

Our Vision: *Healthy congregations engaged in effective Christian ministry locally and globally*

Our Purpose: To challenge, assist, represent and empower American Baptist congregations in Illinois & Missouri



**A WORD FROM OUR REGION
EXECUTIVE MINISTER
REV. PATTY BILYEU**

The Great Lakes Leadership Retreat will be held April 23-25, 2024! We are coming together for a multi-region summit with the American Baptist Regions of Ohio, Indiana/Kentucky, Great Rivers and Michigan. Grant money is available for a limited time... so do not wait to find out more! This is an opportunity for church leaders to be equipped with the foundational skills necessary to develop mission-centric congregations today. REGISTER NOW! abc-mi.org/greatlakesleadershipretreat.com.

**Pictures from our Costa Rica Mission trip
in October**



**American Baptist Churches
Great Lakes Leadership Retreat**



Ministry Training by
Fresh Expression Ministries



Retreat Focus Theme:

Rural-Urban Ministry Renewal

Save the date!

April 23-25, 2024

Regions Sponsoring this Event:



Church Revitalization Initiative

Here is an example of a church in true Revitalization mode.

The month of October was an exciting and positive month for me as I had the privilege of being in four CRI churches to worship: Jerseyville, Harvard Park, Muncie, and Ridgeview. They all brought different types of worship styles. They were all friendly and welcoming congregations. The 1st Baptist Church of Virden, under the leadership of Pastor Marty Nagel and his leadership team, is the 25th church to join our Initiative. We have already had some positive meetings going over the Revitalization material. I also had the privilege of attending the installation service of our executive minister, Rev. Patty Bilyeu. It has been an incredible month of blessings for me. I saw the Holy Spirit moving in wonderful ways.

Pastor Brett Smith, University Baptist Church, shares what is happening in his church:

"We thank God for the ways the Holy Spirit is moving in our church, bringing renewal and life to our congregation for our ongoing work of evangelism and discipleship at the University of Illinois. Recently we have seen growth in our undergraduate population. During the past year, God was calling a larger number of non-student congregants, equipping them to serve students. We are a culturally diverse group representing a dozen or more languages, as God continues to unite us into an increasingly multicultural and multigenerational church that effectively witnesses Christ in a pluralistic university community. It is amazing to experience God's work among us, and we are thankful to receive the grace he gives!"

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

Wally Holt
Church Revitalization Coordinator

†
**** Mainstream for 2024 ****

Please make sure the Region office has all updated email contact information for pastors and church leaders.

Beginning in January 2024, no hard copies of the Mainstream will be mailed. **All** GRR office correspondence will come through email. Thank you for your help.

†

For those planning to join the Costa Rica Trip in February 2024! It is taking months for passport renewals to be processed. Send renewal applications ASAP.

The Mainstream is a monthly publication of the American Baptist Churches of Website www.abcqrr.org. To subscribe/unsubscribe to The Mainstream



Congratulations to First Baptist, Jerseyville on Celebrating the First Anniversary of Dinner Church!!!



†
Love Packages!

Do you or your church have excess/unused items that may be useful to others? Love Packages collects bible donations—as well as donations of Christian books, Sunday School materials, and more—from people and publishers across the U.S. and ship to their network of distributors all over the world. Contact Love Packages at <https://lovepackages.org/> or 220 Union St., Butler IL 62015.

†

UPCOMING EVENTS!

SKWIM 2024!!! Save the Date!
January 12-15, Green Lake Wisconsin!

the Great Rivers Region, P.O. Box 13457, Springfield IL 62791. Phone: (217) 726-7366 please send an email to sally@abcqrr.org. Phone: (217) 726-7366

