



The **2009 Annual Meeting of the Great Rivers Region** will be held October 30 and 31 in Peoria IL. This is a new date and format. The continuing education for ministers will be on Thursday, October 29th. More details (including registration) will follow in the Spring, but save the dates now!



Thursday afternoon and evening (1:00 to 8:30 PM):
Ministers Conference

Dr. George Bullard will teach from his book **Pursuing the Full Kingdom Potential of Your Congregation**. Registration will include a copy of the book and dinner. Dr. Bullard is a ministry partner and the strategic coordinator with The Columbia Partnership (www.thecolumbiapartnership.org). Dr. Bullard has coached numerous local, regional and national denominational organizations among various Baptist groups. He is widely recognized as an advisor to denominational leaders, a futurist, a strategic planning expert, and writer. This is sure to be a challenging and enlightening event for GRR ministers.



Friday afternoon (**Annual Meeting begins at 2 PM**):

Dr. Molly Marshall will teach on the Kingdom of God. Dr. Marshall is no stranger to the Great Rivers Region, having spoken at many GRR events across the years. She is the President of Central Baptist Theological Seminary (now in Shawnee KS). Dr. Marshall has served as youth minister, campus minister, and pastor in churches across Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Kentucky. She has been involved in theological education for 25 years, and is leading Central Seminary through a major transition. Her books have included: **No Salvation Outside the Church?, What it Means to be Human**, and **Joining the Dance: A Theology of the Spirit**. We look forward to her biblical/theological teaching on the Kingdom of God.



Friday evening (session will begin at 7:30 PM):

Dr. Glenn E. Porter will be our guest preacher. He will preach both Friday evening and during the concluding worship on Saturday morning. Dr. Porter serves on the regional staff for American Baptist Churches of New Jersey. Rev. Porter earned his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees at the Samuel D. Proctor School of Theology. Before joining the staff of ABC New Jersey, he served the historic Gillfield Baptist Church in Petersburg VA (one of the oldest African American Baptist churches in America). Dr. Porter wrote of this church in his book **Facing the Rising Sun**. His professional experience is diverse, including pastor, college professor, prison chaplain, and journalism (both print and broadcast). Those who attended the **Fanning**

the Flame national pastor's conference got a small appetizer of Dr. Porter's preaching. We are pleased to welcome him for his first visit to the Great Rivers Region.

Saturday morning workshops (yet to be announced) will meet from 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM. At 11:00 we will gather for our closing worship with Dr. Porter as our preacher.

As usual, there will be great music, exhibits, meal opportunities, and good fellowship. Make your plans now!

Tentative Schedule:

Thursday, October 29

1:00 to 8:30 PM – Ministers Conference (will include dinner)

Friday, October 30

9:00 AM Regional Ministry Board breakfast and meeting

Noon – Ministers & Spouses Luncheon

2:00 PM – First Session of Annual Meeting (business then teaching)

5:00 to 7:00 PM – GRR Mission and Ministry Banquet

7:30 to 9:00 PM – Second Session of Annual Meeting (worship)

Saturday, October 31

?breakfast opportunities

9:00 to 10:30 AM – Workshops (still being planned)

11:00 to Noon – Third Session of Annual Meeting (concluding worship)