

# ABC-GRR-AREA V

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Date: January 21, 2012  
To: Pastors, Leaders and Friends of Area V  
From: Rev. Muriel L. Johnson, Regional Associate Minister  
American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region  
RE: OUR Annual Gathering, Saturday, March 10, 2012

Greetings in the Matchless Name of Jesus Christ!

It's that time again and I need to remind you that the 44TH Annual Gathering of the Area V Congregations will be hosted by Bethel Baptist and First Baptist of Columbia, Missouri! Enclosed you will find registration materials to share with your congregations, friends and ministries.

**Please help spread the word** by placing announcements in your church and ministry related bulletins and newsletters! If you are in a position to do so, will you also make announcements in your church and submit notices to your web master if your congregation has a web page? I need "you" to encourage everyone to come and participate in the annual gathering.

**Our theme this year is "Disciple Now!"**... Adult workshops will focus on the practice and disciplines of faithful Christian Discipleship. Our host congregations will provide childcare, complete with crafts, stories and activities related to becoming Disciples of Jesus Christ. Toddlers through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be provided a variety of healthy lunch options 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be able to enjoy the box lunches provided for all participants that day. The youth programming will consist of Icebreakers, songs, community building activities and Videos that will be used to help youth develop a deeper understanding of Discipleship. In Addition, Dr. Jerry Cain, President of Judson University will share with the youth about Christian Colleges in general as well as Judson University specifically.

**Bethel and First Baptist** will combine their varied and musical gifts and talents to lead us in praise and worship throughout the day. In addition to all of that! The Area-V congregations will conduct a "little" business, renew our connections to old friends and meet some new ones.

Our Special guests this year are Dr. **Jeff Johnson, national coordinator of Evangelism for ABC-USA** and Dr. **Jerry Cain, President of Judson University**. Jeff will serve as our resident theologian and preacher for the day and Jerry will share with the youth about Christian Colleges.

**I look forward to seeing you at First Baptist of Columbia on, Saturday, March 10, 2012 in Columbia, Missouri.**