



MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS YOU CAN USE – PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR NETWORKS

May 2008

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<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Periodicals/Publications.aspx>

~SENATE 2008: ABCUSA RESTRUCTURE PROCESS REPORT

Senate 2008 will receive a report on the denominational restructuring process from ABCUSA General Secretary Roy Medley and Associate General Secretary Jeff Woods. Ministers Council President Alice Davis, who represents the Ministers Council on the General Board Executive Committee, reports on progress to this point:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Senate%202008/documents/reportonabcrestructuringproposalapr08.pdf>

~RALPH GARFIELD SCHELL PRESIDENTIAL AWARD NOMINATIONS

Do you know a local Ministers Council member deserving of the Ralph Garfield Schell Presidential award? Criteria: a pastoral leader who seems to be extraordinarily faithful in carrying out the principles of the Ministers Council Code of Ethics, as well as unusually effective in fulfilling the objectives of the five committees of our structure. The award is announced annually at the closing banquet of the American Baptist Ministers Council Senate. Nominations are due by June 15. For nomination information and form click here:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/WhoWeAre/RalphGarfieldSchellAwardInfo.aspx>

~TOGETHER IN MINISTRY GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2009

Applications are being received for 2009 covenant group grants. Groups may be comprised of pastoral leaders or may combine pastoral and lay leaders focused on faith practices. All information on group formation options may be found on the Ministers Council website:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/08ApplicationProcess.aspx>

Application forms are also available online:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/TIMApplication.aspx>

All TIM groups funded in 2008 are asked to complete the evaluation instruments for facilitators and group members. Continuing groups that wish to re-apply for funding are reminded that they must complete the 2008 evaluation forms. The group facilitator submits one form and each group member submits another. The forms are user friendly and may be completed online and then printed. Each TIM group contact person is asked to forward this information and these links to the group facilitator and every group member. Once completed, please collect them and send them together to the national Ministers Council office.

Facilitator form:

http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/documents/FacilitatorSurvey2008rev_000.pdf

Group Member Form:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/documents/Membergroupsurvey08rev.pdf>

~FAQs

Two frequently asked questions about state laws and ministry are answered on the Ministers Council website.

What are state requirements to officiate at weddings?

<http://www.northernway.org/marriagelaws.html>

What are the mandatory state reporting laws?

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Clergy%20Congregation%20Resources/MandatoryStateLaw.aspx>

~APRIL CONFERENCE REPORTS

***DAUGHTERS OF THE FLAME WOMEN IN MINISTRY CONFERENCE, APRIL 16-19, ST. LOUIS**

Strategy reports and conference evaluation form may be accessed here:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/2008%20Conferences/WIM08Conference.aspx>

Conference participants are asked to return completed evaluation forms by email to: vroyal@abc-usa.org and cc: joyce.lake@abc-usa.org. Also please forward copies or electronic copies of photos taken during the conference to the same email addresses.

***FANNING THE FLAME CONFERENCE FOR PASTORAL LEADERS, APRIL 22-25, GREEN LAKE**

The Fanning the Flame conference at Green Lake April 22-25 drew 245 participants to Green Lake, including the thirteen regional executive ministers who sponsored the event and twenty-some keynoters and workshop or conversation leaders.

The Ministers Council hosted a reception and a conversation on pastoral Sabbath-keeping. The conversation guide may be downloaded here:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/documents/SABBATH2008Handoutfanningflamecon.pdf>

***FAITH, LIFE AND PHILANTHROPY, NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON CHRISTIAN PHILANTHROPY, APRIL 23-25, CLEVELAND**

The Ministers Council sponsored a dinner for the 30 American Baptists who attended the conference. After-dinner conversation focused on the enhancement of stewardship within the congregation. Input has been disseminated to the various stakeholders in the ABC systems that might be responsive.

Not to be missed are notes on the insightful final conference presentation on "affluence must mean something" by Dr. Pamela York Klainer:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/documents/KlaineronPhilanthropy08.pdf>

~ABCUSA NEW STEWARDSHIP WEBPAGE

The ABCUSA Office of Mission Resource Development is very excited about its new web pages. This is a very content-rich site, with lots of information of practical use to local church pastors, stewardship committees, stewardship consultants and anybody interested in the topic of stewardship. The site includes inspirational pieces, real life stories of how our United Mission dollars are at work, and links to helpful resources. We are also working on a section of success stories, where congregations can share ideas that have worked for them in stewardship promotion. Sections of the website include:

- Available Resources – containing articles, bulletin inserts for download and materials to purchase
- UM and You – a source for monthly giving statistics and for the new UM brochure coming soon
- Mission Support/Offerings – details of our four special offerings along with links to their sites
- Links – an easy, direct link to a number of general stewardship websites
- Stewardship Moments – brief inspirational pieces, which could serve as the basis for a sermon or motivational lesson, or can stand alone

http://www.abc-usa.org/leadership/stewardship/stewardship_page/slices/stewardship_page.htm

~RESOURCE FOR GATHERING PERSONAL FUNERAL AND ESTATE INFORMATION

When a church member dies, a pastor is frequently asked to provide information about significant persons and other important contacts in the individual's life. The need for information continues as plans for a funeral or memorial service are made. Sharing this information well in advance of the need allows one time to reflect and provides pastoral leaders the opportunity to discuss plans and answer questions. A format for gathering relevant information funeral and estate planning information is available:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/documents/FUNERALESTPL08.pdf>

~CONSTITUENT COUNCIL PROGRAM SUGGESTION

The Greater Bay Area Ministers Council has planned a day-long continuing education program on "Ministry to Victims of Abuse: A Pastoral Response." The program is an exemplary model for any constituent council interested in addressing the various dimensions of the issue.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/documents/08SpringGathering-program-KH.pdf>

MISSIONARY RECRUITMENT

International Ministries is recruiting missionaries to serve in China/ Hong Kong, India, Nepal, and the Philippines.

A summary of the positions can be found in <http://www.eacinet.org/mp.php>. Please share the news.

~WORLD MISSION CONFERENCES, INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Whether you just starting to explore your commitment to mission or are deeply passionate and involved, the World Mission Conference is for YOU! Packed with news and stories from mission

fields in dozens of countries, the World Mission Conference is your chance to talk with your American Baptist missionaries and our international Baptist partners in mission.

What is being done about the big issues facing us today? Through workshops, programs, videos, drama and sharing you'll think through the complex issues surrounding Human Trafficking, AIDS and Refugees.

Come experience international worship music and devotions. Step outside your comfort zone through unique "Mission in Motion" opportunities that give new meaning to having a hands-on mission experience. Learn about places overseas where you can volunteer for a week, a month or a year!

The conference has a Youth Mission Program for grades 6 - 12, and a brand new mission curriculum for the Kids Mission Program for grades K - 5. Child care is available too!

July 18 - 20
Red Lion Hotel
Medford, Oregon

September 19 - 21
Second Baptist Church
Suffield, Connecticut

October 3 - 5
First Baptist Church
Marshalltown, Iowa
Cincinnati, OH

For registration and information:
www.worldmissionconference.org

~ENCOURAGING WORDS FOR LIFE: THE JUDSON PRESS BOOK TABLE MINISTRY

Judson Press makes it easy for every church to offer life changing resources through its "Encouraging Words for Life" Book Table Ministry program. Participating churches receive at least 30% off Judson Press books which they can then sell at retail cost, supporting church ministries with the proceeds! Your books will be shipped with a free preassembled display case and full-color promotional poster. To learn more or to receive a free starter kit, call Judson Press customer service at 800-458-3766 or [download materials online](#).

~IOWA RELIGIOUS MEDIA SERVICES

IRMS is an ecumenical lending library with over 7900 DVD, VHS, audio, book, and other titles available for use by member organizations and renters. The resource is committed to providing religious media resources to assist with faith formation and growth of the whole person, including exploration of the Bible and religious issues.

IRMS continues to build their library of religious media to serve members with up-to-date, high quality resources. Their collection also contains several "classic," hard to find titles. Member churches pay a nominal yearly fee and then borrow resources free of charge as often as they like. Those who do not choose to become members may rent resources for a weekly fee.

The link is <http://www.irms.org> and their catalogue is online as well. Mid-America pastor Dave Russell is currently the president of the IRMS board, and Mid-America pastor Tim Stewart also serves on it as well.

~MARCUSON LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

For the last decade, Margaret Marcuson has worked with church leaders across a dozen denominations and in various phases of change, challenge, or crisis. As a result of her work, leaders report an increase in their leadership clarity, skill, and effectiveness, as well as a renewed spark in their own ministry passion. Sign up for her emailed newsletters and find out how to participate in her conference call conversations about leadership.

<http://www.margaretmarcuson.com/>

~SPACE FOR GRACE E-CHURCH

Malva White is an American Baptist church planter in New Jersey who has planted an E-church. Space for Grace@ is a *new* eChurch faith community; another name is a virtual church, for the purpose of providing "virtual space" to share a biblical perspective about life as a spiritual journey.

<http://www.spaceforgraceat.org/>

~REFLECTIONS ON CHURCH LIFE BY AN INTENTIONAL INTERIM PASTOR

Jerrold H. Huguenot, Minister of the First Baptist Church of Bennington, VT, disseminates creative reflections through the church website.

<http://www.fbcbennington.org/reflections-on-church-life/>

~BOOK ON CLERGY UNDER THE AGE OF 35

Lovett Weems and Ann Michel (Lewis Center for Church Leadership, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC) have published a new book on the issues of smaller numbers of clergy under 35 years of age. *The Crisis of Younger Clergy* explains why the number of younger clergy is declining and helps show young church leaders how to thrive in spite of it. If you're a young pastor, it means that you'll have to create different kinds of support networks than your predecessors have done.

<http://abingdonpress.com/abingdonpressSection.aspx?mode=newproducts§ionId=1&sdesc=Books&pagestart=20&pid=9780687651092>

~ALBAN BOOK ON PASTORAL SABBATH-KEEPING

Judith A. Schwanz in Blessed Connections: Relationships that Sustain Vital Ministry focuses on the person of the minister and the relational system of the minister's life. She spotlights three areas of connection—relationship with self, relationships with other people, and relationship with God. Attending to these three primary connections will strengthen the pastor and cushion her or him against the pressures and stresses of daily ministry.

<http://www.alban.org/bookdetails.aspx?id=5206>

Read an adaptation from the book on pastoral Sabbath-keeping:

<http://www.alban.org/conversation.aspx?id=6012>

~PEOPLE NEWS

*Marcus McFaul, Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lawrence, KS, has been called to serve as Senior Pastor of Highland Park Baptist Church in Austin, TX. About his final service as senior pastor of the First Baptist Church, Lawrence, KS, Marcus says, "I did much like Dick Olson suggested in his article; I gave back some symbolic expressions of a closing of a pastoral ministry with church leaders, took off my robe and put on my suit jacket and said, 'Our relationship now changes from your minister to simply your good friend. This is necessary because the very love, trust, intimacy and care you've given me now must be shared without reservation to whomever, in time, you call as your next minister.'" To read his sermons announcing his resignation to the congregation and saying his farewells, click here:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/OnLineManual/MarcusMcFaulDocuments08.aspx>

*Prayers for the family of the Rev. Dr. Reaves Nahwooks, who died on Saturday, March 29, 2008, due to pancreatic cancer. Reaves was a faithful American Baptist pastor. Both he and his wife Clydia have served as Ministers Council Senators.

*Please hold in prayer Bill Englund, family, friends and church. His daughter April, age 21, was killed in a fire April 5 at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. There were two other students killed also, Amanda Rief and Scott Hams. Bill is the pastor of First Baptist Church, Saint Paul, MN.

*Donald Martin, director of Facilities Planning and Maintenance in the Mission Center, ABCUSA, died Tuesday night, April 8 in Philadelphia, PA, following complications during surgery. He was 56.

TO ASK YOUR COLLEAGUES IN MINISTRY TO PRAY FOR YOU, JUST EMAIL YOUR REQUEST TO kate.harvey@abc-usa.org. Prayer requests are posted on:
<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/PrayerRequests/MinistersCouncilPrayerRequest.aspx>

~CHURCH OF ENGLAND UNION ARTICLE ON BULLYING IN CONGREGATIONS

An interesting article about the union of Anglican clergy claims on the subject of bullying by parishioners:

Members of the clergy are being bullied by parishioners while the Church is doing little to prevent it, a trade union has claimed. Unite says vicars are experiencing psychological, emotional, verbal and physical abuse, whilst bishops are not doing enough to protect them - often 'hiding' instead of acting. The Church of England acknowledged bullying did happen but said it was "certainly not as widespread as suggested" by the union. The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England insists it is listening to priests and taking action. Unite blames the "pressures of modern society" for the increase in the number of bullying cases. Rachel Maskell told the BBC that the bullying could take various forms "and every story is different".

<http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/6996>

~FREERICE.COM

Twenty grains of rice are donated to the world's hungry for each click on the vocabulary game. Over 26 billion grains have been donated to date. FreeRice is a sister site of the world poverty site, Poverty.com. Free Rice has two goals: provide English vocabulary to everyone for free; help end world hunger by providing rice to hungry people for free. The rice is paid for by advertisers on the site, who both support learning and reducing hunger.

<http://www.freerice.com/index.php>

THE MINISTERS COUNCIL OWNS THE DOMAINS WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.ORG AND WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.COM. IF YOUR BROWSER ENCOUNTERS DIFFICULTY IN OPENING ANY OF THE LINKS IN THIS NEWSLETTER, GO DIRECTLY TO THE WEBSITE AND/OR FEEL FREE TO CALL THE OFFICE FOR SPECIFIC NAVIGATION DIRECTIONS TO LOCATE THAT LANDING PAGE ON THE SITE.

SIGN UP FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM THE MINISTERS COUNCIL

Sign up for future issues of the monthly Ministers Council newsletter by replying to this message from the email address to which you wish issues to be sent. Add the newsletter email address to your address book so that future newsletters will not go into your spam filter.

If you have news, ideas, events or websites from your Ministers Council to share with colleagues, please email to kate.harvey@abc-usa.org. The more we share with one another what works, the stronger we will all be.

MINISTERS COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

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Join the Ministers Council through your local constituent council. Contact information is posted on www.ministerscouncil.org under the WHO WE ARE link.

II Timothy 1:6-7

"For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."