choose to associate with one another to be on mission with one another. When we pool our efforts and resources, we can often do more together with our pooled resources than if we tried to do everything by ourselves. We partner together in ways that make sense. Each local church makes decisions on those levels of pooled partnership.

I found it helpful this summer to look for these identity markers as I read through, Baptists in America: A History. If you’re curious about how some of the different Baptist groups came about in North America, this book does a good job of articulating that story without getting too far into the weeds. Now, some of you may have wondered why I didn’t include other aspects of faith, or perhaps think some I mentioned, shouldn’t be on the list. Therein lies the “muttness” of Baptist life. Some of you might be a little more this, and a little less that. My prayer is that no matter how we partition out the various aspects of our faith, we wouldn’t lose sight of following Jesus.

Thanks for the privilege of serving among you!



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**

world mission offering

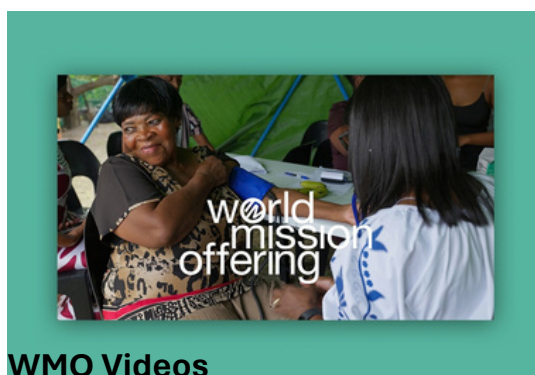
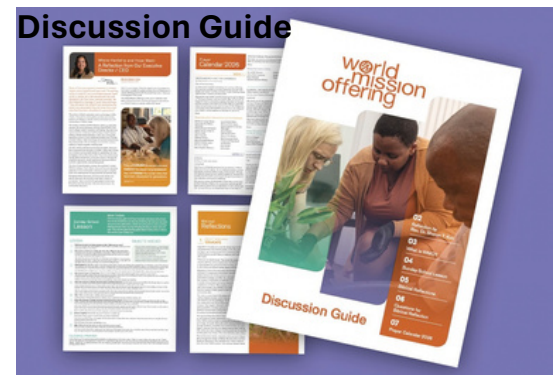
They will **rebuild** the ancient ruins and **restore** the places long devastated; they will **renew** the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

ISAIAH 61:4

Each year, churches and individuals across the country come together through International Ministries' World Mission Offering (WMO) to support ministries God is using to transform lives and communities around the world. We invite your church to be part of this important ministry!

During September and October, churches are encouraged to highlight global mission and participate in the World Mission Offering. Free promotional resources are available to help your congregation hear stories of God at work and learn more about the impact of global mission.

Below, you'll find links helpful resources you can use and share with your congregation. These materials are designed to make it easy to tell the story of WMO, promote the offering in your church, and encourage your congregation to participate.



WHAT IS THE WORLD MISSION OFFERING (WMO)?

Each year through International Ministries' World Mission Offering, thousands of churches and individuals come together to promote and support ministries that God is using to transform the world. We want you to join in, too!

Many of our partner churches will dedicate time in September and October to use our free World Mission Offering promotional resources (available in print and through www.worldmissionoffering.org) to make it easy to share stories of God at work through global mission. Build excitement for mission in your congregation! Some churches will take a one-time offering for world mission during this time, and many others make monthly recurring gifts to the WMO.

As one pastor described his church's involvement in the WMO, "God allows us to participate in what he is doing, which blesses our church and inspires us to get involved in our own mission activities where we live and beyond."

Join with us, as we work cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace, and abundant life for all creation.

HOW ARE WMO GIFTS USED?

WMO gifts are used for mission program support (global servant, international partner, and other ministry support), for administrative support, and for development costs.

WHAT ABOUT MY GIFTS TO SPECIFIC GLOBAL SERVANTS?

All personalized global servant support is targeted for the global servants and keeps them in their ministries.

WHAT ELSE WILL MY WMO GIFTS DO?

As the body of Christ, we respond together to the needs around the world—when everyone contributes, no one group carries the full burden of expense. IM does not ask global servants to raise all of the funds they need but comes alongside them in financial support as well as in ministry. When personalized funding falls short, WMO gifts fill the gap and keep global servants in their country of service. WMO gifts support global servants with training and pastoral care, enable us to address crises when they arise, and so much more. Giving to the WMO is the best way to make sure that you support all of IM's ministries.

Questions? Email wmo@internationalministries.org or call 610-768-2311 to speak with someone on our development team.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSPECTIVE IN THE REVITALIZATION PROCESS

REV. CHRIS PRATER, ABBCR MINISTRY CONSULTANT

We are now ready to turn our attention to the third of seven P's in the revitalization process. Just to refresh your memory, the first two were Priorities and Pace. The third P is that of Perspective. The main objective of this step is to set and manage expectations throughout the process. If the expectations are too low, the congregation won't be pushed to reach their full potential for kingdom impact. Setting the expectations too high leads the congregation down a path to failure.

This step in the process answers a very important question for the congregation. "What do we hope to accomplish by going through this process?" Making sure that there are some mutually agreed upon expectations helps everyone involved to know two very important things as the congregation proceeds on this journey.

The first thing this hopefully answers for the congregation is, "Where are we headed?" They have an idea of the desired outcome of this process. There is a point to all that is being asked of them individually and as a group. There is a purpose and a plan guiding the decisions being made by those in leadership.

The second question being answered is, "What is expected of me, as an individual within this congregation?" Everyone, whether in leadership or laity should be aware of their responsibilities – what is expected of them – on this journey. When everyone knows their role and the role of those around them, assistance can be provided as needed. We can help one another, which is also a great way for some cross-training to take place.

As you are dealing with perspectives, there are four key things to keep in mind. The first is the history of the congregation. This isn't the first time we've mentioned the church's history, and it won't be the last. Congregational history has an impact on so many areas of the church that it can never be relegated to the proverbial back burner. We need to always be aware of the church's historical context. Dealing with this situation, the specific history of how the church has dealt with pressure. Does the church have a history of caving under pressure? Be careful about how much pressure you put on them and the frequency in which you apply it. Do they have a history of rising to the occasion to meet the demands of pressure? Just like a bodybuilder, add a little more weight with each work out to develop muscles. An awareness of the church's history will also provide some insight on where to and where not to apply pressure.

The second area to be aware of pertaining to perspectives is the dynamics of the community surrounding the church. The expectations that you set will be heavily influenced by the context in which you find the church ministering. For example, let's say the church finds itself serving a community that has an 80% retiree population. Setting an expectation to have a growing youth ministry might be difficult. I'm not saying don't have a youth ministry. But knowing your surrounding community should give you some indications that a focus on retirees might be more effective than a youth ministry. Remember, we are talking about being aware of the dynamics of the community.

Having a willingness and an openness to find out what the dynamics are and let those dynamics guide setting the expectations will help prevent later struggles and disappointments. There are several existing tools out there to help you find and understand those community dynamics.

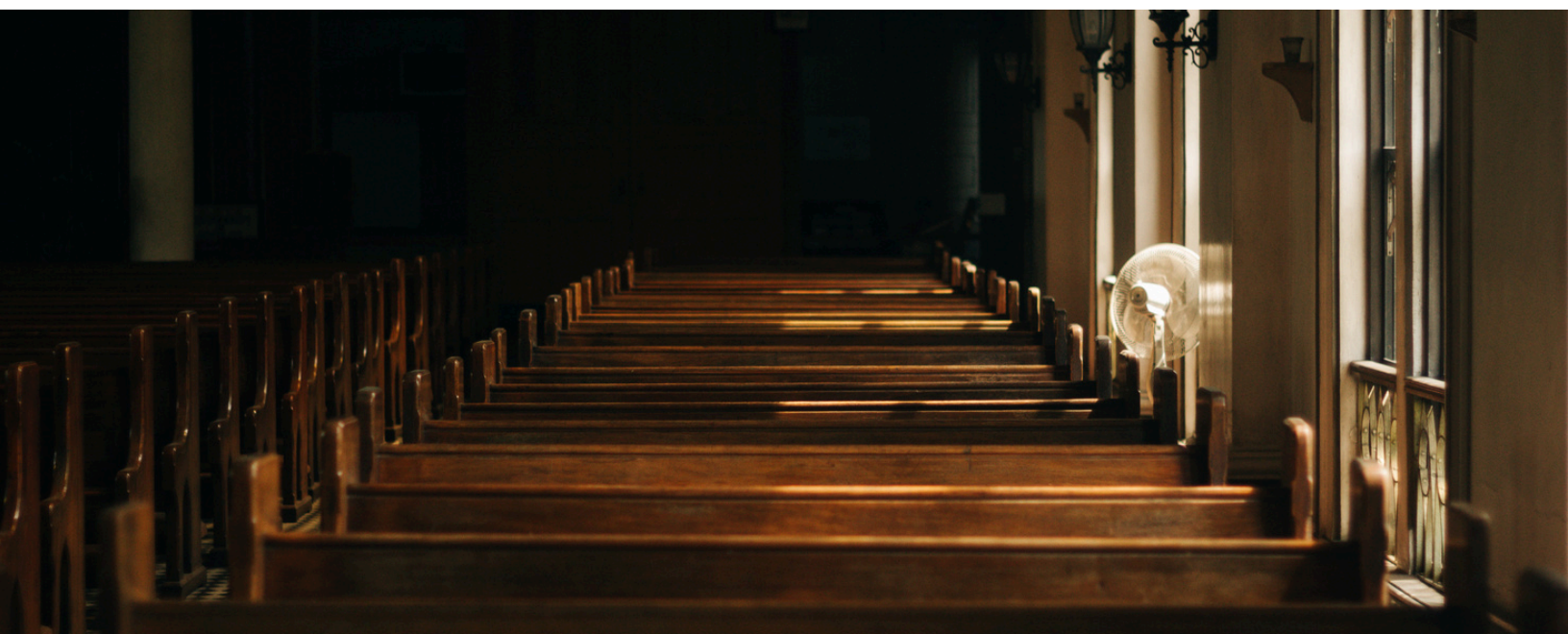
The third key is the methods of communication you will use to share expectations. Once expectations are established, share, share, and share again. You can never communicate too much. Just when you think your congregation has heard them enough, share them again. How do you share them? Any and every way you can. Bulletins, newsletters, website, Face Book page, blog post, sermons, and in everyday conversations. The more you share them, the more they become ingrained in the congregation, the more individuals will strive to accomplish/meet the expectations.

What do you communicate. Be sure to communicate thoroughly the goals, objectives, and expectations for each step of the journey. Communicate (and celebrate) when those goals are achieved. Then communicate the next step of the journey. Remember this isn't a program, it is a process

The fourth key in setting expectations is the level of urgency the church finds itself. This is why it is important not to wait to seek help with revitalization. The longer a church waits, the higher the level of urgency becomes. The more urgent the situation, the less time you can spend discovering and planning on how to work with and within the church's history, the dynamics of the community, and the best ways to communicate. The higher the level of urgency, the higher priority the urgency becomes and the lower on the priority list everything else becomes. When urgency becomes the driver, mistakes/bad choices are made. Don't wait to get help.

Reach out and let's have a conversation about how I might help you set some realistic perspectives (expectations) for your congregation to begin the journey of revitalization.

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





ABCCR



Clergy Women in Ministry Retreat



October 17, 2026

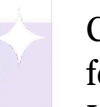


First Baptist Church
Topeka, Kansas

\$20 a person

RETREAT INFORMATION

Join us for the Clergy 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

As we continue on looking at the history of planned giving throughout the ages, even though I have not exhausted every example in the Old Testament, I am going to move on to the New Testament for now. I have been reading an interesting and informative book entitled *Thoughtful Fundraising*, whose editors are Jill Morduant & Rob Paton. It is published by Routledge press and comes out of the Open University Business School. The Open University is Europe's largest university and the only UK University dedicated to distance learning.

There are a variety of authors who have contributed to the book and one of those is Redmond Mullin, whom I have mentioned before in a previous article. He has worked in multiple fields, having first served as a Jesuit, and later worked in research, advertising, fundraising and as a director of a foundation. For someone like me, who was a history major in my university years and considers myself an amateur historian, I must say he has written an excellent chapter on 2000 years of fundraising and what he calls "disreputable history."

He begins by taking a look at 1 Corinthians 16: 1- 4, which talks about taking up a collection for the Lord's people in the NIV. Paul writes, " Now about the collection for the Lord's people: do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me."

While he is writing from a secular point of view, Mr. Mullin provides his own commentary on this scripture passage related to planned giving. He shares that Paul has a remarkable precedent for fundraising letters. It is also part of one of the greatest world traditions of fundraising and community care. These early Christians were continuing Jewish tradition which survives today. Then it was common tradition of Jews of the diaspora to send monetary gifts to Jerusalem, even after the city and the temple were destroyed in AD 70.

Of course, as disciples of Jesus, while we know that Paul was an educated man and wrote and spoke very well, that these were not just fundraising letters, but letters of instruction, guidance, concern and care to all of the churches in this time after Jesus' death, resurrection & ascension. These letters or epistles as we call them shared important aspects of basic Christian theology to those newly converted Jews and many other disciples who were part of the New Testament churches. Still because of Christ's love that emanated through them, they did ask for funds through offerings and collections because they were concerned not just about their faith and spiritual life, but their physical life as well.

Still, we also remember about reading in the Acts of the Apostles, that the early believers had everything in common, selling their possessions to distribute to anyone in need. Acts 4 also reminds us that those who owned land or houses sold them and laid their money at the apostles' feet for distribution.

Wow, while we may be generous and giving people, it is hard for us to fathom that kind of supremely selfless giving! Yet this kind of complete sharing as I would call it and those offerings and collections sustained the early church during the first couple of centuries, especially while the Christians were being persecuted by the Roman government.

Everything changed when the emperor, Constantine, converted to Christianity in the third century AD, as Eusebius records in his writing of Ecclesiastical History. He shares a number of insights, pointing out that it was an important moment for the new religion of Christianity, when Constantine removed distribution of poor relief– in bread and corn doles– from pagan to Christian priests.

Eusebius in his voluminous history, shares another important aspect of planned giving in the early church that bears repeating. He emphasizes that the fundraising and giving of the Christian churches reached far away. In 253, Cyprian of Carthage sent 100,000 sesterces to devastated Numidia, which was an ancient kingdom located primarily in modern day Algeria and parts of western Tunisia. During the same year, the church in Rome cared for 1500 indigent people, many of them refugees. Thanks to Eusebius and other historians, we can see that the Christian church has been caring for those in need since its inception and that fundraising and planned giving have played one part of a vital role in meeting those needs.

I hope I haven't bored you to tears and made you count flowers on the wall related to the history of planned giving. It's a lot of dates and facts, but I think it is important to understand.

If you would like to start your own history of planned giving with the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation and you would be interested in funding a charitable gift annuity, please contact me by phone, email or a letter, if you wish, and I will be ready to assist you in the process of funding that gift annuity. While you probably already know this by now, if you choose yourself as the beneficiary, this annuity will provide a gift back to you for the rest of your life and it will also provide a tax deduction to you for a portion of your gift. Since it is a split interest gift, the extra special blessing of your gift is that it can go to any mission partner, offering, university, seminary, or other ABCCR or ABC-USA institutions, including the American Baptist Historical Society, if you choose them on your application. It can also go to any of our marvelous missionaries, who are serving all around the globe. Please let me know if I can be of any service to you and thank you.

Sources:
NIV Bible, Thoughtful Fundraising and
Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, XVIII.



PRAYER

EMPHASIS

As we pray this month, let us focus our attention on the World Mission Offering, that is collected by International Ministries every year to support our I M global servants, a variety of mission programs and outreach efforts and the general work of this important American Baptist ministry.

Let us pray for executive director, Rev. Dr. Sharon Koh and all of the support staff, who work behind the scenes to help our missionaries thrive as they continue to share the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray for all of our global servants / missionaries and their families, serving around the globe, that God would continue to guide & strengthen them in the amazing work that they do and that the Holy Spirit would pour out continued power, joy, compassion and love as they minister to so many who have never heard the good news of Christ, our savior.

Their theme this year is : "Rebuild, restore, renew." As the scripture says: "They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations." Isaiah 61: 4 (NIV)



Partner in God's work
around the world.

world
mission
offering

OU HOMECOMING WORSHIP

Come celebrate God's
faithfulness and OU
Homecoming at First Baptist
Church, Ottawa, KS

Preacher:
Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain
ABC USA General Secretary



SUNDAY, **18** | 9:30 AM
OCTOBER | 410 SOUTH HICKORY ST



**FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH**
OTTAWA, KANSAS



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



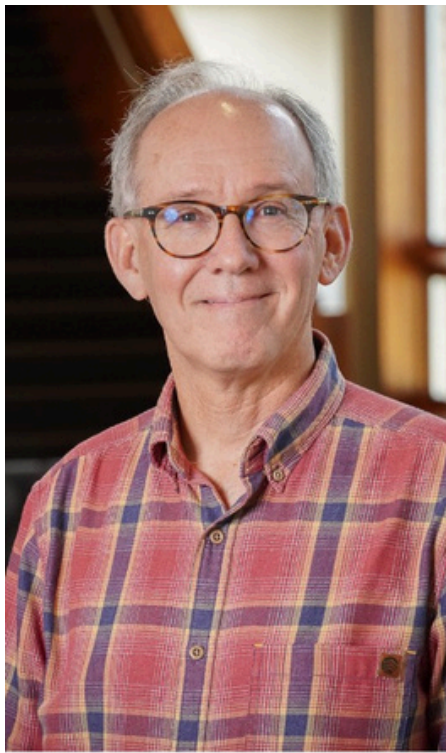
CREATING A BLUEPRINT FOR MINISTRY TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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



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.

WELCOME CONNIE NORTHUP- NEW FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

The American Baptist Churches of the Central Region is pleased to welcome Connie Northup as our new Part-Time Financial Administrator! Connie brings years of financial experience and knowledge to this role, and we are grateful to have her joining the Central Region staff. She will assist with the Region's financial administration and help support our churches and ministries through this important work. Connie is going through orientation now with greater involvement beginning in October 2026. Please join us in welcoming Connie to ABCCR!

This change also allows Morgan Aspinwall to focus more on Next Generation and Communication responsibilities such as camping, 4Ten, MPYC, Central Region Life, social media, registrations for events, etc. Morgan will still have some financial responsibilities as she and Connie work together.



Mid Winter Missions Conference

January 15-16, 2027

FBC – Emporia, KS



Who is My Neighbor?: Mission at Home
Matthew 22:37-39



Rev. Robin Stoops
Keynote Speaker

The Rev. Dr. Robin D. Stoops is a seasoned ministry leader, educator, and mentor with four decades of pastoral experience. He currently serves as Co-Director of the Antioch Center at Central Seminary, a member of the supplemental faculty, and a mentor to students from Burma. In addition, he contributes to donor development with the American Baptist Foundation and chairs the Burma Research Institute, as well as the Burmese Community of Kansas.

Throughout his years in ministry, Dr. Stoops has shepherded churches across South Dakota, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska and led as Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska for 12 years. His broader work with the American Baptist Churches includes serving as Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development, preaching, pastoral searches, leadership development, conflict transformation, mission funding and development. He has guided Mission Study Trips to South America, Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa with ABC Nebraska pastors and partners.

Beyond his ministry, he serves as Foundation Chairperson for the American Baptist Homes of the Midwest and as an officer of the Regional Executive Ministers Council. He founded ChurchHelp.net to assist unaffiliated churches with pastoral searches, leadership training, and conflict transformation on a fee basis. Dr. Stoops also served as Special Assistant to Theological Education for Burma with International Ministries, coordinated the Burma Refugee Commission, and contributes to the Burma Advocacy Group.

Dr. Stoops and his wife, Kathy, celebrated 51 years of marriage in July 2026. They have three grown children and eight grandchildren. He remains committed to equipping leaders, strengthening ministries, and fostering missional partnerships worldwide.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

ABCCR
Mid-Winter Missions Conference
January 15-16, 2027
First Baptist Church, Emporia, KS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

Registration is \$45 per person*. This is to help cover travel expenses and honorarium for the keynotespeaker and two meals (provided by FBC Emporia).

Dietary needs (please circle if applicable): Diabetic Gluten Free Vegetarian

*Please make checks payable to: "ABCCR" Write "MWMC 2027" in Memo line
Mail completed form and registration fee to:

ABCCR
5889 SW 29th
Topeka, KS 66614

Or - Register and pay online at:
www.abCCR.org, click on "events" tab

Registration form and fee are due no later than January 4, 2027. One registration per person. Lodging is on your own.

Schedule for event:

Friday, January 15	4:30 Registration
	5:15 Dinner
	6:30 Evening Session
Saturday, January 16	9:00 Morning Session (An offering for Missions will be received)
	12:00 Lunch (this will conclude our time together)



“Who is My Neighbor? Mission at Home”
Rev. Dr. Robin Stoops
Keynote Speaker



The Word in a Weary World

PREACHING HOPE FOR TIRED HEARTS



APRIL 5-7, 2027

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF GREATER DES MOINES**

**8250 NW 62ND AVE.
JOHNSTON, IA 50131**



PRAIRIE PASTORS

CONFERENCE



mpyc-abc.org



MOUNTAINS & PRAIRIES

Youth Conference

JUNE 25-29, 2028

**YMCA OF THE ROCKIES
ESTES PARK, COLORADO**



Keynote Speaker
**DR. KATHY
MAXWELL**