

“Rhythms of the Spirit” Report • American Baptist Churches USA

Rev. Brad Berglund, Rhythms of the Spirit Coordinator, ABCUSA
November 1, 2017

Three successful Rhythms of the Spirit events were offered in 2017.

1. Spiritual Direction at the Biennial Mission Summit, June 29 – July 1 in Portland Oregon.

Spiritual Direction -

American Baptist spiritual directors are emerging as vital companions on the journey of “connecting with Christ and others”. For those attending the Biennial Mission Summit who needed someone to encourage them in the practice of seeking and finding God, especially within the context of the gathering, or for those who wished to have someone listen deeply to their life experience, spiritual directors were present in prayer room D131 and D132. Rene Colson Hudson and Karen Gygax Rodriguez met with those seeking direction and prayer. Visit our website devoted to ABC Spiritual Directors at www.abcspiritualformation.com

Prayer Room – Centering Prayer and Taizé - Rooms D131 and D132

The prayer room was open for personal reflection, quiet prayer and resourcing each day throughout the Biennial Mission Summit. On Friday and Saturday following the evening gathering, Taizé music with Brad Berglund and centering prayer with Karen Gygax Rodriguez were offered. Approximately 20 people attended each night.

2. Rhythms of the Spirit retreat, August 14 – 18, 2017

The August 2017 Rhythms retreat was held at Camp Canonicus with the help and support of the staff of ABCORI. This high value of partnership continues to demonstrate that our life in the Spirit is cooperative and unifying. The leadership team was as follows: Brad Berglund, Betty Wright Riggins, Karin Patton, Jennifer Davidson. (Theme: Creating a personal “Rule of Life”)

3. Pilgrimage to the Taize Community, July 14 – 25, 2017

Brad took a group to France in July. The theme of the journey was “A Pilgrimage into the Heart of Christ”. The group visited important pilgrimage cathedrals and churches, walked the labyrinth at the Chartres cathedral, immersed themselves in the life of the Taize community for their week-long program and concluded in Paris. This trip was in partnership with Illuminated Journeys and did not require funds from the Rhythms of the Spirit budget.

2018 - *With the support of OGS, Brad is planning two Rhythms of the Spirit retreats for 2018. Locations and dates to be announced.*

*Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Brad Berglund, ABCUSA
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