



Fall Semi-Annual Meeting

October 1, 2017

Oak Grove, Missouri

Cross Creek Baptist Mission

Grace Baptist Church

First Baptist, Oak Grove

Paradise Outfitter Ministries

Welcome to the 36th Year of Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association!

It's a blessed privilege to work together for the progress of the gospel. I hope you will be edified and encouraged by the fellowship, the worship, and the celebration of God's work among and through our network of churches.

There's a lot going on at this meeting as well as through your churches and our jointly supported ministries.

Please take note of the ministry and mission updates in this booklet as well as the opportunities to minister collectively. I encourage you at this meeting, and those reading this after the meeting, to connect to the ministries mentioned here and partner further for the sake of the Kingdom.

There are also resources for you and your church through the Association, as well as upcoming events and equipping and encouragement opportunities to note as well.

You are not alone in this ministry of reconciling people to God! Please avail yourselves of these opportunities and resources and let us know how we can help.

Many thanks to our Oak Grove churches—**Cross Creek, Grace, First Baptist, and Paradise Outfitters Ministries**—for hosting us!

I am grateful for all of your incredible support, empowerment, and partnership in the gospel.

All glory to God,

Rodney L. Hammer, Executive Director
Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association



Agenda

Business Motions

Nomination Committee	Linda Graham, Chairman
Credentials Committee	Sean Brooks, Chairman
Finance Committee	Tim Redding, Member

Worship Celebration

Pre-Session Music	POM Praise Band
Welcome and Prayer	Brandon Smith, Pastor POM
Oak Grove Tornado Disaster Relief Testimonies	Oak Grove Pastors
Gospel Ensemble	Grace Baptist and Cross Creek
Church Resources	Gregg Boll
Executive Director's Update	Rodney Hammer
International Ministries Music and Testimony	Luis Mendoza, Andrew Huesing, Lisandro Gonzalez and Friends
Closing Prayer	



Recommendations of the Nominating Committee

Moderator	Pastor Luis Mendoza, Palabra Viva
Moderator-Elect	Pastor Brian Grout, Church at Three Trails
Clerk	Jennifer Hutton
Treasurer	Kim Rice

Administrative Committee

Bill Bowers, **Norfleet**
Mark Gray, **Big Creek**
Ray Gurney, **Cross Creek**
Lorraine Powers, **FBC Blue Springs**
JoAnne Ruble, **Manna Fellowship**
Clayton With, **Abiding Love**

Finance Committee

Johnola Anderson, **The U Church**
Dennis Barnes, **Oakwood**
Greg Guthrie, **The Church in Waldo**
Alisa Henley, **Spruce St. Matthew**
Sandi Malone, **FBC Grandview**
Jesse Thomas, **New Wave Ministries**

Credentials Committee

Randy Chambers, **River Boulevard**
Dave Gass, **Grace Family Fellowship**
Wayne Geiger, **FBC Grain Valley**
Welby Jones, **Sterling Acres**
Paul Midgett, **Lone Jack**
Jim Vest, **FBC Raymore**

Personnel Committee

Doug Bradley, **Coventry Estates**
Wade Paris, **Faith Baptist**
Luis Sanchez, **Primera Iglesia Bautista de Ind.**
John Still, **Spring Valley**
Travis Yeargans, **River's Edge Fellowship**
David Zink, **South Haven**

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is appointed by the Moderator in consultation with an advisory group composed of the Moderator-Elect, the Director of Missions and the Clerk. (Bylaw 9.8.1).

Submitted by Nominating Committee

Linda Graham, Chairman
Ruth Carpenter
Doug Schildknecht
Chris Pinion
Charlie Ruble
Charles West



Luis Mendoza



Brian Grout

Recommendations of the Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee met in February for the purpose of reviewing membership applications from churches wishing to join the Association. After meeting with the pastor and reviewing their church's doctrine, ecclesiology, constitution, bylaws and budget, we recommend the following church for full membership into the Association:

Abiding Faith Baptist Church and Mission, 8524 Blue Ridge Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64138

Additionally, the Credentials Committee was contacted regarding Fellowship Greenwood Church. Fellowship Greenwood became a member of the Association through their mother church, Lenexa Baptist, in 2014. Fellowship Greenwood is becoming an independent church and therefore will become a member of the association on their own.

Submitted by Credentials Committee
Sean Brooks, Chairman
Wendel Rosbrugh
Wayne Geiger
Jim Vest
Welby Jones



Greg Washington
Abiding Faith



Chris Williams
Fellowship Greenwood

Report and Recommendation of the Finance Committee

Blue River Kansas City Baptist Association Balance Sheet August 2017

Accounts		
Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents		
101000 - Commerce Checking Account	\$45,069.54	
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents		\$45,069.54
Other Receivables		
112200 - Due from Restoration House	\$388.18	
Total Other Receivables		\$388.18
Investments		
130002 - Change in Value of Investments	\$3,117.38	
140000 - Charles Schwab	\$285,093.31	
Total Investments		\$288,210.69
Total Assets		\$333,668.41
Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds		
Liabilities		
Tax & Liabilities		
201000 - Federal Income Tax Withholding	\$3,173.11	
201500 - State Tax Withholding	\$1,197.00	
202500 - FICA Tax Withholding	\$2,030.40	
Total Tax & Liabilities		\$6,400.51
Total Liabilities		\$6,400.51
Fund Principal		
270000 - Unrealized Losses & Earnings on Inv	\$3,117.38	
299999 - BRKC Fund Principal	\$36,448.52	
Excess Cash Received	\$14,452.41	
Total Fund Principal and Excess Cash Received		\$54,018.31
Restricted Funds		
Total Temporary Restricted	\$273,249.59	
Total Restricted Funds		\$273,249.59
Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds		\$333,668.41

Financial Statement Thursday, August 31, 2017

	Current Month	Year-to-Date
Receipts from churches	\$34,915.28	\$303,479.61
Other Income	\$0.00	\$91.21
Total	\$34,915.28	\$303,570.82
Less Expenses	\$44,968.66	\$291,917.20
Balance as of 8/31/17	-\$10,053.38	\$11,653.62
 Budget		 \$315,186.16
Budget receipts		\$303,570.82
Receipts compared to budget	96%	-\$11,615.34

**2018 Proposed Budget
Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association**

Accounts	2017 Budget	2018 Proposed
Gospel Outreach		
412100 - Discretionary Missions Fund	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
412200 - Partnership Missions	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
414100 - Refugee & Immigrant Ministries	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
417000- Andrew Huesing/People Teams Leader	\$6,000.00	\$7,200.00
College Ministry		
405100 - Travis Hamm - Impact Student Min. UMKC	\$6,000.00	\$7,200.00
406000 - Housing/Office	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
406700 - Carson Conover - Blue River & Longview	\$4,800.00	\$6,000.00
Total College Ministry	\$12,000.00	\$14,400.00
Total Gospel Outreach	\$42,000.00	\$45,600.00
Resource Churches		
421600 - Media Center	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
NEW - Discipleship Resources		\$5,000.00
422200 - Minister - Church Relations	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
435000 - Auto - Executive Director	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
435200 - Auto - Associate Director	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
435900 - Auto - Administrative Assistant	\$500.00	\$400.00
435800 - Auto - Director of Development	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
436110 - Church Revitalization Ministries	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00
Woman's Missionary Union		
408000 - Age Level Development	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
409400 - Literature/Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
409600 - Postage and Promotion	\$400.00	\$400.00
Total Woman's Missionary Union	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Total Resource Churches	\$23,900.00	\$27,300.00
Assist Comm. Transformation		
401200 - Forest Avenue Homeless Shelter	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
401500 - Human Trafficking	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00
401700 - Inner City Youth & Education Outreach	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Total Assist Comm. Transformation	\$42,000.00	\$32,000.00
Church Planting		
411100 - Multi-Ethnic CPC	\$14,400.00	\$14,400.00
411500 - Spanish - Beverly Hills	\$2,400.00	\$3,600.00

414400 - Peter Assad - Church in Waldo	\$2,400.00	\$3,600.00
414700 - David Cole - Oak Tree	\$2,400.00	\$0.00
414810 - Chris Seay - LifeConnection NE	\$2,400.00	\$3,600.00
414820 - Nathan Begnaud - Redemption Church	\$2,400.00	\$3,600.00
414830 - Michael Randle - Mosaic Bible	\$2,400.00	\$3,600.00
414510 - Joey Candillo - Grace Independence	\$2,400.00	\$0.00
414870 - Pedro Achucarro - Spanish Belton	\$2,400.00	\$3,600.00
414880 - Asefaw Indrias - African Church Plant	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
414860 - Mike Roy - Pathway	\$2,400.00	\$3,600.00
414890 - Conrad Au - Vancouver Coquitlam	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
413800 - Derek Steinmuller - LifeConnection GV	\$2,400.00	\$3,600.00
413900 - Rick Friesen - Manna Fellowship	\$2,400.00	\$0.00
414000 - Anthony Fletcher - Redeemed Ministries	\$2,400.00	\$3,600.00
414300 - Victor Thomas - Vancouver & Coquitlam	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00
414310 - Travis Yeargans - River's Edge	\$2,400.00	\$3,600.00
NEW - Truman Avenue Hispanic Work		\$3,600.00
Total Church Planting	\$55,200.00	\$63,600.00
Equipping Leaders		
421000 - Leadership Training	\$5,580.00	\$5,600.00
422400 - Conferences & Special Events	\$5,560.00	\$7,000.00
Total Equipping Leaders	\$11,140.00	\$12,600.00
Administration		
401400 - Newsletter	\$14,000.00	\$15,000.00
401600 - Postage (2nd class for newsletter)	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
401800 - Association Emphasis	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
436000 - Conv/Training - Executive Director	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
436200 - Conv/Training - Assoc Director	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
436600 - Conv/Training - Admin Assistant	\$500.00	\$500.00
451000 - Office Supplies	\$1,350.00	\$1,000.00
451500 - Postage - Administrative	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00
452500 - Legal Fees	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
452600 - ACS Accounting	\$3,500.00	\$3,700.00
452800 - Online Giving Fees	\$1,600.00	\$1,200.00
455000 - Miscellaneous Administrative	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Total Administration	\$35,450.00	\$37,400.00
Operations		
441500 - Janitorial Supplies	\$200.00	\$300.00
442500 - Maintenance & Repair	\$500.00	\$700.00
443500 - Vehicle Maintenance	\$550.00	\$600.00
444000 - Insurance - Property	\$4,600.00	\$5,000.00

444200 - Insurance - Vehicle	\$1,200.00	\$1,300.00
444300 - Insurance - Workman's Comp	\$1,250.00	\$1,300.00
444500 - Equipment	\$4,000.00	\$3,500.00
445000 - Electricity	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
445500 - Telephone/Internet	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00
446000 - Water	\$220.00	\$150.00
446200 - Trash & Sewer	\$660.00	\$660.00
441000 - Security System	\$400.00	\$450.00
Total Operations	\$19,280.00	\$19,660.00
Personnel		
431000 - Exective Director <i>salary</i>	\$71,050.15	\$76,584.15
431100 - Exective Director <i>housing</i>	\$39,629.68	\$39,629.68
431200 - Exec Dir Hsing paid from design annuity	-\$18,200.00	-\$18,200.00
431200 - Associate Director	\$50,435.11	\$53,956.87
431300 - Associate Director Housing	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
431400 - Director of Development	\$15,000.00	\$15,750.00
431800 - Administrative Assistant	\$33,915.87	\$36,011.67
432000 - Financial Secretary	\$3,200.00	\$3,360.00
432100 - Communications Assistant	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
433200 - Annuity - Exec Director	\$7,105.02	\$7,658.42
433400 - Annuity - Assoc Director	\$5,043.51	\$5,395.69
433900 - Annuity - Admin Asst	\$3,391.59	\$3,601.17
434200 - Payroll Tax Expense	\$8,041.36	\$8,600.00
434400 - Bonuses - Christmas and Longevity	\$1,200.00	\$3,500.00
Total Personnel	\$243,812.29	\$259,847.65
Total Expenses	\$472,782.29	\$498,007.65

VISION 2020 UPDATE

Vision Statement

We envision a network of healthy Baptist churches partnering together to transform lives and communities through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ at home, in North America and around the world.

Objectives:

- Gospel Outreach
- Resourcing Churches
- Assisting Community Transformation
- Church Planting
- Equipping Leaders

GOSPEL OUTREACH

People Teams

By Andrew Huesing, Team Leader (andrewhuesing@gmail.com)

People Team's past six months have been a continuation of previous activities and an introduction to some new ventures.

Brian Jones from **Crossroads Church** in Grain Valley did a great job as an intern this Summer. He learned about cultural differences first-hand as he dove into the youth ministry, cross-cultural evangelism efforts, and home Bible Studies. One teenager from the Congo had been praying with me for months for someone to teach him drums so that he could lead worship in his African church, and Brian was God's answer to the prayer by giving drum lessons at the International Welcome Center.

Youth group ministry continues with soccer and Bible study on Monday nights and basketball and Bible study on Tuesday nights. At least forty kids come each week from various nations and Amer-



ica; many of them are Muslims whose parents allow them to attend. There are not many teenagers following Jesus at their school or neighborhoods. A handful are in trouble with the law, and some are already teenage parents, so these ministries are crucial to help them hear stories from the Bible and be mentored on their level by our volunteers. In the last few months, some of the kids have been starting to lead the small group studies by reading the Scriptures and facilitating small group questions (under supervision). It is encouraging to see them rise in leadership and discipleship week by week. Crossing the line of salvation through Jesus is very difficult for a Muslim, but it is encouraging to see Muslim teens hearing the Word of God and being challenged to think about it and obey what they hear each week. If the LORD convinces them that it is true, they will already know a lot about the Bible.



People Teams continues to be a resource for any church in the association looking to get involved cross-culturally. **FBC Blue Springs** continues to be involved in various ways. Led by Carmen Kraus, **Connection Point** attended a month of cross-cultural tours around the city with People Teams and Refuge KC and the third annual sports camp at Milestone Ministries. Programs are very helpful in developing relationships, and various individuals have friendships with internationals where they can share the love of Christ and the Gospel naturally and incarnationally, and that is the kind of grass-roots outreach that People Teams wants to empower.

In the last few months, People Teams has started rolling out a prayer strategy for each people group. Prayer warriors can sign up to receive monthly emails from someone ministering to a specific people group in KC with updated prayer needs. If you would like to subscribe and see which people groups have prayer teams, email Andrew at kcpeopleteams@gmail.com.

Finally, People Teams wants to prepare people to be able to minister to refugees through the second refugee simulation. This fun and challenging group role play takes place October 14 for four hours. Participants are forced to have manufactured experiences that help them empathize with refugees, learn more about the process, learn ways to share the Gospel, and come to conclusions about what to do or not to do when ministering to refugees.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the generous support from BR-KC for People Teams and my family over the past five and a half years.

Student Ministry Report

By Travis Hamm, Impact Ministries at UMKC and Rockhurst (travis@impactumkc.com)

Impact is a ministry that brings the gospel of Jesus to the University of Missouri – Kansas City, a campus of over 16,000 students. We have been able to minister to these university students largely due to the support of the Blue River – Kansas City Baptist Association. Thank you, BR-KC!

Here's a sampling of what has been happening in our ministry this past year:

Fighting Trafficking. G.R.A.T.I.S. is a human trafficking awareness group that we created two years ago at UMKC. It stands for Gathering Roos Against Trafficking to Inform and Support. This year in addition to screening human trafficking documentaries on campus and hosting information display tables, we also participated in Restoration House's CEO Tricycle Race in May. We raised \$700 and had a blast! We look forward to continuing our efforts this school year and volunteering with Rehope Market.



Gospel Laborers. In the report I wrote for last year's meeting, I concluded by asking for prayers for God to raise up ministry laborers to work alongside me at UMKC. Thank you to those who prayed, because God answered! This summer God brought Kyle Yehle, a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University and a leader with the Baptist Student Union ministry there, to come on as my ministry intern for this school year. God has also brought students and UMKC alum to join our ministry efforts to make disciples of college students. I'm pleased to have a student leadership of 12 individuals who are working alongside my wife and me!



Welcome Week Events. The 2017-2018 school year is off and running. Our leadership team was able to create some wonderful events for students on the first week of class. The events included a Java Night where we served 214 free coffee drinks, a BBQ on campus where we fed over 150 students, and a Spoken Word & Worship event where we praised God with freshmen and upperclassmen.



Conversion. My wife, Britney, got to meet with one UMKC student during the first week of class. They had a great conversation where Britney was able to share the gospel with her. By God's grace, this student surrendered her life to Christ! She is now in a Discipleship Group that Britney is co-leading.

Discipleship. With the addition of student leaders, we were able to launch 6 discipleship groups this fall! And we have the ability to launch more if we have more students interested. How wonderful to be able to disciple a greater number of UMKC students!

Our ministry always welcomes your prayers. Keep praying for God to raise up laborers for the harvest field here at UMKC, and for the other colleges and universities in the Kansas City area. Pray that God grants our leadership wisdom to know how best to connect with students. Pray for many more students to put their trust in the Gospel of Jesus.

If you would like to receive monthly newsletter updates about Impact, please e-mail me at - Travis@impactumkc.com or subscribe online at - <http://eepurl.com/pGwp1>

Student Ministry Report

*By Carson Conover, Campus Ministries at Longview and Blue River Community College
(carson@lifeconnectionkc.org)*

Baptisms

Last spring, 3 students professed faith in Christ. Two of those students—Levi and Emily—were baptized at **LifeConnection Church** in April. The other student—Maddie—was baptized at her local church. Levi participated in my summer discipleship group and is currently on the core team for Christian Challenge at Blue River.



Giveaways on Campus

We began the semester at Blue River with Challenge table events through the first several weeks of the new semester. We've been inviting students to fill out 30 second surveys to win gift cards. We add contacts to a text group (we currently have 400+ contacts) so we can invite them to join Challenge Bible Studies and Challenge Socials.

Bible Study at Longview

We're three weeks into Bible studies at Longview through Intersarsity Christian Fellowship. We had 14 students participate in our first week. We had baked goods, candy, and get-to-know-you Jenga. We'll meet every Thursday at 12:30p to study Matthew's Gospel together.



Challenge Socials

Lawn Games & Lemonade

We gathered students for some fun lawn games and provided some cold lemonade on a hot day. We were able to meet some new students and reconnect with some of those who stopped by our table. Our aim is to gather students to make new friends, build relationships, and encourage friend groups to form organically. It's been said, "Students are looking for a friendly group. They're looking for a group of friends."

Ice Cream Social

We had ice cream for our 2nd Challenge Social. Our ministry reserved space on campus and provided 3 gallon tubs of ice cream with all the toppings.

Red Cup Proxe

Our most recent Challenge social was an evangelistic outreach. We gave away free bottled water and sodas and invited students to have a conversation with us about their deepest thirsts in life. The conversation concluded with a gospel presentation and an invitation to join a Challenge Bible Study (starting the week of Sept. 18th). We had approximately 40 spiritual conversations. Please continue to pray for me and for students and faculty and Blue River and Longview Community College. Thank you!

Horn of Africa

By Nicole Brown, Noland Road Baptist Church (brown2380@sbcglobal.net)

By the time you read this, we will be in Shire, Ethiopia where we will encourage the Bible students that gather in the Shire Kalehiwet Church. These students are continuing their journey in their education so they may be a part of the second graduating class in the Tigray region! What a blessing they are and how they deepen their faith as they come from the refugee camps and from surrounding towns to learn more about the Lord they love. What an example and blessing they are on a daily basis.



We hope to visit the sponsored children at their schools to continue building relationships. Since our departure in May the continued delivery of their monthly distribution of the food and clothing has been going well.

We pray to have continued access to the unaccompanied minors in the refugee camps so we may serve them again. We want to serve the Lord with excellence and pray we hear his voice very clear and see his plan for the Eritrean and Ethiopian people that are suffering.

Sometimes it is hard to hear the Lord, or see his path because of all the mess that surrounds us while we are trying so hard to serve but that is when it is the most crucial time to draw close to him, and just dive in to His Word and ask for peace and clarity.

[Vancouver Partnership](#)

By Rodney Hammer, Executive Director of Missions (rodneyh@kcbaptist.org)

One of the partnership mission commitments we have made is to assist in the church planting efforts of the WestCoast Baptist Association in Vancouver, Canada since 2010.

We provide and help lead a Church Planter Family Retreat each spring in Vancouver, encourage local churches in our Association to partner with church plants there, we host at least one vision trip for our church leadership to see the work and partnership needs, and we serve on the leadership coalition for SEND Vancouver in partnership with the North American Mission Board.



I recently took Richard Young and Victor Boll from **South Haven Baptist** in Belton on a vision trip. It's an incredible experience and very affordable. We will host another vision trip for interested pastors and church leaders in May of 2018.

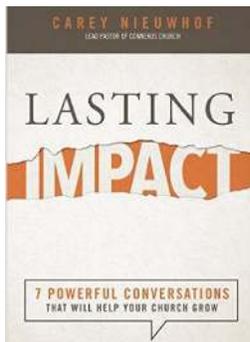
RESOURCING CHURCHES AND EQUIPPING LEADERS

By Gregg Boll, Associate Director of Missions (greggb@kcbaptist.org)

As usual, 2017 was a busy and productive year. We were able to celebrate several victories with our BR-KC churches. Some churches called new staff members they desperately needed. Some finished remodeling projects. One moved into a brand new sanctuary, greatly expanding their ability to minister to their community. Some saw numerical growth and some saw spiritual growth and a deepening of their people's faith. Someone has pointed out that some of the decline evangelical, bible-believing churches have experienced over the last 10 years is not a failure of the gospel or a mass turning away from the gospel of people who have never heard it, but the slow steady exit of cultural "Christians" who never really knew Christ and were attached to the church solely out of cultural conformity. The sense I get from visiting with our pastors is that more of them are encouraged and hopeful about the future than were a few years ago. That's not to say that some are still struggling and we continue to do everything we can to come along side those pastors and church to support and resource them.



Last year I led ten monthly Legacy Cohort meetings. We have changed the name of this gathering of pastor and staff to Revitalization and Leadership Cohort for 2018. The endeavor of this group meeting is to equip and encourage pastors with resources to bring health and growth to their churches. Current revitalization principles and best leadership practices are shared along with practical evangelism and discipleship strategies that are doable for smaller churches. Pastors who have replanted and/or revitalized their church or who have expertise in a particular area are often invited to address the group and answer questions. From this group of pastors we have mentored a formidable team of men who desire to help other churches and pastors who are struggling. Currently, we are working to put together a Revitalization Team who could be called upon by any or our BR-KC churches. If invited in, this team would help the church accurately assess their current congregational health and ministry strategy and gently lead them through a process of redreaming a new



and better path forward. If you're interested in serving on this kind of intervention team, contact me.

We held the annual Lifeway VBS Training Clinic at **Grain Valley First Baptist Church** this spring. Over 50 attended to prepare their workers and directors for a quality VBS. As usual, training was offered for teachers of each age group, for VBS Directors, Worship Leaders, Mission Education, and Crafts/Art.

In May, we hosted our annual Williams-Farmer Preaching Fellowship at **Harvest Baptist Church** in Blue Springs. Pastor Hosea Bilyeu, formerly pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist in Springfield, Missouri, was our conference leader. He provided every participant with his recent book, *The Biblical Preacher's Workshop* and taught key concepts of effective preaching.



Another exciting development in 2017 was BR-KC's new partnership with Diakonos Counseling in Independence. Dr. Hammer and I sat down with Executive Director Steve Pringle and worked out an arrangement whereby any of our BR-KC pastors, staff, and family members could have access to professional counseling at a fraction of the normal cost. The first session is free and up to 6 subsequent counseling sessions cost only \$22 with BR-KC and Diakonos picking up the remainder of the bill. This is absolutely confidential and we at BR-KC are never informed

of who has received counseling from Diakonos. We hope more of our pastors and their family members will access this great resource with the possibility of potentially saving marriages, ministries and families.

As you know, the Association has always kept a fairly good sized lending library of Bible study and DVD based discipleship resources on hand. While we will continue to add new and more current studies to our collection, we are moving forward with an exciting online resource opportunity from RightNow Media. This online company makes literally 1000's of possible training, Bible and discipleship videos available to those who subscribe. We (BR-KC) would like to pay for a limited number of subscriptions to RightNow Media and then to give those to several of our churches on a one year trial basis. This could be a real game changer in the area of developing leaders, workers, and disciples. We ask that you apply with BR-KC as a limited number of these scholarships will be available. The free subscription will be granted based on the churches need and ability to most fully utilize the service. If the service proves to be profitable for your church members, your church could then pick up the subscription in the second year and continue using it.

Nearly 90 pastors, staff and church members from BR-KC and near-by association gathered at **Connection Point Church** recently to hear the state of religious liberty in our country and what is happening to safeguard our liberties. BR-KC organized the event and invited two constitutional lawyers and an expert in the area of church safety and liability. The take away was greatly encouraging to those present; most of the news we have heard recently has been unsettling and it appeared that people of faith were increasingly being legislated into silence and asked to practice their faith in a corner. Brad Dacus of the Pacific Justice Institute, Michael Whitehead of Whitehead Law Firm and Becky Moyer of Moyer and Moyer Insurance were the featured speakers. Each brought a unique and encouraging message to our churches. Brad and Michael cited several court cases from the District and Supreme Court levels that had been decided in favor of religious liberty and free expression of faith. While constant vigilance is needed and there is still areas of concern for people of faith, Brad and Michael demonstrated how courts with a majority of liberal judges have been settling cases on the side of religious liberty when cogent, constitutional arguments have been presented. Becky Moyer and Denise DesCombes shared practical ways churches can protect themselves from potential liability and helped churches assess whether they had adequate insurance for the various contingencies that face churches in today's rapidly changing social and moral landscape. We are grateful to Pastor Brandon Park, Connection Point Church and all those who served us.



Finally, I was invited by two churches to lead them through Transformational Church and the accompanying church assessment. This is fruitful time spent with our churches over a seven week period, usually on Sunday evenings. I welcome other invitations to come along side you and to help you look at your church with an outsider's eyes.

It is a joy and privilege to serve you and the churches of BR-KC and I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

WMU

By Linda Graham, Associational WMU Director (lgrahamwmu@aol.com)

Does your church collect an offering for World Hunger in October? The offering could be food or money. The international mission study is about Russia. Have you been there? Would you like to tell us about the country? Lottie Moon sacrificed by going to China as a missionary; what are we sacrificing so that we can give money to the offering bearing her name. Plan to see the Mulley movie which will be shown in theaters Oct.3-4-5. It is about a man who went from being an orphan to a millionaire, then giving it all away to help orphans. There have been 35 people trained in basic ESL. Please call us if we can help.



ASSISTING COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Restoration House

By September Tribble, Executive Director (septembe@restorationhousekc.com)

Restoration House of Greater Kansas City has now been open two and half years! We are seeing lives healed and HOPE being born!

"I've never known what it is to have real friends that I could trust."

"I never thought I could make it out of the life – now I have a license, a job, and sobriety...I have healing and a future!!"

Top accomplishments in the last 6 months:

- Provided 74 residential, non-residential, and/or referral services
- 10 women served in non-residential and residential services (capacity is 5 at a time)
- Residential Program Completion/Graduation:
 - Stage 1 Stabilization: 7 women
 - Stage 2 Restoration: 4 women
 - Stage 3 Integration: 1 woman
 - Graduation: 1 woman

May – September 2017 key healing opportunities:

- 21 church services attended
- 1 baptism
- 218 Celebrate Recovery hours
- 18 medical appointments
- 13 mental health appointments
- 95 hours of New Life Coaching (faith based counseling sessions)
- 52 hours of Empowerment Coaching (case management sessions)
- 116 hours of life skills training



Community Engagement and Training

Participation in 14 trainings and/or conferences

In total - our staff, volunteers and board members have achieved over 6000 hours of training and service.

Top Goals for the current year:

Open a Stage Two Home and a Transitional Living Home

3 Churches are currently praying about how to fund and facilitate this home!

Grow the social enterprise into a trauma informed, compassionate learning experience for women to develop work skills and establish a work history

88 hours of training and volunteerism for our participants

Expand our growing volunteer base so we can effectively meet all transportation and program needs

21 volunteers currently serving through driving, overnight services, maintenance, cleaning, and administrative services



Rehope Market

By Kristin Spilker, Director (Kristin@restorationhousekc.com)

Rehope Market is an online women's resale boutique with a passion and a purpose to prevent, heal, and end human trafficking. All proceeds from our sales go to Restoration House of Greater Kansas City, a faith based, long term, residential program for survivors of sex trafficking. Their holistic restoration program empowers victims for their recovery from the violence, trauma, and indignities they have suffered.



The vision for Rehope Market came from the need to provide the participants with job skills and social enterprise experience as well as the opportunity to provide an ongoing, sustainable source of income for the programs at Restoration House of Greater Kansas City.

Our initial business plan has been implemented and adjusted as needed to establish the online boutique, www.rehopemarket.com and holding pop-up Outlet Community Sales for selling second tier items. We have spent the last six months building inventory, creating a volunteer base, and planning for the future. Our results speak to a strong foundation that has been built and is ready to grow.

- Current Items in online inventory: 825
- Items in Outlet inventory: 1600
- Number of Rehope Market Outlet Pop Up Community Sales: 4
- Average \$ per Outlet Sale: \$200
- Average \$ per online sale: \$25
- FB followers: 416
- Instagram followers: 112
- Number of volunteers: 90
- Volunteer hours: 470
- Restoration House Business Development training hours: 88



HOW TO BE INVOLVED:

- 1) Purchase clothing from www.rehopemarket.com and share with all your friends
- 2) Donate new and nearly new women's clothing for our inventory
- 1) Volunteer in our offices to help with sorting, laundry, or order processing
- 2) Follow us on Facebook & Instagram! @rehopemarket



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018

Marketing and expanding our reach is our biggest priority in the coming year both as an e-commerce destination and a way for individuals to make a difference in lives and in our city through donating or volunteering.

Contact the office for more information: info@rehopemarket.com.

CHURCH PLANTING

[MultiEthnic CPC—Luis Mendoza](#)

By Luis Mendoza, MECPD Director (planterluis@gmail.com)

The last few months we have been very busy at the Multiethnic Church Planting Center-Welcome Center located in Kansas City. The work at the Center can be divided into two different areas: activities related to church planting and development of pastors and leaders, and those activities connected to fulfilling the felt needs of the community we minister to on a regular basis.

Assessment

Last August, with the assistance of Ken McCune, Missouri Baptist Convention, Pastor Pedro Achucarro **Iglesia Pan de Vida** of Grandview we had the privilege of hosting a Hispanic assessment. The two candidates, Alberto Cerecedo and Lucas Diego have been actively involved in their churches, performing activities directly connected to the process of planting new churches. Through this assessment, we were able to help them discover and affirm their God-given abilities and calling to plant churches among Hispanics residing in Kansas City. Hopefully, in the next few months, Alberto and Lucas will be putting together church planting teams, with the objective of planting two new Hispanic churches in the Kansas City area. The Multiethnic Church Planting Center, along with some other local churches, has the commitment to assist them in this process every step of the way. It is encouraging to see that the Center is being used by God to discover, coaching, mentoring and developing these new church planters. We love to work with these young men from the very beginning of their Christian walk and being part of their growth and development.



Training Pastors and Leaders

In the past few months, we had the privilege of inviting local and regional pastors from around the state, to participate in a training in which we were dealing with an issue that seems to be prevalent in many churches: the lack of growth. We have been studying church growth from three different perspectives: spiritually, numerically, in multiplication, and influence in the world. We believe those are the four different areas that a church can grow. The pastors have been

very candid when studying and analyzing the lack of church growth among Hispanic Churches. Their openness and transparency has helped us to determine that first and foremost, the most important growth a church can have is spiritual growth. We have also concluded that probably, if the Hispanic Churches can establish a system that will help churches to grow spiritually, then they will see growth in the other areas. In the next few months, we will be working to develop a practical plan that churches can follow and implement to accomplish the goal of seeing their churches grow.

Immigration Assistance, ESL, Connecting with people

There will always be new people coming to the United States. When they come, they have to resolve their immigration issues. With the assistance of a local attorney and friend, Bill Niffen, we have been able to assist people in need of those specific services. Another area in which immigrants residing in Kansas City always need help, is improving their abilities to speak and write English. With the assistance of a team from **First Baptist Church, Blue Springs**, we have been able to offer weekly English classes to the international community residing in NE Kansas City and beyond. We just started a new semester. In the last few months, we have been meeting new friends from different countries. We have opened our facilities for them, so they can do activities as they wish. Some of them like sewing, others knitting, but all of them like tea. We enjoy having them in the building and sharing the love of Christ with them through practical actions. In addition, we have begun the process of developing a partnership with a local school located in our community. We want to develop a close relationship with them, and show them we care, through random acts of kindness and offer our assistance with some specific needs they might have. We believe many churches can help us to fulfill this goal.



Vision 2020 Grants

Grant Application Information:

- Grants will be given out on a semi-annual basis—February and August
- The approximate amount for each semi-annual period will be \$21,391.83
- 15% will be designated for emergency capital needs of churches
- 15% will be allocated for Restoration House
- 70% will be flexible within the five existing ministry objective categories
- Churches/ministries will have a maximum number of two semi-annual requests with only one request being granted each time
- Churches can only be funded in any given category once per year
- Only one emergency capital needs request per year is allowed per church. If no emergency capital needs are requested in a grant period, the remainder of the funds become flexible and can be used in other categories

Grant Schedule:

February 2 Grant requests due	February 28 Grant checks written
August 3 Grant requests due	August 22 Grant checks written

For more information or to apply for a grant, visit
www.blueriver-kansascity.org/grant

BR-KC 2018 Yearly Planning Calendar

January

- 1 New Year's Holiday (office closed)
- 9 Revitalization and Leadership Cohort, 10 a.m. @ **Spring Valley, Raytown**
- 11 Ministry Teams, 11 a.m. @ office
- 15 Martin Luther King Day (office closed)
- 18 Restoration House Monthly Awareness Meeting, 6 p.m. @ **Heart of Life Lee's Summit**
- 20 Restoration House Fundraising Gala @ InterContinental on the Plaza

February

- 1 African American Fellowship Lunch, noon @ **United Believers Community Church, Kansas City**
- 2 Grant Requests Due
- Pastor/Staff/Spouse Appreciation Banquet, 7 p.m. @ **Connection Point Church, Raytown**
- 3 RHGKC Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, 6 p.m. @ **Connection Point Church, Raytown**
- 8 Ministry Teams, 11 a.m. @ office
- 13 Revitalization and Leadership Cohort, 10 a.m. @ **Spring Valley, Raytown**
- 15 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **Grace Family Fellowship, Pleasant Hill**
- Restoration House Monthly Awareness Meeting, 6 p.m. @ **Heart of Life Lee's Summit**
- 21 Finance and Administrative Committee Meeting, 3 p.m. @ office
- 22 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **First, Raymore**

March

- 1 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **Crossroads, Grain Valley**
- 8 Ministry Teams, 11 a.m. @ office
- 13 Revitalization and Leadership Cohort, 10 a.m. @ **Spring Valley, Raytown**
- 15 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **Southview, Raytown**
- Restoration House Monthly Awareness Meeting, 6 p.m. @ **Heart of Life Lee's Summit**
- 22 VBS Clinic, 6:30 p.m.
- 30 Good Friday (office closed)

April

- 6-7 WMU Annual Meeting/Missions Celebration @ Springfield
- 8 Semi-Annual Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 10 Revitalization and Leadership Cohort, 10 a.m. @ **BRKC Office, Greenwood**
- 12 Ministry Teams, 11 a.m. @ office
- 18 Finance Committee Meeting, 3 p.m. @ office
- 19 Restoration House Monthly Awareness Meeting, 6 p.m. @ **Heart of Life Lee's Summit**
- 24 Leadership Conference

May

- 3 African American Fellowship, noon @ **United Believers Community Church, Kansas City**
- 8 Revitalization and Leadership Cohort, 10 a.m. @ **BRKC Office, Greenwood**
- 10 Ministry Teams, 11 a.m. @ office
- 17 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **Grace Family Fellowship, Pleasant Hill**
- Restoration House Monthly Awareness Meeting, 6 p.m. @ **Heart of Life Lee's Summit**
- 24 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **First, Raymore**
- 28 Memorial Day (office closed)
- 31 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **Crossroads, Grain Valley**

June

- 7 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **Southview, Raytown**
- 11-13 Southern Baptist Convention, Dallas, TX
- 20 Finance Committee Meeting, 3 p.m. @ office
- 21 Restoration House Monthly Awareness Meeting, 6 p.m. @ **Heart of Life Lee's Summit**

July

- 4 Independence Day (office closed)
- 19 Restoration House Monthly Awareness Meeting, 6 p.m. @ **Heart of Life Lee's Summit**

August

- 2 African American Fellowship, noon @ **United Believers Community Church, Kansas City**
- 3 Grant Requests Due
- 7 Personnel Committee Meeting, 3 p.m. @ office
- 9 Ministry Teams, 11 a.m. @ office
- 14 Revitalization and Leadership Cohort, 10 a.m. @ **BRKC Office, Greenwood**
- 15 Finance and Administrative Committee Meeting, 3 p.m. @ office
- 16 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **Grace Family Fellowship, Pleasant Hill**
- Restoration House Monthly Awareness Meeting, 6 p.m. @ **Heart of Life Lee's Summit**
- 23 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **First, Raymore**
- 30 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **Crossroads, Grain Valley**

September

- 3 Labor Day (office closed)
- 6 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **Southview, Raytown**
- 11 Revitalization and Leadership Cohort, 10 a.m. @ **Immanuel, Independence**
- 12 Finance and Administrative Committee Meeting, 3 p.m. @ office
- 13 Ministry Teams, 11 a.m. @ office
- 20 Restoration House Monthly Awareness Meeting, 6 p.m. @ **Heart of Life Lee's Summit**

October

- 7 Semi-Annual Meeting
- 9 Revitalization and Leadership Cohort, 10 a.m. @ **Immanuel, Independence**
- 11 Ministry Teams, 11 a.m. @ office
- 17 Finance Committee Meeting, 3 p.m. @ office
- 18 Restoration House Monthly Awareness Meeting, 6 p.m. @ **Heart of Life Lee's Summit**
- 22-24 MBC Annual Meeting @ **Springfield**

November

- 1 African American Fellowship, noon @ **United Believers Community Church, Kansas City**
- 8 Ministry Teams, 11 a.m. @ office
- 13 Revitalization and Leadership Cohort, 10 a.m. @ **Immanuel, Independence**
- 15 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **Grace Family Fellowship, Pleasant Hill**
- Restoration House Monthly Awareness Meeting, 6 p.m. @ **Heart of Life Lee's Summit**
- 21-23 Thanksgiving Holiday (office closed)
- 29 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **First, Raymore**

December

- 6 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, noon @ **Crossroads, Grain Valley**
- 13 Ministry Teams, 11 a.m. @ office
- 19 Finance Committee Meeting, 3 p.m. @ office
- 20 Pastor's Prayer Luncheon, **Southview, Raytown**
- Restoration House Monthly Awareness Meeting, 6 p.m. @ **Heart of Life Lee's Summit**
- 24-31 Christmas Holiday (office closed)



Online Discipleship Resources

BR-KC is pleased to introduce a new pilot program for 2018. We have partnered with RightNow Media to offer 5 churches in our association a customizable video Bible study library for every person in your church. RightNow Media has been described as the Netflix of Christian Bible Study offering over 15,000 online discipleship resources.

We understand that not every church is able to afford this type of program for your members and yet discipleship and training should be an important and integral part of every believers life. With RightNow Media, this just got a lot easier.

The criteria to qualify is simple:

- Must be less than 200 in average weekly attendance.
- Staff must be willing to do an online training workshop before year end.
- Must be willing to roll out the program to entire congregation in January.
- Must be willing to use the online resources for all of 2018.
- At the end of the year, your church can elect to continue with the program and pay the monthly fee or end the program.

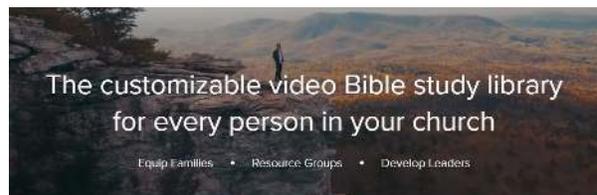
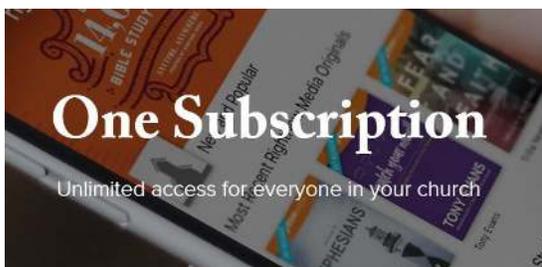
To apply for a scholarship for this pilot program, please visit the BR-KC Resources Table. BR-KC will choose the 5 churches by October 15th.

If your church does not qualify for the program, you can still sign up for RightNow Media by visiting the information table. For more information and to view an online demo, visit rightnowmedia.org.

rightnow MEDIA

REVOLUTIONIZING MINISTRY IN OVER 15,000 CHURCHES

We believe the mission of the church matters. And we've seen how God can change lives through video resources. That's why we developed RightNow Media. Now, every person in your church can access over 15,000 Bible studies. RightNow Media has studies for small groups, families, students, leadership development, and much more. Our content comes from over 250 top Christian publishers and ministries. And we produce exclusive studies and training just for you and your church. We hope to help you equip and disciple the people of your church.





THE DETAILS

WHO: Restoration House of Greater Kansas City

WHAT: 4th Annual Gala Event and VIP Social with Silent & Live Auction

WHERE: InterContinental Hotel on the Plaza

WHEN: Saturday, January 20, 2018

HONOREE: Russ Tuttle, The Stop Trafficking Project

For more information, contact Steven Robinson at (816) 623-5260 or stevenr@kcbaptist.org



Restoration House of Greater Kansas City

Join us each month as we explore different topics and hear from different experts in the field of sex trafficking.

Monthly Education and Awareness Meetings

3rd Thursday of each month

6 to 8 p.m.

Heart of Life, 800 SW 150 Hwy, LSMO



**Pastor's
Prayer
Luncheon**
**(formerly
E3)**

Lunch and fellowship
for Pastors and
Staff

Noon to 1 p.m.

2017

October 5

Sterling Acres, Indep.

October 26 AA Fellowship

United Believers, KC

November 2

Abiding Love, Harrisonville

November 16

Pathway, Raymore

November 30

Harvest, Blue Springs

December 7

Sterling Acres, Indep.

2018

- 2/1 AA Fellowship—United Believers, KC
- 2/15 Grace Family Fellowship, Pleasant Hill
- 2/22 First Baptist, Raymore
- 3/1 Crossroads, Grain Valley
- 3/15 Southview, Raytown
- 3/15 AA Fellowship—United Believers, KC
- 5/3 Grace Family Fellowship, Pleasant Hill
- 5/17 First Baptist, Raymore
- 5/24 Crossroads, Grain Valley
- 5/31 Southview, Raytown
- 6/7 AA Fellowship—United Believers, KC
- 8/2 Grace Family Fellowship, Pleasant Hill
- 8/16 First Baptist, Raymore
- 8/23 Crossroads, Grain Valley
- 8/30 Southview, Raytown
- 9/6 AA Fellowship—United Believers, KC
- 11/1 Grace Family Fellowship, Pleasant Hill
- 11/15 First Baptist, Raymore
- 11/29 Crossroads, Grain Valley
- 12/6 Southview, Raytown
- 12/20

*Association
Office*

**Vision
2020
Ministry
Teams**

*11:00 a.m. -
Noon*

2017

- . October 12*
- . November 9*
- . December 14*

2018

- . January 11*
- . February 8*
- . March 8*
- . April 12*
- . May 10*
- . August 9*
- . September 13*
- . October 11*
- . November 8*
- . December 13*

REFUGEE SIMULATION EXPERIENCE



It can be difficult to relate to someone who has had a vastly different life experience than you have. Not only do we lack the head knowledge of what refugees go through, but we have no way of understanding the feelings they have experienced. Come on October 14 and experience a four-hour continuous live role play where groups of ten escape from their homes, make decisions about where to go, survive the journey, and try to get resettled into another nation. You will pick up some head knowledge about the refugee process, heart knowledge about how it might feel, tools to better serve refugees, and hopefully be equipped to befriend a refugee.

Saturday, October 14, 2017
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
12000 NE 120 Street
Kearney, MO 64060

Tickets are \$6 each.

For more information and to reserve your tickets, visit blueriverkansascity.org





Annual Pastor/Staff/Spouse Appreciation Banquet

- * Our speaker, Dr. Charles Petty, is President of Family Success Unlimited located in North Carolina. Dr. Petty is a funny, educational and inspirational professional speaker. He has the rare ability to package profound, life-changing truths in humor.



February 2, 2018 ~ 7 to 9 p.m.

**Connection Point Church Atrium
10500 E. 350 Highway, Raytown, MO**

Event is FREE but registration is required at
<https://appreciationbanquet2018.eventbrite.com>

Childcare is available. Call 816-623-5260 to make your reservations.