



Fall Semi-Annual Meeting

October 11, 2020
Fellowship Church
Greenwood, Missouri

Welcome to the 39th Year of Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association!

Dear BR-KC Partners in the Gospel,

Welcome virtually or in person to our 2020 Semi Annual Meeting. 2020 has been quite a year, literally unprecedented in many ways.

Our desire through this booklet and the meeting online and in person is to encourage you. The stresses, changes and tensions of Covid-19 have spilled over into every aspect of life from home to work to schooling to church and more.

Our prayer is that we will recall the faithfulness of God and testify to His work in the midst of the mess and stress in 2020. We will also look forward to 2021 and move forward by faith.

Lastly, we are blessed to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Jennifer Hutton's service to BR-KC! Thank you, Jennifer, for all your hard work, commitment, and excellence over these ten years.

Rodney L Hammer



Rodney Hammer



Gregg Boll



Jennifer Hutton

Agenda

Worship Celebration

Welcome and Prayer

Pastor Chris Williams

Worship

Fellowship Praise Team

Business Session

Moderator

Ministry Updates

Church Revitalization

Brandon Moore

Live to Bless Initiative

Chris Williams

Horn of Africa

Nicole Brown

Collegiate Impact

Travis Hamm

Restoration House

Video

Outgoing/Incoming Moderator Recognition

Dr. Rodney Hammer

Anniversary Recognition

Business Motions

Nominating Committee

Darlene Scott, Member

Credentials Committee

Athol Barnes, Chairman

Finance Committee

Darin Stephens, Chairman



Recommendations of the Nominating Committee

Moderator	Pastor Marvin Tigner, Fellowship Baptist Church
Moderator-Elect	Pastor Larry Thomas, Connection Point Church
Clerk	Jennifer Hutton, BR-KC Baptist Association
Treasurer	Kim Rice

Administrative Committee

Pedro Achucarro, Iglesia Pan de Vida
Mike Asher, Fellowship, Greenwood Campus
Wendy Campbell, Manna Fellowship
Faye Huff, Fellowship Raymore Campus
Chuck Wheeler, Grace Independence
Charles Yates, Calvary Independence

Finance Committee

Susan Edmonson, South Haven
Jim Odom, Manna Fellowship
Alan Shelby, Harvest
Darin Stephens, Immanuel
Cory Weeda, Abundant Life
Cindy Zink, South Haven

Credentials Committee

Athol Barnes, Grace Point
Darron Edwards, United Believers
Alan Findley, Fellowship, Raymore Campus
Gary Roberts, Immanuel
Mike Roy, Pathway
Price Wright, New City Loma Vista

Personnel Committee

Scott Flippin, Norfleet
Ron Griffin, Harvest
Lynn Lewallen, Connection Point
Melissa O'Daniel, Manna Fellowship
Greg Washington, Abiding Faith
Josh Wollberg, Harrisonville First

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

Rick Friesen, Chairman
Vernon West
Mary Beth Vest
Debbie Wilson Otto
Darlene Scott
Rich Cummings



Recommendations of the Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee met in September to review churches desiring membership into the Association. The Credentials Committee recommends the following churches for full membership:

New City Downtown

No permanent location yet identified
New City Church main campus
7230 Quivira Road
Shawnee, KS 66216
Don Hamilton, Pastor



The Road Church

4108 South Buckner Tarsney Road
Grain Valley, MO 64029
Dale Smith, Pastor



Submitted by Credentials Committee
Darron Edwards
Gary Roberts
Mike Roy
Paul Midgett
Athol Barnes
Price Wright

Report and Recommendation of the Finance Committee

Blue River Kansas City Baptist Association Balance Sheet September 2020

Accounts

Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents			
101000 - Commerce Checking Account	\$106,547.26		
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents			\$106,547.26
Investments			
130002 - Change in Value of Investments	\$27,551.25		
140000 - Charles Schwab	\$188,434.39		
Total Investments			\$215,985.64
Total Assets			\$322,532.90
Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds			
Liabilities			
Tax & Liabilities			
201000 - Federal Income Tax Withholding	\$1,927.86		
201500 - State Tax Withholding	\$870.00		
202500 - FICA Tax Withholding	\$653.28		
Total Tax & Liabilities			\$3,451.14
Long-Term Liabilities			
213000 - PPP Loan Payable	\$68,200.00		
Total Long-Term Liabilities			\$68,200.00
Total Liabilities			\$71,651.14
Fund Principal			
270000 - Unrealized Losses & Earnings on Inv	\$27,556.05		
299999 - BRKC Fund Principal	\$117,847.96		
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	(\$2,319.56)		
Total Fund Principal and Receipts Over (Under) Expenses			\$143,084.45
Restricted Funds			
Total Temporary Restricted	\$107,797.31		
Total Restricted Funds			\$107,797.31
Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds			\$322,532.90

Financial Statement Wednesday, September 30, 2020

	Current Month	Year-to-Date
Receipts from churches	\$34,741.33	\$348,655.80
Other Income	\$330.45	\$2,089.92
Total	\$35,071.78	\$350,745.72
Less Expenses	\$40,291.64	\$352,637.09
Balance as of 9/30/20	-\$5,219.86	-\$1,891.37
Budget		\$397,605.78
Budget receipts		\$350,745.72
Receipts compared to budget	88%	-\$46,860.06

2021 Proposed Budget
Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association

Accounts	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed
Gospel Outreach		
412100 - Discretionary Missions Fund	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
412200 - Partnership Missions	\$20,000.00	\$15,000.00
414100 - Refugee & Immigrant Ministries	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
417000- Andrew Huesing/People Teams Leader	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
College Ministry		
405100 - Travis Hamm - Impact Student Min. UMKC	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Travis Hamm Ministry Expenses		\$5,000.00
406700 - Carson Conover - Blue River & Longview	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Carson Conover Ministry Expenses		\$2,650.00
Total Gospel Outreach	\$65,000.00	\$67,650.00
Resource Churches		
421600 - Media Center	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
421400 - Discipleship Resources	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
422200 - Minister - Church Relations	\$8,000.00	\$4,000.00
435000 - Auto - Executive Director	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
435200 - Auto - Associate Director	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
435900 - Auto - Administrative Assistant	\$300.00	\$300.00
436110 - Church Revitalization Ministries	\$6,000.00	\$4,000.00
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 Resource Churches	\$23,400.00	\$17,400.00
Assist Comm. Transformation		
401100 - Eleos Urban Ministries	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
401300 - Urban Christian Academy	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
401900 - Providence School of the Arts	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
401500 - Human Trafficking	\$30,000.00	\$48,000.00
401700 - Inner City Youth & Education Outreach	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
401200 - Disaster Relief	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total Assist Comm. Transformation	\$40,700.00	\$55,700.00

Church Planting

411100 - Multi-Ethnic CPC	\$15,000.00	\$14,000.00
411500 - Spanish - Beverly Hills & Luis Sanchez	\$3,600.00	\$0.00
414870 - Pedro Achucarro - Spanish Belton	\$3,600.00	\$0.00
414880 - Asefaw Indrias - African Church Plant	\$2,400.00	\$0.00
411300 - Blake Fortner - Three Trails Community	\$2,400.00	\$1,200.00
NEW - The Real Church	\$2,400.00	\$0.00
412600 - New Hispanic Work (Blue Springs)	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
415000 - Other New Works (Luis Sanchez)	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
NEW - New City Church Downtown - Don Hamilton		\$2,400.00
NEW - Restoration Life -Anthony Mondaine		\$2,400.00
NEW - Arabic NE Church Plant		\$2,400.00
Total Church Planting	\$55,400.00	\$48,400.00

Equipping Leaders

421000 - Leadership Training	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
422400 - Conferences & Special Events	\$4,820.00	\$6,000.00
Total Equipping Leaders	\$12,820.00	\$14,000.00

Administration

401400 - Newsletter	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
NEW - Digital Media		\$18,000.00
401600 - Postage (2nd class for newsletter)	\$9,000.00	\$0.00
401800 - Association Emphasis	\$2,000.00	\$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	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
451500 - Postage - Administrative	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00
452500 - Legal Fees	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
452600 - ACS Accounting	\$3,700.00	\$3,840.00
452800 - Online Giving Fees	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00
455000 - Miscellaneous Administrative	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Total Administration	\$40,900.00	\$35,540.00

Operations

432100 - Communications Assistant	\$5,400.00	\$2,500.00
441500 - Janitorial Supplies	\$200.00	\$250.00
442500 - Maintenance & Repair	\$500.00	\$1,500.00
443500 - Vehicle Maintenance	\$550.00	\$550.00
444000 - Insurance - Property	\$5,900.00	\$6,430.00
444200 - Insurance - Vehicle	\$1,359.00	\$1,481.00
444300 - Insurance - Workman's Comp	\$1,860.00	\$2,027.00

444500 - Equipment	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00
445000 - Electricity	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
445500 - Telephone/Internet	\$4,700.00	\$4,700.00
446000 - Water	\$150.00	\$150.00
446200 - Trash & Sewer	\$630.00	\$630.00
441000 - Security System	\$450.00	\$450.00
Total Operations	\$26,899.00	\$25,868.00
Personnel		
431000 - Exective Director <i>salary</i>	\$86,067.21	\$86,067.21
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	\$66,991.76	\$69,828.57
431300 - Associate Director Housing	\$13,000.00	\$12,000.00
431800 - Administrative Assistant	\$47,603.03	\$49,812.06
432000 - Financial Secretary	\$3,634.18	\$3,706.87
433200 - Annuity - Exec Director	\$8,606.72	\$8,606.72
433400 - Annuity - Assoc Director	\$6,699.18	\$6,982.86
433900 - Annuity - Admin Asst	\$4,760.30	\$4,981.21
434200 - Payroll Tax Expense	\$4,030.00	\$4,060.00
434400 - Bonuses - Christmas and Longevity	\$2,200.00	\$1,200.00
Total Personnel	\$265,022.06	\$268,675.18
Total Expenses	\$530,141.06	\$533,233.18

MINISTRY REPORTS

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 (kcpeopleteams@gmail.com)

With Covid season in full swing, we had to close our boys basketball group, but we were able to focus on what we could still do. Monday nights continued with an online Bible study with the Congolese teens who chose to join. We studied the first seven chapters of the book of Daniel and were able to focus more deeply on the text. We also took time to pray together and follow-up on personal needs.

We tried to help teens with their online school work. Many of the kids lacked motivation or computers to login, but some of the teens worked hard to learn even without the accountability of their teachers. I tried to pair homework helpers with each teen who needed help, but this venture did not pan out very consistently and fizzled out before the school year ended. A ministry called Global FC did a great job in the education space back in the spring.

In April and May we were able to serve the ministry of Agape Pamoja in fixing houses for refugees. Each Saturday a small group of volunteers did small projects like demolition, yard work, and trash pickup. Many of the neighborhood teens worked alongside us in serving. It was a lot of fun!



We also had time to gather online for a few different prayer sessions weekly with other ministries like Freedom Hoops. This was a very healthy use of the time. Four interns from Refuge KC partnered with us through the summer. We also had a chance to follow up with different people we know during Covid isolation. The believers living in our house spent a lot of time with our neighbor from Iraq who was here alone while his family was stranded in Iraq. God uses each of our situations for His Glory.



In June, things started to open up and we had an eventful summer. We had a kids club at Hilltop apartment complex where older teens that we have been discipling got to lead younger kids in songs, Bible stories, and games each week. We spent time with the older kids on a different night playing soccer and studying the life of David. The summer culminated in an in-house camp for about 23 of the teen boys where we studied questions that they will face from other religions. One highlight was seeing Samuel realize for the first time that Jesus is God in the flesh! Pray for 4 of these teens starting college this semester and for new teen leaders to emerge from the group this year. Pray for the younger kids as they struggle with alcoholic fathers, the difficulties of

online school, the inability to gather as a church, and the vision to grow into disciple-makers.

Heidi enjoyed time each week with the teen girls. Extra volunteers allowed them to divide into two groups as they went swimming or hung out and kept discussing Bible stories about Jesus. Thanks for your prayers for this group. Unfortunately, at the end of the summer the girls said that they were not allowed to return to the group because their families disliked the Christian evangelistic emphasis. Seeing the girls blocked from the group is discouraging, but I'm thankful for the Christian women who sacrificed over a two year period to provide a loving and Christ-centered place for these gals and got to share stories from the Bible that covered Creation to the Cross.

Fall has continued with a new set of volunteers helping with soccer and Bible study with the Congolese teens each Thursday. We are looking to broaden our online ministry to reach the lost through their phones.



Thanks for your support and prayers. Most missionaries are having a hard time with the uncertainties of life, difficulties in planning, and difficulties in coming into contact with the lost in appropriate ways for ministry. But God always has a path forward in His Calling for each of our lives, and opportunities have come here and there.

Student Ministry Report

By Travis Hamm, Executive Director Collegiate Impact (travis@collegiateimpact.org)

For those who may be unaware, Collegiate Impact is a network of local churches and on-campus ministries working together to bring the gospel to over 70,000 Kansas City area college students from 17 colleges.

Just like other ministries and churches, we have had to navigate the challenges of Covid-19. Last March all of our on-campus Bible Studies went online. While virtual interactions certainly have drawbacks, one positive was that we were able to connect students from different colleges to one another. It is through these new connections that God led two of our students to surrender their lives to Jesus. Praise God for His faithfulness in the midst of difficult circumstances!

Over the summer months, in addition to continuing virtual



Bible studies, our ministry hosted monthly outdoor events at different Collegiate Impact Partnering Churches. These social-distance-friendly events provided further opportunities to connect students to our ministry, to each other, and to local churches. I was pleased to see students not only communicate the fun they had at these events but the spiritual conversations they were able to have with both believers and not-yet-believers.



A new school year has begun, and once again, coronavirus has forced us to change our typical ministry approaches to connecting with new students. Instead of hosting our Welcome Week events on campuses, participating in student organization fairs, and helping residential students move into their dorm rooms; we have turned to social media as a way of engaging with Kansas City collegians. In early September we held a Free Virtual Raffle on our ministry's Instagram page, and 24 students expressed a desire to learn more about College Impact. We have followed up with them one-on-one to get to know their stories, have spiritual conversations, and invite them to join a Bible Study. Also in September we hosted our 2nd annual Fall Retreat. Students spent all of Saturday enjoying God's creation at Camp Del-Haven, worshipping Him in

song, receiving Biblical teaching, and having some good fun. The retreat serves as good opportunity for students to step back from the busyness of a new semester and be reminded of God's goodness and priority in their lives.

This school year we've welcomed Trey Barnett and Emma Clark to our staff who are participating in our one-year ministry internship. Trey recently received his Associate's Degree from Maple Woods Community College where he was also involved in our on-campus ministry. Now, he is pursuing an Organizational Leadership degree at Donnelly College where he is also working to launch an on-campus ministry. If you know of other Donnelly students who may be interested in helping us start a gospel ministry on the campus, please let us know. Emma is working with Carson Conover to further gospel ministry at Longview Community College.



We are grateful for God's provision and grace to our ministry during this unique time. Our desire is to bring the gospel to many more students this year. We would love your help in this! If your church is currently ministering to college students or desires to, I would love to come alongside and help. Please contact me (travis@collegiateimpact.org or 816-838-2801) and let's find a time to discuss this possibility.

If you would like to stay updated with us, I encourage you to follow us on social media.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/collegiateimpact.kc>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/collegiateimpact/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/CollegiateImpct>

BR-KC, we are truly thankful for your continued support of this ministry.

Student Ministry Report

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

Global Project 2020

Community college ministry is uniquely challenging in a number of ways. But, this kind of ministry also has its benefits. For example, students don't leave for the summer which presents an opportunity to train and equip student leaders for the fall semester. To that end, I recruited several student leaders to participate in the Global Project 2020—a virtual summer training program designed to deepen students' understanding of evangelism, discipleship, and mission. They joined a thousand other students each week to catch the vision from gifted communicators like David Platt, J.D. Greear, and Robby Gallaty. As a participant, students also joined a small group of other students for a weekly Discipleship Group. These groups met regularly for Bible study, prayer, and equipping. The Global Project proved to be a valuable training experience—one that we intend to participate in moving forward.

Fall Semester at MCC-Blue River/Longview

Because of COVID-19, all MCC classes have been moved to an online format. That means we were unable to engage in our usual new student outreach efforts on campus. This required us to make new contacts online. We reached out to contacts from last year and conducted gift card giveaways through Instagram to gather student contact information and gauge interest in our student ministry. We collected far fewer contacts than usual, but thankfully we were still able to launch a few online Bible studies that are meeting weekly. We have two Bible studies meeting on Mondays and a study on every other weekday. Personally, I'm facilitating one of the Bible studies on Monday and I'm meeting bi-weekly with 3 other students to help them experience victory over the sin of pornographic lust. We're reading a book together called *Finally Free* to implement its practical, grace-centered strategies while memorizing Scripture and helping one another practice preventative accountability.



Leader Development

I'm also meeting online with our student leaders every Thursday at 11am. We use this time for prayer, stories, equipping, and planning. Recently, we've been using this time to train students in Gospel Appearances—a tool that mixes the best practices of relational evangelism and initiative evangelism using a three story framework (their story, your story, and God's story). We've asked students to write out their own personal testimony and we're equipping them to share the gospel via the 3 Circles gospel presentation. Our prayerful hope is that by doing this, we'll foster a stronger evangelistic culture among student leaders so we can reach and grow more students together.

Internship



Emma Clark is a former MCC student, and member of my local church, who is now serving as an intern with me this year. She attended the Prospective Staff Weekend last year hosted by MBCollegiate and stepped through the subsequent training process. She spent the summer support-raising and is now giving the year to full-time collegiate ministry. I have the privilege of serving as her supervisor to help coach and equip her along the way. As part of her internship, we're participating in a 10-month equipping cohort through the Campus Multiplication Network to provide her with ongoing training. We're doing this with 172 other collegiate ministry leaders in 11 different countries!

Thank you for your prayers and ongoing support!

Horn of Africa

By Nicole Brown, *The Gathering Church* (brown2380@sbcglobal.net)

The Covid 19 pandemic is certainly being felt all over the world. It may look a little different and yet some things are so similar. Questions are asked in Ethiopia as they are here: Will we have work; Will we have enough food; What will the future look like?

While our hearts are heavy at times, we can rejoice in knowing that our God is still in control! In Ethiopia our local team is still able to distribute monthly to our sponsored children and make the weekly rounds to the ladies in the widow ministry. Yes, in the beginning there was a delay when everyone was ordered to stay at home for two weeks. Business soon returned to somewhat of a normal state, then food and supplies were able to be delivered.

Access to the refugee camps is limited due to the Covid 19 scare. They are keeping a very close eye on everyone who tries to enter as well as the refugees. Thousands of masks were donated from Food for the Hungry and we could not be more grateful! God is so good and surprises us all the time in His provision.





We are so thankful to have communication with the team weekly so we can learn about needs and prayer requests in Ethiopia. It has been so hard not being there in person so this really lifts our spirits to stay in contact and hear their voices.

The Lord has continued to bring church members closer together from different locations while the enemy has been attacking. We continue to pray for strength, encouragement, clarity, vision and health so they may carry on what the Lord's plan is in their lives.

Vancouver Partnership

Vancouver is the third largest metropolitan area in Canada, with a population of more than 3 million. It's a city of several cities, including Richmond, Steveston, New Westminster, Burnaby, Surrey, Coquitlam and Pitt Meadows. Dozens of communities can be found along the transit line, each with its own personality and spiritual typography. Successfully reaching the people who live in Vancouver will take churches that reflect the ethnic makeup and culture of the communities in which they are planted.

"Vancouver is a testimony to the power of partnership and a persevering sense of purpose among our partner churches," says Ray Woodard, Church Planting Catalyst for Vancouver. "I've been here over 30 years, and I've seen what can happen when churches take the call to this city seriously."



BR-KC continues our partnership with Coquitlam and supports 4 church planters in Vancouver.

- Conrad Au, The Common Place—Learn more at <https://thecommonplace.ca>
- Victor Thomas, The Point Church—Learn more at <https://pointchurch.ca>
- BJ Chursinoff, God Rock Church—Learn more at <https://missionaries.namb.net/full/brian-chursinoff>
- Jeff Thompson, New Hope Church—Learn more at <https://missionaries.namb.net/full/jeff-thompson>

From planting a church to partnering with those already on mission in Vancouver, you and your church can make a difference. For more information about how your church can get involved in partnering with church planters in Vancouver, visit <https://www.namb.net/send-network/send-city/vancouver/> or contact the BR-KC office.

RESOURCING CHURCHES AND EQUIPPING LEADERS

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

What a year this has been! I know that I've been really busy most every week and accomplished some significant things since my last report, but at first try none of them are coming back to me because they are all overshadowed by Covid-19. I actually had Covid-19 flu the first 10 days of August and while I don't recommend you getting it, it wasn't nearly as severe as the regular flu.

Really, over the past several months I have spent a lot of time concerned about and praying for you. Ministry is hard enough during normal times; add to all of this Covid-19, church shut-downs, declining attendance and offerings, members dividing over the appropriate response to Covid, having to plan ministry day to day rather than months ahead, and a political election year with uncivil discourse at toxic levels, and you have a recipe for fatigue, burnout, and anxiety among both pastors and church members.

But, "His grace is sufficient" regardless of the trial we are facing and we have seen the bold, persevering

faith of God's people like never before. Pastors and churches rapidly adapted to the new reality and showed amazing resourcefulness and tenacity. We kept our chin up and encouraged those around us who were about to give in to total despair. We will not know until we step into heaven just how great was the impact our churches upon our nation and neighborhoods during the national crisis. I stand in awe once more at the amazing grace of God and the faithfulness of His people in stepping up to meet this challenge.

Dr. Hammer and I have been attempting to minister to our churches and pastors in creative ways. When we realized that church shutdowns might be on the horizon, Dr. Hammer purchased four FM transmitters and all of the Lord's Supper service he could find online to be used by BR-KC churches. That proved to be a smart move in a short time as you could not find an FM transmitter or Lord's Supper elements online for several weeks due to Covid-related shortages. Several of our churches utilized the FM transmitters and held drive-up services when meeting in person in our church buildings wasn't possible. Starting in the spring, the Association began a weekly zoom call for pastors to share needs and ideas with one another (these calls are still on-going), we consulted with



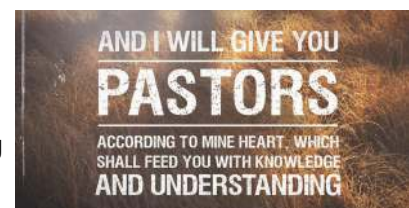
churches, brainstormed with pastors and kept attorneys Michael and Jonathan Whitehead busy interpreting the ever-changing health announcements coming from Jackson County, Cass County and KCMO governments. These health edicts were often vague, complicated, and contradictory. They were also unequally applied so that churches were given much more confining limits than those offered to other similar businesses and organizations. Jonathan Whitehead petitioned the county authorities and was successful at getting equal treatment for our churches.

After a time, we realized the level of stress that leading through Covid-19 was causing our pastors so we compiled a list of vacation spots and retreat centers for pastors that are free or nearly free. We reminded our pastors of the arrangement we have with Diakonos Christian counseling services whereby pastors and their families can get 7 sessions of professional counseling at drastically reduced cost. We have encouraged pastors to do good self-care during these times so they can go the distance.

On another front, the new Disaster Relief Team lead by Roger Masters has been busy. They have taken work trips to St. Joseph, Iowa, and Louisiana. We are proud of the work and sacrifice of this team of volunteers and encourage you to consider getting trained as a DR team member so you can be a part of this vital ministry. Check out the incredible work our MBC Disaster Relief teams did in 2019 (<https://mobaptist.org/dr/dr-service-statistics/>).

I was blessed to serve as interim pastor for nearly 4 months at Grace Family Fellowship in Pleasant Hill while they were waiting on their new pastor to get moved here from Spokane, Washington. They called a solid young pastor but Covid-19 delayed his move. I always appreciate the time with different churches and the new life-long friends I make in each interim pastorate. The church blessed me in so many ways in the short few months I was with them. Another way we like to serve our churches is by covering the pulpit while their pastor is on sabbatical. One of our churches took us up on our offer to cover their pulpit for free while their pastor was on sabbatical leave for 7 weeks. Additionally, I have preached in dozens of our BR-KC churches while the pastor was on vacation. I am usually free to preach for our pastors when they need to be away, so don't hesitate to call me if you need someone in your absence, pastors.

Just a reminder: October is Pastor Appreciation month. If you have any part in the planning of your church's Pastor Appreciation event, I strongly encourage you to get creative and to be as generous with your pastoral staff as you can possibly be. Covid has been exhausting and extremely mentally taxing for your pastor; if ever there was a criti-



cal time to do something special for your pastor/s it is now. If your pastor has served your church for at least 5 years, consider allowing him to take a sabbatical of five to seven weeks with pay to recharge his spiritual batteries for ministry. Trust me, you will get a better, rejuvenated pastor back after a sabbatical. It literally might be the difference between keeping or losing your pastor. BR-KC Association has budgeted to cover the cost of your church's supply preacher while you allow your pastor to be on sabbatical, so the church does not incur any extra expenses. Alternatively, if Dr. Hammer and I are available, we would be happy to provide pulpit supply as well at no expense to the church. Whatever you do, do something generous and special for your pastor/s this October during Pastor Appreciation Month! They need it and deserve it! Your church will reap the benefits of a happier, more productive pastor/s.

WMU

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

Although we have not been able to have any meetings in person, we are still encouraging women to be ambassadors for Christ and be involved in their community.

The associational WMU leadership team has adopted a Fusion student at Mid-western Seminary to help them financially, encourage them and pray for them.

We are trained and prepared to help assist local churches. Our Children's Missions Consultant, Sheriann Kessinger is moving to the position of Preschool Missions Consultant and we welcome to our team, Darlene Scott as Children's Mission Consultant.

We are looking forward to a new year which will be the theme "Relentless". We will encourage women to be relentless in living authentic faith in Christ, seeking God in prayer, giving sacrificially and witnessing to others. Our watchword will be Hebrews 10:39 NIV. "But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved."

Be sure to check out our Facebook page for prayer requests and updates. If your church is interested in learning more about the WMU, contact Linda Graham.



ASSISTING COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

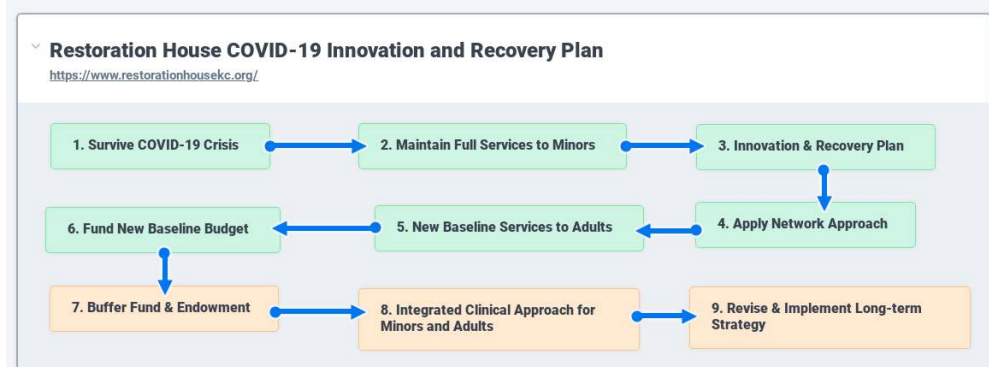
Restoration House of Greater Kansas City

By Roxie Loyd, Director of Programs and Services (Roxie@restorationhousekc.org)

Since last report there have been a lot of wonderful changes. Adapting to Covid-19 has not been without its challenges, yet both Restoration House's Adult Program and Home for Minors are now flourishing.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic had an adverse affect on our staff and program. Donations decreased in the spring forcing us to make staff reductions. With the help of our key partners and board members, R|H developed a plan to respond and recover from the current pandemic. We are now getting back on track thanks to generous donors and volunteers.

In May of 2019, Restoration House was gifted seven



acres of property formerly known as East Lynn Baptist Church. Staff went to work coordinating efforts to transform the property into what is now known as Restoration House Farms. Once the renovations were done and the quarantine period was lifted, we welcomed 5 women into our new home and program! All the women are experiencing hope and healing as only God can provide: We have two women who have started CNA training; one working on her GED; another has started a job; several are working on family reconciliation; and all are feeling loved and cared for by the incredible staff and volunteers.



Here is what a few of our current residents had to say about Restoration House...

"I'm thankful for Restoration House because since coming here I have a restored sense of hope and I now know what it feels like to have a family."

"I am loved. Thankful for a new beginning! Jeremiah 29:11"

"Restoration House is a way to build your solid foundation and your relationship with God and healing! So get ready to overcome!"

By having this property, we were able to add small animal and horticultural therapies to our holistic program. Currently we house 4 Nigerian Dwarf goats and 2 Boar goats whom the ladies adore. We also raise over twenty chickens that will provide them with plenty of eggs. This summer the girls cultivated a garden in which they were able to harvest and can fresh fruits and vegetables.



We have also expanded our Healing Arts program to include handcrafting cold process soaps, sugar scrubs, candles and stainless-steel tumblers, all of which are sold at Rehope Market and Café. This coffee shop, located at 808 W. Main Street in Greenwood, is an extension of Restoration House and will provide support to the mission of healing and restoring victims of human trafficking.

In November 2019 Restoration House opened its Home for Minors. This home holds up to 7 minor girls from ages 11-17.

We are planning for the future. With the Lord's leading, we are cultivating several partnerships that will add breadth and depth to the services of Restoration House and allow us to impact even more minors and adults. Stay tuned for more details as the partnerships and plans emerge.

In the meantime, make plans now for the 7th Annual Hope Now Freedom Gala scheduled for January 30, 2021. We will be holding our event either in-person or virtually and are currently looking for sponsors as well as silent auction item donations. If you are interested in either, please contact Jennifer Hutton at jenniferh@kcbaptist.org.

Disaster Relief

By Chris Houghtaling, Roger Masters and Carmen Kraus

Below is a list of statistics. Behind the dates and numbers are real people. Before the statistics are three snapshots into these lives.

People like an elderly couple in St. Joseph, Missouri. He is a Veteran, a lifetime of military service. Now, he can barely



walk. A flood had filled his basement. He could not make the countless trips up and down the stairs required to rid his basement of the soggy carpet, waterlogged warped furniture, a lifetime of accumulations, the layer of mud and debris flood waters left behind. He could not check to see if precious mementos were salvageable. He was distraught with concern. A team Chaplain brought assurance and calmness. Prized possessions were located and accounted for. The door opened for a spiritual conversation. Decisions were made long ago to follow Jesus. There was a love and appreciation for Him. The days of church attendance had long passed due to health issues. A reminder, a refocus of perspective from the things seen to the eternal unseen things brought the peace that was lacking.

People like an elderly man in Iowa recovering from major ankle surgery. A huge tree crashed down on his back porch and yard. It was difficult for him to watch, feeling helpless as the team went to work.

Upon presenting him with a Large Print Bible signed by the team he was told of the love God has for him, of the value he has. He was told God has a purpose for him. "Even with a body messed up this much?" He asked as he pointed to his bandaged ankle. "Yes", we assured him. He was asked "Is there a time in your life when you decided to follow Jesus?" He replied "No. But, I think that is something I need to do. I have been thinking of that a lot lately. Even before this storm. Even before this. (pointing at his ankle). I have been thinking of it a whole lot!" The storm brought with it a bridge to the gift of God which was shared simply. He gladly took the offer to have someone from the local church connect with him, to share more with him.



People like a man in Louisiana who came into the Incident Command Center not knowing how to express his real need. Each time he began to speak, the words stuck in his throat. The reality was his house was beyond repair. A multi-generational family home. The night before there had been a hard, driving rain. He went to the upper floor to try to salvage some things as water poured in through the hole from a tree laying on the roof. He searched to find anything he could save that was his mothers. Some decorative dolls crumbled in his hands. The old floors could not stand up to the massive amounts of water brought during and after Hurricane Laura. His leg went through the floor. It was hopeless.

Everyone in his family always looked to him for the answers, how to fix things, what to do. This was beyond him. He couldn't "fix" this. He was in tears. The house served as a bridge for a much-needed conversation that led to two of us sitting with him on the front row in the church sanctuary with beautiful stained glass before us. He talked, we listened. He came into that building weighed down by all the cares of the world pressing in on him. He laid them at the feet of Jesus. He walked out with a spring in his step, a smile on his face, and a deter-

mination to get back into fellowship with a body of believers, no longer letting the "busyness" of life separate him from a relationship with the Lord.

It is about more than statistics. It is about bringing help, hope, and healing in the name of Jesus.

One more important mention is that of the opportunity of the summer College Intern team. In our association we are blessed to have a few who have served in this capacity. Maddy Atwell has a college degree in Disaster Relief. She is the leader of these teams. Evan Allen has been an internship participant. One of us had the blessing of working alongside Maddy as the White Hat (Incident Command leader) and Evan, along with another internship participant on the IC team in DeRidder, LA. Another participant served as an Assessor that week. A few of us have also had the pleasure of working alongside Evan on a chainsaw team in Iowa and in DeRidder, LA. They all served with skill and excellence. We whole-

heartedly recommend this opportunity for young people to take part in the summer College Intern program. This is an amazing way to equip and enable young people to become involved in DR ministry. They are highly effective and energetic. They are our future. One does not know what one is capable of unless someone gives them the opportunity. It is a Biblical responsibility of the older generation to teach the younger. Why would a church not want to share this opportunity with their students? Go to <https://mobaptist.org/dr/dr-internships> for more information.

DR team activity:

- Aug 1, 2019 Gregg Boll picked up DR Trailer from Claycomo Baptist Church
- Aug 20-23, 2019 Team to Mound City MO - flood recovery
- September 26, 2019 DR meeting held at First Baptist Church Blue Springs
- March 2020 Training held at Connection Point in Raytown MO
- May 7, 2020 Team to Kamp Kersey in Amsterdam MO to clean up wind damage. 12 team members
- May 29, 2020 Checked flooding damage in Buckner MO
- Late July – early August Team of 4 to St. Joseph for a day of flood recovery. One team member joined a Clay-Platte team to serve in St. Joe for two days and another for three days
- August 25-30, 2020 Team of 4 to Cedar Rapids Iowa
- September 2-10, 2020 Team of 3 to DeRidder LA to serve on the Incident Command team for Hurricane Laura
- Sept 4-9, 2020 Individual to DeRidder LA for Mass Care feeding
- September 17-26, 2020 Chainsaw Team of 13 to DeRidder LA



The COVID-19 epidemic has definitely affected our participation this year. We are thankful for a core team that continue to serve our Lord Jesus. We are thankful for the prayers of many. If you would like to support this ministry, donations designated for Disaster Relief can be sent to the Blue River – Kansas City association office.

Your DR leadership team,
Director Roger Masters, Co-Director Carmen Kraus, and Secretary Chris Houghtaling

A special THANK YOU to Co-Director Jason Barnhart who recently stepped away from the Co-Director role due a recent change in employment. Jason has been an excellent asset in helping us to get things off the ground. We will miss his leadership greatly.

CHURCH PLANTING

Multiethnic CPC—Luis Mendoza

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

This has been a very unusual year at the Multiethnic Church Planting Center. Covid-19 forced us to re-focus our efforts. Instead of developing regular community outreach activities, in the last few months we have focused our attention and time on helping pastors and leaders of our international churches how to navigate in these times of uncertainty. With the assistance of some people knowledgeable about technology, we were able to assist and help churches, not only in the Kansas City area, but around the state

in how to get the right equipment to offer online activities for their members, how to use social media, and streaming their activities on line.

Following the example of our association, we scheduled weekly online meetings with pastors around the state helping them to deal with the challenges of their local ministries. When the time was right, we helped international churches developing guidelines to restart services in their buildings; in addition, we provided direction on how to develop drive-in services and if needed, with the assistance of our association, we made the necessary equipment available to those churches.



We also provided regular encouragement and emotional support to some pastors and leaders who tested positive for coronavirus. Thank God they all recuperated fine from the disease. Even though this time has been incredibly challenging, God has used these struggles to produce unity among our pastors and leaders. We are grateful for God's mercy and care in the midst of a pandemic. He is faithful!



This time has also helped us to better understand some of the needs that international pastors and leaders have, and we have been exploring specific and practical ways we can help them to fulfill these needs. We will be scheduling several training events, and opportunities for professional development and fellowship that they can be part of, some before the end of the year continuing into 2021. As part of this effort we would like to make available to some of these pastors the basic theological training they might need to be better equipped to fulfill their pastoral responsibilities. We are also developing a church planting track seminary training for those leaders who feel called to plant new churches.

With the assistance of our association and its churches, we have committed ourselves to help our pastors and leaders of all the international churches in the Kansas City area to become more successful in their specific ministries.

We will finish the year strong with some outreach activities for the community including an eyeglass clinic, an event for Hispanic pastors and leaders, and two other gatherings for international people interested in learning about other people groups and beliefs. We are grateful that little by little we are returning to normality. We are grateful for the churches and the leaders of our association because during these difficult times they have walked with us every step of the way and had empowered us to minister to the international pastors and leaders in our community. For all of that, we give thanks to God. We look forward to 2021!



Vision 2020 Grants

Beginning in 2014, BR-KC provided financial help to fund outreach activities, building upgrades and repairs, community transformation events, leadership training and more! The program, called Vision 2020 Grants, was made possible through the sale of the BR-KC Mission Center. The proceeds of the sale were invested with the plan of granting out the funds to churches and ministries of the Association over a 7-year period. 2020 was our final year for the program. We wanted to share the following details on the use of the funds..

Beginning Balance	\$865,408.25
Total Paid Out	\$818,611.01
Total Increase in the Account	\$ 30,396.21
Remaining Balance	\$ 46,797.24
Number of Churches Helped	78
Number of Ministries Helped	8



Restoration House uses grant money to provide services



The International Welcome Center expands



Mt. Washington works to open The Gilmore House



BR-KC 2021 Yearly Planning Calendar

January

- 1 New Year's Holiday (office closed)
- 18 Martin Luther King Day (office closed)
- 30 Restoration House Hope Now Freedom Virtual Gala

February

- 16 Finance Committee Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 19 Pastor/Staff/Spouse Appreciation Banquet, 7 p.m. @ **Connection Point Church, Raytown**

March

April

- 2 Office Closed for Good Friday Holiday
- 18 Semi-Annual Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 20 Finance Committee Meeting, 4 p.m.

May

- 31 Memorial Day (office closed)

June

- 13-16 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting @ Nashville, Tennessee
- 15 Finance Committee Meeting, 4 p.m.

July

- 5 Independence Day Observed (office closed)

August

- Personnel Committee Meeting, 3 p.m.
17 Finance Committee Meeting, 4 p.m.

September

- 6 Labor Day (office closed)

October

- 10 Semi-Annual Meeting
19 Finance Committee Meeting, 4 p.m.
25-26 Missouri Baptist Convention Annual Meeting

November

- 24-26 Thanksgiving Holiday (office closed)

December

- 21 Finance Committee Meeting, 4 p.m.
24-31 Christmas Holiday (office closed)

Due to uncertainties for 2021, we are not calendaring many events and meetings at this time.
Please stay tuned by regularly checking BR-KC website and following us on social media.





BR-KC is excited to announce that our organization now has access to an extensive, new video library called RightNow Media! It's like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and has a huge library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want – on your phone, iPad, computer, or at home on your TV.

As an Association, we are always looking for ways to equip our pastors and resource our churches. We believe that RightNow media is a tool that pastors can use to equip and train staff, volunteers, leaders, and the congregation. RNM has videos for everyone – kids, youth, parents, married couples, college students, single adults, working professionals, sermon illustrations, and more! And while this account cannot be shared or given away to your members, your church will qualify for a significant discount for RNM.

Signing up is quick and easy.

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/blueriverkcba>

Visit www.rightnowmedia.org for more information or contact our office if you have questions.



PASTOR/STAFF/SPOUSE APPRECIATION BANQUET

Featuring the comedy of
Jason Earls

Great food, fellowship & fun!

FEBRUARY 19, 2021 ~ 7PM
CONNECTION POINT CHURCH ATRIUM

I DON'T LIVE TO MAKE PEOPLE
LAUGH.
I MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH TO HELP THEM
LIVE.
-JASON EARLS-



MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE AT BLUERIVER-KANSASCITY.ORG



Save the Date

7TH ANNUAL

**HOPE NOW
FREEDOM GALA**

Benefitting Restoration House of Greater Kansas City

January 30, 2021

Virtual Event



www.RestorationHouseKC.org

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