



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

Joe Kutter, Executive Director

May 2011

Click here to view this message as a webpage:
<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Periodicals/Publications.aspx>

~TIM GROUPS – *Joe Kutter*

In 2011, we slightly oversubscribed our budget for Together in Ministry (TIM) funding. That's a good thing. However that means that we will have slightly less to spend in 2012. We'll be able to fund fewer groups. These are the applications that will have the advantage:

- those that are submitted on time or even early
- those that are submitted with complete information
- where applicable, those who have included evaluations from the previous year

Our best estimate is that TIM has touched the lives and ministries of about 1/2 of our ABC congregations. Survey data strongly indicates that ministers are healthier and congregations are better served by those who have participated. We trust that 2012, the last year of the Lilly Endowment grant will continue to bear fruit for the ministries of Jesus Christ.

~SUPPORT YOUR MINISTERS COUNCIL

Ministers Council would like your support by filling out a brief survey we commissioned to help us consider the future of the Ministers Council. The survey is available at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MKQ3X96>

~THE NEW NORMAL

"The New Normal" is a pre-Biennial event for church leaders that will reflect on the impact of culture on ministry. The Ministers Council, ABC Region Staff, Mission Resource Development and American Baptist Women in Ministry offer this opportunity to learn about coping with current cultural changes in the day-to-day work of ministry. "The New Normal" will precede the American Baptist Biennial on Thursday afternoon, June 23 and Friday morning, June 24, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

[\(Click to read more\)](#)

**~YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PREACHING PAVILION OFFERED BY THE
MINISTERS COUNCIL AT THE BIENNIAL SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO JUNE 24-26,
2011**

You will have the opportunity to hear six of our excellent American Baptist preachers over a three hour period. Taken together, the six preaching-worship sessions will provide an opportunity to hear the gospel in a way that portrays the rich diversity of our American Baptist family. Plan to join us in San Juan.

[Click here for the schedule.](#)

~MINISTERS COUNCIL ON FACEBOOK – *Joe Kutter*

Join "American Baptist Ministers Council" on its Facebook group page. Since the page has been updated, wonderful conversations have been happening. It's a place to be current with ABC ministerial life.

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_127469550314&ap=1

~SABBATICALS AND STUDY PROJECTS – *Joe Kutter*

The Louisville Institute is offering grants to fund both sabbaticals and study projects. Check the information at their website.

<http://www.louisville-institute.org/Grants/programs.aspx>

~WIM NATIONAL DIRECTOR NAMED

On behalf of the ABWIM search committee and the ABWIM steering committee, I want to say how pleased we are to announce and celebrate the new ABWIM national director, The Reverend Patricia P. Hernandez. Pat is already on the job!

Here is a link to the press release announcing her call: [click to read>>](#)

To read a greeting from Pat please click on the link: www.abwim.org.

~WORSHIP AND CHURCH GROWTH AMONG THE FACT2010 CONGREGATIONS –

Joe Kutter

How do guitars, drums, and joy relate to growing congregations? Using data from the FACT2010 survey of growing congregations, Jeff has drawn a "not-really-surprising" conclusion. In the document, the first page is statistical data and the second is the narrative.

Read, pray and ponder. Click on the link to view.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/documents/WorshipGrowthJeffWoods2011.pdf>

~OUR FORGOTTEN HERO

The "Boston Globe" recently published a tribute to John Clark, possibly, the most neglected and forgotten hero of religious liberty in American history. I am proud to count myself among his spiritual heirs. To read the story click on the link below.

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2011/04/28/the_forgotten_patriot/

~PALMER GRANTS

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is accepting requests for proposals (applications) for the 2011-2012 Palmer grants in partnership with the American Baptist Foundation. The grants will enhance ministries of discipleship and incarnational practice in American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) congregations and ABCUSA-related organizations. Grants of \$5,000 to \$25,000 will be awarded in fall 2011. Approved projects may be funded for one to two years.

[\(Click to read more\)](#)

~NEW MEDIA

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) remains on the cutting edge, using new media to inform you as well as spread the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. You can now follow ABHMS on Twitter at abHomeMission. Ask questions, share ideas and dialog with other American Baptists and ABHMS staff on Facebook at American Baptist Home Mission Societies. A new monthly video message by ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Aidsand F. Wright Riggins III can be viewed on the home page of ABHMS' Web site at www.abhms.org. Plus, ABHMS' free "Home Mission in Action" podcast series is not only accessible via the ABHMS Web site but also via iTunes. Simply go to www.iTunes.com and search for Home Mission in Action.

~JUDSON PRESS RELEASES FOUR NEW SPRING TITLES

Ministry with Prisoners & Families: The Way Forward by W. Wilson Goode Sr., Charles E. Lewis Jr., and Harold Dean Trulear features the contributions of the authors and other nationally recognized experts who address the impact of incarceration, reentry, and reintegration on the African American family and community. They present a paradigm for "prisoner ministry" that goes beyond traditional worship and Bible study programs. \$17.99

S'more Time with God by Nancy Ferguson is an interactive devotional designed especially for families and church groups with young children. Organized around five week-long themes, this creative resource explores Scripture and nature to teach accessible and hands-on lessons about God, human relationships, and creation care. Also includes a recipe for s'mores and other camp treats! \$12.99

The Star Book for Ministers is now available in a sought after gift edition! Features an imitation leather cover with the traditional gold star, a presentation page, and a ribbon marker. The perfect gift for recent seminary graduates and new pastors. \$25.00

When the Spirit Moves: A Guide for Ministers in Transition is co-authored by ABC Executive Ministers Riley Walker and Marcia Patton. This practical and spiritual guide through vocational transition addresses

common areas of concern, frequent pitfalls and missteps, and oft-traveled routes to a successful transition. One chapter covers the difficult subject of involuntary resignations. \$15.99

Judson Press resources can be ordered by calling 800-458-3766 or save 20% when you order online at www.judsonpress.com.

~WOMEN IN MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Women Together in Ministry of Greater Cleveland presents Empowering and Encouraging Women in Ministry – a conference for female clergy, August 26-27, 2011. For registration and conference schedule please click on the link below.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/WIM%20Resources/documents/WTIMConferenceRegistrationBrochure2011.pdf>

~WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PREACH ABOUT MONEY? – *Dr. Margaret Marcuson*

What does it mean to preach about money? Often it only means one thing: to get people to give more money to the church. Sermons about money are often limited to a few weeks per year – or only one – around the time when the church is raising funds for the budget.

Instead of limiting our discussion of money to stewardship week, it may be more productive to 1) preach sermons about money more often and 2) focus more on ourselves and our own thinking than on influencing others.

Marcuson Leadership Circle - leaders practicing an easier, more effective way to lead

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

~WORSHIP RESOURCES

Worship Resources such as reflections, prayers and Calls to Worship based on the Revised Common Lectionary are posted on this site weekly by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell. Often featured on The Text This Week, Wendy has a Facebook page, Rev-O-Lution where updates are posted. Please visit this website at the link below.

<http://rev-o-lution.org/>

~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

Web: www.ministerscouncil.org
Mail: The Ministers Council
PO Box 851
Valley Forge PA 19482-0851
Phone: 1-800-222-3872, extension 2333, 2334
FAX: 610/768-2066

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