

Greetings fellow Pastors and Churches of the Great Rivers Region in Areas II & IV:

It is my honor and pleasure to begin this new adventure with you as your new Regional Associate Minister. I look forward to working alongside you, as we serve together, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

If you do not know me, I look forward to meeting you. I am going to do my best to be at as many cluster meetings as my schedule will allow. I think the clusters are great places to meet, answer questions, give information, and get to know one another. If there isn't a cluster in your area, please consider starting one.

If you ever want to connect with me, you can contact me via my new email address patty@abcgrr.org. My phone number is 618-694-8860. Both contacts are included at the bottom of this email letter. I would be happy to come visit your church on any given Sunday, attend any celebration you may have, or even preach, if you desire. Please make sure *your* current contact information, including the email address, is with the Regional office.

Another way to meet me is to come to the **Installation Service** being scheduled for **September 17 at First Baptist Church in Greenville**. It will begin at **4:00 PM**, which should provide enough time before and after for travel. Please save the date and bring as many as possible, from your church, for this special time of fellowship with others in our Areas of the Region. There will be a dinner to follow, so plan on staying for this exciting evening.

Another date to put on the calendar is our Regional Gathering taking place in Chesterfield, Missouri. The Minister's Conference on Thursday, September 28 will feature Karl Slaikeu, talking about church conflict. Of course, maybe you have never had any conflict in your church, but attend so you can be ready when a "friend" may need some assistance. The event is FREE! The following two days — September 29 - 30 — is the 50th Annual Gathering of the Great Rivers Region. Our newly named General Secretary of the ABC-USA, The Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, will be joining us. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Marvin A. McMickle, the President of Colgate Rochester- Crozer Divinity School. Our brothers and sisters from Area V have been planning some special activities for this 50th Anniversary event. You can download the flyer and gain more information for the 50th Annual Gathering at the GRR website, www.abcgrr.org.

Remember that Regional Associates are here for you, to help your church and your ministry, in any way we can. Please call on me anytime to be a resource for you! I hope to see you soon at a cluster or around the Region! I covet your prayers as we begin this journey together.

Blessings,

Patty

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