

August 2021

Kansas Baptist Convention, Inc.

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American Baptist Churches of the Central Region will host its 42nd Annual Gathering. This year Annual Gathering will take place at First Baptist Church, Salina on October 1-2, 2021.

The Annual Gathering Planning Committee has been praying over this event and all who will attend. They encourage you to use this time together to uplift and encourage one another as we are able to gather together as brothers and sister in Christ.

**The business meeting and voting will be held via Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday, September 28th. If you are a delegate please include your email on the registration form.**

**Please pay attention to registration dates. Meals will not be available for registrations received after September 10th.**

Registration forms are included in this packet or you can find registration links on our website at: <https://abccr.org/5320-2/>

**All Church Registration Form  
2021 ABCCR Annual Gathering  
October 1-2, 2021  
First Baptist Church, Salina, KS**

With an All Church Registration, members need only pay for their food, childcare, and accommodations.

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

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

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

**Registration Fees**

All Church Registration (does not cover childcare, meals, or accommodations)

All Church Registration (postmarked by Sept. 10): \$150 \_\_\_\_\_

**Delegates and Participants Registering From Our Church**

**DELEGATES**

(please include email so we can send a link since all voting will be held via Zoom)

**Each member church shall have a quota of two (2) delegates plus an additional delegate for each full one hundred (100) resident members as reported in the last ABCCR Annual report**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Other PARTICIPANTS**

Mail Registration Form and Payment\* postmarked by September 10th, 2021

ATTN: Annual Gathering Registrar

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

5833 SW 29th St, Ste A, Topeka KS 66614-5505

\*Make checks payable to ABCCR Questions? Call us at (785) 272-7622

NOTE: Registration for delegates/participants is not complete until individual registration forms and meal payments have been received in the Region office. Please coordinate with delegates and participants to ensure that the All Church Registration form is submitted prior to individual registration forms if possible.

**ABCCR OFFICE USE ONLY**

CK # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Recd \_\_\_\_\_

CK Amt \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_

**2021 ABCCR Annual Gathering Individual Registration Form**  
**October 1-2, 2021, First Baptist Church, Salina**

**Please complete a separate registration form for each person**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print your name as you want it to appear on your name tag.)

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

**I AM A:** ☐ Delegate ☐ Board Member ☐ Participant ☐ Exhibitor ☐ ABCCR Staff

**REGISTRATION FEES**

\_\_\_\_\_ My registration fee was paid by All Church Registration  
(does not cover childcare, meals or accommodations)

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Adult Registration

Registration (postmarked by Sept. 10th) \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Registration (postmarked AFTER Sept. 10th) \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Registration** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILDCARE**

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of children (nursery to 5th grade) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Youth (6th grade+)

\$20.00 ea. (3 or more: \$50.00)

Please submit completed Childcare Form with your registration

**Total Childcare** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEALS**

\*Meals will not be available for those who register after Sept. 10th.

**Thursday, September 30, 2021**

\_\_\_\_\_ *BBQ for Clergy & Spouse Dinner:* (free) Pizza for Kids \_\_\_\_\_ \$5

**Friday, October 1, 2021**

\_\_\_\_\_ *ABW and AB Men Boxed Lunch* Age 13+: \$9.00 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 and younger: \$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Pasta Dinner* Age 13+: \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Age 12-6: \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 and Under Free \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Meals** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL MONEY ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_  
(registration, childcare, and meal totals)

**ABCCR Office Use**

Ind Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
Ind Amt \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ch Ck # \_\_\_\_\_  
Ch Amt \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date Recd. \_\_\_\_\_  
Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_

## CHILD CARE REGISTRATION-Please fill out one per child/you

We are so glad you are including your whole family in this year's Annual Gathering!

Childcare will be provided during all scheduled events.

(Pick up times will be provided to you prior to the event).

Please fill out the information below and don't hesitate to ask any questions you may have by contacting Morgan Bandy at (785) 241-9820.

Total # of Children (nursery-5 grade)\_\_\_\_\_ Total # of Youth (6-12th)\_\_\_\_\_

Put an X next to the meals your child will be eating:

Thursday Dinner\_\_\_\_\_ Friday Lunch\_\_\_\_\_ Friday Dinner\_\_\_\_\_

Put an X next to your child's age category:

Nursery Care (0-3 yrs)\_\_\_\_\_ Pre-K (3 yrs and potty-trained up to Kindergarten)\_\_\_\_\_

Elementary (Kindergarten—5th grade)\_\_\_\_\_ Youth (6th-12th grade)\_\_\_\_\_

Email to [morgan.bandy@abccr.org](mailto:morgan.bandy@abccr.org) or Mail to: ABCCR, 5833 SW 29th St, Ste A, Topeka KS 666

Child's Name\_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Name\_\_\_\_\_

Age\_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade\_\_\_\_\_ Gender\_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent's E-mail\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Insurance Co.\_\_\_\_\_ Insurance Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies\_\_\_\_\_

What else should we know\_\_\_\_\_

Permission is granted to seek Emergency Medical Care until I/we can be reached:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature



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

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



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

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

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

## Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation

# Planned Giving

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

## A Country Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand

On June 16, 1858 Abraham Lincoln gave his famous speech that began with “A house divided against itself cannot stand”. He was referring to the slavery issue and predicted that we would either be slave or free – that we could not co-exist with such a great division among the states. A panel of historians in 2011 emphasized “while slavery and its various and multifaceted discontents were the primary cause of disunion, it was disunion itself that sparked the Civil War.”

At no time in my lifetime do I recall as much controversy among Americans as we have now. Last year it was the division regarding race and now it's over whether or not COVID vaccinations and wearing masks can be required. I'm not taking sides, just stating facts! When I was young, we were required to get smallpox shots to prevent having another epidemic of it. When polio came on the scene, we were all required to take the medicated sugar cubes to prevent getting it. We never hesitated as my cousin had gotten polio and we certainly didn't want it. Before our children could go to school, they had to have the DPT shots. We never questioned anyone's authority to require that, it was just a fact.

No matter which way you believe, I think it is tragic how violent our disagreements have become. Jesus gave His life so that we could live in His image of unconditional love; and yet, even some professing Christians are speaking out in unloving ways either in protests or social media.

As followers of Christ, can we not lovingly express our opinions and allow others to have theirs? There are so many needs in the world today that I believe should be our focus – consider all who have been devastated by floods, tornados, hurricanes, etc. Many were already struggling to provide for families and now, except for the help of God's people, it seems impossible.

There are so many ways that you can share the financial blessings that God has given you. It may seem that you really don't have much, but look around the world and you'll realize how truly blessed you are.

I'd love to talk with you to discuss what might be the right solution for you. It could be an immediate gift, one spread over a period of time or a Charitable Gift Annuity that gives you income for the rest of your life and then benefits the ministries you have chosen. Please give me a call. There is no charge for my services or obligation to follow my suggestions. I'll be available at ABCCR Annual Gathering, so see you there!

Rev. Wilma E. Engle, Director of Planned Giving  
cell: 316-644-2069  
6745 Interurban, Wichita, KS 67204  
e-mail: [wilmaengle10@gmail.com](mailto:wilmaengle10@gmail.com)

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



## 2021 Annual Gathering Speakers



Lois Olmstead, author, humorist and former talk show host, will be the keynote speaker for the Central Region Annual Gathering held October 1-2, 2021 at First Baptist Church, Salina, KS.

Lois Olmstead impacts audiences with her positive views of living a joyful life speaking as a humorous keynote speaker at over 4800 events in the US and Canada. Inspiring others is part of her everyday life. She always makes you leave feeling better than when you came!

Lois has written seven published books and authors a weekly newspaper column that goes world-wide on the internet. Her home is on the family ranch in the Shields Valley north of Livingston, Montana.

Mark your calendars now for October 1-2 and then fill out your registration information as soon as you receive it. You will want to be a part of this inspiring weekend!



Our Friday night speaker will be Patti Beth Anderson, or as you will meet her, Willamae.

Patti Beth resides in Grove, Ok. She has been an entertainer at Silver Dollar City in Branson, MO.

She is probably best known for her twenty-some years entertaining as the character of Willamae at Grove's Kountry Kuzin's Jamboree Show. Her down-home style of comedy has been enjoyed by thousands of folks visiting the Grand Lake area.

Ms. Anderson is a "Good Will Ambassador" for Grove as she treats visitors to the delights of her home town by providing comedic commentaries as a step-on guide for motor coach travelers.

One of her favorite roles is being mom to a great son, Caleb Paul Abbott. Patti Beth and her husband, comedy magician Doug Anderson attend Cayuga Mission Church in Grove.

# **2021 Annual Gathering Workshops**

## **Tai Chi for Health and Renewal**

A workshop giving participants a chance to learn a bit of Tai Chi, an ancient eastern health system for balance, flexibility and vitality. Participants will learn about the mental components of Tai Chi (meditation) that allows for the reduction of stress and increased focus and mental clarity. Participants will also try a few exercises, seated, standing, stretches and breath. Provided in partnership with the Lawrence Academy of Tai Qi.

The workshop will be facilitated by Trish Dowd Kelne. Trish Dowd Kelne is the director of Winter Center for Restorative Justice, a nonprofit community outreach organization. Trish has worked in the nonprofit setting for 20 years, with community outreach, education and empowerment. She was co-chair of Martha and Mary's Way, an interfaith organization and has facilitated poetry and prayer classes for retired religious professionals. She is dedicated to faith based outreach. She has been blessed to work with First Baptist Churches, Youth and Pastors as part of a partnership with Fredrikson Center of OU and Chaplain John Holzhüter. She is a certified instructor for the Academy of Tai Qi through which she teaches classes and seminars. Trish received her degree in Creative Writing from Kansas State University, her facilitation certification from Winter Center and her Tai Qi certification from HuoLong Studios.

She is grateful for the gift of her beloved husband of 20 years and their 11 year old daughter, and of course Norman-the dog. The family lives in Lawrence with a handful of chickens and one turtle dove.

Tai Qi is a Chinese exercise that stresses the use of mind not force. Its quality is in its stillness –its slow movements, which integrate mind and body. Participants gain strength, flexibility and vitality through instruction in postures and breathing methods. Students of all fitness levels are encouraged to join.

## **Missionary Workshop**

Global servants, Eric and Yuree Lembke, will be sharing about their ministry in Thailand. They serve at the Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible School & College (KKBBSC) located in Mae La Refugee Camp near Mae Sot, Thailand. Young adults, mostly from the Karen ethnic group, attend the school to pursue a degree in ministry so that they are able serve as Christian leaders within the refugee camps and internally displaced persons in areas along the Thai/Myanmar border. Eric and Yuree's ministry focuses on working with refugees through education, discipleship, and evangelism. At the school, they teach English and ministry classes. They also travel to villages in the Karen State, Myanmar with KKBBSC students and staff to teach and conduct Bible classes.

# 2021 Annual Gathering Workshops Cont.

## Compassion As A Catalyst to Recalibrate, Reset, and Refresh

Dr. Joel Schroeder, a pastor residing in the ABCCR but currently not serving a church, will teach a workshop entitled, "Compassion as a Catalyst to Recalibrate, Reset, and Refresh." He will build upon some key passages and use a book called "Compassionomics" to illustrate the value of compassion to those that give and receive it.

## Reshaping Church

Several ABCCR churches have been part of the Reshaping Church process in 2020-2021. Reshaping Church is a guided process for adapting to a changing church environment and seeking God for a personalized approach to growth and transformation. We have had churches of all sizes and in different contexts take part in this process. A panel of leaders will talk about their experience and field questions you may have. Those panelists include: Bill Hendricks (interim pastor and ABCCR Director of Interim Ministries), Melissa Newberry (pastor of Grandview Baptist Church, Kansas City, KS), Kathy Pickett (pastor of Prairie Baptist Church, Prairie Village, KS), and Matt Sturtevant (pastor of First Baptist Church, Lawrence, KS).

## Vantagepoint 3

The past 2 year, the ABCCR has used the Vantagepoint 3 process as a tool for discipleship and leadership development. Vantagepoint 3 is a 9-month journey through the Bible, personal inventories, current leadership insights, and writings on spirituality to probe three key questions: (a) Who is God? (b) Who am I? (C) What is God up to in my life? This past year, we had 3 groups that went through this process and we plan on offering this opportunity to new groups again this year. A panel of this year's leaders will describe their experiences of the process and answer your questions. Those leaders are: Jessica Henks (Administration & Worship Pastor at First Baptist Church of Stilwell, KS), Wallace Smith (pastor of First Baptist Church of Overland Park, KS), and Blake Wyatt (pastor of First Baptist Church,

## 2021 Annual Gathering Schedule

### Friday, October 1, 2021

8:00 AM Registration Opens  
11:00 AM ABWomen & ABMen meeting and lunch  
1:15PM Worship Session #1  
2:45 PM Break  
3:00 PM Workshops  
4:00 PM Break  
4:15 PM Worship Session #2  
5:30 PM All Gathering Dinner  
6:30 PM Evening Program

### Saturday, October 2, 2021

7:30 AM Registration continues  
8:00 AM Devotional - Rev. Jennifer Schneider  
8:30 AM Workshops  
9:45 AM Worship Session #3  
Journey home





**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 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](mailto:jennifer.schneider@abccr.org)**

# BEYOND INFORMATION

## Preaching & Teaching for Transformation

SEPTEMBER 16-17 COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT SALINA KS

This Sunday, millions of people will attend a local church. Some will be dedicated followers of Jesus Christ, while others will simply be curious. All of them will come to hear God's voice.

When the local pastor opens the Bible, everyone will look up with anticipation. They have come to hear God's word. They want their pastor to open the Bible and say what God has said. They are hungry for a clear, powerful message that speaks to their lives.

This seminar will help you preach THAT message.



### SEMINAR SPEAKER

**Dr. J. Kent Edwards**

Professor of Preaching and Leadership at Talbot School of Theology/Biola University

Founder/CEO CrossTalk Global

Author of two award-winning books: *Effective First-Person Biblical Preaching* (Zondervan, 2005) and *Deep Preaching* (Broadman & Holman, 2009)

**\$60** PER PERSON

Includes lunch  
on both days

**Beyond Information... Preaching & Teaching for Transformation** is a seminar that reveals the power of using the shape of a biblical passage to determine the shape of the sermon. When you say what God says in Scripture, the way that God said it, you can release the full power of God's Word.

Using the gospel of Luke as a guide, you will discover how Luke changed the world through his strategic use of narratives, parables, and teachings. But you will also learn how you, by echoing his strategies, can change lives today.

**Come learn how to transform lives by creating messages that reflect the shifting genres of gospel literature.**

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND** Pastors, Ministers, Lay Leaders who are called on to teach and preach in their local church.

**WHY ATTEND** Proclaiming God's Word is a big responsibility. Anyone who has shouldered this responsibility week in and week out understands what a challenge this job is. This seminar will offer fresh perspectives on the purpose and methods of preaching the various genres of scripture to your congregation.

This is the fourth year the CrossTalk Salina committee is offering a biblical preaching seminar in central Kansas.

This event will encourage and inspire the attendee to seek excellence in Biblical communication and will offer practical

skills to achieve that goal. By focusing on the gospel of Luke, participants will gain an appreciation for various biblical genres and an understanding of the creative ways that God communicates through the Bible.

**ALSO INCLUDED** will be an introduction to a three-year mentoring plan for individuals interested in going to the next level. CrossTalk Global's intensive, high-quality, results-oriented program has enabled pastors and Christian leaders around the world to maximize their ministries with the power of God's Word. This program will not be easy, but we guarantee that it will be worthwhile!

## QUESTIONS?

Email [crosstalksalina@gmail.com](mailto:crosstalksalina@gmail.com) or call Larry Kejr 785-643-0511 or Tom Christy 785-820-0595

# 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!

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Central Region  
Annual Missions Conference

It's LIVE and It's ONLINE.

JANUARY 14-15  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR