

Metro Chicago EWIND

Seeking Justice • Loving Mercy • Walking Humbly

A weekly electronic newsletter from and for the American Baptists of the Windy City and its environs, covering matters as diverse as our region.

Guest Column: Preaching the Resurrection

By Rev. Sarah Jay

Interim Pastor, Irving Park Baptist Church, and Associate Regional Minister ABCMC



This week, many of us will do our best to preach The Resurrection. As I thought of this charge on my own horizon, mulling my Easter sermon, I wondered what it would be like to preach, Resurrection, Tolstoy's last major novel.

Resurrection tells the story of a young, wealthy man who began life with a pure soul, an earnest, thoughtful teenager. However, as

he grows into adulthood, he becomes increasingly selfish, using people to fulfill his desires for pleasure and power. He seduces a vulnerable teenage girl thoughtlessly and then moves on with life.

A decade later, he's called for jury duty, and she is the prisoner on trial – for murder. As he fills in the timeline of her life, he discovers that he made her pregnant on that night long ago. As a result, she was fired from her job as a housekeeper, her infant was taken from her and died, and she turned to (legal) prostitution for employment. There, in the brothel, she was framed for a poisoning. His cowardice keeps him silent on the jury, and she is convicted to imprisonment in Siberia.

Realizing his responsibility, the young man now begins the process of resurrection. The shell of selfishness he has meticulously packed around his soul chips away as he visits her in prison and starts seeing and hearing the stories of many prisoners. He becomes an advocate, sending messages and reaching out to public officials. Ultimately, he sets out with the prison gang on their journey to

Siberia, and his comfortable ideas of nobility and peasantry, government and church are shattered as he spends time listening and watching and journeying with. The prisons and way stations are full of stench and suffering and injustice that can't be perfumed and powdered over.

At the novel's conclusion, after the innocent woman has been freed, the young man reads the words of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and understands them for the first time, sensing that the purpose for living is to love our neighbor as God has loved us and committing himself to whatever life this leads him to live. Over the past months, he has been resurrected.

That possibility – of life existing where there once was death – of change from brutal selfishness to compassion – of ashes and sorrow turned to joy and life – of fear becoming courage and hope – for individuals and institutions, alike – that Possibility is what we preach on Easter morning. When we think about Syria, when we talk to families fearing deportation, when we visit our own prisons. That holy Possibility of re-creation and resurrection is at the center of all that we do, a treasure held in careful hands, the spark that wakes us, the balm that heals us.

May you be blessed as you preach resurrection, and live it, this week and every week.

With questions about pastoral searches or Camp Grow – contact: Douglas Harris | revharris@abcmc.org | 773.634.1495, ext. 1

With questions about ordination or submissions for EWIND – contact: Carol McVetty | revmcvetty@abcmc.org | 773.634.1495, ext. 8

182nd Annual Meeting

American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago



Healing Communities At Work

*"Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly." – Isaiah 58:8a*

Saturday, May 20, 2017 | 9:00 am
Third Baptist Church
1551 West 95th Street | Chicago, IL

Meeting Agenda

The Annual Meeting begins at 9 am with registration and a Sisters in Service Prayer Gathering, followed by a Dynamic Workshop led by Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, a Regional Business Meeting, and a Festival Worship Service with music from across the region and Keynote Preacher, Dr. Haggray. Throughout the conference, there will be ample time to visit Ministry Vendors and Displays from Local Churches. The night will end in celebrating our Annual Disciples' Banquet with a reception, live music, and Discipleship Awards.

Registration Information

Register by April 1

Conference and Banquet – \$80.00
 (Includes Breakfast, Lunch, and Banquet)

Conference Only – \$55.00
 (Includes Breakfast and Lunch)

Banquet Only – \$40.00
 (Table of 8 for Banquet – \$300.00)

Register after April 1

Conference and Banquet – \$90.00
 (Includes Breakfast, Lunch, and Banquet)

Conference Only – \$65.00
 (Includes Breakfast and Lunch)

Banquet Only – \$45.00
 (Table of 8 for Banquet – \$325.00)

Please Note: The Business Meeting at 1:00 pm and the Worship Service at 3:00 pm are free of charge and open to all to attend.

Register online at Eventbrite

<https://abcmcanualmeeting2017.eventbrite.com>

The complete registration booklet and link to Eventbrite registration site are available on the ABC Metro Chicago website. [Click here](#) to download.

Call For Disciples Awards Nominations

On May 20, at our Disciples Dinner 2017, we will have the privilege to honor individuals with Region-Wide Disciple Awards. The award winners will be chosen from among your nominees, and so it is essential that we hear from you.

Please take a few moments to use this Survey Monkey Link (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BK8DH2G>) to nominate an individual for each of the following awards. (You may also nominate by emailing revjay@abcmc.org or by sending a paper copy to ABC/MC, 4401 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, IL 60641). You will be asked for the Nominee's a) Name b) Address c) Phone Number d) Name of Church/Organization they Serve and e) Number of Years of Service and a short statement about why you are nominating this person (50-100 words). If you have any questions, please email Rev. Sarah Jay at revjay@abcmc.org. Thank you for your contribution!

- **The Elmer H. Johnson Award for Exemplary Service to American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago** Throughout his life Elmer Johnson exhibited extraordinary creativity, generosity and service to his Morgan Park Baptist Church and the many diverse ministries of the Metro Chicago region. The annual award in his honor recognizes a member of the ABC/MC family who follows in this tradition of exemplary contributions to the Region's life-in-association.
- **The William A. Johnson Award in Educational Ministries** Throughout his distinguished pastorate of the St. John Church – Baptist, Dr. William Johnson advocated for the importance of education in every stage of life and served as a leader in religious and ministerial training. The annual award in his honor recognizes a member of the ABC/MC family who exhibits a similar commitment to the growth of mind and spirit in the Christian life.
- **The Esther Davis Award in Ministries of Social Justice** Over decades of service, Esther Davis gave courageous and energetic witness to the centrality of social justice in Christian commitment. The annual award in her honor pays tribute to a member of the ABC/MC family for similar service in the cause of God's reign.
- **The Jitsuo Morikawa Award for Relating Christian Faith to Contemporary Life** The former pastor of the First Baptist Church of Chicago, Dr. Morikawa imaginatively and prophetically led Baptists to a renewed understanding of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the contemporary world. The annual award in his honor celebrates a member of the ABC/MC family who breaks open new paths of the Christian life in our time.
- **The James B. Ashbrook Award in Pastoral Care and Pastoral Theology** Throughout a vocation in pastoral care and theology in church, seminary, and other institutional settings, James Ashbrook healed minds and souls, taught others to be such healers, and advanced understanding of the dynamics of the human spirit in his scholarship. The annual award in his honor recognizes a member of the ABCMC family who extends Dr. Ashbrook's caring and creative practice of compassionate and wise ministry.
- **The Daily Disciple Award** (One per church, only). Every church may honor a faithful disciple who serves the Gospel through extraordinary contribution to local church ministry. Is there one whose faithfulness is especially inspiring in this season of your ministry? Is there one who you'd like to recognize for work "well done"? Join us in establishing this tradition of recognizing those disciples whose lives inspire their co-laborers.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BK8DH2G>

An ABCMC process to clarify identity and direction:



ABCMC's self study and planning process is about to begin. On Tuesday, April 18, pastors, ministers, and involved lay people will receive an email explaining the online survey they are invited (urged!) to complete. The following week you will receive another email containing a link to the survey which will go live on April 30. Watch your email. Don't miss this opportunity to let your voice be heard and to participate in discerning ABCMC's future.

CAMP GROW



It's that time of year again . . . time to encourage the children and youth of your church to spend a week at Camp Grow this summer.

Camp sessions are available for kids in grades 3 through 12 at our camp on Green Lake in Wisconsin. [Click here](#) for

registration materials from the Camp Grow website.

Scholarships are available to assist with the cost of attending camp.

From Camp Grow: consult the Camp Grow website. Deadline is May 1.

From ABCMC: American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago is offering 30 camp scholarships of \$120 each for the 2017 camping season. They will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Please use the form on the ABCMC website to request scholarships for the children in your church. For more information contact Rev. Carol McVetty at revmcvetty@abcmc.org

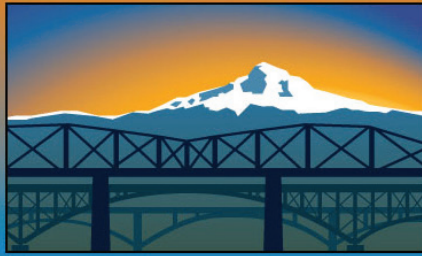


For more information go to the [Cleveland Baptist Association](#) website.

It's Time to Register for the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit



Individual registration is open for the Biennial Mission Summit, June 30-July 2, 2017, to be held in Portland, Oregon at the Oregon Convention Center. There are two important dates to be aware of: Early Registration closes on March 15, 2017, and Individual Registration closes on June 15, 2017. When individuals register before March 15, 2017, they will pay a lower rate at registration. Individuals may learn more or register [online here](#).



2017 Biennial
MISSION summit
 AN AMERICAN BAPTIST GATHERING
 PORTLAND, OREGON • JUNE 30-JULY 2

REGISTER AS A CHURCH SPONSOR

American Baptist Churches are invited to register as Church Sponsors for Mission Summit 2017! Once an ABC church has registered as a sponsor, an unlimited number of members from that church may register as individuals at a reduced individual registration rate.

Church Sponsorship for Mission Summit 2017 will be based on average worship attendance for each church, as follows:

Churches with less than 100 people	\$250 Registration Fee
Churches 101 - 200 people	\$415 Registration Fee
Churches 201 - 500 people	\$580 Registration Fee
Churches with more that 501 people	\$745 Registration Fee
Church Booster	\$1000 Registration Fee

Click here to download the [Church Sponsorship Form](#).

If you register at the discounted individual registration rate but your church has not registered as a Church Sponsor, we will contact you or your church to verify that this registration selection is correct. If you are not certain your church will be registering as a Sponsor, please check with your pastor.

Click here for a [List of Sponsoring Churches](#).

If you have a question about how many delegates from your church are allowed to attend the Biennial Mission Summit, please contact Geri Blier with American Baptist Churches Information Systems at Geri.Blier@abc-usa.org.

EVENT DETAILS

WHEN

Friday, June 30, 2017 - Sunday, July 2, 2017
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
 Eastern Time

WHERE

Oregon Convention Center
 777 NE MLK Boulevard
 Portland, Oregon 97232