



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

June 2008

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

### **~ABCUSA RESTRUCTURE REPORT FROM ROY MEDLEY**

Dear Colleagues in Ministry:

Over the next year you will hear a lot about the proposed restructure of our national structure. This will involve some major adjustments for what we hope will be a more missionally focused structure. This is the product of a 3 year conversation within and among the General Executive Council, the ABC officers, and the General Board.

Let me begin by outlining the process for consideration:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Senate%202008/documents/MinCouncilArticlerestructure08.pdf>

### **~TOGETHER IN MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

There are so many exciting stories to tell about the accomplishments of Together in Ministry collegial covenant groups that they should be shared with other groups, with the Lilly Endowment and with the wider body of faith. Would you please email ([kate.harvey@abc-usa.org](mailto:kate.harvey@abc-usa.org)) anything from your TIM group concerning best practices you have discovered, stories of what you have done, or values you perceive from participation?

And do not forget 2008 evaluations and applications for 2009 group funding. Tired of handwriting? All the forms may be completed online and then printed for submission.

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

### **~RESOURCE: WAYS TO APPRECIATE PASTORAL STAFF**

A resource on ways a congregation might express appreciation for pastoral staff is now posted on the website. An ABCUSA press release will publicize it to constituents to raise consciousness among lay leaders about the value of pastoral appreciation and expand imaginations about strategies.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/documents/appreciationmlc08.pdf>

### **~NEW LATINO MINISTERS COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY**

### **~CELEBRACIÓN DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DEL CONCILIO DE MINISTROS LATINOS DE NEW JERSEY**

On May 17 the Concilio de Ministros Latinos de New Jersey celebrated their founding at a worship service in the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Newark. The Council was officially recognized by the

2007 Senate. President Ignacio Cartagena preached and the choir of Iglesia Bautista Hispano-Americana de Union City sang.

### **~ANOTHER EXCELLENT MC PROGRAM IDEA**

Ernie Flores, President of the Ministers Council of the Philadelphia Baptist Association, sends email notices and reminders of the monthly meetings, for example:

Dear Ministers Council,

Just a reminder about tomorrow's Ministers Council meeting at 10:00 a.m. at Second Baptist Church of Germantown, 6459 Germantown Ave. at Upsal St., Philadelphia, PA 19119. Our discussion will be about, "The Experience of Women in Ministry," featuring a panel of women ministers sharing their testimonies and experiences in the ministry. Men, I'm inviting you in particular to come and hear these testimonies so we can better affirm and understand what our female colleagues have endured and how we can be supportive to their calling and ministry. Women, you will be encouraged and affirmed to hear these testimonies of how the Lord has led these ministers and how they've overcome obstacles and attitudes to fulfill their calling. A free lunch will be provided; RSVP to me at [ShepherdEast@aol.com](mailto:ShepherdEast@aol.com) by this afternoon. God bless you and we'll see you tomorrow.

### **~PASTORAL AID POLICY TEMPLATE REQUEST**

A constituent Ministers Council has requested that councils with pastoral aid policy templates share them via the Ministers Council website. If you have a policy about how you offer financial aid to colleagues in need and are willing to share that policy, please email it to [kate.harvey@abc-usa.org](mailto:kate.harvey@abc-usa.org). Thank you.

### **~WILL PLANNING GUIDE AND PERSONAL INVENTORY**

The American Baptist Foundation resource "Will Planning Guide and Personal Inventory" is a useful tool for you and for your constituents:

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

### **~ECCLESIASTICAL ENDORSING AGENT SEARCH**

The Board of National Ministries seeks candidates for the position of Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent. Applications are due by June 30. Information may be accessed at:

<http://www.nationalministries.org/employment.cfm>

Please direct any inquiries to the attention of [Laura.Miraz@abc-usa.org](mailto:Laura.Miraz@abc-usa.org).

### **~A CALL TO COMPASSION**

In the face of the tragedies in Burma and China, the global food crisis, the impact of refugee resettlement upon local churches, the growing financial problems facing US families, and the continuing struggles faced in rebuilding the Gulf Coast, American Baptist Churches USA will ask American Baptist congregations to declare the first Sunday of each month from June – December 2008 as Compassion Sunday. Read more:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/OnLineManual/CompassionSunday08.aspx>

## **~JUDSON PRESS ANNOUNCES NEW BOOK**

Judson Press announces the release of *Those Preaching Women: A Multicultural Collection*. Edited by Ella Pearson Mitchell and Valerie Bridgeman Davis, the book features sermons by thirty-three ethnically and denominationally diverse women from across the nation. American Baptist contributors include Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, associate professor of religious education at the Claremont School of Theology and a teacher at the Latin American Bible Institute in La Puente, California; and Loida Martell-Otero, associate professor of constructive theology at Palmer Theological Seminary. Order your copy of this inspiring resource at [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) or call 800-458-3766.

## **~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](http://www.worldmissionconference.org)

## **~MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES AT GREEN LAKE SEPTEMBER 3-7, 2008**

Are you passionate about making a difference in the world? This conference will provide you with in-depth learning about overseas ministry opportunities and ways to get involved through prayer, involvement and financial support. Listen to missionaries, build relationships with them and learn from them as they share their specific expertise. Keynote speaker: Rev. Vic Gordon, senior pastor of Beachpoint Church, Fountain Valley, CA ([www.beachpointchurch.com](http://www.beachpointchurch.com)). Dr. Reid Trulson, executive director of American Baptist Churches' International Ministries, will participate in the closing session Saturday, September 6. For more information:  
<http://glcc.org/glcc/files/conferences/MOO%202008.pdf>

## **~INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE ON PROSTITUTION AT GREEN LAKE SEPTEMBER 7-12, 2008**

This conference will serve as a catalyst for creating and cementing regional and global networks while offering emotional, spiritual and physical renewal. It's a special week for anyone interested in issues regarding the sexual exploitation of adults. Led by Dan Allender ([www.thepathlesschosen.com](http://www.thepathlesschosen.com)) and Dr. Elaine Storkey ([www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)). For more information: <http://glcc.org/glcc/files/conferences/ICCP%20flyer%202008.pdf>

## **~RESOURCES FOR AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY WEBSITE**

The Resources for American Christianity website presents resources that relate to the initiatives of the Religion division of the Lilly Endowment (projects, publications, articles, study guides, sabbatical reflections by pastors and scholars plus grant opportunities and related sites of interest).

<http://www.resourcingchristianity.org>

## **~OBSERVATIONS FROM THE INTERSECTIONS OF INDIVIDUALISM AND ECCLESIOLOGY**

The May 2008 issue of the Baptist Studies Bulletin features a piece by Charles E. Poole, pastor of Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi. "While I'm sure there are as many reasons for that pastoral fatigue as there are pastors, I have a theory about one of those reasons. It is a reason that rises from the corner where individualism intersects ecclesiology, and it is this: *To serve as the pastor of a Baptist church is to often be responsible for things over which you do not have authority.*"

<http://www.centerforbaptiststudies.org/bulletin/2008/may.htm#Observations>

## **~LABYRINTH RESOURCE**

Here is an online resource that will enable you to walk the Labyrinth from your desk.

<http://www.gracecathedral.org/labyrinth/interactions/labyrinth.shtml>

If you click on Icons, you can select the dove; click on Music and be soothed by soul renewing sound.

## **~PEOPLE**

`Paul Burden, Senator from the Great Rivers Ministers Council: "I am getting ready to go on a military deployment (I'm an Air National Guard chaplain). I will be in Germany until the end of June doing hospital ministry with sick and wounded troops at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. I should be able to check this e-mail account while I'm gone ([pburden@siue.edu](mailto:pburden@siue.edu)). Please remember me in prayer!"

`Joe Kutter has a blog on "Praying the Psalms:" <http://www.joekutter.blogspot.com/>

`Susan Panek Polizzi is the new pastor of First United Baptist Church of Lowell, MA, after a pastorate of five years as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Norwich, NY. On May 19 she began her transition with a four week sabbatical and will be in the office on June 16.

`Peg Nowling is on a sabbatical, which began on April 21 -- check out her blog at [www.pegsjourney.blogspot.com](http://www.pegsjourney.blogspot.com).

**THE MINISTERS COUNCIL OWNS THE DOMAINS [WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.ORG) AND [WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.COM](http://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](mailto: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](http://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."