

# Rob Kirbach

## American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

The Reverend Dr. Rob Kirbach is a lifelong resident of the Great Rivers Region, growing up at Upper Alton Baptist Church in Alton, IL. He has served as a youth minister, campus ministry director, and pastor in the Great Rivers Region. Rob has also worked as a mental health therapist, specializing in psychological trauma and crisis counseling. As our region's Associate Executive Minister, Rob focuses on church leadership and administration and guides the pastoral search process for congregations throughout our region. He also serves as the Special Assistant to Europe for the Short-Term Missions department of the American Baptist Church's International Ministries.

Throughout his ministry, Rob has become profoundly drawn to the spirituality and theology of St. Benedict of Nursia. Following a decade of growing closer with the Benedictine monks of the Conception Abbey monastery, Rob became an Oblate of St. Benedict (ObIOSB) in 2022.

Rob holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from Greenville University and a Master of Arts Degree in Clinical Counseling from Missouri Baptist University. He earned his Masters of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary, where he also served as a graduate teaching assistant of constructive theology. In 2024, Rob completed a Doctor of Ministry degree at Palmer Theological Seminary, specializing in contextual leadership. His doctoral project, *Doing Sacred Work in a Secular Culture: Spiritualizing Time Management and Task Prioritization Through Productivity Journaling Among American Baptist Clergy*, combines Benedictine spiritual principles with secular business practices and is being developed for future use in pastoral training and formation.

When not working, you'll likely find Rob riding his motorcycle or volunteering with his kids' high school band boosters. Rob and his wife, Julie, have three school aged children and live near Edwardsville, IL.