Central Region Like FEBRUARY 2025

CENTRAL SEMINARY HAS MOVED

In 2023, Central Seminary's Board of Directors made the decision to relocate their campus headquarters to a right-sized campus space as part of "The Future is Central," three strategic initiatives created to lead the seminary into the future while continuing their commitment to delivering excellent theological education while also addressing the shifting ministry needs of our world.

Few programs at Central now require in-person learning, a trend that is common at seminaries across the country. All programs are offered either fully or partially online. Most students no longer live within drivable distance to our Shawnee, Kansas campus. They instead are scattered across the United States and around the world, and their preference is to learn virtually. Only international students living in the U.S. on a student visa and some doctoral students are required to be occasionally on campus.

President Pamela R. Durso finalized the sale of the Shawnee campus to a growing congregation in the Kansas City area that needed more land and additional space.

In late December, Central moved to their new location: 8620 W. 110th Street, Overland Park, Kansas. This new space of 9,000 square feet includes classrooms, a library, prayer and reflection space, faculty and staff offices, and other shared workspaces. It is the perfect space for a global seminary in the 21st century.

As part of this relocation, about 80% of Central's print book collection was digitized and added to the Digital Theological Library (DTL) for greater accessibility. All students, regardless of program and physical proximity to campus, will have access to Central's library collection plus the 1.5 million books and 61,000 journals already available through DTL. From the print collection that remained, Central shared just over 700 books with sister schools: the Cambodian Bible Institute and The Chin College.

Central is hosting an OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, March 15, 2:00-4:00pm (CT). All are welcome. Text "RSVP" to (913) 270-3062 for a link to the RSVP form OR scan the following QR code







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Camping 2025

2025 Mission Summit

ABW Summer Conference

MPYC 2026



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

Are You Following Through?

It's February, so I'm checking up on you. Did you make any New Year's resolutions this year? What do you want to change this year or do differently? So many people, in general, want to make big changes including:

- Exercising more to get healthy
- Eating less or better to lose weight
- Stop smoking
- Drinking more water
- Drinking less alcohol
- Giving up other addictions
- Growing closer to spouse / family
- Spending more time with God
- Spending more time in prayer
- Getting more involved in missions
- Make a budget /spend less money
- Volunteering more
- Giving more to missions & church
- Saving on taxes

The problem is that we may want to change so many things at once and then we make one mistake or have one bad day and we give up on our resolutions all together!! Generally speaking, New Year's resolutions do not work. Consider a few quotes below:

- "The only thing harder than making a New Year's resolution is keeping it."
- "The best way to make a New Year's resolution is to not make one at all." (Sources are unknown for both.)

Now after sharing both of these quotations you may have a different opinion of me. You might think I may be a pessimist or a negative thinker, but that is definitely not true! However, I am a realist and I know how hard change is for myself, so I figure it's just as hard for anyone else to accomplish. Maybe instead of making New Year's resolutions, we should pray and think about changes we want to make in the new year and ask God to help us, and find others to encourage us in those endeavors. I am trying to do that as I want to make some changes for the better in my own life and ministry as well.

That list of resolutions that I made up earlier was just a standard list of many things that people want to change. Still, if you are interested in the last two items on the list, I can help you with that. If you wish to fund a charitable gift annuity in this new year, I can assist you in that way. The benefits of funding a charitable gift annuity are at least three fold or triune, in my opinion. If you want to fund a gift annuity with \$1,000, \$10,000 or even \$100,000, then you can receive those three benefits or blessings. Just to be clear you can give any amount you wish, but the minimum gift is \$1,000.

The first is that a portion of the gift comes back to you, if you list yourself as the beneficiary. You can also include your spouse in that as well, which is called a two-life annuity. Based on the amount of the gift and the age or ages of the beneficiaries, a certain percentage of this split interest gift comes back to you in a payment that you will receive till the end of your life.

The second benefit will help you accomplish your resolution to give more money to missions and the church because you can choose the mission partners that your remainder amount will help when the Lord calls you home. These mission partners can include your home church, another church, a variety of offerings and a myriad of mission partners including American Baptist institutions, our Home Mission Society, International Ministries and individual missionaries that serve around the globe through I M.

The third benefit will help you accomplish that last item on the resolution list, which is to save on taxes. You will receive an income tax deduction based on the amount given to fund the gift annuity that corresponds to the remainder amount given to the mission partners of your choice. This amount is calculated by our planned giving software. Also, if you have appreciated stock and wish to use that to fund a charitable gift annuity, not only will you receive an income tax deduction, but you will receive a capital gains tax deduction based upon the amount of stock that you are using to fund the annuity. So that could be a win-win situation for you as well!

I guess there is really a fourth benefit as well because you will receive the satisfaction, joy and good feeling of knowing that you have helped a variety of mission partners to care for others and announce the good news of God's Kingdom, Jesus' love and the Holy Spirit's presence to help many more people become a part of the family of God!

If you are interested in funding a charitable gift annuity, please get a hold of me by phone or email and I will be happy to help you fund your annuity and benefit others in the process. I pray that God's grace and strength will be upon you as you work on your resolutions or choose another way to make changes in your life!



Topeka clergy gathered to honor the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Delmar White, pastor at New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church was the keynote speaker.



Rhythm of Praise Youth Band at First Baptist Church of Atchison, KS leading the congregation in worship.



4Ten students gathered for their second event at First Baptist Church of Overland Park. During worship shared about what it means to be a leader in the kingdom of God.



The women at First Baptist Church of Winfield, KS enjoyed a night of fellowship and crafts where they made some creative snowmen decorations.

CAPTURED!

In the Central Region





Bethel Neighborhood sewing students embracing new skills in a space they lovingly describe as "a haven of happiness and inclusivity, where everyone feels valued and supported."







Rev. Dr. Ivan Greuter and Jessamine Greuter on their trip to Liberia, Africa. Ivan taught two theology classes a Liberia Theological Seminary. They were able to serve and learn with those in the community about initiatives in education, health care, and spiritual growth.



As our country shifts its commercial focus to flowers, candy and other gifts for Valentine's Day, let us pray that we might be mindful of the needs of others, who are not our spouses, children, family and friends.

Let us pray that God would open our hearts to help those we come into contact with including the homeless, helpless, depressed, discouraged, devastated, downtrodden, lonely, hungry and needy, just to name a few.

Let us pray that Jesus would encourage and motivate us to do something tangible to help our neighbors in need. As Jesus responded to the Pharisee in regard to the question of what is the greatest commandment, so the scripture says: "And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:39. (ESV)



CENTRAL SEMINARY RECEIVES GRANT TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

Central Seminary has been selected to participate in the Climate Science in Theological Education (CSTE) Grant Initiative of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program.

This project will enable Central to build greater capacity to address climate change. Rev. Dr. Ruth Rosell, director of the Buttry Center for Peace and Nonviolence at Central, will direct the CSTE grant program. Programs and activities being explored through this grant include virtual and in-person events, conversations, and discussion aimed at equipping faith leaders and students for the emerging crisis of climate change.

"I'm grateful Central Seminary was chosen to receive this Climate Science in Theological Education grant," said Rev. Rosell. "It will contribute toward fulfilling our mission of preparing leaders to seek God, shape church, and serve humanity and all creation. It will do this by providing opportunities for students, faculty, staff, alumni, pastors, and people of faith to better understand and respond to the challenges of doing faithful ministry in our changing climate. It also connects us to other seminaries and those in the scientific community who are engaged in addressing the climate crisis."

The Climate Science in Theological Education initiative is a project of the AAAS DoSER program. The project provides grants to seminaries to engage climate science and climate change in the context of theological education and ministry. Integrating science into seminary education and events will encourage interest within seminaries and surrounding communities about the relevance of science to theological education and will produce a growing number of religious leaders equipped to help their congregants find answers to science-related questions.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the Science family of journals. The nonprofit is open to all and fulfills its mission to "advance science and serve society" through initiatives in science policy, international programs, science education, public engagement, and more. Building upon its mission, AAAS established the Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program in 1995 to facilitate communication between scientific and religious communities. For the latest information and news about AAAS DoSER and the Climate Science in Theological Education project, visit AAAS.org/DoSER, ScienceReligionDialogue.org, and ScienceforSeminaries.org.





IDENTITY THROUGH THE LENS OF CHRIST

Rev. Jennifer Schneider, Associate Executive Minister

Over the last few weeks, the topic of identity has come up more than once. Last Sunday, when I was worshiping with FBC Horton, Pastor John Kress challenged us to think about who we are in Christ and what we are called to do if we claim our identity in him. Furthermore, earlier that week, I had another conversation with one of our pastors about how we identify ourselves primarily as a child of God before any other identifiers such as our profession, country of residence, school, place in our family, etc. (or even favorite football team. Go Chiefs!)

Youth ministry leaders and researchers talk a lot about how to help young people discover their identity and purpose. Authors and scholars from Fuller Youth Institute discovered in their research that young people are asking big questions about identity, purpose, and belonging. Parents, pastors, church leaders, and youth ministry leaders are encouraged to make space for young people to ask difficult questions in order to discover who they are in Christ.

Yet, this is not really a new idea. Blaise Pascal wrote in, "Not only do we not know God except through Jesus Christ; we do not even know ourselves except through Jesus Christ." Christ is the lens through which we view God and, in turn, ourselves.

If we first and foremost identity as followers of Christ and children of God, then we must ask ourselves important questions. What does that mean for how we should live? What should be our priorities? How shall we spend our time, talents, and resources? How should we identify ourselves to others?

The same would be true for how we view others. If we see God and ourselves through the lens of Christ, then we must also see others through that same lens. They are created and loved by God as well. They might not know Christ, but we do.

Young people are making important decisions about who they are, what God is calling them to, and where they belong. People in their teens and twenties are in a crucial time of discovery and growth. They need adults in their lives who live out their identities in Christ in real and visible ways. Yet, faith is a journey, not a destination. In some ways, we are all still trying to figure out who we are and what God wants for us.

In Psalms 139:14, we find David's words of praise, reminding us that the One who created everything created us. "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well." We know full well that we are, first and foremost, God's children and followers of Christ. May we seek every day to live out that identity in Christ in all that we do and say so that the world and our children might see God and themselves through the lens of Christ.



PRAIRIE PASTORS

CONFERENCE-



March 31- April 2, 2025



Sunset Hills Baptist Church
9416 Pacific St.
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for the
Lodgin



There is no registration fee unless you register for the optional boundaries training. Lodging and some meals will not be provided.



Dr. Kathy Maxwell has served as the Central Seminary Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty since 2023, providing vision and leadership in directing and overseeing the work of all faculty and academic activities that are consistent with Central Seminary's mission, vision, unique value proposition, and all current and forthcoming strategic and culture plans.

Dr. Maxwell earned her Ph.D. in New Testament from Baylor University, Waco, Texas. Her dissertation, Hearing Between the Lines, explores the audience's active role in receiving and telling the story of Luke-Acts and was published in 2010 by T&T Clark. Her current research focuses on the audience's formation and participation in hearing the biblical story in ancient times and the modern world. She is particularly interested in biblical storytelling and certified through the Network of Biblical Storytellers. Dr. Maxwell is also a two-time graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, where she earned a Master of Divinity degree from Logsdon School of Theology and a Bachelor of Arts in Church Ministry.

"I have worked to develop an empathetic leadership style, specifically valuing the art of listening, the questions driven by creativity and curiosity, and the hard work of seeking common ground. My interest in biblical storytelling has played a significant role in this regard. Through the process of internalizing scripture and the regular practice of placing myself in the "sandals" of biblical characters, I have become convinced that hospitality and reconciliation are at the core of the biblical story.

Hospitality and reconciliation are impossible without cultivating empathy."

Dr. Kathy Maxwell and her husband, Dr. Nathan Maxwell, and their two young sons live in the Kansas City area.



Rev. Dr. Aaron Kilbourn Workshop

Rev. Dr. Aaron Kilbourn is an MDiv graduate from Sioux Falls Seminary and has a PhD in Theology and Apologetics from Liberty University Rawlings School of Divinity. He has served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Parker, SD for 21 years. In recent years, he has helped develop and teach certificate, undergraduate, and graduate programs at Colorado Christian University's Lee Strobel Center. He has also served as a faculty mentor for Kairos University in Sioux Falls, SD, and has enjoyed serving on the ABC of the Dakotas Region Policy Board.

Rev. Dr. Kilbourn has great joy in seeing men and women come to understand their God-given gifts and become equipped to serve their community and ministry context for the glory of God and the going out of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He loves the Scripture from Jude 3, "Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."

He is married to Michelle, and they have a daughter and son, Aubrey and Zack. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and tennis. He also tries to avoid getting beat at basketball by Zack and tries new lunch spots with Aubrey.



Rev. Mike Justice

Boundaries Course Instructor

Rev. Mike Justice is the pastor of Milton Baptist Church in Kansas. A schoolteacher when called, he earned a master's degree in Christian ministry from Friends University in 2001 by taking evening classes. The church called him as pastor in 2002.

SCHEDULE

Monday, March 31

1:00 PM- 4:00 PM

Boundaries Training at ABC of Nebraska Office (Optional)

11244 Blondo St., Omaha, NE 68164

Cost \$50 per person

Facilitator: Rev. Mike Justice

4:30 PM Registration at Sunset Hills Baptist Church

5:15 PM Welcome

5:30 PM Dinner

6:45 PM Session 1

Keynote Speaker, Dr. Kathy Maxwell

8:30 PM Fellowship

Tuesday, April 1

9:00 AM Session 2

10:00 AM Workshop 1

Apologetics 101: Having an Answer with Rev. Dr. Aaron Kilbourn

Biblical Storytelling: Dr. Kathy Maxwell

11:00 AM Workshop 2

Apologetics 101: Having an Answer with Rev. Dr. Aaron Kilbourn

Biblical Storytelling: Dr. Kathy Maxwell

12:00 PM Lunch- Regions gather for lunch

1:30 PM Free Time

Optional Activity: Guided tour of downtown Omaha to show pastors and

guests Mission Summit location and area activities.

Speakers and Mission Partners available

Dinner on your own

6:45 PM Session 1

Keynote Speaker, Dr. Kathy Maxwell

8:30 PM Group Photo

Wednesday, April 2

9:00 AM Session 4

Worship & Communion



Omaha Marriott

10220 Regency Circle Omaha, NE 68114 402-399-9000

1.6 Miles from Sunset Hills Baptist Church

Holiday Inn Express and Suites Central Omaha

8736 West Dodge Road Omaha, NE 68114 402-343-1000

1.7 Miles from Sunset Hills Baptist Church

Staybridge Suites: Omaha 80th and Dodge

7825 Davenport Street Omaha, NE 68114 402-933-8901

2.5 Miles from Sunset Hills Baptist Church

<u>Hilton Garden Inn Omaha</u> <u>Aksarben Village</u>

6737 Frances Street Omaha, NE 68106 402-334-4441

3.2 Miles from Sunset Hills Baptist Church

Hampton Inn Omaha/ West Dodge Road

11201 Davenport Street Omaha, NE 68154 402-334-4938

3.4 Miles from Sunset Hills Baptist Church

TownePlace Suites Omaha West

10865 West Dodge Road Omaha, NE 68154 402-590-2800

3.5 Miles from Sunset Hills Baptist Church

Best Western Old Mill Inn

650 North 109th Court Omaha, NE 68154 402-431-1246

3.7 Miles from Sunset Hills Baptist Church

Aloft Omaha Aksarben Village

6201 Center Street Omaha, NE 68106 402-819-2500

3.8 Miles from Sunset Hills Baptist Church

VISIT OMAHA

GENERAL INFORMATION

https://www.visitomaha.com/

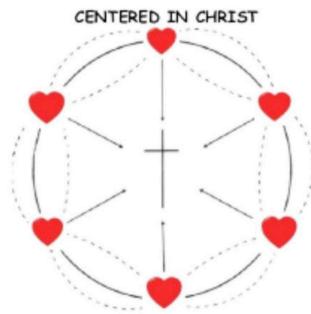
| FOOD | ACTIVITIES | SHOPPING | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| FUN FACT! Omaha has one of the | Beautiful Downtown | Aksarben Village | |
| highest number of restaurants per capita of all large cities in America. | Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium | (Yes, Nebraska spelled backward | |
| | Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge | Nebraska Furniture Mart | |
| Blackstone District Aksarben Village | Lewis and Clark Museum | (The Original) | |
| <u>Downtown</u> | Riverfront area | Oak View Mall | |
| Do you like Reubens? They were invented in Omaha! Check out these restaurants claiming to have the best one! | Axe Throwing! | Old Market | |
| | Top Golf | | |
| | Multiple Mini-Golf locations | <u>Regency</u> | |
| Restaurants near Sunset Hills: | Escape Room | Westroads Mall | |
| Cheesecake Factory | Archery games | The Chang of Lagran | |
| PF Changs | Spielbound board game cafe | The Shops of Legacy | |
| Bonefish Grill Wheatfields bakery | Joes Indoor Go Kart Track | Nebraska Crossing Outlets | |
| Brother Sebastian's Steakhouse | Scorz Sports Center | | |
| Local Coffee Shops: | Fontanelle Forest | | |
| Zen Coffee Co | | | |

Stories Coffee Co

Village Grinder Cafe Botanica



2025 SENIOR ADULT RETREAT



April 23–24, 2025 Central Baptist Church Great Bend, KS Mark your calendars now for this event with keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Robin Stoops. Dr. Stoops has been engaging in a special assignment working in Mission Resource Development for the American Baptist Churches USA and is now currently serving as the interim Pastor at First Baptist

Development for the American Baptist
Churches USA and is now currently serving
as the interim Pastor at First Baptist
Church Topeka. He previously served as the Executive Minister of
the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska.

Registration information will be available soon. Watch for more details throughout the Central Region's many avenues.

Ephesians 3:16-19

Lodging and Hotels



Best Western – Angus Inn 2920 10th Street 620-792-3541 Complimentary Breakfast Super 8 by Wyndham 911 Grant Street 620-910-9523 Complimentary Breakfast

Days Inn 4701 10th Street 620-792-8235 Complimentary Breakfast Travelodge
3200 10th Street
620-792-7219
No Breakfast mentioned on website

Holiday Inn 3821 10th Street 620-603-6565

3500 10th Street 620-793-8486

Quality Inn

Complimentary Breakfast

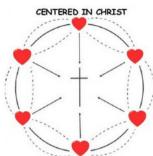
Complimentary Breakfast

Workshops



Handbells with Jan Smith
Craft Class led by Janet Crow
Spiritual Gifts with John Williams
Choir led by Bob Artz and Ruth Clark
All Group Bible Study with Waylon Upchego
Walking with Jesus led by Mike Justice & Jerry Neeley

ABCCR SENIOR ADULT RETREAT April 23-24, 2025



Central Baptist Church, 3301 Lakin Ave., Great Bend, KS 67530

Guest Speaker, Rev. Dr. Robin Stoops

Theme: "Centered in Christ" Scripture: Ephesians 3:16-19 (NRSVUE)

| Name: | | Phone: | |
|--|---|---|-----------------|
| (If registering as a couple, please v | write spouse's name below) | | |
| Spouse: | | Email: | |
| Address: | | Home Church: | |
| | | & City | |
| City / State / Zip: | | · | |
| Full Detroet lineludes program and 2 | moole) nor norcon | # of Guests | <u>Total \$</u> |
| Full Retreat (includes program and 3 meals) per person One Day only (Wednesday or Thursday) per person | | @ \$95.00 per person @ \$70.00 per person | |
| Che Day only (wednesday of Thursday) per person | | Total Amount Due | |
| Dietary Requirements: | | | |
| Sugar Free ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Vegetarian ☐ | | Abbreviated Schedule | |
| PLEASE NOTE: We will try but cannot assure to meet all dietary requirements | | Wed. 11:00 AM Registration Begins | |
| dietary requirements | | 12:00 PM Lunch 1:00 PM Session # | 11 |
| | | 3:15 PM Interest (| |
| Interest Groups (please mark preference) | | 6:00 PM Dinner | |
| | | 7:00 PM Session #2 Thurs. 8:30 AM Registration | |
| 3:15 PM Wednesday – Bells □ or Walking with Jesus □ | | | |
| 4:30 PM Choir □ | | 9:00 AM Group Study 10:30 AM Interest Groups | |
| 10:30 AM Thursday – Craft \$5 □ or Spiritual Gifts □ | | 10.30 AW Interest | атоирз |
| | | 1:15 PM Session # | :3 |
| Please make checks payable to Senic | or Adult Retreat and mail | payment and completed registra | ation form to: |
| Senior Adult Retreat | | | |
| John Williams, Registrar | Online registration is available at www.abccr.org | | |
| C/O 5889 SW 29th Street Topeka, KS 66614 | Registration Deadline - April 8, 2025 | | |
| ropeka, no cool i | | Assessed if Postmarked After Ap | |
| Can | | und will be given if cancelled by | |
| <u>\$</u> : | 25 non-refundable cance | llation fee per individual after A | pril 15, 2025 |
| (Cut hara ar | | records and information.) | |
| • | | , | |
| ABCCR Senior Adult Retreat: Central | • | in Ave., Great Bend, KS 67530 ns at 11:00 AM, Wednesday the | 23rd |
| Dates: April 23-24, 2025 | • | th lunch at 12:00 noon | 231U |
| | | | |
| Amount paid to Registrar: | Check number: _ | Date paid: | |



"The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down." Psalm 145:14 (NIV)

You can register by scanning the QR Code



Age is determined by what grade the student is entering in the fall of 2024.

CAMP CHRISTY

JUNE 2-6

JULY 14-18 High School Camp: (\$280) before May 1 (\$300) after May 1

Director: Damion Denison Registration Deadline: May 19, 2025

Middle School Camp: (\$280) before May 1 (\$300) after May 1 JUNE 9-13

Director: Damion Denison Registration Deadline: May 26, 2025

Junior Camp: (\$280) before May 1 (\$300) after May 1 JUNE 16-20

Registration Deadline: June 2, 2025 Director: Erin Isham

Primary Camp: (\$140) before May 1 (\$150) after May 1 JUNE 23 - 25

Director: Becky Rider Registration Deadline: June 9, 2025

JUNE Day Camp: (\$90) before May 1 (\$100) after May 1 26-27

Director: Tonya Koehn Registration Deadline: June 9, 2025

CAMP WHITE MEMORIAL

High School Camp: (\$395) before June 1 (\$415) after June 1

Director: Morgan Aspinwall Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025

Middle School Camp: (\$395) before June 1 (\$415) after June 1 JULY

14-18 Director: Wallace Smith Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025

Junior Camp: (\$395) before May 1 (\$415) after May 1 JULY 21-25

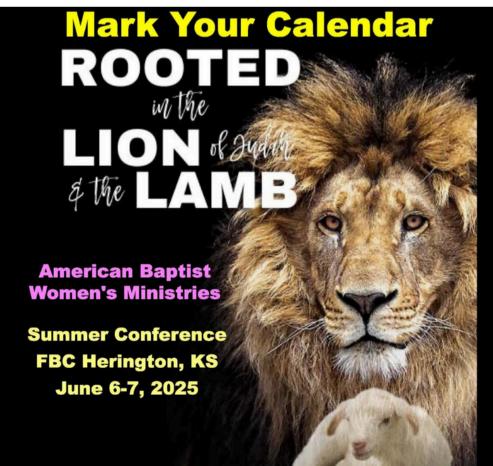
Director: Kami Minor Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025

No registrations will be accepted after the cutoff date.

BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT 2025

REGISTER TODAY





SAVE THE DATE



June 14-18, 2026
YMCA OF THE ROCKIES

Snow Mountain Ranch
Granby, Colorado

