



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

Joe Kutter, Acting Executive Director

June 2010

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

~WAITING FOR THE COUNSELOR

A morning cartoon showed a man and boy in the yard. The boy is using a stick to turn over an object, not quite snake-like, that he has clearly never seen before. The tension is high when the man says, "It's a newspaper."

Since the date of my ordination, Pentecost Sunday, 1971, I can say that things have changed. From paper to the screen, from the post office to the internet, from the front porch to the social networking, from going to an office nearby to telecommuting to the office a thousand miles away, things have changed.

In the little Florida towns where I grew up, people would ask one another, "Which church do you attend?" Church attendance was assumed. Now about 17% of the American population will attend worship each weekend and a significant number will not worship in a Christian setting. Do the math. 83% of our neighbors don't appear in any worship setting. Things have changed.

Jesus promised a "Paraclete", The Spirit, a counselor and companion for the journey and I fully believe that the promise continues to hold true. But I've read the Scriptures and noticed that the Spirit shows up when Jesus' disciples gather together. The Spirit is both a solitary experience and a community experience.

So, this is both my belief and my experience. The Spirit who guides us through the seasons of transition and epochal change frequently shows up as we gather together as colleagues in ministry. As we talk, pray, study, laugh and laugh together, as we learn to be authentic with one another, the Companion, the Counselor is likely to show up with the grace that we need.

That is the reason for "Together in Ministry" and that the reason for Ministers Council.

God bless you in your ministry. *Joe Kutter*

~ARIZONA'S RECENT ACTION ON THE ISSUE OF IMMIGRATION

The state of Arizona's recent actions on the issue of immigration has prompted the Ministers Council to cancel their reservation for the 2011 Executive Committee meeting which was to be held at the Franciscan Renewal Center located in Scottsdale, AZ. After polling the Executive Committee for their feedback, it was a unanimous decision to cancel the reservation. [Read Letter](#)

~WOMEN TOGETHER: LIFTING AND ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER

It's not too late to register for Women Together: Lifting and Encouraging One Another; A Conference for Female Clergy. The dates are August 19-20, 2010. REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 27. The place is New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan. Rev. Dr. Wilma Johnson will be the host pastor. Contact Rev. Yvonne Carter at American Baptist Home Mission Societies for more information: yvonne.carter@abc-usa.org or call 800.222.3872 ext.2257. To register for the conference click on the link http://www.nationalministries.org/women_together.cfm

~THE BIENNIAL 2011 • JUNE 24-26 • SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Celebrate! Reunite and fellowship with family and friends; Be inspired by preachers, speakers, missionaries; Witness transforming ministries across ABC and our partners; Share in the forming of the future of our denomination; Experience God's movement with our ABC/Puerto Rico family; Renew yourselves and revive your ministries. Check www.abc-usa.org periodically for updates.

Ministers Council and ABC partners will be sponsoring a pre-Biennial event on Thursday afternoon, June 23 and Friday morning, June 24 from 9:00 a.m. till Noon. Details of the event will be announced at a later date. Check out our website www.ministerscouncil.org for updates.

~GREAT CONVERSATIONS WITH WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Listen to the *Real Women, Real Leaders* podcast series produced by American Baptist Women's Ministries for great conversations with women in ministry around the world. Recent episodes have included interviews with Dr. Molly Marshall, president of Central Baptist Theological Seminary; Dr. Lauran Bethell, global consultant with International Missionaries; the Rev. Christine Smith, senior pastor of the Covenant Baptist Church in Wycliffe, Ohio; and Rev. Lauren Ng, senior pastor of her own family due to a recent change in the expression of her vocation. With three years of podcast history, there are many excellent conversations from past episodes with women fulfilling God's calling in their lives, and many more to come! *Real Women, Real Leaders: The Podcast Series* can be found in iTunes or at <http://abwm.podbean.com>. Become a subscriber and be inspired by listening to the many ways that God is at work in the world.

~LESSONS TO LEARN FROM THE BLACK CHURCH

That venerable institution, the African American church, possesses many qualities worth recognizing, celebrating, and emulating. In their testimony, [*What We Love about the Black Church: Can We Get a Witness?*](#), William Crouch and Joel Gregory present twelve best practices of the black church. What makes their testimony unique is that Crouch and Gregory are white pastors-turned-academics. Their voices are joined by more than two dozen African American Christian leaders who respond to the qualities that the authors identify, including:

- * A legacy of preaching
- * A history of social justice
- * Gifts of encouragement, hospitality, and gratitude
- * A model for mentoring
- * A standard for honoring one's elders

What We Love about the Black Church has already garnered a great deal of publicity, including an interview with [Roland Martin](#), an article from the [Associated Baptist Press](#), and a piece on [The Huffington Post](#). Discover for yourself why Bob Cornwall, editor of *Sharing the Practice*, wrote, "Take and read, you will be blessed, especially if you take the step of crossing the boundaries between communities." Read Cornwall's complete review on his [blog](#).

To order from Judson Press, visit www.judsonpress.com or call 800-458-3766. Save 20% online.

~COME TO A PLACE PREPARED JUST FOR YOU

Pastors Retreat Network has been providing life-changing retreats for pastors and spouses since 1997. We invite you to explore the possibility of coming away for a week of rest and renewal with the Lord and your spouse during the coming year.

While on your five-day retreat, we know that God will meet you; we are confident that He will encourage your walk, strengthen your marriage and ministry, and renew your passion for Him.

For more information, or to reserve your retreat, please visit the website at www.pastorsretreatnetwork.org or call and talk with one of the Program Hosts at 262.646.7772. Hope to see you soon!

~EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Seafarer's Ministry of the Golden Gate (SMGG) is an ABC affiliated program and ideally, would like to find an ABC person who meets the qualifications. More information can be found at the <http://www.seamenschurch.org/>.

Applications will be screened as they are received, and we hope to hold screening interviews sometime in August. We have some flexibility in the time line for hiring.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/JobOpportunities.aspx>

~FAITH TRUST INSTITUTE

Faith Trust Institute provides top notch materials for clergy ethics, domestic violence awareness and other sensitive training and have recently launched online webinars. Marie Fortune's Webinars are archived and can be downloaded. The Review and Renew: Healthy Boundaries for Clergy and Spiritual Leaders Session that was offered on May 12, 2010 seems to be very popular. To read more click on the link <http://www.faithtrustinstitute.org/>

~GENEROSITY, AN E-RESOURCE FOR PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS

GENEROSITY, an American Baptist e-resource for pastors and church leaders on topics related to financial stewardship and faithful discipleship. In this issue, Dr. Christine Roush shares her insights regarding the impact of North American consumer culture on Christian generosity. Dr. Roush serves as the Vice President of Advancement and Church Relations for [Rainbow Acres](#) in Camp Verde AZ, and is the author of *Swimming Upstream: Reflections on Consumerism and Culture*. For information on this resource and how to subscribe please click on the link. www.generousdisciples.com

~WHAT DOES PRAYER HAVE TO DO WITH MONEY?

Do you look for spiritual support or guidance for your leadership? Whatever your own way, whether it's private prayer, consulting a spiritual director or mentor, or taking a retreat, make sure you use it when you are leading in the area of money. If we can act on our spiritual principles rather than out of fear and anxiety, we will be able to make different financial decisions. If we seek to be thoughtful and not reactive, we will make different decisions. If we are able, out of spiritual power, to stick to our plan in the face of the reactivity of others, our churches will be healthier and more resilient places.

To read more click on the link - <http://margaretmarcuson.com/blog/?p=485>

To subscribe to the newsletter go to Marcuson Leadership Circle - leaders practicing an easier, more effective way to lead – and sign up.

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

~IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Albert H. Kamm, beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather, Pastor Emeritus, Hospital Chaplain, Rotarian, and cherished friend to many, was received into Eternal Glory at the age of 94 on Monday, June 14, 2010, at the Clifton Springs Nursing Home. Rev. Kamm was the father of Deborah Kamm, a former Senator for Upstate New York and past editor of *Minister* magazine.

A memorial service for Rev. Kamm will be held on Saturday, July 24, 2010, at 2:00 PM in the Spa Apartments Chapel, Main Street, Clifton Springs, NY. The family gratefully declines floral tributes and asks that any memorial contributions be made to either of the following: The Clifton Springs Hospital and Clinic, Foundation Office, 2 Coulter Road, Clifton Springs, NY, 14432 (noting Rev. Kamm in the memo line) or the Catherine J. Kamm Vocal Music Award, c/o Finger Lakes Community College, Foundation Office, 3325 Marvin Sands Drive, Canandaigua, NY, 14424.

~REMEMBER US!

When planning your estate, please remember The Ministers Council.

~HELP US KEEP YOU INFORMED

The hard reality about this newsletter is this: Our email mailing list is not as complete as we would wish. But you can help and your help we ask. Please forward this to your constituencies and friends. Most months, there is something helpful and when there is not, the delete button is only about an inch away and there will be little imposition impressed upon your friends. We appreciate your help. *Joe Kutter*

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 joe.kutter@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.