

**Included in
this Issue:**

ABW Summer
Conference
...pg 1

ABW Summer
Conference Cont.
...pg 2

ABW Summer
Conference Cont.
...pg 3

Region Office Update
...pg 4

Planned Giving
...pg 5

ABCCR
Annual Gatherig
AB Girls Praise
Weekend
...pg 7

4Ten
...pg 7

ABCCR Camping
...pg 8

ABCCR Mission
Conference
...pg 8

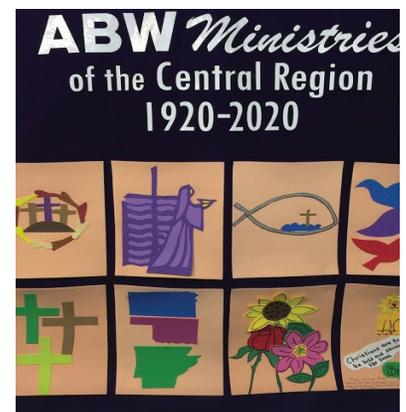
Windows: American Baptist Women's Summer Conference's of the Past, Present, and Future



The American Baptist's Women's Summer Conference for the Central Region has come and gone. It was held the first weekend of June at FBC Topeka. What a joyous time was had by almost one hundred faithful women. With the theme, "Windows...past, present, future and our scripture verse; Hebrews 13: 8 NIV, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" we began our 101st birthday celebration with our opening worship service and our keynote speaker Sandra Wimpelberg.



After lunch, we attended various workshops for the remainder of the afternoon, and Saturday morning as well. The workshops consisted of creative hands-on learning, ideas of ways to serve together, and praising God.



A very special 100-year anniversary banquet which we didn't get to celebrate because of Covid was held on Friday evening to celebrate the organization among Baptist women in Kansas to promote their local church, community and world missions. The banquet committee of Shirley Fair, Barbara Westfall, Lois Chiles, Wilma Engle, Cosette Marsh, Rita Adams, and Patty Hodge are to be commended for beautiful centerpieces, planning a delightful program and serving a delicious meal. Former living presidents were acknowledged and given a beautiful rose corsage if in attendance. The oldest living president in attendance was Harma McKenzie! The program, Hats Through the Years, was creatively presented by Linda Wallace, Minneapolis. The special music was brought by keynote speaker and former Central Region Associate Executive Minister, Rev. Sandra Wimpelberg.



Our global servant representative was Deliris Carrion-Joseph who is currently on home assignment and living between Andover and Attica, Kansas with her husband, Mosie. She was a most joyful person!! Her smile was infectious and her love for our Lord was written all over her face and spoken from her heart! It was an honor to have her at our annual conference! If anyone feels the calling to support Deliris as she returns to the mission field, her information may be found at <https://www.internationalministries.org> global servant.

2020-2021 ABWCR Projects -- 50/50



Multi-purpose Gymnasium

National (KC) - International (Hungary)
\$15,000 each



Bilingual Education Support

ABW Ministries is keenly aware of their responsibility to serve God and serve others through their offerings and special interests. This year, the Conference Committee designated three suggestions for which the women in the Central Region could support; the Conference General Offering (\$1,691), Love Gift (\$1,355) and the 2020-2021 Project (\$2,084).

For many years, the state officers have chosen a mini-project to which women may donate small amounts of cash/checks. This year's mini-project was the horticultural therapy program at Sunset Home in Concordia. They were in need of some small tools, a hose or two, gardening supplies, etc. The women contributed over \$350 to this project.



Another worthy program the annual conference supports is a silent auction to support AB Girls with summer camps and programming. The amount given to support the AB Girls was well over \$2,000!! That will go a long way for scholarships, materials, and projects!

A very special thank you to First Baptist Church Topeka who so graciously donated their church facilities for the use of this year's conference. We all learned at the banquet that the very first ABW conference was held at FBC Topeka! It was good to celebrate our special one hundred and first year of organization in such a beautiful house of our Lord.

Ladies, if you have never been to a summer conference or maybe not to one for several years, please mark your calendar for the first weekend of June, 2022 and put aside a few dollars for "future conference fees and offerings" so you will not have an excuse not to attend next year's conference. I think you will be blessed and recharged!

Mona Huggins
2021 Conference Intern Associate

Luther Rice members who
attended the conference



Region Office Update

We have some exciting news to share with our ABCCR family. Earlier this spring, as we were looking for additional tenants to lease space in our 5833 SW 29th Street office in Topeka, we were approached with an offer from a buyer to purchase the building instead of simply leasing space. The initial offer we received was not one that approached the value of the property. The buyer persisted by making several higher offers and at the May 8, 2021 ABCCR Board meeting, the Board voted to accept an offer that is significantly above the county tax value. We feel the offer accepted is a great opportunity to use this great resource in some new ways.

Here is a little background to our decision. The Region office has over 7,000 square feet which is about 5,500 square feet more than we need. We started looking for tenants in 2019 when the Wesleyan equivalent of the ABCCR was in the midst of a leadership transition and they informed us they would be moving out. We were able to find one tenant, but have been actively looking for additional tenants to utilize the unused space, with little progress. The pandemic has changed the way many businesses value office space. In the midst of that search for tenants to lease space, we were approached with this offer to purchase the building.

This decision to sell the building was neither an easy one nor one made quickly. It was made after several discussions among Board members and we thoroughly researched the valuations of this property, the implications of moving to a different space, the opportunities this will provide for ongoing ministry around the Region, and options for the new physical space that will serve the Region.

We have identified some office space in Topeka as the new location for the Region office. We'll be leasing approximately 1,500 square feet on a shorter-term lease because this is a great time for us to do an in-depth study of how we want to have our local ABCCR presence. The pandemic has taught us some valuable lessons on how we can work effectively in different ways, and we'll be able to benefit from that learning as we think about the future. Also during this time, the proceeds from the sale of the 5833 SW 29th property will be conservatively invested so we can be good stewards of this resource and will seek to continue to add value. The Administration & Finance Vision Team of the ABCCR will provide valuable oversight and direction for decisions we make about this transition. As soon as we have an updated mailing address, we will send out that information to the Region so continue to use our current mailing address (5833 SW 29th Street, Topeka, KS 66614) until further notice.

We want to be clear that this decision was made neither because of a financial crisis nor was it a forced decision. This was a very appealing opportunity to continue to be good stewards of this resource God has entrusted to us.

During the month of June 2021, we will be busy packing, scanning, and will continue to offer to our partnering churches furniture and items that will not be used by Region staff any longer but may be beneficial to you. Please let us know if you are in need of a desk, file cabinet, small table, or chair. We may have just the item you're looking for! We could also use your help as we work on this transition. Items will need to be sorted, boxed, and prepared for the move. If there's a group in your church or individuals that would like to help, we can accommodate your availability and willingness to help. Please contact Gregg (gregg.hemmen@abccr.org) or Jennifer (jennifer.schneider@abccr.org) to explore this option.

We look forward to the new opportunities this transition will bring to the ABCCR and are grateful for your partnership in ministry. We'd also ask that you share this information with your congregations and those who don't who receive email correspondence.



- ❖ 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
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

How Can God Live Within Us?

I was asked this question by a child, and I know I had the same question when I first accepted Christ as my Savior at age nine. I liked the illustrations of ordinary things used by Bernard of Clairvaux, a 12th century monk. He noted how a drop of water seems to disappear into a glass of wine, taking on the wine's flavor and color; or how a red-hot iron in a fire becomes indistinguishable from the fire's glow; or how a beam of light transforms the air - lighting it up. We become one with Christ when we accept Him as Savior and Lord!

It's mind-blowing to consider that God through Christ and the Spirit would dwell within us! But that is what Jesus promised. (John 14:17-18) With the Holy Spirit living within us, we find comfort and peace and the strength to speak up for justice. It's a presence we can't fully explain but we can recognize the power that we receive from it.

What a precious gift we have been given! What are we willing to give in return? Are we willing to yield our lives and all our possessions to His direction? Jesus gave up absolutely everything for us – even His life! Are we willing to give God first place in our lives, or expect Him to be satisfied with whatever 'leftovers' we might have after doing and spending as we want.

Are we clinging to earthly possessions instead of clinging to the Lord to supply our needs? Throughout generations we have placed a high priority on how many 'things' we possess. It seems to establish our status in a community and so we always want just a little more. This is a natural human tendency, but not God's way.

Would you consider sharing some of what you have with ministries who strive to reach the lost for Christ? There are many ways to do this, including a Charitable Gift Annuity which gives you income for life. I'd love to talk with you about possibilities that fit your situation. There is no cost or obligation for my services.

Rev. Wilma E. Engle, Director of Planned Giving
E-mail: wilmaengle@juno.com
Cell: 316-644-2069

Or

Rev. Timothy Schwartz, Assistant Director of Planned Giving
E-mail: 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

AB Girls Praise Weekend!!

It's not too late to register girls, 3rd- 12th grade for AB Girls Praise Weekend. There will be two weekend opportunities.

Saturday July 10th:
London Heights Baptist Church
734 N 78th St, Kansas City, KS 66112
(913) 334-2140

Saturday July 24th
First Baptist Church Hays
1111 Fort St, Hays, KS 67601
(785) 625-9454

The theme for this year's event is J.O.Y. (Jesus first, Other's second, and You last) from the verse Mark 12:29 - 31 "Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Fun - Fellowship - Service Project - Talent Show - Scavenger Hunt - GJSA's (come find out what that means) and we'll find out about real JOY by taking a closer walk with Jesus!

For more info on all things to do with Praise Saturdays go to <https://abw-cr.squarespace.com/praise-weekend> and check out our Facebook Page by searching for AB GIRLS of the Central Region.



4TEN IS CUTTING EDGE LEADERSHIP SKILLS TRAINING FOR YOUTH ENTERING 10-12TH GRADES DURING THE FALL. 4TEN WAS FORMED BY THE SCRIPTURE I 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 desire to be leaders in their own churches.



DO YOU KNOW YOUTH WITH A LOT OF LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL?

YOU MAY NOMINATE THEM BY SENDING THEIR NAME, CHURCH, AND PHONE NUMBER TO REV. JENNIFER SCHNEIDER AT

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

PRIMARY | GRADES 2-4 | JUNE 28-30 | VALERIE TERRAZAS.....\$125

DAY | GRADES K-2 | JULY 1-2 | TONYA KOEHN.....\$70

Cross Wind

JUNIOR | GRADES 4-6 | JULY 26- 30| KAMI MINOR.....\$280

Ottawa University

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL | GRADES 6-12 | JULY 12- 16 | MORGAN BANDY.....\$280

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

CENTRAL REGION

ANNUAL
MISSIONS
CONFERENCE

JANUARY 14-15

HAVE YOU HEARD?



TODAY, we're launching the 2022 Missions & Evangelism Annual Conference, and we don't want you to miss out on all the features and tools that can help your church grow.

Regardless of COVID, this conference will be in-person and simulcast.

This is not just about missions. You will receive tools that make missions relevant and practical. The tools you need to grow your church!

We'll see you there!

Central Region
Annual Missions Conference

It's LIVE and It's ONLINE.

JANUARY 14-15
MARK YOUR CALENDAR