



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

Joe Kutter, Executive Director

October 2010

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

~SHADES OF GRACE: REFLECTIONS ON THE WOMEN IN MINISTRY CONFERENCE – by Dr. Judith Wesley

Shades of Grace, two Lilly funded groups from Ministers Council Together in Ministry Project, is comprised of twenty-two clergy and seminarian women of color who serve regionally as pastors, associate pastors, interim pastors, directors of Christian education, chaplains, professors, teachers, executive directors of nonprofits, accountants, lawyers, and consultants who meet monthly.

Thanks to the support of ABHMS (formerly National Ministries), Conference of Baptist Ministers in MA (CBMM), Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB), Adoniram Judson Association, Samuel Stillman Association, and Old Colony Association, the members of our Together in Ministry group (TIM), were blessed to be able to attend this life changing conference. With united hearts and grateful spirits, we collectively say thank you.

[Read more>>>](#)

~THE NEW NORMAL * PRE-BIENNIAL* JUNE 23-24* SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Some things in ministry are eternal. They never change. But the context within which we do ministry has changed dramatically and there is no going back. Our current environment is THE NEW NORMAL.

The Ministers Council (Dr. Jeff Savage and Dr. Joe Kutter) with its partners from Regional Ministries (Dr. Jeff Woods), Women in Ministry (Rev. Holly Bean), The Generosity Gang (Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford), and Interim Ministries (Rev. Jamie Munroe) will present a two part pre-Biennial program that focuses on **THE NEW NORMAL**. [Dr. Peggy Kendall](#), author of *Reboot, Refreshing your Faith in a High Tech World*, (Judson Press) and [Dr. Gary Nelson](#), author of *Borderland Churches a Congregation's Introduction to Missional Living* (Chalice Press) will be our lead speakers. Dr. Kendall will speak at the first session on Thursday afternoon, June 23 (2:00 – 5:00 p.m.) and Dr. Nelson will speak at the second session on Friday, June 24 (9:00 a.m. to Noon)

For more information on the Biennial including speakers, schedules, etc. please see www.celebrate2011.com

Online Registration is now open. Click on the link below to begin your registration.

<https://www.bimwebport.org/etrakwebapp/meetings.aspx>

Hope to see you in San Juan!

~MINISTERS COUNCIL COVENANT AND CODE OF ETHICS UPDATES

Thank you to Wendy Maxfield in the regional office of ABC of Massachusetts for enlisting the aid of translators, Dan Auguste and Dalton Said, for our Spanish, Portuguese, and French Code of Ethics. The

Code of Ethics can be accessed on our website through two different links. Please click on the links to view these new postings.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/CodeofEthics/CodeofEthicsInfoPage.aspx>

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

~LOOKING FOR JUDSON PRESS TITLES FOR YOUR E-READER?

In the past year, nationwide sales of e-books have tripled. If you're looking for Judson Press titles for your e-reader, we have you covered! Many of our most recent releases are available for the Kindle and Nook, and we are currently working with Sony to format our titles for their reader as well. Visit the Judson Press [website](#) for a complete list of books which are available for these devices. You should also note that a number of Judson Press resources are available for download from our site as pdfs. These include several supplemental leader's guides, and the books [Everyday Evangelist](#), [Litanies for All Occasions](#), and [LifeSavers](#).

~FOR AN EMAIL BLAST

Have you visited our web pages recently? If so, you will notice that we have added a new page for updates. Thanks to the women clergy in Maine, we have a great example of how you can let others know what is happening with women in ministry in your area. (Click on www.abwim.org and then on the link under "Updates.") Simply send an email to Joyce Lake (joyce.lake@abc-usa.org) or me (holly.bean@abc-usa.org) with your brief report in a Word document. Include an image or two, if you like, keeping in mind that we do need permission to use the images from those pictured. We will add your contribution to the Update page. We would love to hear from you.

~ABWIM AT THE 2011 BIENNIAL ¡VENGAN A PUERTO RICO!

Planning to go to Puerto Rico in June of 2011? We hope to see you there. We are planning a celebratory Women in Ministry Breakfast for Friday morning, June 24, 2011. Don't miss it! ABWIM will also join with Ministers Council, Area Ministers and Mission Resource Development to sponsor a pre-Biennial event entitled The New Normal on Thursday, June 23 and Friday, June 24. It promises to be enlightening and stimulating; watch for more information. More details will be available through mailings and this website: www.celebrate2011.com.

~LEAVE POLICIES –

As pastor of Underwood Memorial church in Wauwatosa, WI, Jamie Washam and the church worked out a parental leave policy that she wanted to share on the Ministers Council website. Jamie, who was unable to attend the Ministers Council Senate meeting in August, gave birth to a baby boy. Congratulations to the family!

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/OnLineManual/documents/UnderwoodMemBCpolicy2010.pdf>

THE LEADERSHIP ADVENTURE: HOW DO CHURCH LEADERS FACE A FINANCIAL CRISIS?

One pastor sat in astonishment as the treasurer described their situation. They had just had their worst month since his ministry started. "How did this happen?" he asked. The treasurer answered, "We've had an OK year so far," he said. "Not great, but we've been paying the bills. I really can't explain this drop-off." The pastor knew that their biggest giving family had been pretty unhappy with his leadership lately. He was afraid to find out what was making the difference, but he knew he needed to. If this couple had really quit giving, the church could be in real trouble. [Read more>>](#)

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/>

~DISABILITY MINISTRY RESOURCES – *by Curtis Ramsey-Lucas*

This past July 26 marked the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a critical milestone in our country's effort to live up to its pledge of liberty and justice for all. The Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition (IDAC), of which the American Baptist Home Mission Societies is a member, seeks to use this important anniversary to focus attention on an issue that is of critical importance to all Americans - the issue of employment.

IDAC is asking congregations, seminaries, denominations, faith groups and religious organizations to join with the American Baptist Home Mission Societies by endorsing a Statement of Solidarity Around Employment of People with Disabilities at www.aapd.com/IDAC/StatementofSolidarity.

As the Statement of Solidarity makes clear, the vast majority of working-age Americans with disabilities would like to work, but are not participating in the labor force. In fact, the employment rates for people with disabilities have not improved in the 20 years since the ADA was enacted into law, and there is evidence that disabled workers have been disproportionately affected by the current economic downturn.

For more on ABHMS efforts in this regard, please read the Front & Center story on the ABHMS website at http://www.nationalministries.org/front_center_disability_solidarity_statement.cfm.

ABHMS has also developed a new Disability Ministry resource page and is considering developing a network for sharing information about disability concerns. Review these resources and share your interest at http://www.nationalministries.org/front_center_disabilities_form.cfm.

~JOB OPPORTUNITY

The American Baptist Historical Society (ABHS) is announcing its search for a full-time Archivist at its facility on the Atlanta campus of Mercer University. ABHS is seeking an individual with energy, experience, strong service orientation, and knowledge of Baptists to appraise, arrange, and describe archival records and manuscript collection and to facilitate access to official records and holdings in its care. Further details regarding this position can be obtained from the attached link below.

If you are interested in this position or know of any suitable candidate(s) for this position, please follow the instructions outlined in the attached job posting.

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

~REMINDER TO SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar for the Orientation to ABC Life / Ministers Conference for all ministerial leaders set for January 23-26, 2012 at the Doubletree Resort, 10100 International Drive, Orlando, FL. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please continue to check our website – www.ministerscouncil.org - for updates and further information.

~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.