



Ministers Council Newsletter

Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson, Executive Director

May 2013



From the Desk of the Executive Director

Leaders who thrive, not Just Survive.

This is the title a keynote presentation I will deliver at the Pacific Coast Baptist Association Leadership Retreat "The Promises and Perils of Leadership: Strengthening and Sustaining Those Who Lead," on May 11th. I thought that I would share a few excerpts from my speech.

What does it mean to thrive in leadership? Edwin Friedman, in his book *Failure of Nerve*, suggested that the key to thriving in leadership is predicated on shifting our orientation to the way we think about leadership. We must move from an orientation that focuses on techniques that motivate others to one that focuses on the leader's own presence and being. To thrive in leadership means that you as the leader must focus on your personal well-being, self differentiation, physical health and relationships, and your spiritual health and connection to God.

A self-differentiated leader is someone who has clarity about his or her own life goals; they are certain and sure about themselves, and because of that, they are less likely to become lost in the anxious emotional processes of others. Self differentiation requires that we take the time and make the time to create space for ourselves. We need to spend much more time "being" rather than "doing." We need space and that time in which to reflect and consider our choices. That space in that time helps us be objective in a situation rather than subjected to it.

Leaders who thrive pay attention to their physical health and relationships. It is a difficult challenge for us to pay attention to our physical health. There is always so much to do, so many demands on our time, and so many competing priorities. With all that we do, it is hard just to get away for a walk, or a work out, or even a break at times. We can all tell stories of how we remained sedentary for hours, never taking a break, not eating or eating junk food. What we have to more readily recognize, however, is that these are unhealthy practices and unhealthy models for ministry. What's more, they are detriment to ministry and a detriment to us in ministry.

I had a conversation with the Executive Director of MMBB recently. He talked about the significant and costly issue of clergy health. Do you know that clergy are some of the most expensive people to insure

when it comes to health and life insurance policies? We suffer so many preventable conditions that we are literally an insurance risk. Pastors notoriously suffer from stress and post traumatic stress disorder conditions, hypertension, high blood pressure, and obesity. Pastors are notorious for destructive habits such as addictions to drugs, alcohol, and pornography. And we are addicted and we succumb because these are escape mechanisms. But we can't let ministry kill us and we can't let ministry force us into self-destructing habits.

Leaders who thrive pay attention to their physical health. We need to be engaged in at least 30 minutes of physical exercise per day. It doesn't take much: go for walk, take a bike ride, do some fitness exercises on your kids Wii. Better yet, exercise with your spouse or friend or other ministers. There's no reason to go it alone and there's no reason to be completely sedentary.

Leaders who thrive pay attention to what they eat. Have a supply of healthy snacks for your car, or your briefcase, or your office. Eat granola bars, or nuts, or dried fruit. These are handy snacks that will give you energy and tide you over until mealtime. And most importantly drink water. Keep a bottle of water with you at all times and try to stay well hydrated. If nothing else, the water will make you get up and take a break!

Leaders who thrive pay attention to their relationships. Spend time with your family. Do things with your kids. Be fully present with those you love and not just physically there. Such presence requires intentionality. Look for things to do together – go out for dinner and a movie, engaging in family activities, spending time alone with your spouse. This is how we thrive as leaders.

Leaders who thrive pay attention to their spiritual health and connection to God. As the psalmist said, "Oh taste and see the Lord is good." When we give ourselves to be in relationship with God, we are refreshed, we are restored, we are enabled to walk boldly in the face of any danger because God is with us. In fact, God enables us to thrive. And that's the point: we are called to be leaders who thrive and not just survive. We thrive when we focus on ourselves and our own presence and being. We thrive when we take the time and make the time for personal relationships and for our health. We thrive when we are connected to God, when we engage in prayer and study, when we listen and meditate, and when we rely on God to be our source and supply. We thrive when we do these things. It's what I commend to you. In the midst of the perils and promises of leadership, be a leader who thrives.

Upcoming Webinar Presented by the Spiritual and Personal Wholeness Committee

Money and Your Ministry: Balance the Books While Keeping Your Balance



Is your church facing a budget crisis? Is your salary stagnant? Does your church fight about money—or keep secrets about it? This webinar will help you learn a way to understand what's really going on (in us and in others) when money becomes an issue in congregational life, and how to lead around money with lowered anxiety and more clarity. What you will take away with you: a new way to approach the money challenges we all face at church.

To register, click [here](#).

Presenter: Margaret J. Marcuson

Rev. Margaret Marcuson works with churches who want to create a ministry that lasts and clergy who want to have more impact on the people they serve best. An American Baptist minister, she speaks and writes on leadership and works with church leaders as a consultant and coach. She has presented on the topic of money and ministry to groups around the US and in Canada. Margaret is the author of *Leaders who Last: Sustaining Yourself and Your Ministry* and *Money and Your Ministry: Balance the Books While*

Keeping Your Balance (forthcoming). Margaret was the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Gardner, Massachusetts, for 13 years. She is Vice President for Spiritual and Personal Wholeness for the Ministers Council.

Minister's Study Leave Program

Summer 2013 or Summer 2014

[The Marshall Center for Christian Ministry](#) at Georgetown College sponsors a Minister's Study Leave Program, which offers four-week session stays at Regent's Park College, Oxford. Regent's is the only historically Baptist college at Oxford and offers outstanding professors and Baptist archives. Participants are given ample time for study, reflection and growth. Spots are available for both summer 2013 and 2014. For more information and to submit an application, click [here](#).



Registration is now open! Sponsored by American Baptist International Ministries, this 3-day event is designed for singles, families and couples who are considering a call to serve as global missionaries. It will be August 9 -12, 2013 at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

To learn about costs for registration, housing and meals, go to: <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/47796-summer-2013-conference-for-those-considering-a-call-to-global-mission-service>

Limited scholarship help is available from International Ministries. Write to recruitment@internationalministries.org or call 800 222-3872 ext. 2245.



Women in Ministry Advisory Team Launches “Celebrating the Gifts of Women in Ministry”

The Women in Ministry Advisory Team is excited to introduce “Celebrating the Gifts of Women in Ministry,” a letter of support created by the Advisory Team to gather signatures of American Baptists who affirm women as ministerial leaders for our churches. The initiative seeks to highlight the support that

already exists for women as leaders in our churches—but may not be widely known—in order to encourage others to join in this momentous movement.

The team extends an invitation to join in a public affirmation of the gifts that women bring to ministry and for the vision of the full partnership of men and women in professional church leadership.

Those interested can sign the letter by visiting the following link at http://www.abc-usa.org/what_we_believe/abc-organizations/abwim/openletter/

The Reverend Charles C. Adams, of the Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit, a member of the ABWIM Advisory Team, originally suggested the letter of support. Rev. Adams envisioned getting the signatures of recognized leaders in order to encourage others to sign. He states: “This letter reaffirms our commitment to promote and encourage equality of opportunity in our churches. History has taught us that these movements must be deliberate and determined, thoughtful yet with a profound sense of urgency.” The “Celebrating the Gifts of Women in Ministry” letter will publicize the names of those who support women’s leadership, with the hope that those who may be unsure will be encouraged to think about, discuss and explore supporting women’s gifts for ministry. Click here to view resources available to provide biblical support for the inclusion of women in all levels of ministry: http://www.abc-usa.org/what_we_believe/abc-organizations/abwim/

Patricia Hernandez, the National Director of WIM, conveys the Advisory Team’s excitement over this effort: “We hope to ignite a movement which will bring us closer to a world in which both women and men are able to fully utilize their God-given gifts and fully live out their God-given calls. Our ultimate goal is the full partnership of women and men in ministry in which all God’s gifts and all God’s calls can be fully lived out for the good of all and the glory of God!”

The Advisory Team believes that publicly acknowledging the support for women’s ministerial gifts is important because women in ministry face many formidable “glass ceiling” barriers. Signees of the letter become advocates in celebrating and supporting women’s gifts for ministry. The Advisory Team plans to use this letter to encourage others to support women as equal partners with men in ministering to all God’s people.

The Women in Ministry Advisory Team members include:

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|--|------------------------|
| Rev. Patricia Hernandez, National Director ABWIM | Rev. Dr. Mary Hulst |
| Rev. Holly V. Bean, Advisory Team Convener | Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley |
| Rev. Charles C. Adams | Rev. Lauren Ng |
| Rev. Dr. Judy G. Allbee | Rev. Jackie Saxon |
| Rev. Steve Bills | Rev. Karen Yee |
| Rev. Dr. Alice B. Greene | Rev. Dr. Mary H. Young |

Great Opportunities for Women and Girls to Grow in Christ – Please share this info with your congregation!

Women’s Day, “A Time to Serve,” is Friday, June 21st, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Overland Park Convention Center in Overland Park, Kansas. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.; program begins at 9:00 a.m. The Bible study leader is Rev. Karen Selig, the music leader is Holly Balch, and missionary Marcia Binkley and Htoo May, president of the Karen Baptist Women’s Association in the U.S., will help us celebrate the 200th anniversary of Anne and Adoniram Judson’s mission in Burma. A Karen Choir from Grace Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, will enhance our celebrations with music. The AB GIRLS of Central Region will bring leadership during part of our afternoon session, filling us with energy! Come for Women’s Day and stay for the Mission Summit, the Biennial Gathering of American Baptists. Ticket

price for Women's Day: \$50 includes full program and hot, plated luncheon. (Women's Day tickets are available through AB Women's Ministries; see registration link below.)

Choose one of three concurrent events for women and girls this summer at the Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort in Phoenix, Arizona. The National Women's Conference and the National Gathering for Girls will occur Saturday, July 27, through Thursday, August 1. The National Young Adult Women's Conference will be Saturday, July 27, through Monday, July 29th. In addition to the individual conference schedules and speakers, there are plenty of intergenerational activities across these three events to give women and girls the opportunity to both connect with their peers as well as learn from one another. Downloadable flyers and bulletin inserts are available on the website for you to use to promote these events in your congregation; you may also call the AB Women's Ministries office to request brochures at (610) 768-2288.

For more information about any of these events sponsored by American Baptist Women's Ministries, and online registration, visit www.abwministries.org, and click on the link in the right-hand menu under "Events."

College of Pastoral Leaders Now accepting applications.

Deadline May 15, 2013 <http://www.austinseminary.edu/page.cfm?p=1559>

Through the College of Pastoral Leaders, Austin Seminary offers pastors resources to enliven, invigorate and sustain the life of ministry. It's not a place where one earns a degree; it is an association of church leaders committed to learning in community, over time, for their own flourishing in ministry and the sake of the Gospel.

Five Foundational Assumptions

1. First and foremost, the quality of pastoral leadership matters for the church. When pastors become more fully alive, congregations and ministries become more fully alive—for the sake of the world and the glory of God.
2. Vital, high quality, compelling church leadership demands commitment to life-long learning and transformation.
3. Adults generally know what they need to learn and how to learn it; they need to be trusted and given both challenge and support.
4. People in ministry are often lonely and isolated. They need communities of peers who know and understand each other's callings.
5. People most often experience transformational learning with other people they trust and across an extended period of time.

col·lege (noun)
- an organized association of persons having certain powers and rights, and performing certain duties or engaged in a particular pursuit
- a company; assemblage
- Also called collegium, a body of clergy living together for religious service or similar activity.

The College is built on these assumptions.

The College challenges pastors to create a learning community of four to six ministers who will design and pursue their own learning agenda over a two-year period. Each learning community is accountable for setting and reporting on their own benchmarks.

The College supports pastors by providing funding for pursuit of their learning community's agenda. Each learning community is accountable for reporting on funds expended.

The College meets together once as a whole community during the grant period for spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical learning and support.

We believe it works.

Since 2003, nearly 40 learning communities have participated in the College. We have seen amazing variety and creativity, but regardless of whether they hike mountains, study the Belhar Confession or carve wooden fonts, they share certain core experiences of tremendous value:

- spiritual refreshment in being surrounded by people who learn with them in a safe place where everyone is heard without fear of rejection;
- intellectual empowerment through the design of their own learning goals and the garnering of fresh ideas;
- new vocational energy for commitments to ministry; and
- physical renewal through breaks from day-to-day routines, including family care-giving, immersion in meaningful activities with people and simple fun.

More than 80% of College members agreed that their peer groups allowed for frank disagreement, made them better listeners, were fun, gave them new energy for ministry, and stretched them in many ways.



Countdown to Mission Summit! Visit the Bookstore For Specials, Mission Opportunities & Events!

Special offers include:

- For 200 hrs (through July 1, 2013), save an additional 10% on online purchases www.judsonpress.com. Get the online promo code when you make any purchase in the bookstore.
- All Judson titles discounted 20% plus an extra 15% when you sign up for Judson's e-newsletter

Mission Opportunities:

- Become a Friend of Judson! We're raising \$185,000 to provide each graduating American Baptist seminarian with a personal set of seven Baptist resources. Make a donation of \$18.13 (in honor of the Judson's mission in 1813) during the Mission Summit and receive a FREE copy of The Unofficial Baptist Handbook by Lora Ellen McKinney.
- Send a Blessing! Share your spare change at the Mission Summit bookstore and help Judson Press ship devotional magazines, Christian books and Bibles free of charge to those in need.

Events include:

- The Premier of "JP Talks"! Join us in a "coffeehouse" setting for presentations by authors of Judson's "Living Church" book series. Featured authors include: Douglas Avilesbernal, Susan Gillies, Glynis LaBarre, Trinette McCray, Marvin McMickle, and Lee Spitzer
- All-Author Book Signing! Judson authors attending Mission Summit will be available to sign your favorite books! Watch your inbox for more details... a complete list will be shared so that you can meet, greet and support them.



ABHMS Announces Activities for ABCUSA 2013 Biennial/Mission Summit

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) announces its activities slated for before, during and after the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) Mission Summit/Biennial, June 21-23, 2013, in Overland Park/Kansas City, Kan.

Visit ABHMS and Judson Press bookstore in their first shared exhibit

ABHMS and Judson Press will share exhibit space, so visitors can conveniently learn about home mission and shop for Judson Press-published books at the same time. In addition, American Baptist

Personnel Services Profiles can be updated, and visitors can receive personal placement consultations. A daily afternoon “coffeehouse” will feature refreshments and music, followed by a Kindle giveaway at 4:30 p.m. Visitors will have a mission opportunity to write letters and cards of encouragement to military service personnel overseas and those across the country who are incarcerated or recuperating in hospitals and nursing homes. “JP Talks”—modeled after TED Talks—by authors of Judson Press’ “Living Church” book series will be presented live at 2:30 and 4 p.m. daily. A Judson Press multiple-author book signing will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 22.

Learn about the heritage of justice ministries at ABHMS Breakfast

From 7:30 to 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 22, ABHMS’ breakfast will feature “A Church Stands With Its People,” a video about American Baptist ministry to Japanese Americans unjustly imprisoned in U.S. internment camps during World War II, along with an interview with Yosh Nakagawa, a past vice president of American Baptist Churches USA and lifelong member of Seattle’s Japanese Baptist Church. In observation of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, a letter from Abraham Lincoln to ABHMS will be read dramatically by the Rev. Al Staggs.

Learn about present-day justice ministries at ABHMS Luncheon

Dr. Yam Kho Pau, general secretary of the Myanmar Baptist Convention, and several other Burma convention general secretaries are expected at ABHMS’ Luncheon from noon to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 23, for the commissioning of the Rev. Saw Ler Htoo and Pastor Ronald Charles Nunuk as home missionaries to serve immigrants from Burma. A newly produced documentary about the Burma diaspora community in the United States today will be featured along with a discussion about the Judson legacy to Burma and ABHMS’ ongoing ministry with the diaspora community.

Participate in mission through volunteer opportunities

ABHMS has planned opportunities for mission before and after the Biennial/Mission Summit with The Community Food Network, Bethel Neighborhood Center and more.

Young adults encouraged to attend activities tailored to them

ABHMS has designed a series of opportunities for youth to reconnect, renew and re-envision ministry and mission in the 21st century by engaging in worship, study and conversation with each other and American Baptist young adult leaders Thursday and Friday, June 20 and 21.

Chaplains and pastoral counselors invited to specially planned Pre-Mission Summit events

ABCUSA chaplains and pastoral counselors will travel to Topeka Women’s Correctional Facility, where they will partner with inmates and the facility’s No Strings Attached outreach ministry to create tie-quilts that will be donated to a local women’s shelter. A training event—“Moral Injury and Pastoral Care to Individuals in Crisis”—will be presented by the Rev. John P. Oliver, D.Min., chief of Chaplain Service and supervisor of Clinical Pastoral Education at Durham (N.C.) Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Merit Awards Banquet will be held from 5 to 6:45 p.m. on Friday, June 21; in addition to chaplains and pastoral counselors, all others are welcome to purchase tickets to attend.

For more information, visit www.abhms.org and click “ABHMS at Mission Summit.”

99th Annual Hampton University Ministers’ Conference

The 99th annual Hampton University Ministers’ Conference is upon us, scheduled for June 2-7, 2013. This is the longest running and one of the most important gatherings of its kind for African American clergy. This year will mark the 8th annual reception for ABC participants, scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, at 9:30 PM in Conference Room A at the Embassy Suites at Hampton Roads Conference Center. The reception is sponsored by the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, American Baptist International Ministries and ABCUSA, and will provide an opportunity for networking, fellowship and conversation around American Baptist life.

<http://www.abc-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Hampton-University-Ministers-Conference-Reception-2013-HANDOUT1.pdf>



Director of Development Announced

American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) announces the appointment of Kenneth C. Marsenburg, Jr., as Director of Development. Marsenburg will begin his work in this position on June 1, 2013.

<http://www.abc-usa.org/2013/05/09/abcusa-names-kenneth-c-marsenburg-as-director-of-development/>

Mission Summit/Biennial News

The Mission Summit/Biennial meeting in Overland Park (Kansas City), KS on June 21-23, 2013 will have a number of new and exciting elements, as well as the powerful times of worship and fellowship we have all come to expect when we gather together. We will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on Friday evening as we are "Transformed for Justice." On Saturday, we will remember the 200th anniversary of the Judsons' arrival in Burma, with guests from Burma, as we are "Transformed for Mission." Sunday will include a celebration of the 375th anniversary of the founding of the first Baptist church in the new world, First Baptist Church in America, Providence, RI. We will also gather in Mission Summit conversations around topics of interest, where each individual will self-select a topic in which to participate. These structured conversations will explore challenges and share ideas and inspiration from churches around the denomination. The Exhibit Hall will be packed with information; be sure to visit the ABCUSA booth #302.



Online registration is available through May 31 at <http://www.americanbaptists2013.com/>.

Other Events

- Presidents' Conference Call
 - To be announced
- 5/6 – AB NYS, MC Retreat
- 5/11 – PCBA Retreat
- 5/14-15 – ABCORI, MC Retreat
- 5/17-18 – FBC Greater Cleveland Retreat
- 5/19 – Preaching, FBC Greater Cleveland
- 5/21 – Lilly Endowment Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Meeting
- 5/31-6/1 – ABC NH/VT, MC Retreat
- 6/12-14 – Lilly Endowment Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Training
- 6/19-23 – ABCUSA Mission Summit Biennial

Remember Us!

When planning your estate, please remember The Ministers Council.

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.