

Central Region Life

AUGUST 2024

2024 ABCCR CAMPING

This summer, we had 235 campers between Camp Christy and Camp White Memorial gather for camp in June and July. The theme for camp this year was "Made Alive in Christ," inspired by Ephesians 2:4-5: "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."

The campers had an unforgettable experience, brimming with adventure, worship, and spiritual growth. At Camp Christy, students can immerse themselves in a variety of activities, including a spacious playground, scenic hiking trails, a fire pit, frisbee golf course, tetherball, volleyball, and a basketball court. Additionally, they have access to a rock-climbing wall, swimming pool, and airsoft course, ensuring there's never a dull moment.

At White Memorial, students can dive into a wide range of outdoor activities that allow everyone to experience new and exciting things; from zip lines, rock climbing walls, and giant swings to axe throwing, archery, fishing, hiking trails, a labyrinth, kayaking, volleyball, disc golf, and prairie surfing, there's an adventure for everyone. These activities are crafted to bring joy, develop skills, and create lasting memories in the beauty of the great outdoors.

Worship sessions were at the heart of the camp experience. Morning and evening gatherings were filled with powerful messages, uplifting music, and moments of deep prayer. The theme of being made alive in Christ resonated throughout, reminding everyone of the grace that sustains us even in our struggles. The campers were encouraged to embrace their new life in Christ and carry that joy into their daily lives. Spiritual formation was woven into every aspect of camp life. Through small group discussions, personal reflection time, and guided prayer, the campers delved deeper into understanding what it means to be alive in Christ.

Camp offering for this year was designated for Bethel Neighborhood Center. The students donated a total of \$1,408.84 for the Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, Kansas. This contribution will help support the center's mission to provide vital services and support to the local community.

As the camping season came to a close, campers left with full hearts, strengthened faith, and a deeper connection to Christ. The memories made, lessons learned, and friendships formed at Camp Christy and Camp White Memorial will undoubtedly last a lifetime, reminding each camper that they are truly made alive in Christ.

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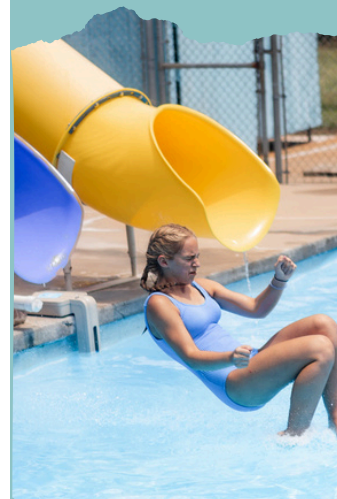
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ANNUAL GATHERING 2024

The 2024 American Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABCCR) Annual Gathering is scheduled to take place in Lyons, Kansas. Although the event is still over half a year away, attendees are encouraged to plan ahead due to the limited number of hotels in Lyons and nearby Sterling. Fortunately, there are ample lodging options in surrounding areas such as Great Bend, Hutchinson, and McPherson. A comprehensive list of lodging options is available, and early booking is advised.

The keynote speaker at this year's Annual Gathering is Rev. Dr. Steve Van Ostran. Steve serves as the Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains. He is passionate about empowering local churches and in helping them become the incarnated body of Christ in their community. He has served as Executive Minister since March of 2008 and has been involved in coaching pastors and local churches since 2003 after 18 years of pastoring local churches.



We look forward to the fellowship and spiritual growth this gathering will bring. Plan ahead, register now, and secure your accommodations early.

- [Celebration Centre Inn and Suites](#)- Lyons, KS
- [Lyons Inn](#)- Lyons, KS
- [Country Inn](#)- Sterling, KS
- [The Historic Wolf Hotel](#)- Ellinwood, KS
- [Holiday Inn Express & Suites](#)- Great Bend, KS
- [Quality Inn](#)- Great Bend, KS
- [Best Western Angus Inn](#)- Great Bend, KS
- [Holiday Inn Express](#)- Hutchinson, KS
- [Comfort Inn & Suites](#)- Hutchinson, KS
- [Hampton Inn](#)- Hutchinson, KS
- [Fairfield Inn & Suites](#)- McPherson, KS
- [Holiday Inn Express & Suites](#)- McPherson, KS
- [Hampton Inn](#)- McPherson, KS

All Church Registration

Individual Registration

Youth Registration

There are numerous Bed & Breakfasts in the area. You can make reservations on the AirBnB website. <https://www.airbnb.com/>

2024 ABCCR Annual Gathering All Church Registration Form
2024 will be the last year for an All Church Registration option.

September 26, 2024 - Ministers Council Meeting and Dinner
September 27-28, 2024

First Baptist Church, 803 S. Dinsmore Ave, Lyons, KS 67554
Celebration Centre, 1145 E. US #56, Lyons, KS 67554

A completed individual registration form is required for each person; adult, youth, and child listed on this all church registration form.

Church Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Pastor Name _____
Email _____ Phone _____

All Church Registration (does not cover childcare, meals, or accommodations)
All Church Registrations will not be accepted after 9/10/2024
All Church Registration- \$200

Participants' Names and Emails: _____

Delegates' Names and Emails: _____

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.

Mail Check to ABCCR: 5889 SW 29th St, Topeka, KS 66614

2024 ABCCR Annual Gathering Individual Registration Form

September 26, 2024 - Ministers Council Meeting and Dinner
September 27-28, 2024

First Baptist Church, 803 S. Dinsmore Ave, Lyons, KS 67554
Celebration Centre, 1145 E. US #56, Lyons, KS 67554

Please complete a separate registration form for each person

First and Last Name _____

Print your name as you want it to appear on your name tag

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church Name _____ City _____

Are you a delegate from your church? (Circle one) Yes No

How will you be registering?

All Church Registration

Individual Registration \$45

If the All-Church Registration fee is not paid by 9/10/2024, you are required to pay an individual registration fee.

If you want to confirm that your church has paid the All Church Registration, please contact your church office or Morgan Bandy at the ABCCR office. morgan.bandy@abccr.org

Choose Your Meals

Thursday Clergy and Spouse Dinner (Free)

Thursday Clergy and Spouse Dinner (Non-Clergy) \$18

Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Sheet Cake

Friday Lunch \$13

AB Men- Cheeseburgers, Fries, Cookies

AB Women- Sandwiches, Chips, Cookies

Friday Dinner \$18

Grilled Chicken, Vegetable, Salad, Rolls, Sheet Cake

ABW Lunch Option (please mark one)

Ham Sandwich

Turkey Sandwich

Dietary Restrictions (mark all that apply)

Vegetarian

Gluten Free

Diabetic

Mail Checks to ABCCR: 5889 SW 29th St, Topeka, KS 66614

2024 ABCCR Annual Gathering Child Registration Form

September 26, 2024 - Ministers Council Meeting and Dinner
September 27-28, 2024

First Baptist Church, 803 S. Dinsmore Ave, Lyons, KS 67554
Celebration Centre, 1145 E. US #56, Lyons, KS 67554

Please complete a separate registration form for each person

Child's Name _____

Child's Age _____ Child's Grade _____

Parent's Name _____ Parent's Phone Number _____

Alternate Phone Number _____ Email _____

(In Case of Emergency)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church Name _____ City _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Meals

Thursday Dinner for children ages 0-10 \$12

Thursday Dinner for children ages 11+ \$18

[Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Sheet Cake](#)

Friday Lunch for children ages 0-10 \$10

Friday Lunch for children ages 11+ \$13

[AB Men- Cheeseburgers, Fries, Cookies](#)

[AB Women- Sandwiches, Chips, Cookies](#)

Friday Dinner for children ages 0-10 \$12

Friday Dinner for children ages 11+ \$18

[Grilled Chicken, Vegetable, Salad, Rolls, Sheet Cake](#)

Dietary Restrictions

Vegetarian

Gluten Free

Childcare for children ages 3-10 is being offered on Saturday morning ONLY beginning at 8:00 AM until approximately 11:30 AM. Childcare is \$5 per child.

My child will attend Saturday morning childcare.

Yes (\$5) No

MEDICAL

Allergies

Consent for Emergency Medical Care for a Minor: By signing this form, I hereby authorize the Kansas Baptist Convention, Inc. also known as the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region and First Baptist Church of Lyons, Ks to consent to any medical care and treatment for my child that is recommended by a licensed healthcare provider to whom the Child is presented for treatment. To ensure that the Child receives prompt medical care and treatment, when necessary, I hereby release any licensed health care provider providing medical care to the Child in reliance of this form from liability relating to such provider's acceptance of my substitute caregiver's consent.If you consent, sign your name below:

I, the undersigned individual, grant American Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABCCR located at 5889 SW 29th St, Topeka, Kansas, and First Baptist Church of Lyons, KS the perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free right and license to: Record my participation and appearance on digital or film photography, video, audio or any other medium. Use my name (or any fictional name), likeness, voice, and biographical material and information in connection with these recordings to be used only in or for ABCCR written, electronic and web publications, including social media and apps to be used for the promotional material, multimedia and publication purposes of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region.+ Reproduce, distribute, publicly display, and/or publicly perform, in print, electronic, or any other medium, copies of the recordings, in whole or in part. Grantor represents that he or she possesses all rights necessary to grant this permission for and in connection. I am voluntarily making this grant of rights. I further agree to release and forever discharge ABCCR, its agents, employees, and designated representatives from any and all claims in law or equity that I, my heirs, or personal representatives have or shall have arising out of recordings. I am the parent or guardian of the minor named above and have the legal authority to execute the above release. I approve and waive any rights in this release. If you consent, sign your name below:

Is there anything else we need to know?

YOU ARE BEING WATCHED!

Rev. Dr. Bill Hendricks, Director of Interim Ministry

How does it make you feel, to know you're being watched? My first reactions include fear and anger. What right has been given to 'someone' (or anyone) to judge and criticize me? Immediately I fall into negativity and instinctively raise my 'Protection Mode Shield.' I have learned it over the years. Attack is what I see. On social media, click three times and stop, or you'll be bombarded with nasty bites.

My wife, Jacki has a refrigerator magnet that makes a difference when I think of it. It's pictured on the right. I am learning to bite less, someday I will snarl less as well. Watched! I suggest a different reaction, a new mode of living. One that's more positive and possibly one where fewer bites occur. Here are four ways the Interim Ministry program helps your church rethink being watched:

1st Positive Intent— Jesus serves Judas with the other disciples at the Last Supper. He's being watched. He lives knowing Judas is sitting at the table, the Feast of the Passover. Behind God's watching eyes surfaces a different perspective. There is no white stallion returning victorious from war. It's a man wearing sandals, riding a donkey! A savior! Jesus says sit and eat at my table. Although absolute love is difficult. For me today, I can assume everyone's best intent. The presence of an interim says to your church. "Hold tight to Jesus. God will act. Don't bite when a simple growl will do."

2nd Healing— At Jesus' arrest, Peter put away his sword, but only after inflicting significant injury. Then healing occurs. The ear of Malcus is restored. Healing happens (John 18:10)! The Interim Minister sets the tone for healing to occur in your church as well. Are you hurting, come. Do you have concerns, come. Your voice is needed and wanted. The Interim offers a healing moment in your church. Jesus heals. Not a snarl or a bite.

3rd Confidence— Interims show up at your church knowing The life and future of your church is overseen by God. Confidence stems from life in Jesus. It is His ministry. God has been with us since the beginning. The Interim knows this is God's ministry. In a world filled with worry and criticism, God's got this! But Jesus is watching. Don't bite. The Interim arrives from Day One thinking, 'I'm here to serve and love, not control and fight.' An Interim knows their position is temporary and is not a jockey trying to capture the pole position.

4th Self-importance— The Interim serves, not seeking money or power. The Interim brings people alive in the church. The power shifts to getting members to join in, rather than fight to be heard. We shift to a church of relationship, together delivering a New Identity. A Body of Christ! The Interim says, "Someone will follow them soon who will be far more important to the church than themselves." "Thy will be done." A currently rudderless environment is being managed. Did you wonder why Jesus was never caught off guard? He was never off guard! Jesus understood His relationship with God. And an Interim Minister understands your church's relationships. The Interim arrives with no self-driving agenda. The Interim does not bite!

Please know that the ABCCR serves you with this critical program. Give me a call and we'll talk. I don't bite either. Call Rev. Dr. Bill Hendricks (913) 558-1133.



PRAIRIE HOMESTEAD

Volunteering: A Gift to the Community

Retirement offers a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community while staying active and engaged. Volunteering can be incredibly fulfilling, providing a sense of purpose and connection. At Prairie Homestead, we believe in the power of volunteering and the positive impact it can have on seniors' lives. In this article, we'll explore the benefits of volunteering and highlight local volunteer opportunities tailored for seniors in our community.

The Benefits of Volunteering for Seniors:

Enhanced Sense of Purpose: Volunteering allows seniors to contribute to causes they care about, providing a renewed sense of purpose and fulfillment. The act of helping others fosters a feeling of being needed and valued.

Social Connections: Volunteering offers opportunities to meet new people and form meaningful connections. It helps combat feelings of loneliness and isolation by creating a sense of community and camaraderie among volunteers.

Mental and Physical Health: Engaging in volunteer activities can improve both mental and physical health. Volunteering keeps the mind active, reduces stress, and promotes a positive outlook on life. Physical volunteer tasks, such as gardening or organizing events, also encourage seniors to stay active.

Skill Development: Volunteering allows seniors to utilize their existing skills and learn new ones. Whether it's mentoring, teaching, or administrative work, volunteering can be a platform for personal growth and lifelong learning.

Increased Happiness: Helping others has been linked to higher levels of happiness and life satisfaction. The sense of accomplishment and the joy of making a difference in others' lives contribute to overall well-being.

Local Volunteer Opportunities for Seniors:

Food Banks and Soup Kitchens: Many food banks and soup kitchens in the area welcome senior volunteers to assist with sorting donations, preparing meals, and serving food to those in need. Volunteering at these organizations can be a rewarding way to support the local community.

Senior Centers: Local senior centers often seek volunteers to help with activities, events, and programs designed for older adults. Seniors can lead exercise classes, organize social outings, or share their hobbies and skills with others.



Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities: Volunteering at hospitals, nursing homes, or hospice centers provides companionship and support to patients and residents. Volunteers can visit with patients, read to them, or assist with recreational activities.

Animal Shelters: Animal shelters and rescue organizations frequently need volunteers to help with animal care, adoption events, and administrative tasks. Seniors who love animals can find joy and purpose in supporting these organizations.

Libraries and Schools: Libraries and schools often need volunteers for literacy programs, tutoring, and mentoring. Seniors can share their love of reading and learning with children and young adults in the community.

Environmental Organizations: Environmental and conservation groups offer volunteer opportunities for those interested in protecting nature. Activities may include participating in local cleanups, tree planting projects, and wildlife habitat restoration efforts.

Are you ready to experience the many benefits of volunteering and make a positive impact on your community?

Prairie Homestead encourages seniors to explore the rewarding opportunities available for giving back.

Contact us today at yvonne@prairiehomestead.org or visit our website at prairiehomestead.org to learn more about our vibrant community and the volunteer programs available. Our team is here to assist you in finding the perfect volunteer opportunity that aligns with your interests, skills, and schedule.

Join Prairie Homestead and become part of a supportive community where giving back is a way of life. Experience the joy, fulfillment, and connection that comes from making a difference. We look forward to welcoming you and supporting your volunteer journey!



1605 West May Street | Wichita | KS 67213

P: 316.201.6505 | F: 316.265.9904

www.prairiehomestead.org



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 desires to be leaders in their churches.

If you would like to nominate someone, send their name, church, and phone number to Rev. Jennifer Schneider or scan the QR code that will take you to then website where you can fill out an application.



jennifer.schneider@abccr.org



11-13
OCTOBER

FIRST EVENT
CAMP WHITE MEMORIAL
COUNCIL GROVE, KS

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

During the 65th anniversary of the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation, I want to continue to remember, give thanks and celebrate the lives of our annuitants, who invested with the KBCF and have gone home to be with the Lord! In this article we will read and learn about the lives of the Fishers.

Dr. Glenn Fisher & Mrs. Marvel Fisher were annuitants with the KBCF, and while some of you may have known them well, I want to tell you and others more about them.

From 1943 to 1945, Dr Fisher was a member of the US Army Infantry (PFC). Part of D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge, Dr. Fisher was awarded the Purple Heart. He wrote a personal account of his service during WWII, which is entitled "Mine is Not the Reason Why—The Story of a One-Eyed Soldier" later in 2002.

Of course, this was not the only thing that he wrote, but I will get to that in a minute. Dr Fisher earned his doctorate degree in Economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1954. From there he went to the University of Illinois, where he became a full professor in political science. He collected data by hand from local government units in order to explain the variations between state and local expenditures. As a result of this, he wrote an article "Interstate Variation in State and Local Government Expenditure", which has been one of the most quoted articles in the National Tax Journal.

As the first Regent's Professor of Public Finance, Dr. Fisher began teaching at Wichita State University in 1970 until 1993. At that time he was named Regent's Professor Emeritus and continued to write and publish scholarly articles, while serving on the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group for the State of Kansas.

Professor Sam Yeager writes this about our annuitant, " In an active career spanning four decades, Dr Fisher's National reputation in state and local finance is well-known. In 2006, Dr Fisher received the highest award in public finance—the Aaron Wildavsky award from the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management of the American Society for Public Administration. His book, "The Worst Tax?" (1996) is a thorough and widely read historical account of the property tax. Dr. Bart Hildreth, a former colleague at Wichita State, credits Dr Fisher for the efficiency of property tax administration in Kansas."

Marvel Mirriam McFarlin Fisher and her three sisters spent most of their childhood in Mason City, Iowa. As a youngster, she learned to play the piano and sing, which created a great passion for music early in her life. In 1945, she graduated with a BA in nursing from the University of Minnesota.

She met Glenn Fisher at a Rodger Williams Fellowship gathering a year later and he became the love of her life. They were married in September, 1949, and had three children—Paul, Gary & Rhonda, and shared 69 years of love together. They spent 40 years in Wichita, Kansas, and lived abroad due to sabbaticals on several occasions and they enjoyed traveling extensively together. They also have four grandsons: Mark, Michael, Brandon and Justin, and a granddaughter-in-law, Kate.



In the 1970s, Marvel discovered the handbells through a choir at First Baptist Church of Wichita. Because of this she expanded her interest in music and learned to conduct the handbells and play bell solos. She was so intrigued by this musical instrument, she started a community choir, The Bells of Wichita in 1983 and she conducted several church choirs over the years.

Marvel also discovered a love and her passion for painting. She joined art clubs and got progressively better, winning numerous ribbons over the years. Even after they moved to a retirement center in Colorado in 2012, she didn't slow down as she continued to paint and started yet another bell choir at the retirement center there.

They lived full and productive lives, serving the lord, and the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation is grateful that they became annuitants with us. Would you like to do the same thing? If you are interested in funding a charitable gift annuity, please let me know through a phone call, email, text or voicemail, and I will be happy to help you with a CGA that will provide your beneficiary with income for the rest of their life and leave a gift for mission partners, when the Lord calls you home. If I can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me!



Let us pray for the Western Area of the ABCCR, as they prepare for their annual meeting next month, that God would guide the churches in that area as they continue to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Let us also pray for Camp Christy, which is located there, that they might continue to provide a marvelous camping ministry to children, youth and young adults and share the good news of Jesus during those camp times.

As the scriptures say:

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NRSV)

UNCOVERING THE TRUTH ABOUT CREATION

CONFERENCE



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

1121 MAIN ST. • GOODLAND, KS 67735

August 30–September 1, 2024

Friday 6:00pm - Family Fun Night

Friday 7:00pm - Family Fellowship

Saturday 9:00am - 3:00pm Conference

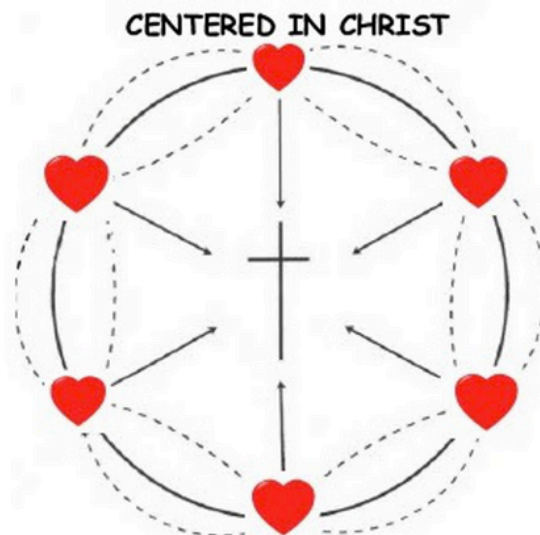
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service With Dr. Hebert



Scan for details



SAVE THE DATE



Ephesians 3:16-19
NRSVUE

The 2025 Sr. Adult Retreat will be held April 23-24, 2025 at Central Baptist Church in 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 Church Topeka. Previously he 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.

JOIN US AT THE CAMPFIRE YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Camp White Memorial
Council Grove, Kansas

November 15-17, 2024

SAVE THE DATE

2024 ABCCR ANNUAL GATHERING

The 2024 ABCCR Annual Gathering will be held in Lyons, Kansas. While we are still over half a year away the number of hotels in Lyons and Sterling are limited. There are plenty of options in surrounding areas such as Great Bend, Hutchinson, and McPherson. Please see a list of lodging options and consider planning ahead when booking your room. We look forward to being with you!

HOTELS

- [Celebration Centre Inn and Suites](#)- Lyons, KS
- [Lyons Inn](#)- Lyons, KS
- [Country Inn](#)- Sterling, KS
- [The Historic Wolf Hotel](#)- Ellinwood, KS
- [Holiday Inn Express & Suites](#)- Great Bend, KS
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- [Holiday Inn Express & Suites](#)- McPherson, KS
- [Hampton Inn](#)- McPherson, KS

There are numerous Bed & Breakfasts in the area. You can make reservations on the AirBnB website.
<https://www.airbnb.com/>

Fishing On The Other Side of the Boat

ANNUAL GATHERING 2024

SEPTEMBER 27-28

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

LYONS, KS



Rev. Dr. Steve Van Ostran serves as the Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains. He is passionate about empowering local churches and in helping them become the incarnated body of Christ in their community. He has served as Executive Minister since March of 2008 and has been involved in coaching pastors and local churches since 2003 after 18 years of pastoring local churches.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
STEVE VAN OSTRAN



VISION DAY Kansas City

November 22, 2024
9:30am - 3:30pm

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OVERLAND PARK

8200 W. 96th St.
Overland Park, KS 662122

In the midst of a rapidly changing ministry landscape, Fresh Expressions invites you to join us for a day of envisioning the unique ways the Holy Spirit might be inviting you to step deeper into mission.

In this interactive day of training you will:

- Catalyze a vision for a church that sends out the everyday people of God to be on mission in their networks and neighborhoods
- Brainstorm ways to connect with people your church may not be currently engaging
- Discover how fresh expressions of church can emerge alongside your traditional church
- Explore creative ways of being the church in the world today

Fresh Expressions is working together with ministry leaders to bring you the best of innovative practices that are transforming churches and mission across North America. Join us to discover actionable steps that any congregation can take to be a more effective witness in the world in which we find ourselves.

REGISTRATION & MORE INFORMATION:

FreshExpressions.com/event/KansasCityVisionDay

\$50/Person

