

Central Region Life

SEPTEMBER 2024

BETHEL NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER TO BE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AGENCY

Bethel Neighborhood Center has been a longstanding pillar of support for immigrants and refugees in the community for the last 100 years and has expanded on its mission to do justice, love mercy, and to walk humbly with God by preparing to fully utilize the newly renovated and expanded facilities, by building upon its mission of providing housing, healthcare, job training, and pathways to self-sufficiency for God's people. Bethel is preparing for its next major endeavor: becoming a resettlement agency for refugees.

With approval from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)—the humanitarian arm of the U.S. State Department—Bethel will now play a pivotal role in resettling refugees in the Kansas City area. This designation is a significant step for the organization and the community it serves, allowing it to directly support incoming refugees.

In partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Bethel is preparing to welcome between 75 and 100 refugee families over the next year, starting in October 2024 through September 2025. These refugees will benefit from Bethel's commitment to creating a safe and nurturing environment during their first year in the United States.

To successfully carry out this mission, Bethel is calling on the local community for support in several ways:

- **Volunteer Time:** Volunteers are needed to assist with a variety of resettlement tasks.
- **Furnish Apartments:** Donations of household items will be used to prepare homes for incoming refugee families.
- **Financial Donations:** Monetary contributions will help sustain Bethel's expanded mission.
- **Prayer:** The center also encourages the community to offer prayers for the refugees and the success of the resettlement program.

The enhanced facilities and expanded mission align with Bethel's core value of engaging the lives of refugees and immigrants, offering them hope and practical assistance in building a new life. Those interested in participating in this effort can reach out to Bethel Neighborhood Center to learn how to get involved.

As Bethel Neighborhood Center steps into this new role, the organization continues its long-standing tradition of compassionate service, now with the additional opportunity to help refugee families achieve self-sufficiency in their new home.

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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?



JOIN US FOR
ABCCR
**WOMEN IN
MINISTRY LUNCH**

Following the 2024 Annual Gathering in Lyons,
we will gather for lunch. Each person is
responsible for her own meal

SATURDAY

● SEPT 28, 2024 ●

12:45 PM

EL PORTILLO
821 W MAIN STREET

RSVP to Melissa Newberry at
revnewberry@yahoo.com
913-549-8568
by Sept 23rd



**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 7TH
10AM
CAMP CHRISTY**

**CAMP WILL BE PROVIDING MAIN
DISH FOR LUNCH; PARTICIPANTS,
PLEASE BRING SIDE TO SHARE**



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER
REV. DR. ROBIN STOOPS**

The Rev. Dr. Robin D. Stoops has been a pastor for thirty-six years. He served as executive minister of the American Baptist churches of Nebraska since 2011. During his ministry he has pastored churches in South Dakota, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska. Stoops is a graduate of Ottawa university, Ottawa, Kan., with a bachelor's degree in education, north American Baptist seminary (now Sioux falls seminary, Kairos university) with a master of divinity degree, and completed a doctoral degree in missional leadership/contextual theology at northern seminary in lisle, Ill.

CAMP CHRISTY

320 Camp Christy Dr.
Scott City, KS 67871
620-872-3025

www.campchristy.net

SOUTHEAST AREA ANNUAL



Meeting



**WE ARE ALL UNIFIED
THROUGH OUR LORD AND
SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.**



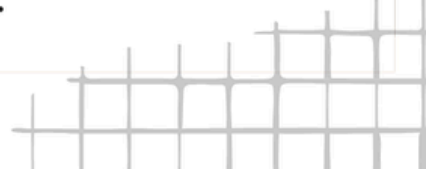
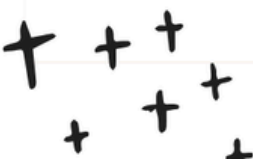
First Baptist Church of Parsons
621 Main Street, Parsons, KS

SEPT

15th

2024

The annual gathering will begin at
3:00PM with a dinner following.



**Northeast Area 2024
Annual Meeting**

**Sunday,
September 22, 2024**

**First Baptist Church
Council Grove, KS
Rev Chris Carlson,
hosting pastor**

**4 pm - Fellowship
& Games**

**5 pm - Dinner with
Smores & Camp Songs
(Freewill Offering)**

**6 pm - Business
Meeting and Worship
with**

**Rev. Dr. Robin Stoops,
Transitional Pastor at
First Baptist Church,
Topeka KS - Keynote**

7:30 pm - Closing

We hope to see you!!

Planted to Grow

**Our Churches are planted to
Grow our Christian Communities**

John 12:24-26 (NIV)

"Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."





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**

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

CAMPFIRE

College Age Retreat

Camp White Memorial
Council Grove, Kansas

November
15-17

Arrival- Friday, 7:00 PM

Departure- Sunday, 12:00 PM

\$20

Scholarships are
available for
all who apply.

To register, please scan
the QR code below.



*Join Us At
The Campfire*



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

How many of you have ever heard of the radio broadcaster, Paul Harvey? I'm sure there are many of you who know who he is and some others who do not. He usually broadcasted the news on the radio every day around 11:30 a.m. or so and he also included interesting and unusual news stories of note. Still, he also had another radio program, that was probably 5 minutes or less, which usually was broadcast just before 3:00 p.m. on weekdays. That program was called, "The Rest of The Story" and it always included an informative and fascinating story like the fact that the original Coca-Cola had a small hint of cocaine in it or the true story behind a Rembrandt painting or how Colonel Sanders came up with 11 herbs and spices for his fried chicken recipe, etc. What does this have to do with my article? Well, let's find out.

During our 65th anniversary year, as we take a look at the life of another couple who took out a charitable gift annuity with the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation, we will learn more about the lives of Reverend Darrell & Mrs. Betty R. Heidner. That's where the rest of the story comes in! I was looking for their obituaries online and I didn't find much information, so I got a hold of their daughter, Ruth Clark, one of our gifted musicians in the local church and American Baptist leader throughout the denomination, and she helped me out by having her sister send me their individual obituaries.

While their obituaries had all of the important information in them, they were so short that there was not a good enough story in my opinion to share. I think the most important things that I gleaned from both of them is that they were married for 65 years and they have five children, 16 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren at the time of Betty R. (Wing) Heidner's death. (I need to state it that way because Rev. Darrell was married a second time to Betty Nettleton.) Rev. Darrell was born in New Effington, SD in 1924. He worked for the Santa Fe Railroad in KC, KS as he studied for Christian ministry. He pastored churches in Iowa and Nebraska before moving to Wichita in 1980, to serve as an area minister for the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region.

Being a farm boy myself, I felt like I needed more meat and potatoes or corn for this story, so I contacted Ruth again and she wrote an amazing, stream-of-consciousness piece about her parents. So I am going to share some excerpts from that now.

She writes, "Three things changed the course of his life in South Dakota. When he was 16, there was an accident in the field, and a horse fell on him, severely breaking his leg. He spent six weeks that summer in traction in the upstairs room of the local doctor's office. During that time, bored and restless, he began to read the New Testament seriously. While church was always a part of their lives, he had not previously given much thought to his relationship with the Lord.

Because of the accident, one leg was shorter than the other which did not allow him to serve in the military. Instead, he went with three others to Oregon and spent several months welding ships during World War II.



Finally, the allergies that had caused him problems since his early years convinced him that trying to stay on the farm was not his best health choice. He went to Minneapolis and learned how to be a railroad telegraph operator, cutting orders for trains. When he completed the training he was offered two positions— one in Arizona (probably because of his health concerns) and another in Kansas City, Kansas (much closer to South Dakota). So, he arrived early one morning at Union Station in Kansas City which, as one of his neighbors later claimed, " would hold a lot of hay!"

He found an upstairs sleeping apartment in the home of a Santa Fe engineer's widow in Argentine and went to work in the office. One of his coworkers, Allen Wing, took pity on the homesick young man and invited him to church and Sunday dinner at their home where he had a daughter named Betty.

Even though they proudly served cherry pie from their backyard tree (to which Darrell was seriously allergic), the dinner was a great success. Darrell began faithfully attending Argentine Baptist Church with Betty and her family and was baptized there. Engaged on New Year's eve, they were married there in June of 1948."

Their story continues—they continued to work at the church and helped with Youth for Christ. He felt a nudge toward ministry, so he began studying at Kansas City Bible College the same month that they welcomed their first daughter, Ruth. During bible college he was encouraged to do some preaching and served at Morse Community Church for several years. He held baby daughter Ruth in his arms while he led the singing and Betty played the piano during the first few months there. After Bible College, he still needed a few more credits so he studied at Kansas City Kansas Junior College. During this time they welcomed their second daughter Martha. Next, he studied at Central Baptist Theological Seminary and their son Paul was welcomed into the family as well. During his final 18 months of Seminary, he became the associate pastor at the First Baptist Church of Overland Park. He completed his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1958 and was ordained by the First Baptist Church of Overland Park before becoming the pastor of the Merrill's Grove Baptist Church in rural Shelby County, Iowa. During this time they welcomed their third daughter Rachel.

Ruth writes more— "On a January day in 1963 so cold and stormy that neither the current school nor the new school was open, they moved to Shenandoah, Iowa, where he became the pastor of the First Baptist Church. They welcomed their fourth daughter Lois that June. That was when Betty announced, " since we have welcomed a new child with each new school or church, next time, we should get a dog!"

Seven years later, they moved to Omaha, Nebraska, to begin ministry with the Benson Baptist Church (no new children, but a new dog!) After ten years there, the Central Region called him to become the Area Minister for the South Central Area, and they moved to Wichita to begin that Ministry.

All during their marriage, Darrell was an avid and effective gardener. Betty learned to can and freeze the produce. It was an extension of that passion for growing – garden, churches and the Kingdom – that made them consider establishing annuities that would provide Christmas and anniversary gifts for each of their children. We continue to enjoy the blessings of their thoughtfulness each year." *

How about you? Would you like to establish a gift annuity or annuities that would bless your children with financial gifts for the years to come? That is certainly something to consider! So if you are interested in that or want to fund a charitable gift annuity for another purpose, please go ahead and contact me by email, phone call or text, and I will be happy to help you in that endeavor.

I want to express my sincere and supreme thanks to Ruth Clark for sharing this delightful, honest, interesting and detailed story about her beloved parents!!

PRAYER

EMPHASIS

This month let us pray for the Annual Gathering of the ABCCR, which will be held in Lyons, Kansas. Let us pray for the planning committee as they make final preparations for this yearly event that all will go well and smooth for the gathering.

Let us give thanks for the First Baptist Church of Lyons, Kansas, and Pastor Joel Grizzle and all of their wonderful church family who will host us.

Let us pray for all of our speakers, presenters and preachers including Rev. Dr. Steve Van Ostran, that the holy spirit will inspire them all with wisdom and knowledge as we learn to do ministry in a new way by "fishing on the other side of the boat!"

Let us pray for all of our church members, clergy, staff and friends who will participate in the gathering that they will have safe travels back and forth, that they will be motivated to continue serving God in a new way and that God will open new doors for ministry as a result of this time. As the scripture says,

"He said to them, ' Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish."

John 21:6 (NRSV)



Interim

On day Paco from Madrid asked for his inheritance and then ran away. While his father searched tirelessly for him, it was to no avail. He was not to be found. Desperately the father placed an ad in the paper:

PACO
MEET ME AT THE HOTEL MONTANA
NOON TUESDAY.
ALL IS FORGIVEN!

When he went to the hotel hoping to just see his son, he was astonished to find (8) eight Pacos all looking for their father's love.

Adapted from a small story
The Capitol of the World by Ernest Hemmingway

The love of God in my life! I want to share that amazing Love. Are you called to serve Him, but do not have the training? Are you someday a retired or retiring Pastor? Don't let any more time slip away. Join us for a one-hour Zoom Introduction Training for Interim Ministry called: *Living in Faith, Walking in Christ*.

The current Interim Ministry Team Members are asked to attend.

Learn one way you can answer the call He has placed on your life.

October 15

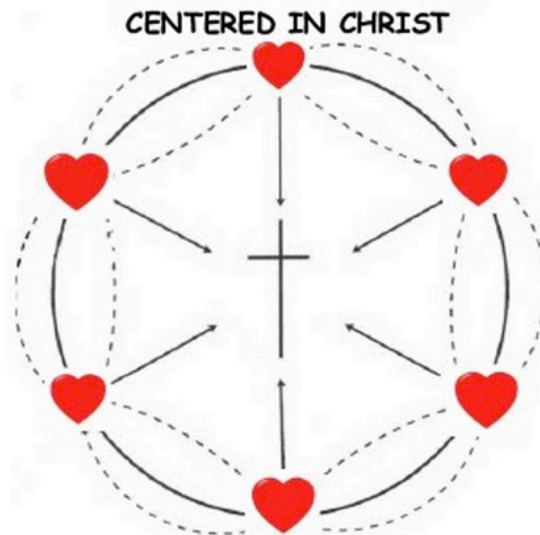
7:00 pm – 8:15 pm

Zoom In: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88145463973?pwd=gJYxmX0DJaniMAGKBuiu80GAKGGGxY.1>

Meeting ID: 881 4546 3973

Passcode: 131749

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.



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



BAPTIST POLITY COURSE

Dr. Richard E. Menninger will be offering a Baptist Polity course in the Central Region for those who need the course for meeting ordination standards or having their ordination recognized. Depending on the group size and availability, this course will be either online, in person, or a combination of the two. The text for this course is, [A Baptist Manual of Polity and Practice](#). The cost is \$100 per person and will be approximately 6-7 hours of class time. If you are interested in taking the course, please email [Gregg Hemmen](#) or [Jan Smith](#) for more information.

A Baptist Manual
of Polity and Practice
SECOND REVISED EDITION



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

Serving as the hands and feet of Christ

SAVE THE DATE!

American Baptist Churches USA

BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

July 3-6, 2025 | Omaha, NE

COME SEEK

LIVING WATER

COME SEEK:

- ◆ New Life in Christ through dynamic worship services and learning opportunities.
- ◆ New Connections with other American Baptists. Build your network!
- ◆ What God has to share with you!

Come Seek Living Water