

Friday Oct. 28 – Sat. Oct. 29
Rivers Growth Conference

Friday, October 28

Welcome Luncheon – 11:45

Regional Business Meeting –
2:00pm

Session I – 2:30pm

U of I Campus Ministry Worship
Team

International Ministries
Presentations

Dinner – 5:00pm

Dr. Priscilla Eppinger, ABC
Historical Society

Session II – 7:00pm

Worship Antioch Worship Team

Rev. Dr. Kirk Byron Jones

Reception – 9:10pm

Saturday, October 29

Breakfasts

Workshops – 9:15am (see insert)

Session III – 10:30am

Antioch Worship Team

Rev. Dr. Kirk Byron Jones

Luncheon -- Noon



A word from Patty

It is time to join the ABC family for the **Rivers Growth Conference**, October 27-29. We will begin with the Minister's Conference featuring author and pastoral counselor **Dr. Kristina Gutierrez**. Kristina will guide pastors through effective clergy self-care. The keynote speaker for October 28 and 29 is **Rev. Dr. Kirk Byron Jones**. Dr. Jones is a well-known author, speaker, and pastor. (I encourage you to Google his website.) Dr. Jones understands that this is a time when God is molding and making people into His beautiful creation. He will inspire you and your churches to care for souls and share the greatest message we have to share and that is the grace, mercy, and love of Jesus Christ to this very broken world.

International Ministries will be represented by **Sandra Dorsainvil**, director of short-term missions along with **Carmela Jones**, **Larry Stanton**, and **John Grisham**. **Priscilla Eppinger**, Executive Director of the American Baptist Historical Society, and **Erica Van Brakle**, director of MinistrElife (the ABC personnel services search engine) will be there to share, as well. Music will be provided by the Antioch Baptist Church Worship Team on Friday night and Saturday morning.

Scholarships are available for pastors and anyone willing to volunteer with registration, sound, the book table, and ushering. Register now by going to our new abcgrr.org webpage. I look forward to seeing you then! Blessings!!

**Church Revitalization
Initiative September 2022**

God is truly active! This has been yet another incredible month for the Church Revitalization Initiative. Wilton Center Federated Church in Manhattan, Illinois under the leadership of Pastor Zach Dyrdra and his leadership team and Bethel Baptist Church in Caseyville, Illinois under the leadership of Pastor Drew Anderson and his leadership team have both joined the Initiative. I am extremely excited about God sending these pastors and leadership teams to work with the region for revitalization.

I constantly look for articles that I think would be helpful for us as we do ministry in the 21st Century. I found an article written by Max Lucado to be extremely helpful. "The gospel of John tells the story of a man from Capernaum who approached Jesus in Cana. "Come heal my son," the man asked. And Jesus said the boy would be healed, and the man set out for Capernaum. Do you find yourself somewhere between Cana and Capernaum? Like the official, you begged Jesus for help. And, like the official, you didn't receive the answer in the way

you wanted. This is the issue of *not-yet-answered* prayer. Or *not-answered-in-the-way-I-asked* prayer. How should we react? I am sorry the job did not materialize, or the cancer chose to metastasize. Life has its share of dark, dark moments. Read the Bible from the table of contents in the front to the maps in the back, and you will not find any promise of a pain-free life on this side of heaven. But you will find this assurance: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5 NIV). You are never alone."

Please continue to pray for our pastors and churches in the Church Revitalization Initiative that they will follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives and the life of their churches.

Wally Holt, CRI Coordinator



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA
BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT
JUNE 23-25, 2023 | SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO



GRR Holy Land Tour Oct. 31-Nov. 11, 2023

Have you ever dreamt of walking where Jesus walked? Is traveling to Israel on your "bucket list?" Be a part of the GRR Holy Land Tour in 2023. Limited space is available. Click the link below for more information and to sign up! We will begin by traveling to Nazareth in Galilee and experience several days in the hometown of our Savior. We will see where Jesus was baptized, called his disciples, Magdala, Capernaum, and Cana. Then we will travel to the area of the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem. All fees include airfare, hotels, two meals a day, tour guides, and ground transportation. <http://www.morningstartours.com/GRR1330>



First Baptist of Kansas City

Ordains Two

It is always exciting when a congregation recognizes gifts of ministerial service! FBC, Kansas City has been such a place! On September 11, the church ordained Stephanie Spears and Joy Choi into Christian ministry. Both Stephanie and Joy have graduated from seminary, have gone through GRR's Committee on Ministerial Standards and Ordination, and passed the area examination with excellence. We are so proud of your accomplishments and celebrate with you! Congratulations FBC, Reverend Stephanie, and Reverend Joy!



The Mainstream

October 2022

abcgrr.org

Rivers Growth Conference and Ministers' Conference

October 27-29, 2022

Thursday, October 27, Minister's Conference

Conference Leader: Kristina Gutierrez

President Abraham Lincoln Doubletree Hotel

701 East Adams, Springfield, IL 62701

1:00-5:00pm Conference

5:00-6:30pm Dinner

(All meeting and meals including ABMen and ABWoman are to be at the hotel)

Speakers



Kirk Byron Jones



Sandra Dorsainvil



Priscilla Eppinger



Rev. Patricia King Bilyeu

Regional Ministry Board Appoints Executive Minister

The GRR Regional Ministry Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Patricia King Bilyeu (Patty) as Executive Minister of the Great Rivers Region. Patty is no stranger to the GRR, having served in churches in Areas I, III, and IV, and most

recently as Interim Executive Minister.

Her commitment to Christ came early and she has been involved with American Baptists her whole life. She is a native of Ohio. During college, she became part of a ministry team at her home church and soon acknowledged God's call to full-time ministry. She started her formal training at the University of Toledo with her bachelor's degree. For her seminary training, she earned her Master of Divinity degree at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. Having been ordained in the American Baptist Churches USA in 1994, she has been active in Baptist life wherever she has been. Patty is a lifelong learner and earned her teaching certificate in 2004. While in Ohio she actively participated in the Ohio

ABC Region and in 2009 was the President of the American Baptist Churches of Ohio. Upon her return to the GRR, Patty served as the Moderator of Area IV and on the region board before becoming the Assistant Area IV Minister in 2015. Patty came onto the region full-time in 2017 when she was selected to be the Regional Area Minister for Areas II and IV. With staff retirements, the GRR Ministry of Staff Relations changed Patty's job title to Associate Executive Minister in 2020. This past year, she served the GRR as Interim Executive Minister.

Patty enjoys traveling, music, and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Patty is passionate about Jesus Christ's redeeming love

and recognizes the importance of Kingdom Building today. It is that passion and love she carries on to the churches in the region she assists. Patty is thrilled to be on region staff where she is committed to the growth of healthy pastors and healthy congregations. Patty speaks French and is learning the Hungarian language.



**Rivers Growth
Conference
Workshops Continued**

**Dinner Church with
Brent Meyer**

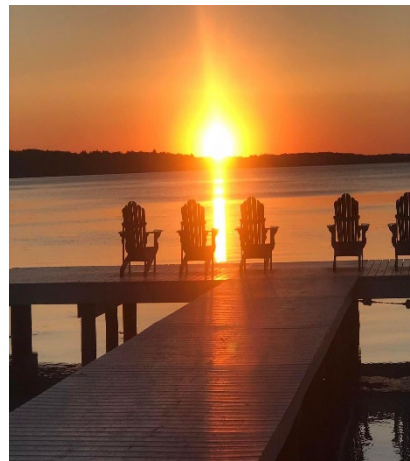
What is the new ministry that some churches have been doing called Dinner Church? Brent will share the good news of using the Dinner Church model to reach out to the community.

**Pastoral Searches
with Rob Kirbach and
Brian Romanowski**

Is your pastor retiring? Do you currently have an open pulpit? Meet with GRR ministerial staff to understand what happens in an ABC pastoral search.

**Church Revitalization
Initiative with Wally
Holt**

Are you interested in information regarding Church Revitalization? Come meet with GRR staff member Wally Holt to learn about his initiative in helping our churches transform to meet the needs of people today.



Sunset at Green Lake.

**Rivers Growth
Conference
Workshops**

**MinistrElife with Erica
Van Brakle**

This workshop is for pastors/clergy. Do you have an ABC MinistrElife profile? This workshop will explain the new ABC pastoral search engine. It will show the steps to create a profile along with helpful hints in making your resume the best. It will also give insights into what churches are looking for when looking at your profile.

**Short Term Mission
with Sandra
Dorsainvil, John
Grisham, and Nicole
Cox**

Is your congregation interested in organizing

a short-term mission trip through International Ministries? Come learn how to follow the process to create a wonderful experience for your church. Also, learn about IM's Emerging Leaders program.

**American Baptist
Historical Society with
Priscilla Eppinger**

What does the ABC Historical Society do and how can they help your church preserve the needed records and information for your history? Also, understand why it is important to share our story as American Baptists.