



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

Joe Kutter, Executive Director

September 2011

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

~IN MY PRAYERS – Joe Kutter

For more than a year, I have regularly, about once a week, posted a short prayer for ministerial colleagues on the American Baptist Ministers Council Facebook page. The current prayer is:

Bless each of your servants with a friend who will:
Serve as an embodied reminder of your intimate love,
Speak frequent words of encouragement
And gently offer an occasional caution or correction.

Grant each of your servants a community within which the spiritual journey is deepened and our call to leadership is empowered.

In Christ's name,
Amen.

The prayers are always short and always intended to lift our ministerial colleagues up to God in prayer. With the strong encouragement of many, I'll email the prayers to you from time to time. If you find them to be helpful, I am grateful. If they are an imposition, hit the delete button quickly.

I want you to know that you are a part of my spiritual discipline and that you are constantly in my prayers.

~MINISTERS COUNCIL SUPPORTS WOMEN IN MINISTRY

The Ministers Council has been, for many years, a strong supporter of Women in Ministry. At our 2011 Senate meeting, we received a report of our task force, chaired by Holly Bean, which attempted to sketch the ABC landscape for women in ministry. The report can be found on our website at the link below.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/WIM%20Resources/documents/MCWIMTFreport2011.pdf>.

Dr. Aidsand Wright Riggins recently shared his thoughts in an ABHMS webcast. As always, his reflections are worthy of our attention. [Watch the webcast.](#) JK

~WHAT IS THE MINISTERS COUNCIL SENATE AND WHY AM I DEVOTING TIME TO SERVE THERE? – Ruth Yeaton, Senator Mid-America

Many of you over the years have been part of a group of people who do what you do. When I first began teaching I joined the Missouri Valley education association and also the NEA, the national group. As a young professional I wanted to be identified with others who had been teachers for a long time. There was value in that connection.

For ministers that group is called Ministers Council. There is a regional group of which I am president and a national group. Last week I attended the Ministers Council Senate. The Senate is made up of one representative from each of the regions or states in the ABC/USA.

One of the most important functions of the Ministers Council is to remind pastors that we are “Together in Ministry”. Knowing you are not alone and that many who have heard the call of God on their lives are serving with you is important information. I value the time I spend with the other pastors from Iowa and Minnesota as we listen to one another and share what God is doing in our individual churches.

A second important function of the Council is the Code of Ethics. Each pastor agreed to uphold the strong tradition of Christ and Christ’s church through exemplary behavior. As a member of the Ministers Council I know what is expected of me and that there are those who will hold me to this high standard.

Now that I am an “experienced” pastor I have the opportunity to invest in younger pastors and encourage them along the way. The church here has supported my involvement in Ministers Council and Senate and for that I am grateful.

We are part of a great big family. There is a lot of diversity in the group. There is also a strong unity as we attempt to serve Christ with the very best of who we are and what we have.

A third function of the MC is to deepen the spiritual lives of its members. Each Wednesday we have agreed to pray for each other and for the future of the church. I was tremendously impressed with the pastors I met at Senate and am proud to serve with them.

To God be the glory.

~THE NEW NORMAL: 2011 ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF OREGON October 21-23

The Ministers Council Continuing Education Event for Clergy - This traditional kick-off to the weekend runs from 1:00 to 5:00pm on Friday and will feature the Rev. Dr. Jeff Woods from ABC-USA. Jeff will be speaking on the new context and climate in which pastors find themselves ministering. He will also present a workshop for laity on this topic on Saturday. [Read more>>](#)

~GO TO A NEW LAND: JOURNEYING TOWARD GOD – JANUARY 23-26, 2012

Have you heard about the **Go to a New Land** conference coming up in January? It promises to be a wonderful opportunity for learning and renewal. Read about it and register at www.a-new-land.com.

~JUDSON PRESS

McMickle Extends the Ministry of Pastoral Care

As a minister, can you meet every need in your congregation and community? Experienced pastor Marvin A. McMickle recognizes our limitations and proposes circles of care in his newest Judson Press resource, [Caring Pastors, Caring People: Equipping Your Church for Pastoral Care](#). This second volume in Judson Press's new "[Living Church](#)" series invites pastors to equip and empower church members to participate in caring for one another, working as partners in this essentially human ministry. And ultimately, McMickle throws open the doors of the church and challenges pastors, lay leaders, and church members alike to extend their ministries of pastoral care to the local community.

This richly reflective and utterly practical resource retails for \$15.99 and can be ordered by calling 800-458-3766 or visiting www.judsonpress.com. Save 20% when you order online!

Free Study Guide to Enhance Your ABC Reads Experience

The 2011-2012 ABC Reads selection is Elizabeth Conde-Frazier's bilingual resource [Listen to the Children: Conversations with Immigrant Families](#). A study guide is now available to facilitate related discussions with your book club, small group, and Sunday school classes. Learn more at www.judsonpress.com/abcreads.cfm and www.facebook.com/abcreads, and join fellow American Baptists in studying the critical and timely issue of immigration.

~'DISCIPLESHIP PLANNING GUIDE' TO ARRIVE IN OCTOBER

The 2012 edition of the annual "Discipleship Planning Guide" will arrive in mid-October so that churches can make the most of the multi-faceted resource. The guide launches American Baptist Home Mission Societies' year-long "discipleship immersion" emphasis by including the following:

- **A "What is Discipleship?"** one-page, easily reproducible essay that is an ideal discussion-starter for educational events as well as a focus document for committee meetings, planning groups or annual meetings.
- **An Advent Meditation Supplement** that includes instructions for creating a low-cost labyrinth; English, Spanish and French devotions for walking the labyrinth; and a finger labyrinth that can be photocopied for those with mobility limitations.
- **A monthly planning calendar**, which has been redesigned for easy planning and includes a discipleship immersion section that highlights discipleship formation resources, events and ministries.
- **Materials for Christian Education Sunday**, including a reproducible litany and bulletin cover (in English, Spanish and French) based on the theme "Discipleship: A Way . . . of Being."
- **A quick reference guide** of key resources and ministries.

For more information, contact the Rev. Cassandra Carkuff Williams, Ed.D., national coordinator, Discipleship Resource Development, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, at cassandra.williams@abhms.org or 800-222-3872, x2459.

~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.