

What others are saying about ABIDE

“Through our ABIDE participation and covenant, we discovered a profound team spirit, which, in turn, led us to a greater understanding of the Spirit of God. With God’s help, we hope to pass along that joy for the betterment of our local church.”

Pastor Piet R. Knetsch, Big Springs UMC

“We are having fun and growing. Worship attendance is up by 40 percent. We have been showing people we are not closed. We are not closing our doors, and we are bringing the Good News to the Blue Mound community.”

**Pastor Dallas Peterson
Blue Mound UMC**

ABIDE is a process developed by Spiritual Leadership, Inc. of Lexington, KY.

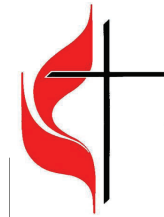
Team leaders for Kansas ABIDE include:

Dr. Ron Crandall, Lexington, KY
Dr. Chuck Lord, Lexington KY
Rev. Evelyn Fisher, Topeka, KS
Dr. Linda Louderback, Wichita, KS

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Kansas Area
United Methodist
Church

ABIDE 2011



2011 Group Retreat Dates:
February 18-19, March 19, April 16

Camp Webster, Salina, Kansas

A revitalization process for smaller membership churches

ABIDE is a 15-month process designed to help smaller membership churches rediscover what it means to be abiding in Christ, alive in God's glory and advancing God's mission.

A team composed of the pastor and 4-12 lay people



The Big Springs ABIDE team collaborates on a vision for the future.

from each congregation commit themselves to leading the process in their congregation.

Each local church is unique, and each ABIDE team develops

in varying ways, but the overall process is the same.

First, your team joins with other ABIDE teams for a series of three retreats to learn about and begin the journey. The first retreat is overnight (Friday evening until 4 p.m. Saturday), and the other two are Saturday-only events.

Then, your team continues meeting on its own for the next 12 months (with a commitment to a total of 8 hours together each month). A monthly conference call with ABIDE coaches will help your team leader facilitate your group.

As the year continues, your team will work to include the entire congregation in the ABIDE process, focus the mission of your church and develop strategies to reach out and make disciples.

Is ABIDE right for us?

If your church has most of the following attributes, it may just be an ABIDE church.

- Around 50 or even fewer in Sunday morning worship.
- No paid staff other than the pastor—or very few paid staff hours.
- An awareness that God wants to use your church in powerful ways.
- A concern about the future of the mission of your church.
- A team of 4-12 lay people who care about the church and want to grow as spiritual leaders.
- A willingness to follow where God leads.

What will we do?

Love — by praying for one another, for your church, for your community, for God's leading and by celebrating what God is doing in your life and in your church.

Learn — about yourself, your team, your community—about how to be a better leader in Christ's church. You'll read three or four books over the course of the ABIDE journey, watch a few videos, discuss, question and dream together.

Lead — by developing a vision for ministry in your community and inviting the congregation to help shape and live out that vision.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does it cost?

Much of the cost of the ABIDE process is underwritten by funds from the Bridges to the Future campaign. Each church pays a one-time program fee of \$250, plus a one-team meal fee of \$25 per team member. Additionally, team members will be asked to purchase or borrow the 3 or 4 books that will be read during the 15-month process.

Does it really work?

The focus of the ABIDE process is to produce fruit that will last in local churches. Much of the outcome depends on the implementation by your team, but we have seen God do awesome things through ABIDE. Some churches have seen worship attendance increase by as much as 40 or 50 per cent; others have grown their membership by reaching new people for Christ; still others have focused on becoming a more welcoming congregation.

It sounds like a big time commitment. Is that really necessary?

In a word, yes. Though the eight hour per month time commitment seems like a huge obstacle, most teams discover they don't want to miss an ABIDE meeting. Many teams structure their meetings in two, four-hour gatherings per month.

What else should we know?

Many of the ABIDE materials are share through PowerPoint presentations. It is helpful to have access to a laptop computer and projector or monitor in order to use these materials.

How do we sign up?

Contact your district superintendent or one of the facilitators listed on the back of this brochure. For 2011, churches need to indicate their participation no later than January 15.