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July 2021 Vol. 119 No. 7

ABCCR CAMPING IS IN FULL SWING

After a year of social distancing and online events, we are so excited to have in-person camp this year. This year we have three locations for camp; Camp Christy in Scott City, Cross Wind in Hesston, and Ottawa University. This year's camp offering will go to Bethel Neighborhood Center. This year's camp theme is "Selfless." The verse for this year comes from Philippians 2:3-4.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition of vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.

This year's directors at Camp Christy were Steven and Danielle Massaglia who directed both middle school and high school camps. James Blake directed junior camp, Valerie Terrazas directed primary camp, and Tonya Koehn directed day camp. Thank you to these directors and staff at Camp Christy who helped make camp possible!

High School camp had 23 campers and gave \$210.75 for offering. The 16 middle schoolers who attended camp gave \$200.25. The 24 students who attended junior camp gave \$230. 25. Primary camp had 24 campers who gave \$110. 26 Day campers gave \$40 to Bethel Neighborhood Center.

Campers at Camp Christy had a week of worship, games, swimming, and learning. We are so thankful for everyone at Camp Christy who makes camp possible. The ABCCR Camping Program is made possible by all of those who invest in the lives of our students and their walk with Christ!



High School Camp

Junior Camp



Middle School Camp

Day Camp

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The ABCCR Search and Call Process



This is part two of a five-part sereis on the incredible value created for the local church through the ABCCR Search and Call Process.

In the previous article I used the game 'Where's Waldo?' as an analogy for the Search and Call Process. Finding a new pastor feels a lot like Finding Waldo.

Forming a search committee starts when a local church contacts the Region Search and Call Team, who will act as a personal coach. This team starts with your church's constitution, surfacing your church's constitutional requirements. Being a Baptist at this point can be problematic. It is the church who is the authority in the search process, the region has no authority, even when invited. We hope a Region Search and Call Team will be invited into the search process, but the church remains in charge. The Region Search Team respects, and honors, the autonomy of the local church.

- We are partners with your church, not 'The authority" arriving to tell you what to do.
- •We have knowledge to share, but it is the church that applies that knowledge.

In most cases a church's constitution defines what is to be done, but the actual details about 'How to do it are few and far between. Some churches want the Region to run the process. Others just want to use the proven tools we have. Finding Waldo starts with discerning the right balance of local church authority and region knowledge. Do you need Search and Call assistance? Here's a quick quiz...

Rate	your capability in each question by placing an 'X' from very low to very high	Low	High
1.	How will you judge the new pastor's success in one year?		
2.	Can you name the top five expectations for a new pastor?		
3.	Can you describe the community perception of your church?		
4.	Do you know where to search for pastoral candidates?		
5.	Can you differentiate the quality of the candidates?		
6.	Do you know the requirements of background checks and due diligence?		
7.	Do you know the difference in legal, and illegal, interview questions?		
8.	Do you know how to do group interviewing?		
9.	Can you discern a good answer and a bad answer when interviewing?	10 10	5 6 5
10.	Do you have effective ways to maintain confidentiality?		
11.	Do you know how to create a fair financial (pay) packet?		

The assessment above is just a sample of things a church must do to 'Find Waldo.' When a church invites the Region to be part of the Search and Call process, the first tool you receive is the ABCCR Search and Call Manual. It helps you address the questions in the assessment above, and a whole lot more. Some churches say, "We have done this before (possibly recently) do we really need all this?"

Yes! If it's been a while you need to assess where you have been and answer the questions, 'What is working?' and 'What's not working?' If you have done a search recently, you need to ask questions like, 'What will allow this new pastor to work out?' and 'How long do we want this new pastor to stay?'

The Region Search and Call team cannot answer these questions, but we can provide tools, facilitate discussion, and frame the answers so both the church and the candidates understand what being a pastor means to your church. But this is just the mechanical process. We are equally interested in the spiritual process. Prayer, study, confession, and commitment are necessary.

Your Region Search and Call Team are ordained ministers of the Gospel. They walk with you from beginning to end but unless you work in a Human Resource Department, preparing, sorting, selecting, interviewing, and hiring is a maze of twists and turns. Do you need the Region's expertise?

When searching for Waldo, it should be remembered that three minds must come together...

- •The Mind of Christ (That's the one that does not change but is not always apparent.)
- •The Mind of the Search Committee and there are usually 5-7 people.
- •The Mind of the Candidate, who has their own motivations and insights.

The ABCCR Team handles many of the time-consuming tasks for you. (We do background checks. We prescreen every candidate based on your criteria and we sort profiles for best match.) We help you manage the entire process. We're here to help you find Waldo. Drop us an email. Or give us a call.

Your ABCCR Search & Call Team

Gregg.Hemmen@abccr.org (605-415-8598)

Jennifer Schneider@abccr.org (913) 488-1313

Bill.Hendricks@abccr.org (913) 558-3311)



Primary Camp

Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation



A Ministry of American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

Land of the Free and Home of the Brave

This is how our great country of America has been described in the past. Our ancestors sacrificed everything as they fought for the freedom to worship God as they chose rather than

being automatically a part of the 'state' church as soon as they were born.

Many came to this country because they believed in 'believer's baptism' rather than baptism at birth as was practiced in the 'Old Country'. My husband's ancestors were part of them and were threatened with death for their beliefs.

Unfortunately, through the years freedom seems to have been re-defined as the ability to do whatever we want – at whatever cost to others. We have been called a Christian nation, but are we? Today about 75% of believers live in Third World countries, often in anti-Christian environments. Many are put in prison for their beliefs and some even put to death.

How important is the freedom to worship for you? If you say it is, do you put actions to your words? Church attendance and financial support in many churches is declining because folks have other things they would rather do.

Whenever we're tempted to stay home or do something else, we need to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. I'm sure He would rather not have died the cruel death that HE did, but He loved us so much that He did it willingly. How can we do less than spend time worshipping Him?

And, we would not have any material blessings if God had not given us the opportunity to earn the money to pay for them, so He certainly deserves to get a good share of it back as we support our local church, missionaries, etc. How about you? Have you been blessed financially?

I'd be glad to talk with you about various ways that you can give back to God – some even after you've gone to your reward.

Paul is a tremendous example for our Christian walk. In Acts 20:23-24 Paul writes:

"I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the face and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace."

No matter how difficult life is, we can accomplish what God has asked us to do by drawing each day on His limitless supply of grace.

Let's all do our part to once again have a country that

Rev. Wilma E. Engle,
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For the month of July please be in prayer for the people and the ministry at the following churches:

•Forest Hills Baptist Church, Bella Vist, AK

First Baptist Church, Abiene, KSGathering Places, Baldwin City, KS

First Baptist Church, Canton, KSDeSoto Baptist Church, DeSoto, KS

Park Avenue Baptist Church, El Dorado, KS

First Baptist Church, Fort Scott, KSFirst Baptist Church, Garden City, KS

First Baptist Church, Hays, KS
Grandview Baptist Church, Kansas
City, KS

First Baptist Church, Lawrence, KSFirst Baptist Church, Manhattan,

• First Baptist Church, Ness City, KS

First Baptist Church, Olathe KSFirst Baptist Church, Peabody, KS

First Baptist Church, Scott City, KS
West Side Baptist Church, Topeka, KS

First Baptist Church, Ulysses, KSFirst Baptist Church, Wamego, KS

•Watonga Indian Bapist Church, Watonga., OK

 Community Baptist Church, Tulsa, OK

First Baptist Church, Ottawa, KSFirst Baptist Church, Emporia, KS

As we celebrate the 245th birthday of our nation, let us pray for our country and its people. Let us pray that God's spirit would guide and direct our governmental leaders so that they might work for the good of all people and not just to benefit themselves.

Let us pray for our justices and judges that they may be guided by wisdom and knowledge so that they might judge fairly in all of the cases that they oversee.

Might we say prayers of Thanksgiving for this country that has received our immigrant families in the past and welcomed us to this land. We also pray that the USA will continue to receive those from around the globe who come here seeking refuge, peace and freedom.

Finally let us pray that we might be a people of peace, who work for justice, and continue to love our neighbor and help them in any way we can, as Jesus commanded us to do!!! As the scriptures say:

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity."

1 Timothy 2: 1 – 2 (NRSV)



The Interim Minister stands halfway between pastors, the one who left and the one who has yet to arrive. I served as an Interim Minister for 8 years with the United Methodist Church. I have been an Interim Minister with the ABCCR and have joyously served as the Director of the Interim Ministry program for the ABCCR. Here are four things I've learned. Possibly, they can be used to shape your development as disciples for Jesus Christ.

- 1. No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care. While most church members offer high respect for the position of Pastor, the hinges into the church's personal life, and spiritual journey, are not well greased. The inescapable truth that this door opens best when the senior members of the church trust the Interim Minister. They feel supported and their legacy safe when an agent of change sits in their mid-week study, or sits in their Sunday School class, not to teach but to listen and share.
- **2** Interim Ministry flourishes under a deliberate approach. The positive impact of Interim Ministry is built on a pastor's ability to hear, understand, and support the message of who the church was, who is, and who it will be. With precious few months, the ABCCR Interim Ministry Program approaches a church through three integrated perspectives:

1st and the most obvious path forward comes through a well designed curriculum. The ABCCR Interim Manual is a model that many regions follow. It provides a proven, deliberately, and structured path that stimulates positive impact in a church. We follow five core learning themes: History; Family; Embracing Change; Giftedness; denominational Links. These themes speak to the needs of every church I've worked with. This manual shapes the message of caring in a very nonthreatening manner.

2nd is our Baptist distinctives and an enriched understanding of the Body of Christ. The strength of these distinctives allows Interim ministers to share their own personal journey and invite the church of Christ to join. These distinctives allow the pastor to be personal and vulnerable. Unlike full-time pastoral work, Interim Ministers can be open for the very reasons fulltime pastor struggle with vulnerability. They are not and will not become long-term members. They can say and act in ways that demonstrate their humanness and, offer the acceptance of our humanness.

3rd is the ability of the Interim Minister to practice vision casting, out loud. Constantly asking the question, 'Where will this lead us?' fits well within the context of bridging the gap between yesterday and tomorrow. A boldness of visioning questions allows the Interim to comfortably ask about a church's giving patterns and get permission to make giving a subject of worship and study. The Interim boldly use visioning questions, challenging a church's lack young families or children. No money no mission! No children no future!

3. The Interim Minister unleashes pride and affirmation. It is easy to throw stones at those who are falling short or missing the mark. Research into leadership, consistently affirms that it takes five affirmative statements to overcome one negative statement. The Interim who makes it a goal to make every day on the positive side of the ledger. This calls for the Interim to look at every situation from an affirmative perspective. Yes, we must shun evil and challenge false teaching. In today's political climate negativity soars on television. The Interim Minister is the counterbalance.

The Interim Ministry Program supports and is proud of:

- •Our Baptist heritage.
- •The legacy left by those that built the building.
- •The people who uniquely brought Christ into the community.

4. The Interim is separates worship from teaching. I have discovered that I'm a closet seminary professor. I want to make disciples in the church and teach the Scripture. At my best, I build worship that focuses on the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. But because my time as an Interim is so limited, I must create worship. Sunday morning worship is the point where I have the largest crowd. As an interim, I want people to worship God. If my teaching results in worship, I win, but sometimes I dazzle with Greek terms and theological wisdom and people walk out learning something about the Bible but failing to worship the God who made it all possible. It's a fine line. The Interim is challenged to know the line and when they should draw it.

I want to leave this article with three challenges to all who read this...

1st The existing list of available Interim Ministers is dwindling. We need those who are bi-vocational. Those Called by God to serve and gifted with business skills. We can and will equip you. If God is calling you to reach out beyond your local church, give me a call.

2nd The things we are learning in the Interim Program can be applied and utilized in churches where the pastor has not left. Retreats and conferences are available. Call me if you would like to host a Church in Transition Training session.

3rd If your pastor needs a break, a sabbatical, or just a moment to recover as we sprout from our days of COVID restraint, we have a resource. Give me a call.

Rev. Dr. William Hendricks Director of Interim Ministries, ABCCR (913) 558-3311 bill.hendricks@abccr.org

Our Missionaries Give Their 'All' for Ministry How much can you give toward our ABW Ministries Project?

Often we don't actually realize all that our missionaries do in service for our God. Half of our project this year is to be for bilingual education in Hungary where Becky and Larry Stanton serve with International Ministries' partners Hungarian Baptist Aid and Baptist Union of Hungary. Their ministry includes working with schools and churches in their region and providing services to refugees along the Balkan route.

During the latter part of 2020, as more teachers in their community started testing positive for COVID-19, the Stantons arranged for a week's worth (or more) of lunches to be delivered to those who were sick and quarantined at home. "The recipients have been so grateful and really shocked, and they ask why we do this and how to repay us," says Larry. "We tell them, 'Thank God, it's from Him and your brothers and sisters in America.' It's our way of saying, 'God loves you, He hasn't forgotten you, and He's here to help.""

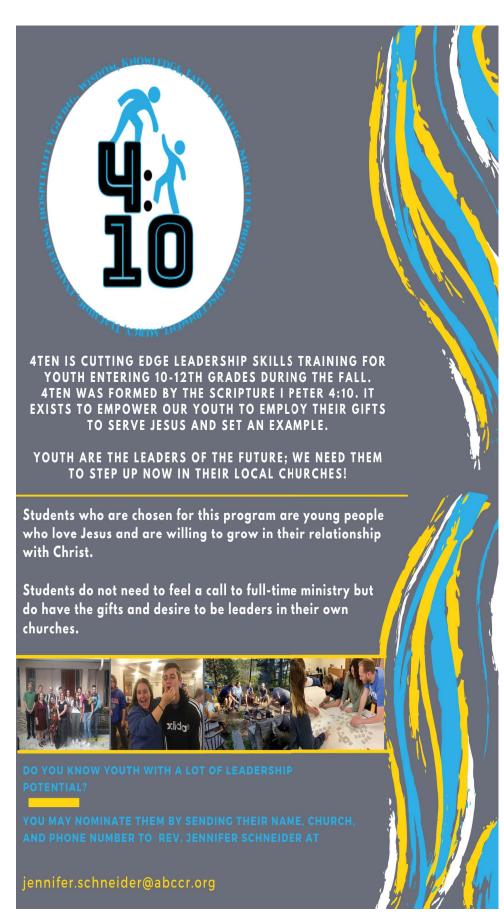
On December 29, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake hit central Croatia, which borders Hungary to the southwest. Larry joined Hungarian Baptist Aid members to deliver and distribute relief items to earthquake victims in neighboring Croatia. Over a period of four days, the group distributed hygiene products, simple tools, and food, and provided survivors an opportunity to share their stories. "It was heartbreaking," says Larry. "The quake had been two weeks before, but many people were still in shock."

hey have many opportunities to share God's love! You can, too, as you give to our project. Our goal is \$30,000 by August 31, 2021 with half going to Hungary and half to Bethel Neighborhood Center for a multi-purpose room that will serve dozens in that community.

Pray for These Global Servants

Deliris & Moise Carrión-Joseph Amanda & Jon Good Brian & Lynette Smith Larry & Rebecca Stanton Jae Stockton

Carmella Jones Stan Slade Ruth Fox David Sagar Dan & Sarah Chetti





4Ten Snapshots













We were able to take 16 of our high school students to K-State for a campus tour and information about admissions. They were able to see what a big lecture hall looks like and then see the smaller classes. Many of the students are going to be freshman in the fall so this trip got them thinking about college and the many options that are available to them.



It's Vacation Bible School time! We know that so many of you work hard to plan and put on VBS! Please send us your pictures so we can share them in next month's CRL! Send your submissions to morgan.bandy@abccr.org

Thank you, FBC Lawrence Youth Group!

Rev. Cristina Adams, Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families at FBC Lawrence brought a handful of youth to the region office to volunteer. They helped sort and organize files. As we transition and work on moving paper files into electronic files, the help was welcome and appreciated! Thank you again to the youth of First Baptist Church, Lawrence!









Reshaping Church Conversations is a series of virtual learning dialogues through Central Seminary's Reshaping Church: Thriving Congregations program. This series is intended to provide a space of collective learning and reflection for pastors and congregational leaders on critical topics for the thriving of congregations during challenging times. Each conversation will be guided by scholar-practitioners in the areas of pastoral leadership, congregational transformation, adaptive leadership, and social change.

Individuals who participate in all 6 of the ReShaping Church Conversations series are eligible for .9 CEUs.

For more information and to register for this FREE opportunity, visit cbts.edu/reshaping-church. With question, contact Jessica Williams at jwilliams@cbts.edu



ReShaping Church Conversations

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (CST)

June 17 Ministry in Times of Conspiracy Theories and Disinformation

July 29 Adaptive Leadership in Times of Crisis

August 19 Faith Formation in Times of Crisis

September 23 We Cry Justice: How the Freedom Church of the Poor is ReShaping Church

October 28 Preaching Punchlines

November 18 Storytelling for Racial Healing





Fredrikson Center 2021 Event Series 2022



September

Labor of Love in a Box

September 3-5

The True Cost: Stories of Human Trafficking gives voice to the forgotten ones: the people who are forced into sexual servitude; the children who are exploited as slave labor to provide cheap goods sold in our very own neighborhoods; the women and men who are lured into domestic labor that turns out to be entrapment rather than employment. Renowned Chicago playwright Jenny Magnus has created a breathtaking play using the true stories of trafficking survivors, obtained through interviews with anonymous volunteer participants. TAU's 'Labor of Love' puts tangible meaning into the Labor Day holiday with a weekend packed full of faith, leadership, friendship, learning AND fun! From Friday through Monday, high school youth gather with college leaders, ministers and staff mentors. Learning and soul-sharpening activities allow for reflection and service. Leadership activities demonstrate new skills, deeper reflection and confidence.

www.ottawa.edu/laboroflove



Adventures in Faith

September 22

Adventures in Faith (AIF) is an annual event that brings a team of alumni who are established in their vocational or volunteer fields and united by a strong faith commitment to spend three days on campus in Ottawa, Kansas. While here, they make in-class, group and chapel presentations on blending vocation with avocation.

www.ottawa.edu/AIF



November

Braving Discipleship

November 5-7

Braving Discipleship is a weekend conference for high school students and youth pastors from Kansas and surrounding states. OU students are instrumental in planning and administrating this Christian conference. During the conference, OU students have ample opportunities to lead committees and small-group workshops within this Christian-based ministry.

www.ottawa.edu/braving



Hope for the Holidays

Many hands make light work—and hope! Students and community come together in this multi-step process to bake pies for the elderly in the Franklin County area! We smash, we mix and we bake wonderful pies for the homebound, elderly and caregivers.

www.ottawa.edu/youareloved



Meet Our 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 you 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 Bethe 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 ABCCR Annual Gathering Individual Registration Form October 1-2, 2021, First Baptist Church, Salina

Please complete a separate registration form for each person

Name:	rint vour nan	ne as vou want it to a	appear on your name	Phone:	
,	•	·	Email:	0,	
Address: _			City:		Zip:
Church Na	ame:			City:	
I AM A:	Delegate	□Board Member	□Participant	□Exhibitor	□ABCCR Staff
		F	REGISTRATION FE	ES	
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	-	
Nu	mber of child	Iren (nursery to 5th g	grade)Num	ber of Youth (6th	grade+)
\$20.00 ea. (3 or more: \$50.00)					
Please submit completed Childcare Form with your registrion Total Childcare					
			MEALS		
*Meals wi	ll not be avai	lable for those who r	egister after Sept. 10t	th.	
	October 1, Q for Clergy		ee) Pizza for Kids _	\$5	
	ctober 2, 201 V and AB Me		ge 13+: \$9.00	12 and younger	: \$ 5.00
Pasi	ta Dinner 🛭 A	Age 13+: \$15.00	Age 12-6: \$5.00	5 and	d Under Free
Please list any dietary restrictions:					
		oseb_ and meal totals)			
	Ind Ck# Ind Amt		ABCCR Office Use Ch Ck # Ch Amt \$	_ Date Re _ Receipt	cd

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

With an All Chuch Registration, members need only pay for their food, childcare, and accomodations.

Church Name:

Pastor:	Email:	Phone:
	Registra	ition Fees
	ch Registration (does not cover childcare, m ch Registration (postmarked byt Sept. 10): \$	
	Delegates and Participants	Registering From Our Church
		GATES
Name	a	ink since all voting will be held via Zoom) Email
Name		Email
Name		Bmail
Name		Email
Name		Email
Name	J	Email
	Other PAR	TICIPANTS
		-

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

Address

*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.

diadion form is submitted prior to mail	iddai registi ation forms ii possible.
ABCCR OFFICE	E USE ONLY
CK #	Date Recd
CK Amt	Receipt #

CHILD CARE REGISTRATION-Please fill out one per child/youth

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 you	ır child will be eating	;		
Thusday Dinner Friday Lunch Friday Dinner				
Put an X next to your child's a	ge 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 or Mail to: ABCCR, 5833 SW 29th St, Ste A, Topeka KS 66614				
Child's Name		Parent's Name		
AgeCu	rrent Grade	Gender		
Address		_ City	State	_Zip
Parent's E-mail		Cell Phone #		
Medical Insurance Co		_Insurance Policy #		
Allergies				
What ese should we know				
Permission is granted to seek	Emergency Medical (Care until I/we can be	reached:	
Parent/Guardian Signature				

The 2021 Annual Gathering will be held at First Baptitst Church of Salina, KS.

Please look for more information on workshops, lodging, and other matters pertaining to Annual Gathering in the FOCUS packet, weeky emails, future Central Region Life issues, and the region website; abccr.org.

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

Voting will be taking place via Zoom this year. If you are a delegate please provide your email address on your registration form so that we can send you an invitation to the Zoom link.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Central Region Life

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region 5833 S. W. 29th St. Ste. A, Topeka, KS 66614-5505

Yes, I wish to subscribe to

□ NEW □ RENEWAL □ GIFT SUBSCRIPTION — \$12.00 per year

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip _	
Email	

Camp Christy Camera Roll





Nap time or game time?

Camp Pastor, **Rishawn Austin**



Old friends and new friends come togetehr at camp

Vespers at Middle School Camp





Craft time at Day Camp

Vespers at High School Camp

