



VENTURE
CHURCH NETWORK MIDWEST



THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

August 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

VCN Values: *Biblically Focused – grace and truth that meets every place*



Biblical focus is the foundation of our existence. This means that the Scriptures are the final authority for life and practice. God's truth trumps our common sense and the logic of our culture. The text of the Bible is not a compilation of human ingenuity, but the special revelation from God to humanity. Many intuitively anchor this truth to what is historically known as the "Five Solas" – the five principles that are essentials to salvation for evangelicalism. *Sola Scriptura* – God's Word alone; *Sola fide* – Faith alone; *Sola gratia* – grace alone; *Sola Christo* – Christ alone; *Sola Deo gloria* – to the glory of God

alone. [Read More](#)

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



**The ENGAGE forum has been suspended
for the months of July and August,
but you will be invited to RE-ENGAGE in September.**

Dirty Windows



Smudges and streaks on my windows bother me. It is hard to see out of them and every time you try to look out, the first thing you see is the dirt left on the window. I like to have clean windows on my car, my house, and at the church. This summer while on our Sr. High mission trip to a fellow VCN church in Michigan, my preference for clean windows was challenged.

While serving alongside Ganson Street Baptist Church, I saw first-hand what it means to be the light in your neighborhood. The church is in the middle of a rough place in town. Broken homes and neglect are all around. While my team stayed over at the church, we felt a bit like animals at the zoo. [Read More](#)

*Chuck Babbitt, Youth Pastor, Bloomer Baptist Church
VCN Midwest Youth Ministries Director*



The Pastor's Compensation and Longevity

I usually write with, you, the pastor as my primary



audience, but in this article, I think of you and your church. Maybe you'll forward this article for their consideration and your conversation. This month let's talk together about how compensation impacts longevity.

Salary vs. Compensation Package

In my experience many church boards and church members haven't thought much about the difference between compensation package and salary. So, when they see the "total package", bottom line number on the compensation package they don't realize it's not all salary. The compensation package includes all the components of compensation for your minister. [Read More](#)

*Pastor Rob Buhl
First Baptist Church, Whitehall, WI*

Because our ministries, our professions, our jobs, and our callings can be exhausting.

Rust Out To Resilience

Brian Larson,
Serving in missionary
member care as a
pastoral counselor.

September 7 & 8, 3-5 pm MST AZ

WORLDVENTURE FREE ONLINE EVENT

A two-day online course to help you move from rust out to resilience. Our ministries, our professions, our jobs, and our callings can be exhausting. Those of us in the people professions know the emotional drain on our hearts, our minds, and our bodies. But we do not know what to do about that. The only thing we know is to push through the exhaustion, and we eventually find ourselves in a cave trapped and depleted with nowhere to go, no way out, and too exhausted to seek help. How do we keep from finding ourselves in the burnout cave, completely consumed and drained? How do we move through the emotional exhaustion tunnel so we are able to find the strength necessary to complete the stress cycle and find hope and resolution in order to reengage our ministries, our professions, our jobs, and our calling? Come join us as we move from rust out to resilience.

Brian Larson is serving as missionary member care as a pastoral counselor. To learn more about him, [click on this link](#).

[Click here to register](#) for the online event.

*When you register for one class, you register for both. A text will be sent to you to confirm attendance at both courses. We will be using Zoom and it will not be recorded.

Venture Church Network Midwest CLUSTER GROUPS

Illinois

To Be Decided

Iowa

No meetings during the Summer
*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

To Be Decided
Dan Vesta
651-468-1045 dkvesta@sbcglobal.net

Southern Minnesota

No meetings during the Summer
Walt Moser, First Baptist Church, Luverne, MN
605-254-3092 PastorWalt.Moser@gmail.com

Wisconsin

Thursday, August 18, Noon (CT)
Location - To Be Decided
Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI
715-723-1054 wjlc12@hotmail.com

VCN Midwest Youth Pastor Collaboration

No Meeting in August
Chuck Babbitt, Bloomer Baptist Church, Bloomer, WI
515-230-0774 youth@bloomerbaptistchurch.com



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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.

