



VENTURE
CHURCH NETWORK MIDWEST



THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

March 2022

"We are an organization of churches that is committed to the mission of Christ to multiply disciple-making churches through evangelism, leadership training, and connection with other like-minded churches."

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Elders or Deacons; Boards and Committees: *Is One Better Than the Other?*

“This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—” Titus 1:5

“Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.” 1 Timothy 3:8-9



Clearly Paul identified both elders and deacons in his letter to Timothy. I am not going to get into the deep end of this discussion, but simply point out and mention the philosophical differences and a couple of challenges. [Read More](#)

*Pastor Brad Little, Regional Executive Director
Venture Church Network Midwest*



At 4am Thursday, February 24th, Russia invaded Ukraine. Russian rockets have attacked many Ukrainian cities and airports. On the front lines, over fifty people have already died.

Both of Venture Church Network's partner mission agencies, Missions Door and World Venture have been ministering in Ukraine. Their leaders and churches need our prayers.

Missions Door has indigenous missionaries who cannot evacuate their country. Their home and church are about twelve miles away from the front lines. WorldVenture, which has an ongoing disciple-making presence in Ukraine, has had their six global worker families evacuate mostly to neighboring countries.

However, many ministry partners in churches and the two seminaries in Kyiv remain. Incredibly, we are hearing of people coming to Christ these days. The work of the gospel continues on. Let's continue to pray. For more information, please use the prayer guide below.

[Use Prayer Guide](#)



That's What I Like About Being Part of Venture Church Network

Hi, I'm Jim Smith, president of Pacific Church Network. We're a proud member of Venture Church Network. You might be wondering what's around my face. This is an oxygen tube, and I'm 24/7 attached to this. I'm recovering from Covid. Thank the Lord I'm recovering! [Read More & See Video](#)



Tuesday, March 29, 9:00am (CST)

with an alternative repeat session

Wednesday, March 30, 3:00pm (CST)

Speaker: Andrew Powell – Lead Pastor, Grace Church, Mahomet, IL

WATCH FOR YOUR ZOOM INVITE COMING SOON!

The Purpose of ENGAGE is to address gospel and missional critical issues and challenge our thinking related to pastoral ministry, leadership and the purpose of our churches.

The Goal of ENGAGE is to continue to become gospel-centered, grace driven, biblically anchored churches passionately committed to fulfill the mission of Christ.

Join Us!

Pastors Retreat

**Camp Lebanon, 1205 Acorn Rd, Burtrum, MN
April 24-27, 2022**



Last year many of you enjoyed a great time of fellowship and a time away at Camp Lebanon. We want you to have the chance to do it again!

This retreat is an opportunity for you to step away from daily demands and enjoy a time of relaxed fun, reflection and worship.

Living in Light of Eternity

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

Colossians 3:2

Who is invited to attend? Senior Pastors, Lead Pastors, Associate Pastors, Interim Pastors, Youth Pastors and Worship Pastors

Cost: \$113 (additional \$10 fee for zipline & laser tag) That's approximately \$37 per night plus 7 meals!

Registration Deadline: Final day to register Friday, April 15th

To Register: Email the Venture Church Network Midwest office at wendyj@vcnmidwest.org. Let us know that you're coming, if you would like linen service, and if you have any special dietary needs. (Camp Lebanon can accommodate many of your special needs.)

If you are interested in attending this retreat and haven't received an email with detailed information please contact the VCNMidwest office at wendyj@vcnmidwest.org.

2022 Henry C. Spicer Scholarship

Deadline April 1st. . . APPLY TODAY!



This region has been blessed to be able to give away scholarships to graduating high school seniors for 25 years! On top of that there has been a total of \$57,000 awarded to scholarship winners. Again this year Venture Church Network Midwest will be awarding the Henry C. Spicer Scholarship to a graduating high school senior planning to further their education this fall. Previous scholarships have ranged from \$300 to \$2,000.

The scholarship from the Henry C. Spicer Scholarship Fund is available to all qualifying high school seniors. To qualify, an applicant must be a 2022 high school graduate planning to attend college this fall. The applicant must be a committed Christian and a regular attender of a VCNMidwest affiliated church.

Applications are due by April 1, 2022.

Get Your Application **HERE!**



I am excited to report to the VCNMidwest churches about our first VCNMidwest regional winter retreat. A total of 8 VCNM churches came together January 28-30 at Camp Victory in Zumbro Falls, MN.



The purpose of this retreat was twofold. One, we desired to foster an environment where decisions would be made for Christ and for students to strengthen their walk with God. Second, our theme was ‘Better Together”, and this theme was for the youth as well as the adults. The lessons focused on how we love God, love others, and make disciples better in community. [Read More and See Photos](#)

Chuck Babbitt, Youth Pastor, Bloomer Baptist Church



Teaching My Kids About Money



It started out as an interest in teaching my children a few things I wished I had learned a little bit earlier in life. It's turned into a reality that my teenage children (18 & 16) understand a lot more about personal finance than I had even hoped, and, in comparison, they are light years ahead of most of their peers.

Here are a few of the lessons I've tried to reinforce with our kids. [Read More](#)

Pastor Rob Buhl, First Baptist Church, Whitehall, WI



VCNMidwest Administrative Assistant Position Available:

It's time for this Administrative Assistant to retire. Yes, I'm retiring. . . shoot that sounds old! That leaves an opportunity for you or someone you know to join the ministry of Venture Church Network Midwest. This is a half time position and can be done remotely if needed.

[Click Here](#) for more detail about the position. Email wendyj@vcnmidwest.org to inquire or send your resume.

PLEASE PRAY for the Following Churches in Transition:



First Baptist Church - Collinsville, IL
First Baptist Church - Colfax, IA
River of Life Church - Hastings, MN
Faith Baptist Church - Kenmare, ND
Calvary Community Church - Lancaster, WI



Venture Church Network Chaplaincy

“DUDE! BAPTISMS IN THE JORDAN RIVER”

On the itinerary, the Jordan River, Mount Nebo, Madaba and Machaerus represent the most biblical of the sites in Jordan. Jerash has some early churches, Umm Qais is traditionally the site of the demon-possessed man whom Jesus freed by sending the demons into a herd of swine, and Lot’s cave (a monastery marks the site of he and his daughters’ refuge after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah) are also there. [Read More](#)

-by Chaplain Adam Kawaguchi, US Army Reserve



Rev. Randy L. Brandt, Chaplain, Colonel, USA Ret.
Director of Chaplaincy, Venture Church Network
venturechurches.org/chaplaincy
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Cell: 913-904-8746

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT. . .



8 Changes in Young People I’ve Seen Over 25 years

I’m in my 26th year of seminary teaching, so I’ve been working with young people for many years. Over the years, my sense is that this generation has changed.

Here are some changes I’ve seen: [Read More](#)

-by Chuck Lawless, Churchanswers.com



A Simple Worship Chorus on TikTok Results in 80 Million Views and a Record Contract

Katy Nichole had no idea how much God was going to use her story to bring glory to His name and voice in the first 21 years of her life. [Read More](#)

-by Jesse T. Jackson, Churchleaders.com



20 Bible Truths to Tell Kids That Will Change Their Life Forever

The Bible truths we speak into a child's life have the potential to change their life forever. When a child grabs hold of a truth from God's Word and internalizes it, it has the power to alter the trajectory of their life.

[Read More](#)

-by Dale Hudson, Churchleaders.com

Venture Church Network Midwest CLUSTER GROUPS

Illinois

To Be Decided

Iowa

To Be Decided

Jay Jentink, Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA

319-396-3233 office@calvarycr.org



Michigan

To Be Decided

Allen Grover, Ganson Street Baptist Church, Jackson, MI

517-740-8961 pastorallen@gansonstreet.org

Northern Minnesota/North Dakota

To Be Decided

Central Minnesota

Monday, March 21, 10am

Meeting at River of Life Church

Dan Vesta

651-468-1045 dkvesta@sbcglobal.net

Southern Minnesota

To Be Decided

Walt Moser, First Baptist Church, Luverne, MN

605-254-3092 PastorWalt.Moser@gmail.com

Wisconsin

Thursday, March 17, Noon

Location to be Decided

Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI
715-723-1054 wljc12@hotmail.com

VCNMidwest Youth Pastor Collaboration

Thursday, March 17, 10am CST

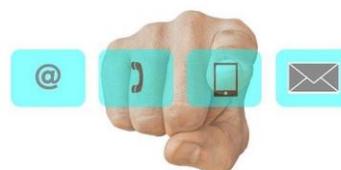
Meeting by Zoom

Chuck Babbitt, Bloomer Baptist Church, Bloomer, WI
515-230-0774 youth@bloomerbaptistchurch.com

**NEED DIRECTION,
NEED A RESOURCE???**

The [VCNMidwest website](#)
has answers to many of your questions.

Not finding what you need,
contact the VCNMidwest Administrative Office or
Regional Executive Director, Brad Little.



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All articles and submissions are the view of the individual writer and are not necessarily the official position of Venture Church Network Midwest.

