# CONNECTION - KY MINISTRY NETWORK -

### FOSTER CARE





### A word from our Superintendent

#### KMN Family,

We've just completed our 2025 Sectional Councils. This year it was a regional tour at three location venues across the state. Each were rich moments together in prayer, unity, and mission. I love this tribe – KMN – AG USA. What a covering! What a movement!



This Fall, I am reminded of Ps. 25:6, "Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindnesses, for they are from of old." I love the FALL season. So, be reminded, Autumn is a season of harvest, a time to reap the rewards of our hard work and reflect on the blessings in our lives. Rejoice, friends. He is working on your behalf. Yes, He is working.

-- Pastor Joe & Reneé Girdler, KMN Superintendent

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### **STAY IN TOUCH**



7206 Clore Lane Crestwood KY 40014



PO Box 98 Crestwood KY 40014



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<u>CHI ALPHA</u>			
RONNIE HOOVER	479.841.5686		
CHILDREN'S, GIRLS, & SENI	<u>OR ADULTS</u>		
PATSY DENNIS	859.552.5437		
CHURCH PLANTING & REVITALIZATION			
TERRY CRIGGER	859.620.2018		
<u>MEN'S MINISTRIES / LIGHT FOR THE LOST</u>			
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<u>MISSIONS</u>			
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ROYAL RANGERS			
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SPECIAL TOUCH			
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<u>U40 (Under 40)</u>			
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WOMEN'S MINISTRIES			
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WOMEN IN MINISTRY			
RENEE GIRDLER, MD	502.554.4442		
YOUTH MINISTRIES			
MIKE GOCKE	502.916.6700		





CON25

### August 19, 2025

2025 KMN Leadership Conference

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Congreso de Liderazgo

Dr. Don Ross Superintendent, Northwest Ministry Network

Chapel

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### WE'RE BUILDING MOMENTUM



### Rev. Darren Lewis KMN SECRETARY/TREASURER

dlewis@kyag.org

Since we adopted our daughter Joy in 2012, Jenna and I have actively engaged in many aspects of orphan and foster care ministry. It has been an honor to answer parents' questions across Kentucky over the years. We recognized early on that the need is more significant than what our ministry roles allow us to do. Neither of us can resign, nor have we felt the Lord is leading us to that place. This remains a consistent matter of prayer for us as we see the great need in Kentucky.

I am excited to announce that we are building momentum in KMN. Through a partnership with the AG Foster Care Network, Adam Bell, of the Michigan Ministry Network, will help us launch this ministry role in KMN as the director of our Foster Care Ministry. Adam and his wife are fully appointed AG US missionaries to Foster Care.



Adam Bell

I am also excited to announce the first person to join Adam's team is Ashlee McCoy, Paris River of Life. Ashlee is a credentialed minister with KMN and a foster mom.

Ashlee is



Ashlee McCoy (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) with her family

passionate about helping our churches serve the foster community throughout Kentucky. We aim to have at least three local persons on the team in KY's east, central, and west areas. This team will work with local foster care offices, empower our churches to serve, and recruit potential foster parents.

In addition, we are partnering with Backyard Orphans to bring multiple levels of training to this ministry. BYO is at the forefront of foster ministry in the Assemblies of God. Their director, Eric Porter, is a trusted friend and influential voice in the AG Foster Care Network.

It's truly exciting to see years of prayer and planning come to fruition. We invite you to join us on this journey. Whether you desire to volunteer in your community or are a pastor looking to make foster care ministry an outreach of your church, our team is ready to assist you.

If you are passionate about helping the fatherless in our Commonwealth, please prayerfully consider joining our team. I am anxious to converse with you and help connect you with Adam and Ashlee. The church must be a part of the solution to this national problem.

You will receive additional information as this ministry develops in KMN over the coming months. For now, you or your church members may send questions to *foster@kyaq.orq*.

Grateful for Building Momentum,

Darren Lewis dlewis@kyag.org

**KYAG.ORG** 

KMN

### GUEST CONTRIBUTOR, ADAM BELL

### backyardorphans.org — — www.agfostercare.network

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A little over 10 years ago my wife and I first became aware of the child welfare crisis in our country. It didn't happen because we saw a news report or read an article. We became aware because my wife's childhood best friend and her husband were foster parents and we saw firsthand the circumstances that those children had endured prior to being placed in their care. We also learned that, unfortunately, those children's stories were not uncommon. Cara and I didn't have much knowledge and we had even less experience, but we decided to become foster parents as well.

I was serving as an executive pastor at a local church when this journey began and I quickly recognized how hard and isolating the work of being a foster parent can be. I also quickly recognized that our church wasn't doing enough to serve families like ours even though we already had several foster, adoptive, and kinship families in the church. James 1:27 kept running through my head. As you probably know, it says:

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

This motivated us to start support ministries for those families. Soon God sent us many more families that needed the kind of community that we were offering, people that might have never otherwise set foot in our church were making decisions to follow Jesus, more families were deciding to foster and adopt, this became an important part of our church's DNA, and we were known in our community as leaders in this space.

I tell you all of this to help you visualize why every church needs to find its place in serving foster, adoptive, kinship, and vulnerable families in their communities. The local church is truly the solution to the child welfare crisis and when the church gets involved, amazing things happen. The verse that I shared above is actually just one of more than 40 times where God's Word talks about His followers caring for the fatherless. There are also approximately 400,000 children in foster care in the United States and more than 9,000 right here in Kentucky. If you're like me, that might feel overwhelming. The good news is that no one of us is meant to solve this massive problem on our own.

Just like each member of the body of Christ has a unique calling, purpose, and passions, the same is true of each local church. Your church is uniquely equipped to serve kids and families in your community in some way and so are the church down the street and the one across town. When each of us does our part, we are able to accomplish so much more for the Kingdom than we ever could on our own. Children and families' earthly outcomes will certainly be improved, but even more importantly, so will their eternal outcomes.

Adam Bell foster@kyag.org



### FOSTER CARE ENGAGEMENT



### Joseph S. Girdler, DMin KMN SUPERINTENDENT

jgirdler@kyag.org

As we bring attention once again to the incredible need for our churches and families to become FOSTER CARE engaged, I wanted to share some practical insights from Kentucky Government statistics that could encourage "next steps" options.

What are the requirements to foster a child in Kentucky? Foster and adoption licensing requirements are that Applicants must be at least 21 years old. Parents can be married or single and should be financially stable with an income (separate from any financial support offered to foster or adoptive parents for the child's needs) sufficient to meet their family's needs.

What benefits do foster parents get in Kentucky? To meet the needs of children placed in their home, foster parents receive: Financial assistance in the form of a daily rate. Medical coverage for the children. Daycare assistance for working parents.

**How much do foster parents get paid in Kentucky?** As of Sept 1, 2024, the average hourly pay for a Foster Parent in Lexington is \$19.72 an hour. **Do foster kids get free college in Kentucky?** DID YOU KNOW? The tuition waiver for foster and adopted children waives the tuition and mandatory fees at any Kentucky public college or university. This includes the vocational and technical programs offered through the Kentucky Community and Technical College System

And, how long does it take to be a Foster Parent in KY? The training, evaluation and approval process normally takes six to nine months. The amount of time until a family receives a child depends on how flexible the family is about the type of child they wish to parent. Foster parents may receive a child shortly after approval.

Psalm 68:5 reminds us that God is the father of the fatherless and protector of widows. Pray about it. That's all I ask. God just might lead you to be a father – to the fatherless.

For Him,

(KCTCS).

Pastor loe & Reneé





### **OUR CHURCHES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



### Rev. Terry Crigger KMN ASST. SUPERINTENDENT

tcrigger@christschapel.net

We have several families at Christ's Chapel that have foster children in their homes. In some instances, this journey leads to adoption. In every instance, I am inspired and impressed with the level of commitment required to create 'family' for kids who otherwise would have limited access to compassionate care and the benefits of a faith community. The numbers are staggering. Over 400,000 U.S. children are in foster care.

Our local churches can make a real difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable members of our society. The mandate of scripture is clear. God's heart is for the fatherless and orphaned, those who are marginalized in our culture.

We recently took a full weekend of services to have one of our foster care families tell their story. We additionally recognized all the parents that have either adopted or foster care children as part of their family. The following Monday, we invited a local foster care agency to come and answer questions from those in our congregation considering their own options. Our goal was primarily to educate and hopefully inspire interest, but also to build support for those already on this journey.



There are four additional ways your local church can have a positive impact on the foster care system...

- 1. Pray: Gather members from your church and pray for children and families already involved in the foster care system. Ask God to give your church family specific ways to get more involved on a hands-on level.
- 2. Educate: Similar to most cultural issues, the American church often lacks awareness and education of the facts that will enable believers to make a focused and informed plan of action.
- 3. Implement a Plan: Take the next step and put into place specific actions to move the conversation forward. Celebrate victories, birthdays, and special moments in your service to keep awareness alive and give attention to the children and families already on this journey.
- 4. Stay Engaged: Encourage members of your local church to consider being foster or adoptive parents. Look for opportunities to come alongside those in your church that are already doing so, offering them a few days off by providing care for their children.

By the grace of God,

Terry Crigger

tcrigger@christschapel.net -----

KMN



#### Mike Gocke mgocke@kyag.org





**YC24** online registration ends midnight Nov. 10. After you register you can pay online or by mailing a check. Scan QR or go to *kyaqyouth.org/* 

youth-convention for details.



Reg. fee covers all activities! \$75 by midnight Nov. 10 \$95 at the door

#### SCHEDULE (Eastern time):

#### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

- 7 PM DOORS OPEN, PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES
- 8 PM OPENING SERVICE
- 11 PM-2 AM AFTER PARTY

#### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

• 11 AM SERVICE





#### Tyler Crowder tylerandrewcrowder@gmail.com



\* For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption..." (Romans 8:15).

My two sons have reached an age where they can earn money. Their primary source of income is that my wife and I pay them \$1 for every hour that they read. And them earning money gives us an opportunity to teach them about saving, spending, and most importantly, giving.

Don't get me wrong, they struggle with the idea of saving money, but giving is far and away the larger hurdle. Every time we talk about money, Mom and I find ourselves repeating some version of the same timeless truth: We give as we have been given. Romans 8 is not about giving; it's not about money. It is about living by the Spirit. It is about the heart of our relationship with God—we are His children. His *adopted* children.

This is why foster care and adoption are so near and dear to the heart of God. Because we are near and dear to the heart of God. Is God calling you to give as you have been given, to be an adopter because you have been adopted?





#### Gwen Smith gwen@teenchallengeky.com

### ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE OF KY





### Gilbert Kerby hawktheweapon@icloud.com

#### **ROYAL RANGERS** kyroyalrangers.org

Vistors are welcome, Contact Mike Snyder for more information at: Text: 502-292-9750 or email at: msnyder1228@aol.com





Lauren Daniel laurendaniel@racelandag.net







#### Anthony Mullins anthony.mullins3@gmail.com

#### MEN'S MINISTRIES LIGHT FOR THE LOST







CHI ALPHA SOUTHEAST SALT 2025

### JAN 2-5 RIDGECREST, NC

WWW.SESALT25.COM/ REGISTER



From the university campus to the ends of the earth, we must preach the gospel! SALT 25' is all about encouraging and equipping students to obey Jesus' command to make disciples. Come engage with missionaries from all around the world, hear what God is doing, and find your place in God's global plan. Every student goes, gives, and prays!



### **New AG Job Board**

The new AG Job Board exists to help connect churches with ministers.

### called.ag.org/job-postings



Are you looking for a new **LEAD** or **STAFF** Pastor?

Find résumés of AG ministers from across the US.



Are you looking for **OPEN** ministry positions?

Find ministry opportunities and upload your résumé.

### LOG IN WITH YOUR AG ACCOUNT

You must be a credentialed AG minister or an authorized representative of an official AG Church to access the job postings board.





The KMN Open Church List is transitioning to the new AG Job Board. If you have any questions, please contact Jenna Lewis, *jlewis@ kyag.org*.

### **KMN** Resources

At our 2024 Leadership Conference, Keynote Speaker DR. ALLEN TENNISON reminded us of the imminent return of King Jesus and encouraged us to rest in Him.



If you were not able to attend the conference, you may view his presentation slides by scanning the QR below in your preferred language.



Scan QR to view Dr. Tennison's slides.



Español



Renewing the Spiritual Leader



Scan this QR for a list of resources that will refresh you. Find discounts for getaways and retreats, as well as books, podcasts and more.

### Network Affiliated Church Pastors:



If you have any questions about these meetings, please contact your Presbyter.

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### Have YOU considered your **next step** in ministry?

We encourage all our ministers to continue to grow in their calling. Or maybe you want to answer God's call but have questions. If you would like to know how to begin the credentialing process or upgrade your current ministry credential, please call our office at 502-241-7111 or email Jenna Lewis at *jlewis@kyag.org*.



Darren Lewis, KMN Secretary/Treasurer **dlewis@kyag.org**  The Assemblies of God offers 3 levels of credentials.

- Certificate of Ministry
- License to Preach
- Ordination (must hold your License for a minimum of 2 years before being Ordained)

Jenna Lewis, Credentialing Administrator **jlewis@kyag.org** 



Deadline to submit paperwork for Ordination in 2025 is December 9, 2024.



Please note the KMN Office holiday schedule, especially if you are renewing your credentials.

#### THE KMN OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:

- Nov. 27-29 for Thanksgiving
- Dec. 23 Jan. 2, 2025 for Christmas & New Year's

#### THE NATIONAL OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:

• Dec. 24-25 and Jan 1, 2025 for Christmas & New Year's



### Credential Renewals Begin Nov 1.

### **Amazon Card Drawings**

Nov 11 - \$200 Nov 25 - \$100 Dec 9 - \$50

### Goal: 100% by Dec 12

Reminder:

Credential renewals are ENTIRELY online this year. But don't worry, our office is here to help!

Email: office@kyag.org Call: 502-241-7111





### Your KMN tithe & AG dues must be up to date at the time of renewal.

MinisterRenewal.ag.org

### KMN TITHE (PER MONTH)

Lead Pastors: 100% All other Ministers: First \$125 Senior Retired: \$0 No income: \$0

Questions?

Renew

Call the KMN Office, 502-241-7111 or email bbiram@kyag.org

### GC DUES (PER MONTH)

Ordained Ministers: \$25 Licensed Ministers: \$20 Certified Ministers: \$10 Senior Retired: \$0 No income: GC Dues are owed

### Questions?

Call the AG Office, 417-862-2781 or email secretariat@ag.org

### KY SCHOOL OF MINISTRY kyag.org/ksom



### KSOM equips Christians to serve the Lord in their church and beyond. Welcoming students age 15 and up! Enroll at any time.

Class dates	CERTIFIED	LICENSED	ORDAINED	Reg deadline
October 11-12	Intro to Pentecostal Doctrine with Chriss Rooney	Conflict Resolution (Conflict Management) with Anthony Mullins	Pentateuch with Tyler Crowder	Sept 27
November 8-9	Intro to Theology with Dr. Scott Bowman	Romans with Dr. Alex Kennedy	Church Admin, Law and Finance with Josh Harp, PLLC	October 25
NO CLASSES IN DECEMBER - MERRY CHRISTMAS!				
January 10-11	Christ in the Synoptic Gospels with Phil Walton	Acts with Neal Gordon	Apologetics with Jason Wolfe	December 27

### Cost = \$75 registration fee + the price of textbook(s)

Fee includes overnight housing at Camp Crestwood and a student user account on *Moodle.com* 

All classes take place at Camp Crestwood:

7206 Clore Lane, Crestwood KY 40014

Register at kyag.org/ksom. Questions? 502-241-7111 or dbarth@kyag.org

### 2025 KSOM Schedule



- January 10-11
- February 7-8
- March 7-8
- April 11-12
- May 16-17 (Cert & Lic only)
- No classes in June & July

- August 8-9 \*\*Say Yes Weekend\*\*
- September 12-13
- October 10-11
- November 7-8
- No classes in December



#### PASTORS' REPORTS:

- Cynthiana, Living Hope: 2 salvations
- La Grange, Real Family Church: 1 salvation, 1 water baptism, 1 Spirit baptism, 1 new member
- Pikeville, Jubilee: 29 salvations, 26 water baptisms
- Richmond, Real Life CC: 2 water baptisms
- Winchester, New Life AG: 8 salvations, 4 water baptisms

Request the PDF Church Report and email to *mpabon@kyag.org* or submit your church's info at *https:// acmr.ag.org/Account/Login* (use church's AG Passport login, not pastor's personal login).

### **KMN HAPPENINGS**

### What's new and what's next

### **Important dates:**

- Note the KMN Office holiday schedule below, especially if you are renewing your credentials. The national office will also be closed December 24, 25 and January 1, 2025. See page 15 if you need help with your credential renewal.
- KMN events are listed online at *kyag.org/calendar*. Check the calendar often, as all dates are subject to change.



### Ministers available for "fill-in"

Clayton "Skip" Arp	502-526-2050		
Catherine Aubuchon 502-836-8132			
Geoff Cole	208-741-0930		
Charles Combs	606-219-7258		
Felix Espada	352-445-0010		
Ken Greene	270-963-0719		
Gerald Hogan	270-784-3596		
Rebekah Khiembo	812-798-3991		
Ryan Lewis	502-642-8752		
William Martis	931-257-0269		
Travis Miller	606-312-5960		
Vicki Moore	606-282-0829		
Terry Rigsby	270-265-5016		
Michael Rodgers	502-833-2594		

#### **REASONS TO CONTACT THE NETWORK OFFICE**

- Changes such as: Mailing or email address, phone number; marital status; birth of a child; ministry position (change within same or new church, resign position, etc.)
- If you are aware of a credential holder who is hospitalized or a member of their family has passed away
- If you are moving and need to transfer your credential to another District

#### Accurate record keeping | Current prayer needs

## STAY IN TOUCH Opt in for KMN Text Alerts 7206 Clore Lane Crestwood KY 40014 502-241-7111 office 502-689-5912 cell PO Box 98 Crestwood KY 40014 wyag@kyag.org www.kyag.org

**Kentucky Ministry Network:** Spirit Empowered, Missions Involved, Biblically Engaged, Ethnically Inclusive and Relationally Committed

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Begin Nov 1!

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CRESTWOOD KY

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Renew early to enter drawings for Amazon Gift Cards!

- Nov 11: \$200
- Nov 25: \$100
- Dec 9: \$50

Goal: 100% by Dec 12



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED