

Annual Reports

The 41st Annual Gathering of the
American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region



The Fifth Season Hotel – Moline, Illinois

October 3 – 5, 2008

Regional Ministry Board 2008

President: Diane DeSmidt (term ends at the 2008 Annual Meeting)

Vice-President for Planning: open

Ministry of Planning & Review:

Harry Parker (Area I; Term ending 2010)

Mary Ellen Sharp (Area II; Term ending 2011*)

Elaine Bolen (Area III; Term ending 2009)

Stephanie Johanpeter (Area IV; Term ending 2010)

Hari Smith (Area V; Term ending 2011*)

Vice-President for Personnel: Reg Mills (through 2009)

Ministry of Staff Relations:

Jeffrey Hammer (Area I; Term ending 2009*)

Jerry Phillips (Area II; Term ending 2010*)

Sharon Brown (Area III; Term ending 2011*)

Francis Bartley, Jr. (Area IV; Term ending 2009)

C. Allan Jones (Area V; term ending 2010*)

Vice-President for Finance: P.J. Patterson (through 2008)

Ministry of Financial Stewardship:

Rene Gorbald (Area I; Term ending 2011*)

Pat Midkiff (Area II; Term ending 2009*)

Keith Ingold (Area III; Term ending 2010)

Bill Schneck (Area IV; Term ending 2011*)

Henrietta Brown (Area V; Term ending 2009)

4 ABC/USA General Board Members:

Helen Murrell*, Elmer Voudrie*, Reg Mills, Geraldine Sirls

5 Area Moderators:

William Steger (Area I), Jim Daugherty (Area II), Mark Keyser (Area III),

Deborah Harkness (Area IV), Lynette Austin (Area V)

Regional officers are elected during the GRR Annual Meeting. ABCUSA General Board members are nominated by Areas and elected during the GRR Annual Meeting. All other Regional Ministry Board members are elected at Area meetings. The only *ex officio* member of the Regional Ministry Board is the Executive Minister, who is the Corporate Secretary.

State of the Region

October 2008
Dwight Stinnett

The year is not really over, so anything I can say about the state of the region at this point will be incomplete. With that in mind, here are a few things I would like to lift up and bring together from all the reports that follow.

Financial Matters

I really would rather talk about exciting regional ministry, but I would be negligent in my responsibility if I did not report on the financial health of the Region. In May of this year sent out a detailed analysis that compared giving patterns in 2004 with 2007. I will not repeat that detailed report, but only make key points here.

Total American Baptist Mission Support (ABMS) from GRR churches has dropped nearly \$500,000 (a little over 17%) since 2004. That seems to be stabilizing now, but the loss in United Mission (UM) continues, and the giving among the various categories of ABMS continues to fluctuate.

If this were not enough, the camping program has continued to result in significant losses which have been covered from reserves. Because of failing participation and skyrocketing costs, Lake Benton was closed last year. While Blackhawk seems to be sound, Lake Springfield continues to have low attendance and inadequate financial support. That is reason for great concern.

In response to these rapid financial changes, the Regional Ministry Board adopted a "Roadmap" in October 2006, which has guided our decisions since then. The objectives of that Roadmap were

1. Control costs
2. Create new income streams
3. Build identity and loyalty
4. Attend to current staff
5. Review the way we work in order to provide a sure footing for the future
6. Communicate reality and hope

The objective of creating new income streams is happening through GRReat Friends, GRReat Churches, and regular support to the Region through Specifics. These strategies are yielding about \$200,000 each year. While our income seems to be stabilizing, it is, unfortunately, about \$100,000 less than it was four years ago.

Right now, it looks like we will end 2008 in the black by about \$30,000. However, we must remember that includes a planned draw on reserves of \$50,000. Staff changes (which I will say more about below) will have a positive impact on finances. At the same time, Lake Springfield camp continues to be a significant financial drain.

As I concluded my report written in May 2008: "We are in the midst of unprecedented change. Exactly what is emerging is not clear. However, it is especially challenging to those partners who have most heavily relied on UM in the past. We will continue to practice

careful financial management. We will continue to press congregational stewardship and financial health. We will continue to pursue new income initiatives. We will continue to address the issue of regional relevance in the 21st Century.”

Regional Staff

Clearly the most significant staff change during 2008 was the early retirement of Max Klinkenborg and the subsequent reorganization of a permanently reduced ministerial staff. The Ministry of Staff Relations initiated the conversation with Max and he responded positively to a fair and compassionate early retirement package presented by the Regional Ministry Board. While this has created some relief, it has not solved our financial distress. Further, it has created yet another area of uncertainty as we work through staff assignments and responsibilities. I am grateful for the gifted, committed and responsive staff of the Region as we do this difficult work. More changes will be coming over the next 5-8 years.

Staff training is a regular part of our staff meetings. In addition, staff attend various conferences and events to enhance their skills. They are trained in Consecration Sunday and Natural Church Development. In addition we attended the Willow Creek Leadership Summit together at its remote site in Springfield. We also had a staff retreat specifically to discuss staff and service changes over the next few years. GRR joined with the regional staff of 4 other Midwest regions for a special consultation with Dr. George Bullard in West Virginia, also dealing with the changing face of regional ministry to churches.

Pastoral Leadership

While it is seldom said in so many words, the ministerial staff of the Region agree that possibly the most important thing we do is to ensure that churches have competent, qualified pastoral leadership. Cheryl Henson is the staff team leader for many of these efforts.

This may be most evident in our consultation work with churches as they seek pastors. Regional staff successfully coached 18 churches through the pastoral search process in 2008.

As part of our work, we created the first (for ABC) online search posting program. We edited and prepared a GRR edition of the notebook “Calling an American Baptist Minister.” We are one of the creators and planners of the “Face to Face” event in the Midwest.

We have a growing concern over the financial realities many churches face when it comes to pastoral leadership. While no one in their right mind expects to get rich in ministry, pastors do have families and churches have a responsibility to provide just compensation and benefits to pastors. There are no easy answers for this problem, and it is not limited to GRR or ABC.

Scholarships awarded by the Region help persons in seminary prepare for ministry. 62 Gernenz-Shurtleff scholarships were awarded to undergraduates, 4 Gernenz-Shurtleff scholarships for seminary training, and 4 Long Scholarships for seminary training. The GRR Alternative Ministerial Education program (formerly “ROP”) provides basic training for ministers who are unable to attend college and/or seminary. Regional courses made available through AME include Clergy Boundaries, American Baptist History and Polity, and the Practice of Congregational Ministry.

The annual Ministers Conference, which precedes the GRR Annual Meeting, is a significant continuing education event for ministers. This year we played a major role in two significant national conferences for ministers. We hosted "Daughters of the Flame," a conference for American Baptist Women in Ministry. In addition, we helped plan and sponsor "Fanning the Flame," a conference held at Green Lake.

We also held Spring and Fall gatherings for ministers new to the Great Rivers Region in order to introduce them to this setting for ministry, learn of their gifts and needs, and make them aware of regional services and programs.

This year we had an experimental program of Summer Intern Grants. Program had two primary purposes: (1) to encourage persons to try ministry "hands on," and (2) to encourage churches to try something new. Nine churches responded to the opportunity, which was funded by restricted funds. With some modifications, I hope we can continue the program in 2009.

Consecration Sunday, Natural Church Development

John Grisham initiated a major emphasis on Consecration Sunday across the Region four years ago. It continues to be a significant way to address the financial concerns of churches from a discipleship perspective. Almost without exception, those churches that accept the challenge and diligently conduct the program find greater resources for mission and ministry. Often they discover new leaders and find renewed vision in the process. While John will not longer be able to personally lead Consecration Sunday, the staff minister assigned to each area is prepared (and trained) to do so. John will continue to oversee congregational stewardship for the Region.

Natural Church Development was added to the regional toolbox two years ago. While it is not the only strategy for church renewal, it is effective and one of the most documented. All regional staff are certified (or in process) NCD coaches.

Grants from the Region keep the cost of both programs very low for churches. They receive a high-value service for a minimal investment.

2008 Baptist Blitz Build

The Great Rivers Region continued its national leadership with the 2008 Baptist Blitz Build in Baton Rouge. We continue to work with Habitat for Humanity in Baton Rouge to provide modest, affordable housing for persons displaced from New Orleans by the devastating hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Not only did GRR, once again, send the largest number of volunteers, what we did was unprecedented. Two pastors from Costa Rica (which whom we have a covenant partnership) came to GRR to attend the Mission Conference, then went to Baton Rouge to build houses with ABC missionary Gary Baits and GRR staff minister Randy McNeely.

Electronic Media

Our use of electronic distribution and web page continues to expand. Under the gifted leadership of Richard Ricks, the GRR web page boasts over 1500 pages of resources and

information. Many of our ABC partners link to our web page as a “go to” resource. We continue to expand our streaming video offerings and online courses.

Several years ago **Mainstream** shifted from print and mail distribution to electronic form and e-mail distribution. We have been “riding the fence” with **Current** for the last few years, but it will become primarily electronic and more real-time in 2009.

Camping

Camping continues to be both a joy and a struggle for us. Blackhawk Baptist Camp had 288 campers this year. This exceeded the Board established goal of 250 campers. Of special joy was the fact that 17 Karen children attended camp for the first time ever. This was a unique camping experience for everyone.

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp had 468 campers. This was below the Board established goal of 500 campers. Lake Springfield has persistently failed to meet that goal. In fact, participation has been on a steady decline since 1995 when nearly 800 campers attended Lake Springfield. That decline is reflected in camp finances, resulting in recurrent, significant losses.

The camping program works only because churches send campers, volunteer directors and counselors, as well as financial support.

This year the most significant improvement to camp facilities was the major renovation of the Chapel at Lake Springfield and the remodeling of two cabins at Blackhawk. The facility is beautiful and functional. This was made possible entirely by the generous gifts of a few donors.

Church News

The Region celebrated with churches that moved into new facilities in 2008 (FBC Morris, FBC Kankakee, Faith Baptist at Mill Creek), and helped coach others that are in the process.

The Board granted mission status to a new church—the Karen Baptist Church of West Chicago. This is a church that includes many refugees from Burma. While they are not a separate church, we also have a large contingent of Burmese at FBC Moline.

Also, related to new churches, we started an experimental program this Summer designed to link church planters together with Muriel Johnson, who is the staff team leader for church planting. Thanks to restricted funds, we were able to purchase laptop computers with webcams for our church planters. The intent is to create regular, online coaching and consulting sessions between the planters and Muriel. This is a first in ABC life.

Three churches left the Great Rivers Region in 2008: FBC Princeton IL, Grandview Baptist Church Quincy IL, and FBC Mt. Sterling IL. We lament their departure, but wish them well.

Two churches closed in 2008 (but this has not yet been officially recognized by the Board): Immanuel Baptist Quincy IL (a.k.a. Bluffridge) and Des Peres Baptist Church St. Louis MO. In closing, both churches advanced regional ministry with their assets. The Des Peres

assets were considerable. Working through the American Baptist Foundation (a service that the Region pays for), Des Peres made gifts to the Region, National Ministries, International Ministries, Third Baptist Church (their parent church), and Central Baptist Theological Seminary. The gift to the Region will come as an annual distribution, and is restricted for church planting in Area V and church renewal efforts. We thank God for the faithful stewardship demonstrated by both of these churches, even as we mourn their loss.

By my count, that leaves 241 churches affiliated with the Region (six of these are mission churches).

Conclusion

You hear us say it all the time. But it is true. The Great Rivers Region is a grrreat place to be. I know that I speak for all the staff, both ministerial and administrative, when I say we feel a great privilege to be called into this place of service. It is not always easy. In fact, sometimes it is very difficult. But I love the churches; I love the people; and there is no place I would rather be. Even in the difficult times, I rest in the assurance that God has purpose for each and every church in the Great Rivers Region and that God has invited me to share in it. I believe we can demonstrate to everyone what it means to be a region

Centered in Christ, Committed to the Whole Gospel, Covenanted Together

Regional Ministry Board Report

October 2007 through September 2008

The Regional Ministry Board consists of elected representatives and holds legal and fiduciary responsibility for the Great Rivers Region. The RMB has met three times in this reporting period: 5 October 2007 (the Annual Meeting), 18 January 2008, and 2 May 2008. The Board will also meet during the 2008 Annual meeting, primarily to consider the Budget for 2009, but for obvious reasons that meeting cannot be included in this written report. The Regional Ministry Board reviewed and/or acted on the following items since September 2007:

1. Received the final 2007 audit of all GRR accounts by Estes, Bridgewater & Ogden, CPA (letter and summary included in this report). Full copies of the report may be inspected at the Regional Office.

The general operating account of the Region ended 2007 with a \$61,587 decrease in unrestricted net assets. General operating expenses were \$1,209,002, compared with \$1,229,685 in 2006. Our total assets (property, investments, loans outstanding) were \$6,369,348 at the end of 2007 (a loss of \$126,750 from 2006). Unrestricted investments for the Region are divided among three professional investment managers (under the oversight of the Ministry of Financial Stewardship). These funds are invested in accordance with socially and ethically responsible guidelines, in a conservative manner. For 2007, these investments increased from \$3,844,320 to \$4,124,688

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp ended the year with a deficit of \$11,855.
Blackhawk Baptist Camp ended the year with a surplus of \$11,750.

2. Adopted budgets for 2008. The General Operating Budget for 2008 is \$1,121,592, which will require an additional \$50,000 from reserves to balance. Given the current financial crisis, the Ministry of Staff Relations recommended no salary increases across the board for 2008.

The Board also approved the budgets presented for Lake Springfield Baptist Camp and Blackhawk Baptist Camp. The Blackhawk budget was balanced at \$66,629. The Lake Springfield budget was for \$128,952 and was a deficit budget, expecting \$4700 in new income in order to be balanced.

3. Acknowledged the withdrawal of churches:

First Baptist Church, Princeton IL
Grandview Baptist Church, Quincy IL
First Baptist Church, Mt. Sterling IL

4. Granted mission church status to:

Karen Baptist Church of West Chicago

5. Reviewed and updated the GRR Investment Policy Guidelines.
6. Renewed charters for the GRR Council on Ministerial Standing and Ordination (COMSAO) and the Camp Advisory Council, following the review and recommendations of the Ministry of Planning & Review.
7. Adopted new **Ministerial Standards, Policies and Procedures** following the recommendations of COMSAO.
8. Approved the early retirement of Max Klinkenborg, following the negotiations and recommendations of the Ministry of Staff Relations.
9. Adopted the recommendations of a Task Force on the Annual Meeting that:
 - (a) the meeting be unlinked from the Columbus Day weekend, and held sometime in September or October, creating greater flexibility in planning;
 - (b) the meeting location be limited to a geographical area roughly defined by Bloomington, Mt. Vernon, and the west side of St. Louis, rather than rotating among the five geographic areas;
 - (c) the meeting will begin on Friday and end early on Saturday, so ministers can return to their home churches.
10. Received an offer on the former Judson church property (in Chatham IL), and created a Task Force to consider options. Based on the recommendation of that Task Force, the Board accepted an offer for the full asking price of the property (\$299,900).
11. The Board received regular reports from the Executive Minister, various councils, and national representatives. Board members received regular training on their roles and how governance functions.

Ministry of Financial Stewardship, Annual Report for 2008

PJ Patterson, Vice President & Treasurer

The Ministry of Financial Stewardship ministers on behalf of American Baptists in the Great Rivers Region by managing finances, investments and property. We accomplish this by: (1) monitoring receipts and expenditures, whereby, in dialogue with our Executive Minister and Minister of Stewardship and Mission, we are faithful to directives mandated in our budget; (2) designating resources for special ministry projects, realizing the importance of these ministries over against the rate of interest we may be able to secure from other investments; (3) approving the work and recommendations of our Investment Managers and dealing with regional Real Estate concerns; and (4) projecting the region's budgets and forwarding them to the Regional Ministry Board for their review and approval.

During the past year we:

1. Worked with Richard Grafton of Estes, Bridgewater and Ogden, in preparation of the annual audit report.
2. Reviewed investment returns with our investment managers and assured their compliance with the region's investment policy guidelines.
3. Received estate gifts through American Baptist Foundation and applied these gifts toward ministries needing funding. A gift of \$2,258 was received, half of which was designated for office automation.
4. Received and managed properties that recently housed churches that have closed their doors, and worked to negotiate the sale of these properties. The proceeds from the sale of the Chatham church property were received, and \$57,000 of this was designated to pay off the mortgage on the GRR Resource Center.
5. Continued to monitor a plan to help the region adapt to a new financial reality while positioning GRR for a stronger future, as church giving to United Mission and America For Christ continues to plummet since 2000.
6. Set budgets for the upcoming year for the regional operating fund and all three camps, and monitored budget and cashflow needs on an ongoing basis. The budgets for 2009 are indicative of the region's current financial crisis, wherein most contractual staff have been laid off, expenditures have been cut in lieu of further layoffs, and Lake Benton Baptist Camp has been closed.
7. Approved the construction stages for the Chapel renovation project at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp, estimated to cost about \$60,000, and approved separate expenditures to repair driveway erosion and purchase a new mower at Blackhawk Baptist Camp.
8. Surveyed and appraised the Lake Benton Baptist Camp property and opened the sale of the property first to churches and other auxiliary organizations within the region.
9. Approved funds to purchase a new server at the GRR Resource Center.

Thanks to all the members of this committee for their faithful ministry: Henrietta Brown, Rene' Gorbold, Keith Ingold, David Johanpeter, Patricia Midkiff, William Schneck and PJ Patterson, Vice President and Chair.

Estes, Bridgewater & Ogden

RICHARD W. OGDEN, C.P.A.
RICHARD L. GRAFTON, C.P.A.
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To the Officers and Board of Managers
American Baptist Churches
of the Great Rivers Region and
Illinois Baptist State Convention

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region; the Illinois Baptist State Convention, and the Illinois Baptist State Convention Camps as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organizations' management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Our audit of the revenue received for the American Baptist Mission Support was limited to verifying the transfers from the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. account.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, the Illinois Baptist State Convention, and the Illinois Baptist State Convention Camps as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the changes in net assets and cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements included in the first paragraph. The supplemental information included in Schedules 1 and 2 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Estes, Bridgewater & Ogden
Certified Public Accountants

March 14, 2008

The auditor's full report is on file at the
Regional Office and is open to
inspection.

Ministry of Planning and Review (P&R)

Annual Report for 2008

P&R is one of the three administrative divisions of the GRR Regional Ministry Board. The Executive Minister serves as the recording secretary (without vote).

The purpose of P&R is:

1. Review all Board policies for consistency in form and language
2. Compose and propose regional goals to the Board
3. Insure regular Board training
4. Evaluate Board process

Its members are elected at Rea meetings, and the Vice-President is elected at the GRR Annual Meeting, and include;

Harry Parker (Area I)
Mary Ellen Sharp (Area II)
Elaine Bolen (Area III)

The Ministry of Planning and Review did not meet in 2008. The Board did not make any assignments to them, and we were hampered by the lack of a Vice-President this year. P&R was very active in 2007 with work that included Bylaw changes, the disposition of the Benton Camp, and preparation of council charters for consideration by the Board. Because both staff and circumstances have changed, P&R will have important tasks in 2009 as the Region undertakes significant changes in staff configuration and regional goals.

Ministry of Staff Relations, Annual Report for 2008

Reg Mills, Vice-President

The Great Rivers Region Ministry of Staff Relations is responsible for initiating policy statements regarding staff functions, establishing expectations for and evaluating the work of the executive minister, giving advice and consent to the executive minister in matters relating to the hiring, maintaining, or dismissing of staff, and serving as a final court of appeals for grievances by fulltime staff people other than the executive minister.

Members of the Ministry of Staff Relations during this period have been Jeffrey Hammer (Area I, term ending 2009), Jerry Phillips (Area II, term ending 2010), Sharon Brown (Area III, term ending 2008), Francis Bartley, Jr. (Area IV, term ending 2009), C. Allan Jones (Area V, term ending 2010), and Reg Mills, chair. The Ministry of Staff Relations meets periodically to receive reports from, and provide counsel to, the executive minister. The committee also acts as a search committee when the need arises.

In addition to the ongoing functions listed above, our work this year included working out an early retirement and release agreement between the Region and the Rev. Max Klinkenborg. The agreement was of significant mutual benefit to both the Region and to Rev. Klinkenborg, and was approved by the Region Board. Rev. Klinkenborg retired as of July 01, 2008.

The Ministry of Staff Relations also approved a sabbatical proposal from the Rev. Dwight Stinnett for the period July 01, 2008, through August 31, 2008. Throughout the year we discussed miscellaneous matters that were helpful to our Region executive minister, were of interest to members of our team, or that impacted our board's interaction with our larger ABC family. We also made recommendations to the Ministry of Financial Stewardship for 2008 GRR staff compensation.

We have enjoyed working with the staff and representing the interests of the region. The committee extends its greatest respect and appreciation to the Rev. Dr. Dwight Stinnett and the region staff for supporting the work of the committee throughout the year.

Council on Ministerial Standing and Ordination (COMSAO)

Annual Report for 2008

COMSAO reports directly to the Regional Ministry Board. The Executive Minister serves as the recording secretary (without vote).

The purpose of COMSAO is: To apply ordination and ministerial discipline policies and procedures as adopted by the Regional Ministry Board.

Its members are appointed by the GRR President, and include:

Rev. EthelMae Champ (retired)
Rev. Carl Cottingham (Dean of AME)
Rev. Pat Murphy (FBC, Charleston IL)
Rev. James Harper (FBC, Jacksonville IL)
Rev. Cheri Grizzard (FBC, Peoria IL)

COMSAO has met twice since the GRR Annual Meeting in October 2007. The meeting dates were: 14 January 2008 (rescheduled from December due to weather) and 31 March 2008.

1. We reviewed the application materials, and interviewed candidates for the purpose of credentialing in the process of ordination or recognition.

The Council endorsed the following candidates for further examination and possible ordination in their respective areas:

Sharon Farral (AME) – serving on staff at FBC, East Moline IL
Alice Price – serving on staff of Central Baptist Church, St. Louis MO
Vada Southern Allen – serving as interim pastor at FBC, Kankakee IL
Brian Romanowski – serving as pastor at FBC, Mahomet IL

The Council granted recognition of previous ordination to:

Kenneth Barnhart – serving as pastor at FBC, Hartford IL

2. We continued giving advice to the Executive Minister and the Dean regarding the Alternative Ministerial Education program (formerly ROP).
3. We received reports on clergy discipline across the denomination.

Camp Advisory Council

Annual Report for 2008

Stepping Closer To Christ

The purpose of the Camp Advisory Council is to assist the Executive Minister in designing the regional camping program and to advise the Executive Minister in the long-term care of camp properties. To this end, the Camp Advisory Council promotes camping across the Region, develops camping curricula and events under the supervision of the Executive Minister, advises the Executive Minister as to the long term needs and care of camping facilities, and advises the Executive Minister as to policies regarding camp program, subject to adoption by the Regional Ministry Board.

Members of the Camp Advisory Council include: Dwight Stinnett (Executive Minister), Randy McNeely (Chair and Area IV Minister), Cheryl Henson (Area I Minister & Camp Curriculum Coordinator), Mike Henson (Camp Properties Director & Blackhawk Camp Manager), Aaron & Callie Stanley (Lake Springfield Baptist Camp Co-Managers), Tammi Bramley-Cash, Larry Crane, Jon Lobos, and Sharon Downs (Camp Administrative Coordinator).

The Camp Advisory Council meets 2 times during the year or more if needed. The Council sets the dates for the Summer Camps, advises the Executive Minister on the cost of the camps, decides upon theme (for 2008: *On The Way*), graphic art work for camp registration form, t-shirts, and discusses policies and other matters for the camps and rental groups.

Volunteer directors for each camp are secured by the Managers. Blackhawk Baptist Camp again in 2008 had paid Counselor staff with each director having the option of using 2 volunteers also. Lake Springfield Baptist Camp directors obtained their own volunteer counselors.

GRR Camping was promoted at the GRR Mission Conference held at Cherry Hills Baptist Church in Springfield, Area meetings, GRR Gathering and by visiting churches. Bulletin inserts (created by Cheryl Henson) for promotion were titled: Relationships and Community, Christian Education, New Christians, and Leadership Development:

Work Days were held at Blackhawk Baptist and Lake Springfield Baptist Camp in the Spring. The Camp Managers are grateful to the churches for encouraging youth and adults to come and help prepare the camps for the summer season. An Open House at Lake Springfield was held on May 24 for people to come and see the camp. A Blackhawk Baptist Camp Closing Retreat was held on September 26-27 with the American Baptist Men helping to close down the camp for the winter.

Mike Henson, Camp Properties Director, shares concerns and projects on-going at the camps. Besides the general maintenance work at the camps, the cleaning, mowing, raking of leaves, cutting down and planting of trees, the following has been done or is in the process:

For Lake Springfield:

- Chapel renovated
- Remodeled the bedrooms and bathrooms in the Dining Hall
- Added serving line addition and small office to Dining Hall
- Ran new water line to lower camp and pool pump and motor worked on

- Renovated plumbing in lower bathhouse
- New upper trail created and wood chips put around on trails and paths
- Repaired heat and air conditioner in lodge
- Serviced all air conditioners in cabins
- Website updated with pictures and info
- New mattresses donated by First Baptist, Paris
- New life jackets and boats donated by Central Baptist, Quincy

For Blackhawk:

- Lawn mower purchased
- Cabins 7 and 8 Remodeled
- Additional benches for fire circle built by James and Roy Huffstutler
- Installed metal roofing on Family Camp Pavilion
- Gravel drive to lower lodge removed, fill dirt brought in, and area seeded
- Removed old camp fire circle and seeded area
- Purchased water activity pool/slide for Kindercamps
- Additional mulch and playground equipment added to Janssen playground.
- Four square repainted and tether ball installed
- Clean up from storm damage first part of August,

Camps that were changed or cancelled in 2008:

- Blackhawk Baptist Camp - Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades on June 14 cancelled and the Day Camp Kindergarten – 5th Grades on August 6 was held on August 9 with the Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades camp due to storm damage
- Lake Springfield Baptist Camp – High School Retreat moved to August 8-9. Worship Camp, Aug. 8-10 only had a couple signed up – so the High School Retreat moved to that weekend. The Jr. High Wilderness Camp did not have anyone signed up.

Blackhawk Baptist Camp had a total of 288 campers and Lake Springfield Baptist Camp had 468 campers in 2008.

17 Karen (Asian) children enjoyed the camping experience (with help of translator) this year at Blackhawk Baptist camp.

At Blackhawk Baptist Camp Open Camping is held on Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. Lake Springfield held Family Camping on Labor Day weekend.

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp again this year was rented by Camp Care-A-Lot (for children from low income families) and the Springfield Jewish Federation (day camp Monday through Friday).

A special thanks goes to all the directors, counselors and to churches who encouraged youth to attend camp in 2008 as they Step Closer to Christ.

Executive Minister's Annual Report, October 2008

Dwight Stinnett

Oct 5-7	GRR Annual Meeting	Apr 17-18	Daughters of the Flame
Oct 10	Pastoral Counseling	Apr 22-25	Fanning the Flame
Oct 14	FBC Freeburg	Apr 25-26	GRR Mission Conference
Oct 15-16	GRR Staff	Apr 29	Congregational Coaching
Oct 16	Camp Advisory Council	Apr 30	Pastoral Counseling
Oct 17-21	Maine Annual Meeting	May 2	GRR Board
Oct 22	Congregational Coaching	May 4	University Baptist
Oct 23	Champaign Cluster	May 6-7	GRR Staff
Oct 25	Peoria Cluster	May 10-18	Baton Rouge Habitat
Oct 28	FBC Peoria	May 19	GRR Financial Stewardship
Nov 4	FBC Dixon	May 20	New Pastors Meeting
Nov 6	Alton Cluster	May 21-22	Vacation
Nov 11	FBC Chillicothe	May 27	Congregational Coaching
Nov 13	GRR Staff Relations	May 31	Boundaries Course
Nov 18	Central BC Springfield	Jun 1	St. Matthew BC
Nov 22-23	Holiday		St. Louis Oneness
Nov 25	GRR Christmas Party	Jun 8	FBC East Moline
Nov 26-28	GRR Staff Retreat	Jun 10-11	GRR Staff
Dec 1-8	ABCUSA & KC/MO pastors	Jun 15	Cherry Hills BC
Dec 11-31	Vacation	Jun 21	Decision-Making Workshop
Jan 6	Harvard Park BC	Jun 22	2 nd BC, Kansas City
Jan 8	Congregational Coaching	Jun 24	Congregational Coaching
Jan 8-11	GRR Staff mini-retreat	Jun 25-30	ABCUSA meetings
Jan 14	COMSAO	Jul -Aug	Sabbatical
Jan 17	Pastoral counseling	Jul 6	Bethel BC, Taylorville
Jan 18	GRR Board	Aug 6	GRR Staff
Feb 6-7	Midwest Regions Gathering	Aug 7-8	Leadership Summit
Feb 10	Central Quincy	Aug 11	Congregational Coaching
Feb 19-20	GRR Staff meeting	Aug 17	Creekwood BC, Rockford
Feb 26	Congregational Coaching	Sep 1-4	Midwest Regional Staff Gathering
Feb 28 – Mar 2	KC/MO (GBEC)	Sep 11	Boundaries Course
Mar 4	Pastoral Counseling	Sep 12	GRR Staff Relations
Mar 8	Area III Meeting	Sep 14	Elliott Ave BC, Springfield
Mar 9	Area II Meeting	Sep 15	Shurtleff Board
Mar 16	Bluffridge Quincy	Sep 17	GRR Staff
Mar 21	Central St. Louis	Sep 18	New Pastors Meeting
Mar 27	Congregational Coaching	Sep 19-20	ABCUSA meeting KC/MO
Mar 31	COMSAO	Sep 21	Central BC, Springfield
Apr 1	Camp Advisory Council	Sep 22	GRR Financial Stewardship
Apr 2-3	GRR Staff meeting	Sep 23	Congregational Coaching
Apr 7-11	GEC (Orlando)	Sep 24	Judson, Joliet
Apr 13-16	Nebraska Pastors Retreat	Oct 3-5	GRR Annual Meeting

Some of my key activities since my last report (October 2007) include:

1. Continuing to meet with pastors, churches, and church leaders regarding issues in our denomination. This included four cluster meetings. In addition to letters, reports, phone calls, etc., this consumed much of my time.
2. Coaching and counseling with GRR pastors—some on a regular basis.
3. Attending to the continuing financial crisis in the Region. In particular, worked with the GRR ministerial staff, and the GRR Ministry of Staff Relations to develop options.
4. Preaching and teaching at the Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches in Maine.
5. Attended ABCUSA meetings including 2 ABC General Executive Council meetings (one in Kansas City, one in Orlando) and 2 ABC General Board Executive Council as an officer of

the Regional Executive Ministers Council. When meetings were in Kansas City, I extended it in order to meet with Kansas City area pastors, visit Central Seminary, and inspect our work at Bethel Neighborhood Center with Muriel Johnson.

6. In addition to our regular staff retreat in October, all the ministerial staff held a mini-retreat in January for the purpose of envisioning the future of the Region and how best to service and staff. We also attended the Willow Creek Leadership Summit at its remote site near the Springfield office. Finally, we joined with five other Midwest regions for a conference led by Dr. George Bullard to discuss regional ministry and staffing in our changing times of diminishing resources.
7. Led the Nebraska Pastors Retreat on the topic of "Spiritual Aspects of Leadership."
8. Attended the national Women in Ministry Conference (**Daughters of the Flame**) in St. Louis.
9. Helped plan and lead the national Pastors Renewal Conference (**Fanning the Flame**) at Green Lake.
10. Worked at the 2008 Baptist Blitz Build in Baton Rouge LA.
11. Enjoyed two months of sabbatical (July and August). During the time I read, lost weight, wrote and took advantage of continuing education.
12. My colleagues on the Regional Executive Ministry Council asked me to write an "Introduction to Regional Ministry" for use by the denomination. I prepared both a script and a PowerPoint.
13. Taught two Boundaries courses and one Decision-Making workshop.
14. Visited 19 churches for preaching and/or special services.
15. Wrote 9 "Current Thoughts" to inform, challenge, and encourage GRR pastors.

Area 1 Minister Activity Report October 2007 – October, 2008

October 2007

5 Calling Conference Decatur
Pastor's Conference
5-7 GRR Convention in Decatur
11-13 Face-to-Face Conference, IN.
14 FBC, Mt. Carroll ABW Sunday
15-16 Staff Meeting/ Camp Council Meeting
18 NCD Consultation Marengo
21 Consecration Sunday Moline
24 NCD Consultation Wilton Center
25 NCD Consultation Ottawa
26 Area 1 ABW Annual Meeting
28 Consecration Sunday, Moline
Ordination, Melvin

November

3-4 165th Anniversary, FBC, Dixon
7 NCD Consultation, Wilton Center
11 NCD Survey, FBC, Ottawa
17 30th Ordination Anniversary Dr. Manso
18 Installation Mullinix @ Marseilles
Ordination Henson @ Wilton Center
26-28 GRR Staff Retreat

December (No Travel Month)

2 Installation Weber @ Park Ridge
8-12 Vacation
16 Karen Church New Church Planting
18-22 Vacation

January

5-6 Youth Board Planning Retreat
13 Placement FBC, Morris
14 NCD Consultation
Area 1 Planning Meeting, Elgin
17 Elgin Martin Luther King Breakfast
26 Rickard Memorial Service
27 York Baptist Church
29 Planning Committee Convention

February

1 Ordination Council Southern
2 FBC, Morris Preaching/ Meeting
10 Wilton Center NCD Survey
16 Rogers Funeral (Mother)
Ottawa Health Team Planning Retreat
17 FBC, Morris Preaching
21 Convention Planning Meeting
Search Committee Meeting Moline
23 Area 1 ABM Prayer Breakfast
24 20th Anniversary FBC, Orion
29 Area 1 Meeting/ Youth Winter Retreat

March

1 Annual Meeting
9 Ottawa Pastor's 20th Anniversary
15 Ordination Vada Southern
24-26 Vacation

April

1 Camp Council Meeting
Director's Training LSBC
2-3 Staff Meeting/Director's Training LSBC
9 Area 1 Mission Committee Meeting
Ordination Council Farral East Moline
13 Wilton Center Health Team Retreat
Morris Search Committee Meeting
16-19 ABWIM Conference in St. Louis
20 Area 1 Program Board Meeting
Area 1 Outreach Committee Meeting
27 Ordination of Sharon Farral E. Moline

May

4 Creekwood Listening Session
11 Oak Park Miracle Sunday
22 Wilton Center NCD
25 FBC, Aledo Memorial Service
28 Barb Conrod Funeral
29 Kankakee Search Committee
31 Clean-Up Day Blackhawk

June

1 Decommissioning First Baptist Batavia
8 Karen Baptist 1st Anniversary
12 Director's Training
14 Director's Training
22 Installation Jason Hladik
29 FBC, Sterling

July

No Travel Month
13 OPA, Berwyn Licensure Jirsa
20 Wilton Center Area 1 Youth
22 Area 1 Mission Connection, Ottawa
27 FBC, East Moline, Area 1 Youth

August

3 Creekwood Rothwell 20th Anniversary
6-8 Leadership Summit
16 Creekwood 150th Banquet
25 Local Arrangements Co. Moline

September

2-4 West Virginia Staff Meeting
7 Area 1 Mission Connection E. Moline
14 FBC, Kankakee 150th Dedication Building
Area 1 Mission Connection Mt. Carroll
21 Karen Church Presentation
28 Dedication New Building Faith Baptist

Area 1 Minister Activity Report October 2007 – October, 2008

- 1) I facilitated the Calling Conference and Pastor's Conference at the Regional Meeting last October.
- 2) Upon Max Klinkenborg's retirement, I became the team leader for Natural Church Development. I have conducted NCD Health Team Retreats with two churches: Ottawa and Wilton Center.
- 3) I consulted with FBC, Moline on Consecration Sunday and celebrated with FBC, Oak Park their Miracle Sunday.
- 4) Installations of pastors included: Quentin Mullinix at FBC, Marseilles, Matt Weber at FBC, Park Ridge and Jason Hladik at FBC, Plano. Ordination Councils and Services were held for Joshua Melvin of Antioch Baptist Church, Reynolds, IL, Heather Henson of Wilton Center Federated Church, Manhattan, IL, Sharon Farral of FBC, East Moline, and Vada Southern of FBC, Kankakee.
- 5) Church Anniversaries included: FBC, Dixon 165 years, Creekwood Baptist Church and FBC, Kankakee 150 years, FBC, East Moline 95 years, Karen Baptist Church of Western Chicago 1 year.
- 6) Pastor's Anniversaries included: Dr. Benjamin Manso 30th year of ordination, Rev. Gary Rothwell 20th year of ordination, Rev. Peter Brick 20th year of ordination and Larry Weise 20th year of service at FBC, Orion, IL,
- 7) In December, I met with the Karen church plant in St. Charles. The church was granted mission status by the Region and in June celebrated their first anniversary.
- 8) The Area 1 meeting was held February 29-March 1 at FBC, Elgin, IL, with keynote speaker Dr. Michael Quicke. The youth held their Annual Winter Retreat at Judson University with speaker Dr. Jerry Cain. Attendance was 100 youth and 100 adults. Our 2009 meeting is set for First Baptist Ottawa, on March 22, with Dr. Alistair Brown, President of Northern Seminary as speaker.
- 9) I continue to provide leadership for the Area 1 Youth Board and Youth Advisory Council. Events for the year included: Ski Retreat, Junior and Senior High Winter Retreat, Bowl-a-thon Fundraiser, National Estes Park ABY Trip to Colorado, Junior and Senior High Fall Retreats and Fall Lock-In.
- 10) Churches in the search process this year included: Morris, Moline, Kankakee, Batavia, Plano and Thomson. First Baptist of Plano called Rev. Jason Hladik as pastor. Faith Baptist called John Pattison. Interims include: Jessica Henks, Kankakee; Steve Newell, York, Steve Larson, Morris, and Jack Smith, Antioch. John and Ruth Peterson are finishing as Interims in September at Moline with Flint and Deb Miller to arrive as co-pastors in October.
- 11) I facilitated the Programming Planning Committee and Local Arrangements Committee for the 2008 GRR Convention in Moline, IL.
- 12) As Camp Coordinator I conducted four training sessions for the directors of our camps and continue to review camping curriculum submitted by directors.
- 13) I met with the Area 1 Mission Committee to plan three Mission Events in Area 1 during the month of July and September.
- 14) Three churches completed and dedicated their new buildings: First Baptist of Morris, First Baptist of Kankakee and Faith Baptist at Mill Creek in Geneva (formerly FBC, Batavia).
- 15) Area 1 implemented a Worship Ministry Team that traveled this summer to Area Churches to conduct Sunday Services. The team also presented the program at Blackhawk Senior Adult Day and the Friday evening session of the GRR Annual Meeting this weekend in Moline.

Report of GRR Associate Minister, D. Richard Ricks
 Area III / Ministry Technologies / Evangelism / Face to Face
 October 2007 – September 30, 2008

October 2007

- 5 – 7 GRR Convention
- 9 Bloomington Cluster
- 10 - 12 Face to Face Event, Anderson IN
- 14 Havana FBC, Lincoln FBC-Ord Council
- 15 – 16 Staff Meeting, Springfield
- 18 Consult with Pastor in Crisis
- 21 FBC East Peoria
- 21 FBC Lincoln, Ordination, Comstock
- 22 - 23 BSF Champaign, Mahomet for Chmp Cluster
- 25 Second Baptist, Peoria - Cluster
- 28 Rantoul, Champaign, Mahomet (Installation)
- 30 Ottawa FBC, Web Site Consultation for setup

November

- 4 Cambridge (new Pastor); Galesburg Ord Council
- 6 Bloomington (Pastoral Consult)
- 7 Champaign, Pastoral Consult
- 8 Second Baptist Peoria, Cluster
- 11 Danville, Mark Keyser Installation
- 12 Goodfield, Consult with Pastor
- 14 Galesburg, NCD Consult
- 20 Springfield, Tape Consecration Sunday Videos
- 25 Staff Christmas Party, Springfield
- 26 – 28 Staff Retreat, Belleville
- 30 Bloomington/Peoria Cluster Christmas Dinner

December (No Travel)

- 2 Galesburg: Kelly Melvin Ordination Service
- 7 Interview of student about ministry
- 12 ABF representative consultation
- 13 – 22 Web work; video editing, posting of videos (Dr. Jerry Cain on the “Call”, Evangelism Style assessment, personal profile, and resources on web, Transcoded/posted Ntl ABY Gathering video to Flash; Posted Face to Face Clergy pic upload.

January 2008

- 17 - Planning for New Webinar
- 20 - El Paso 150th
- 26 - Kansas City Grace BC, Evangelism Seminar
- 27 - Cambridge, Installation of Todd Smith
- 30 - Search Committee Consult - Galva

February 2008

- 2 – Preached at Galva
- 7- Consult with Pastor
- 7- Tech Web Consult
- 11 – Champaign Cluster
- 12 – Bloomington Cluster, Normal
- 14 – Peoria Cluster
- 17 – Mahomet FBC, Ordination Service
- 19 – 20 – Staff, Springfield IL
- 22 – Consultation about God’s call
- 24 – Farmington FBC

March

- 7 – Final Area Meeting & Seminar Setup
- 8 – Area III Meeting, Peoria FBC
- 8 – Creative Worship Seminar, Peoria FBC
- 9 – Area II Meeting, Greenfield – Videography
- 11 – Bloomington Cluster, North Bridge of Normal
- 13 – Peoria Cluster, Second Baptist of Peoria
- 16 – Cambridge First Baptist Church
- 26 – Web Site Consultation, FBC Peoria
- 30 – Peoria FBC
- 31 – Consultation with pastor

April

- 2 – 3 Staff Meeting
- 7 – NCD Consultation with Second Baptist, Peoria
- 8 – Bloomington Cluster, North Bridge of Normal
- 9 – Galva FBC Search Committee
- 10 – Peoria Cluster, Peoria Second Baptist Church
- 11 – Consultation with Pastor
- 13 – East Peoria FBC
- 15 – 19 – ABWIM National Conference, St. Louis
- 20 – Minonk FBC – 150th Anniversary
- 21 – Consultation with pastor
- 21 – Consultation with pastor
- 22 – 24 Processing Video of ABWIM Conference
- 25 – GRR Missions Conference
- 26 – GRR Missions Conference
- 27 – Ordination Service, Mahomet FBC
- 28 – 30 Video of Missions Conference, ABWIM, Face to Face Support

May

- 1 – 3 – Face to Face, Lynhurst Baptist of Indianapolis
- 6 – 7 Staff Meeting, Springfield
- 8 – 12 Vacation; Daughter’s MSSW graduation UNC
- 13 - Bloomington Cluster
- 14 - Consultation with Pastor
- 20 – New Pastors’ Rendezvous, Springfield
- 29 – June 8 Vacation

June

- 11 – 12 Staff Meeting, Springfield
- 15 – Second Baptist Peoria
- 18 – Teleconference with search committee
- 22 – Bob Haley Licensing at Mahomet FBC
- 26 – Consultation with Pastor
- 29 – Deer Creek Baptist Church

July

- 8 - Consultation with Pastor
- 12 – 16 E-learning Conference, Salt Lake City UT
- 17 – 21 Vacation
- 27 – Mason City licenses Tim Earle
- 27 – Berwick Baptist Celebrates 175

August

- 3 – Installation of Karen Boucher – Pontiac FBC
- 4 – NCD Consultation with Pastor (Galesburg)
- 6 – 7 Staff Meeting Springfield
- 14 – Peoria Cluster at Second Baptist, Peoria
- 16 – Area III Program Board, Bloomington
- 19 – Consultation with Pastor on COMSAO process
- 20 – Consultation with Pastor
- 21 – Area II/III Sr Day, LSBC
- 25 – Ashlock Funeral
- 25 – Local Arrangements Committee, Moline
- 26 – Research 2009 Convention Site
- 29 – Consultation with Pastor

September

- 1 – 4 - Multi-region Staff Consult with Bullard (W Va)
- 6 – Peoria FBC AB Men
- 8 – Champaign Cluster
- 9 – Bloomington Cluster
- 10 – Face to Face Tech/Web Support for Registrar in IN
- 11 – Peoria Cluster
- 14 – Installation of Christian Ricker, Chenoa
- 17 – Staff Meeting, Springfield
- 21 – Salem Association hosted by Macomb FBC
- 22 – 30 Prepare for Convention in Moline
Tech, Web Support, Equipment, Video Planning

Emphases: October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008

Shepherding Pastors:

- Starting up
- Conflict and Professional Growth
- Personal Needs
- Cluster Meeting Engagement

Consulting churches and pastors

- NCD
- Administration
- Consider Moving to Bivocational
- Leadership
- Projection (Hardware/Software)
- Web (Planning/Finding Host/Posting)
- Web – substance of sites

Support in Tech Needs to

- Churches
- Pastors
- GRR Staff
- Mainstream Editor
- Sr Day

GRR Web Ministries

- Annual Revision
- Consultation with other regions' web ministries team members
- Introducing WIKIs and Flash Video
- Training/consulting with GRR web team members
- See Web Ministries report for more

Face to Face

- Web site support/revisions
- Staff contact person/ Team Rep

Evangelism

- Style Inventory consultation
- Style Inventory developed for web

E-learning initiatives:

- Conference in Utah
- Web site information for churches
- AB Women in Pastoral Ministry

Video

- Videography of GRR events
- Postings to web
- Publishing to DVD upon request

Area IV Associate Minister's Report, October 2008

Randy McNeely

October 2007

- 2 LBBC Clean-Up w/ServiceMaster
- 4 LBBC Clean-Up w/ServiceMaster
- 4 GRR Annual Mtg. at Decatur
- 5-7 GRR Annual Mtg. at Decatur
- 13 LBBC Decommission Service
- 14 FBC Freeburg-150th Anniversary
- 15-16 Staff Meeting at Region Office
- 16 Camp Advisory Council mtg. at Region Office
- 18 Pastor/Spouse Lunch at Marion
- 21 Pate Chapel to preach
- 28 FBC Centralia—Homecoming Service
- 28 FBC Murphysboro—Consecration Sunday

November 2007

- 1 FBC Greenville Search Team
- 2 Mattoon Cluster at Mattoon
- 4 FBC Murphysboro—Consecration Sunday
- 11 Pleasant Grove BC to preach
- 15 Area 4 Program Board mtg. at Mt. Vernon
- 25 Boskydell BC to preach
- 26-28 Staff Retreat at Belleville
- 29 Rend Lake Cluster mtg. at Mt. Vernon

December 2007

- 30 Scottsboro BC Kenny Johnson Retirement

January 2008

- 1 Rend Lake Cluster at Mt. Vernon
 - 2 Mattoon Cluster at Mattoon
 - 8-9 Staff mtg. at Region Office
 - 19 FB Mattoon—Learning Summit
 - 20 FB Flora
 - 23 LBBC—License Branch
 - 25 LBBC
 - 27 FB Olney
 - 28 Mtg. w/Rev. Shaker Samuel--Murphysboro
 - 28 FB Murphysboro (Pastor Relations Comm.)
- ### February
- 3 Scottsboro BC—Preach/Mtg. w/search team
 - 5 LBBC
 - 10 FB Hutsonville
 - 15 FB Mattoon—Agape Meal
 - 17 FB Newton
 - 19-20 Staff Meeting at Regional Offices
 - 23 Mtg. with Ray Schooler (MV)
-
- 10-11 Staff Meeting
 - 12 Rend Lake Cluster
 - 15 FB Charleston-Preached
 - 25 Central BC-Search Team
 - 29 Denmark BC
 - 29 Central BC Quincy-Costa Rica Presentation

July

- 3 Rend Lake Cluster

- 24 FB Mattoon--Preach

March

- 2 Cairo BC
- 7 Travel for Area 2 Annual Mtg.
- 8 Area 2 Annual Mtg. FB Peoria
- 9 FB Charleston--Preach
- 9 Area 2 Annual Mtg. FB Greenfield
- 13 Mtg. w/Paul Weers in Mt. Vernon
- 13 Area 4 Program Bd. Mtg. FB Mt. Vernon
- 30 Pate Chapel BC--Preach

April

- 1 Camp Advisory Council mtg. Region Offices
- 2-3 Staff mtg. at Region Offices
- 4 Visitation for June Sanders (Bill Sanders)
- 5 LBBC
- 6 FB Paris
- 7 Mtg. w/Matt Robbins (potential pastor)
- 8 Mtg. w/Tim Earle—Bi-Vo pastor
- 8 Mtg. w/ Kim Hennes and Scott Mumper
- 8 Mtg. w/Gene Godfrey—pastor FB Sullivan
- 8 So. Illinois ABM mtg. at FB Murphysboro
- 10 Rend Lake Cluster mtg. at Mt. Vernon
- 13 Calvary BC
- 14 Mtg. w/Matt Robbins (preaching CDs)
- 16 LBBC-mtg. w/M&W Construction (storms)
- 17 Pastor/Spouse Luncheon—Marion
- 17 Mtg. w/insurance adjuster LBBC
- 20 FB Carbondale
- 22-24 Fanning the Flame Conference-GLCC
- 25-26 GRR Mission Conference-Cherry Hills BC
- 27-30 Baptist Blitz Build travel Baton Rouge

May

- 1-2 Baptist Blitz-Baton Rouge
- 4 FB Murphysboro—CR Presentation
- 6-7 Staff Meeting
- 8 Rend Lake Cluster
- 17-18 Federated Church Carlinville-Costa Rica
- 25 FB Sullivan-125th Anniversary
- 29 A4 Youth Event Mtg. FB Centralia

June

- 1 FB Tuscola-Preached
- 2 1st. Northern BC-Consecration Sunday
- 8 Pleasant Grv. BC-150th Anniversary

- 13 Denmark BC-Search Team
- 20 Charles Klassen-NCD (FB Benton)
- 21 A4 Program Board
- 27 Mike Snow-NCD (FB Mattoon)

September

- 1-4 Parchment Valley, WV Multi-Region Mtg.
- 7 Central BC-Preach
- 9 Visit w/Tom Davis (FB Highland)

6 FB Centralia
13 Palestine BC
20 FB Mt. Vernon-140th Anniversary
27 White Swan BC

10 Visit w/Chuck Epperly (Crainville BC)
15 Visit w/Jim and Deb Harkness (FB Marissa)
17 Staff Mtg.

August

5-8 Willow Creek Staff Seminary

- ✚ Over the past year it has been my privilege to attend and represent the Region in anniversary celebrations for pastors and churches, ordinations services, celebrations or retirement, and an occasional surprise celebration for pastors. It has been a very enjoyable year in Area 4.
- ✚ I visited with churches and worked with them on our partnership with Costa Rica. Provided information to move ahead with short term mission trips to Alajuelita in the near future. In April the Region saw the results of an invitation to the Baptist in Costa Rica to participate with us in the Baptist Blitz in Baton Rouge. Gary Baits (missionary), Nidia Rodriguez (FABCR president) and Cindy Sterling (lay leader of FB Limon) were up for our Region Mission Conference and then on to Baton Rouge for the Blitz. Our relationship continues to be strong.
- ✚ I have worked with churches in Area 4 to participate in Natural Church Development and Consecration Sunday.
- ✚ Spending time with Bivocational churches in Area 4 and the pastors who serve these churches continues to be an important part of my calling to the GRR.
- ✚ I have spent time at LBBC working with the person we had living in the house and with the contractor that is repairing Volunteer Hall and the dinning hall after storm damage. I continue to serve as the Camp Advisory Council's Region staff person.

I am gratefully for the opportunity that the Region gives me to work with the churches of Area 4 and the rest of the Great Rivers Region churches.

Randy McNeely
Associate Minister to Area 4

Area V Regional Associate Minister's Report, October 2008

Muriel L. Johnson

October 2007			Pastoral Search Committee Meeting
3	Hotel Site visits-St. Louis		Area Meeting Preparation
4-7	GRR Convention		CP Consultation
8	Hotel Site visits – St. Louis	6-9	Annual Meeting
14	Congregational Visit - ESTL	9-11	Greenfield - Area II Annual Meeting
15-16	Staff Meeting – Springfield	26-29	Edwardsville, IL – St. Louis
19-20	Teacher Training – Macomb		Represented GRR – Caring
21	Consecration Sunday – Bethel		Ministries and Institutions
November 2007			Conference (ABC-USA –NM)- CP
3	Preaching - Cottage Hill, IL		and Pastoral consultations
	Preaching		
6 – 11	St. Louis Metro	April	
	Pastor's Cluster Meeting – (Wood River, IL)	1-5	Staff Meeting – Springfield, IL
	Area Program Mtg – STL	5	ABWIM – Conference Prep
	Pastoral Consultation		Conflict Consult – Pastoral Search
	Search Consultation	14-19	Committee – Godfrey, IL
	CP Meeting (East STL)		St. Louis - American Baptist
	Congregational Visit	20	Women In Ministries Conference
25	Congregational Consult & Springfield - GRR – Christmas	25-26	Preaching & Pastoral Installation – Hartford, IL
26-28	Staff Retreat - Belleville, IL		Springfield GRR Mission
December		27	Conference
5-9	Kansas City Project		St. Louis – Congregational & Deacon Board Meeting
	Bethel Neighborhood Center	May	
	Pastoral cluster/luncheon	5-7	Staff Meeting – Springfield, IL
	Central Seminary/Central Region	10-18	Baptist Blitz Build – Baton Rouge
	Contact Mtg	21-	Kansas City – Search Committee
	Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Mtg – Harold Phillips	29- 6/1	St. Louis – Call to Oneness
	Search Committee Consultation		GRR & National Ministries
	Pastoral Consultation	June	Children's Center
30	Kansas City – FBC – Funeral	10-11	Staff Meeting, Springfield, IL
January 2008		20-22	Kansas City – Search Committee – Congregational Conflict Consultation
6	175 th Anniversary Presentation & Banquet - STL		Two weeks of glorious vacation sandwiched around staff meeting and KC visit
	Congregational Visit – East STL		NO TRAVEL MONTH (with the following exceptions)
7-10	Congregational Consultation & Staff Meeting –Springfield, IL		Pastoral Installation -St. Louis
13	Preaching – Alton, IL	July	New Sanctuary Dedication
16-19	St. Louis Metro		
	Pastoral Visit	13	
	Congregational Visit	20	
	ABWIM – National Planning	August	
	Committee Meetings	5-8	Staff Meeting and Retreat – Willow Creek Satellite) Springfield, IL
20	CP Consult & Congregational Visit	10	St. Louis – Celebration of the Des Peres gift to 3 rd , GRR, ABC-USA
25-27	Search Consultation –Alton, IL.	13-14	Funeral (Pastor Casto) & Pastoral Care for Pastor Cassida & Family)
	Intro to ABC - Affiliation Meetings – Congregational Conflict Consultation	15-18	KC /Lees Summit Visit -- Pastoral Consultation – New Search Committee Meeting
February 2008			Bethel NAP Visit – CP consultation
3	Congregational Visit – STL		Pastoral installation
4-9	McKee Consultation – Miami, FL		St. Louis Metro Visit - E. St. Louis/Alton.STL Godfrey
17	Preaching/ Church Planting Consult	22-25	Search Committee Meeting
18-20	Staff Meeting		Congregational consultation regarding shared ministry and or union – Pastoral Consultation & candidate weekend/vote
29 – 31	KC Pastoral Consultation		Pastoral Consultation – ST. Louis Metro
March			
1 - 3	Kansas City Visit Congregational Staffing Consultation Meeting Pastors Luncheon Central Seminary	28	

31 September	Preaching/Teaching St. Louis	21	Worship with Karen Church Plant in St. Charles, IL
1-5	Midwest Regional Training & Meeting – Springfield – West Virginia – Springfield	22-24 26/27	NCD Training II – St. Charles, IL Congregational Consultation Cherry Street and Godfrey @ Godfrey, IL
11-12	ST. Louis/East St. Louis Pastoral & Congregational Visit	30	Consecration Sunday Meeting – Columbia, MO
16-20	Staff Meeting – Church Planting initiative and consultation - Springfield		

SUMMARY

- I continue to provide pastoral care, spiritual and prayer support to pastors, clergy persons and congregations in Area V.
- I continue to consult with congregations who are in various stages of leadership transition. Multiple Consultations to assist Search Committees who are facing challenges in completing the process. 3 new pastors have been called in the past year and I am presently working with 3 search committees.
- Provided leadership in coordinating a joint (GRR & National Ministries) ministry/mission project (A children’s resource center in ST. Louis) to support the ministry of 6 ABC congregations who are working to combat the unprecedented violence in the city & county of St. Louis
- I encouraged participation AND participated in the 2008 Baptist” Blitz Build in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Engaged in a “Ministry of Presence” for an Area V congregation on the verge of being persuaded to leave the ABC by a “new” pastor. I provided spiritual and moral support to a deeply divided and wounded congregation.
- Presented Regional Greetings and word of welcome to the ABC Board of Caring Ministries and Institutions at a national ecumenical “Caring” conference in St. Louis.
- I staffed and hosted the ABWIM “Daughters of the Flame Conference April 16-19, 2008 at the St. Louis - Airport Hilton with tremendous help and support from Richard Ricks, Cheryl Henson and Dwight Stinnett.
- I have completed the implementation plan for the Church Planting electronic coaching initiative.
- I represented the GRR in the AB Foundation’s recognition ceremony to honor Des Peres Baptist Church significant gifts to the American Baptist family as a result of their closing.
- I am scheduled to completed part two of the NCD training later this month.
- I am in the process of serving as a congregational stewardship consultation for the “Consecration Sunday” program.
- I continue to provide leadership and serve as the contact person for Church Planting initiatives in the GRR.
- I continue to “work at” increasing my technical skills in the area of digital photography, video camera operation as well as Web Site responsibilities
- I continue to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ as well as pray consistently for regional congregations and pastors.

Associate Minister for Stewardship and Mission Report, October 2008

John Grisham

October		14	Carrollton Cluster
		15	Paul Weers
1	Mokena, Marley, C/S Committee	19-20	GRR staff
2	Berwyn, OPA. Pastor Breakfast	21	Springfield Pastors Cluster
	Oak Park, FBC. Miracle Sunday	28	Springfield, HPBC. Miracle Sunday
	Batavia, FBC. Stewardship	March	
3	Pontiac, FBC. Pastor breakfast		
5-6	GRR Convention. Decatur.	2-5	Louisville, KY. ESC Stewardship Forum
7	St Louis, Delmar. C/S Celebration	7-8	Kansas City, Mo. Area V
	Nokomis, FBC. C/S Leaders	9	Greenfield, IL. Area II
14	Nokomis, FBC . C/S Celebration	10	Rockford, Creekwood. C/S Committee
	Columbia, Bethel .C/S Leaders	11	GRR Generous Friends Visit
15-16	GRR Staff	14-15	Indiana/Ky Region. C/S Training.
21	Centralia, FBC. Mission Leaders	31	Springfield, EABC. C/S Committee
	Highland , FBC. C/S Leaders	April	
25	Jacksonville, FBC.Miracle Sunday		
28	Highland, FBC. C/S Celebration	2-3	GRR Staff
	Murphysboro, FBC. C/S leaders	7	Mission Conference Committee
29	Charleston, FBC. C/S Leaders.	8	GRR generous friends Visit
November		17	Mission Conference Committee
			Jerseyville, FBC. Leaders
2	St Louis , Des Peres. Leaders.		Springfield Pastors Cluster
3	Murphysboro, FBC .C/S Celebration	20	Rockford, Creekwood. C/S Leaders
	Kirkwood, FBC . C/S Leaders	21	Stewardship Conversation with Pastor
5-7	Vital Leaders Conf speaker. ABC Nebraska	22	Stewardship meeting with Pastor
8	Visit Bethel Neighborhood Center	24	St.Louis, Airport. Meet Gary Baits
	K.C. Rolling Hills . Pastor breakfast	25-26	Region Mission Conference
11	Charleston, FBC C/S Celebration	27	Rockford,Creekwood . C/S Celebration
	Mokena, Marley, C/S Leaders	29	Carthage, FBC. Pastoral Search
13	Highland, FBC. C/S debrief.	30	Paul Weers
14	Springfield, CHBC .Pastor Lunch	May	
18	Mokena, Marley. C/S Celebration		
	Batavia, FBC . C/S Leaders	4	Springfield, EABC C/S Leaders
19	Oak Park, FBC. Miracle Sunday	5	Generous friend Visit
25	Batavia, FBC. C/S Celebration	6	GRR Staff
26-28	GRR Staff Retreat	7	Indiana/Ky region. C/s Training Event
30	Paul Weers	12	Generous Friend visit
	Generous Friend of GRR	13	Mokena, Marley . Mission Board
1-8	Vacation	14	Aurora, FBC. Stewardship leaders.
December		15	Springfield Cluster
		16	Springfield, EABC. C/S Celebration
13	Oak Park, FBC. Conference Call	20	GRR New PCL.
18	Mahomet, FBC. Stewardship Conf Call	22	Jacksonville. Area II Board
19	Generous Friend of GRR	28	SKWIM Planning Meeting
January		29	Springfield, HPBC. Miracle Sunday
		June	
7	Virden, FBC Miracle Sunday		
8-9	GRR Staff	1	Bloomington, FBC .Preach
10	Springfield, EABC. Stewardship		Mark Estrop Ordination Anniversary.
15	Virden, FBC . Miracle Sunday.	8	Quincy, Central. Preach
16	Decatur Cluster	9	Carthage, FBC. Pastoral Search
17	Springfield Cluster	10-11	GRR Staff
20	Batavia, FBC. Conf Call	12	Carrollton Cluster
22	Lunch. Area II Officers.	June con't	
30	New Covenant Celebration. Atlanta		
February		15	Springfield ,CHBC. Worship Visit.
			Auburn , Worship visit.
1-2	New Covenant Celebration. Atlanta.	18	Carlinville, Federated. Stewardship
6-7	Indianapolis	20	Macomb FBC. Capital Funds Conf. Call.
		22	Springfield , Central . Worship Visit

	Preach FBC Girard.	12	Breakfast. Pastor
24	Area II Mission Support.		Meet with pastor in transition.
24	Jerseyville, Bethel	13	Breakfast with a pastor
25-29	Vacation		Visit Lincoln Seminary
July			Wilton Center Federated, Capital Funds
		14	Carrollton Cluster
6	Springfield, Elliott. Preach		Aurora ,FBC C/S Leaders
	Springfield, Central . Worship Visit.	17	Whitehall Installation of Chad Hoesman
	Girard, FBC. Search Committee.		Church-Pastor separation Agreement.
8	Lunch with Pastor	18.	Lincoln FBC . Capital funds
	Paul Weers	19	Breakfast with pastor
10	Carrollton Cluster	20	Taylorville Cluster
11	Meet with recent Seminary Graduate		Meet with new pastor
11-12	Speak GRR Men's Conf. Bloomington		Dinner with pastor and spouse
13	Jerseyville, FBC Worship Visit.	21	Area II & III senior day.
	Roodhouse, FBC. Edwards Installation	24	Carthage FBC Preach & Search comm
	Church-Pastor Conflict	25-31	Vacation
16	Springfield, HPBC . Miracle Sunday	September	
20	Preach Eldred	1-4	Staff to West Virginia
	Alsey, Search Committee	7	Lincoln, FBC Capital Fund feasibility.
	Church – Pastor Conflict	8	Lincoln Capital fund Feasibility
21	Springfield, HPBC . Miracle Sunday	11	Carrollton Cluster.
	Summer Interns Lunch & Search comm		Pastor visit.
29	Meet with Non ABC pastor-affiliation		Search chair visit
30	Vacation til Aug 2	13	Springfield EABC 100 th Anniv Picnic
August			Jerseyville, Bethel Fish fry
3	Decatur, FBC. Worship Visit	14	Worship Visit
4	Lunch Kids Hope.	15	Nokomis, FBC C/S leaders
5	Prospective Interim visit	16	Area II Mission support
	Pastor in transition visit	17	GRR Staff.
6	Willow Creek Summit. Cont.Ed.	18-20	Cont.Ed. NCD Training.
10	Moweaqua, FBC . Worship visit	21	Quincy,Central . C/S Leaders
	Stonington, FBC Preach.	22-26	Training for Area Ministry.VF
	Lunch, Summer Intern	28	Quincy Central C/S
	FBC Macomb capital funds	29	Carlinville ,Federated. Stewardship.
11	Quincy, Central .C/S Leaders		

Consecration Sunday .During the fall of 2007 I served as Outside Consultant to 11 GRR congregations as they used the New Consecration Sunday program by Herb Miller, all but three of the churches used the program for the first time. In the spring of 2008 I worked with three congregations as each used the program for the first time. Since 2004 a total of 40 GRR congregations have used the program

Mission Conference The April 25-26, 2008 event at Cherry Hills Baptist Church was attended by 220 persons. Offerings included \$3,000 for Murrow Home and \$2,500 for the Gulf Coast Blitz Build. There were 11 workshops presented 15 times, 2008 Gulf Coast volunteers were commissioned. Plans are now being made for the 2009 event to be held April 24-25, 2009.

Larger Family I was a speaker at the ABC Nebraska Vital Leaders Conference in November 2007. I represented Leo Thorne at the ESC Stewardship Leaders Forum in Louisville KY March 2-4, 2008 and in April I conducted a Consecration Sunday Stewardship Training Seminar for pastors and staff from ABC Indianapolis and ABC Indiana and Kentucky. I also attended the Baptist New Covenant celebration in Atlanta in January.

A Personal Note It was my privilege to serve the Great Rivers Region and ABC-USA as Minister of Mission Support for 20 years to the day. Beginning July 1, 2008 it is now my opportunity to serve the churches of Area II with 75% of my time and to provide congregational stewardship resources to the GRR with 25% of my time.

GRR Web Ministries

Your GRR web sites are being used by GRR church members and pastors for information, registrations, study, and scheduling. Courses and information contained on these sites are also being used by our sister regions and by our affiliated national boards – any many others beyond our Baptist circles.

These sites (over 1,500 web pages; hundreds of PDFs; and nearly 150 videos) are:

- abc-grr.org (our main site)
- abc-grr.mobi (soon coming online)
- abcgrr2.org (our video and education site)
- grr-reg.org (our secured site for registrations; includes Face to Face for multi-regional effort)
- lsbconline.com (Lake Springfield Baptist Camp)
- blackhawkgrr.org (Blackhawk Baptist Camp)
- area1grr.org (Area 1)
- aiii-grr-abc.org (Area 3)

The most used sections of your sites for 2007 – 2008:

- RSS Feed of new postings
- Camping pages (including registration, video, and downloads of brochures, bulletin inserts)
- GRR Church and Pastor Directory (maintained by Candy Stivers)
- Mainstream archives
- PDF Software (Advantages and Alternatives- consistently in the top 3 in a Google search)
- Areas' News
- Dwight Stinnett's "Current Thoughts" columns (also now in MP3/iPod downloads)
- Ordination Criteria and Information
- Ministerial Staff bio videos and contact information

New features offered in 2007 – 2008:

- Wiki (an "online word processing page" where those who were planning to travel to help in the Gulf ABC/Habitat Blitz Build could share their plans and coordinate these with others)
- Expanded RSS Feeds for Dwight Stinnett's Current Thoughts (text and audio)
- Blog by Richard Ricks – "Telling Connections" – on using Tech in Ministry
- An "E-learning" section in Tech – to describe and offer first steps for churches to consider
- MOBI /I-Phone site soon to come online (I-phone accounts for 85% of mobile web use)
- Index of the nearly 150 videos on the sites (This database is slowly being built)
- Learning Management System (to organize all online courses; open source)
- Regional and ABC-USA logos and other graphics as downloads for screen and print
- Resizing option for easier reading on most pages of the main site.
- Trial many-to-many collaborative page set up through Ning
- "Ministers' Minutes" – videos of local church pastors discussing their churches' ministries

Coming in 2008 – 2009:

- Course on American Baptist Women in Ministry with Dr. James Wolfe, III
- Lessons for Better Listening
- Social networking tools (should our research bear out need for them)

On behalf of the GRR Web Ministries Team

D. Richard Ricks

Alternative Ministerial Education, Annual Report 2008

Carl Cottingham, Dean

1. Reported to the GRR Regional Ministry Board in January.
2. Met with Council on Ministerial Standing and Ordination at their regular meeting in January and March.
3. Sharon Farrel of the FBC East Moline finished the AME course requirements, ordination requirements and was ordained by her church in April, 2008. She is serving as Associate Pastor for Senior Adults at East Moline. She is the 7th completer of the program.
4. Continued equivalent course offerings at John A. Logan College. Four courses are now offered on-line to make the courses accessible to anyone in the region. Offerings are as follows:

Spring, 2008	Introduction to the New Testament Christian Theology
Fall, 2008	Introduction to the Old Testament Leadership/Management in the Religious Context

5. Began work on New Testament proficiency test. Good progress is being made.
6. Two enrollees have at this date finished all of their required coursework and are awaiting completion of ordination requirements.
Claudia McCain of FBC Macomb. She is waiting to meet with COMSAO in November. She is ministering in the position of Associate Pastor for Small Group Ministry at her church.
Richard Kenneavy of FBC Batavia (the church name has recently been changed). He is awaiting assignment to a ministry position.
7. Held ABC History and Polity course on Aug. 8-9 at FBC East Peoria. Seven participated in the course. Dr. Adrian Lamkin taught the course.
8. With the name change for the program all forms were revised. Thanks to Candy Stivers for assistance in this. The exhibit was also updated.
9. Attended 2007 Regional Convention and three of the area meetings (I, II and III). I displayed the exhibit at each of these.
10. I continue to work with 12-15 enrollees who are actively taking courses in the program. I meet with or visit on the phone with those who indicate interest in enrolling in the program.

Respectively submitted, Carl D. Cottingham, 9/10/08

Volunteers in Ministry Report, October 2008

Wayne Rogers, Coordinator

My thanks to all who read this who have gratefully recognized that God has given you spiritual gifts as well as skills that you are using to serve our Lord and other people. "God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings." I Peter 4:10 (The Living Bible)

A couple of dozen of this Region's 246 churches have put up new buildings or they have added to and/or remodeled existing ones. Thousands of volunteer hours of work have been dedicated and spent by members and families within those churches. And, and...when "Macedonian cries to come over and help us" have gone out, volunteers from other surrounding ABC churches have also gone over to help them. Campus Ministry facilities have been improved, cleaned up and dressed up; walls at Judson University have been moved and/or painted and landscaping has been enhanced; disaster relief has assisted many, many families around Rockford, the Quad Cities, Quincy, Springfield, and our waterways; the chapel and other facilities at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp have been transformed; restorations of cabins and the cutting and clearing of downed trees have utilized a number of volunteers at Blackhawk Baptist Camp

near Oregon! The final closings of the camps, this year, were combined with weekend retreats for those volunteers.

It has been my privilege to serve as Coordinator during the almost eight years that the Volunteers in Ministry (VIM) Program has existed. I continue to be amazed at and grateful for the generous ways that so many in our Great Rivers Region have put their God-given "special abilities" to use in helping and serving others. But...there is still room for other volunteers from GRR churches to set aside some time and to roll up their sleeves to join in this ministry. ***So, I encourage you to dig down in your packets, pull out the skills inventory entitled "Maybe I Could Do That!," check all the blanks that apply and return them to me or to the VIM table in the display area.*** Thank you!!

Wayne Rogers

GRR Scholarship Task Force

Annual Report for 2008

The task force is appointed by the Executive Minister. Those serving in 2008 were: Bruce Briggs, Stonington, Janie Nelsen, Springfield, and Roger Jackson, Springfield, and Marge Wilcoxon, Springfield

Gernenz-Shurtleff-Wilcoxon Scholarships

Named in honor of a former Executive Minister, the Albert J. Gernenz Scholarship recipients are members of American Baptist Churches in the Great Rivers Region. The local pastor nominates the student and confirms the student has potential for Christian service in the world. The student indicates their need of financial aid and provides recommendations from a lay leader as well as the school principal, counselor or teacher.

When Sam Wilcoxon (former member of the Scholarship Committee) passed away, his family requested, in lieu of flowers, that memorial gifts be sent to GRR for college student scholarships. This year, his wife Marge Wilcoxon is continuing to give a donation to help students receive financial aid to further their education.

Sixty-two applicants awarded the Gernenz-Shurtleff – Wilcoxon Memorial Scholarships for the 2008-2009 college/university academic year are:

Reid Ackerman, Rukiya Anthony, Daniel Baltz, Zachary Bansner, Amy Barringer, Whitney Benefiel, Ryan Bressner, Megan Brown, Angelica Bruce, Jan Byrd, Carol Byrd, Antoine Charlier, James Combs, Alicia Comfort, Clint Davis, Nathan Elder, Morgan Fulton, Katie Galle, Ryan Hagan, Elizabeth Harkness, Sarah Harkness, Amanda Harwood, Jordan Haycock, Cheryl Hodge, Chayla Hurd, Lindsey Hueter, Tyler Hyndman, Hayley Jackson, Jayme Karenko, Ashley Kaytor, Kyle Keever, Caitlyn Knight, Michelle Law, Jerika Long, Sentirena Longkumer, Derek Maninfior, Jeremy Nelsen, Luke Nelsen, Sarah Olson, Sabrina Park, Katherine Parker, Victoria Poulter, Geoffrey Reiter, Karen Ricks, Nathaniel Rohrsen, Bethany Rollet, Clayton Smith, Rachel Street, Rebekah Street, Brooke Stull, Elizabeth Surbeck, Stephanie Swigert, Morgan Taylor, Kevin VanOs, Dustin Walker, Rikki Weger, Rebecca Wiegand, Brian Wilmert, Cynthia Winch, Russell Zehr, Krista Ziebarth

Four individuals received the Theological/Seminary Gernenz-Shurtleff Scholarships this year: Chuck Bosworth, Brian Hodge, Brandon Rhea, and Steven Lilja

Harold O. Long Scholarships

The Harold O. Long Scholarships are renewable scholarships awarded to members of American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region who plan on entering a career in professional church leadership and who plan to attend an American Baptist related school or seminary.

Four Seminary/College students this year received the Harold O. Long Memorial Scholarship: Wade Allen, Jonathan Foiles, David Rogers, and Paul Rollet.

Contributions to these awards are always welcome. Send to: Scholarship Committee, ABC/GRR, 3940 Pintail Drive, Springfield, IL 62711