



Ministers Council Newsletter

Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson, Executive Director

April 2014

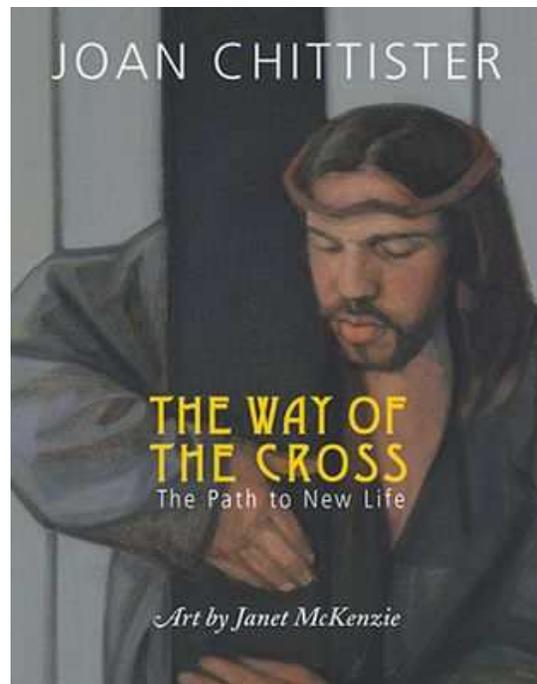
From the Desk of the Executive Director

Last month I asked you, “What are you doing for Lent?” I also shared that I usually try to take on a new practice for Lent as a way to make my spiritual journey through the Lenten season more meaningful. Well, I had the opportunity to take part in a practice that was new to me and that was the journey through the Stations of the Cross.

Clearly as a Baptist from Northern Indiana, I had no experience or knowledge of the Stations of the Cross and even in adult life, now being aware of this spiritual pilgrimage and practice, I could not say that I had partaken of it. So when I was invited to co-lead a Refreshment Day at the Bethany House of Prayer featuring the Stations of the Cross with artist Janet McKenzie, I was thrilled. It gave me the opportunity to experience something new for Lent. But it became much more significant.

Janet McKenzie is an amazing artist who resides in Northern Vermont. You may be aware of her from her painting *Jesus of the People*, a rendering of Jesus as a person of color, chosen by the *National Catholic Reporter* as the new image for the third millennium. She has beautifully recreated the Stations of the Cross through her paintings. That art is featured in a book called *The Way of the Cross*. Joan Chittister provides the reflections in the book that accompany Janet’s art.

It was my privilege to be the voice for each station as more than 50 “pilgrims” came together on this journey. The art was breathtaking and it was a powerful opportunity to simply become immersed in the narrative as Jesus made his way from conviction to the resurrection. I cried in anguish as Mary seeing her son laboring under the cross and making his way through the streets. I expressed indignation as Simon of Cyrene, forced to carry the cross of Jesus. I was emboldened by Veronica as she pushed her way through the crowd to wipe the face of Jesus with her veil. I found myself physically and emotionally straining even as I provided the account of Jesus falling down in the street. And my “Bapti-costal” upbringing started to show as I preached the significance of the resurrection. It was a gift to be apart of that great day and gathering.



But there were two aspects that made the day a gift for me. First was the opportunity to do something different as a way of deepening my faith. In preparing to share my reflections, I spent a great deal of time sitting with the Stations of the Cross. Jesus was so present and central to each station that it was breathtaking to consider each from his perspective. I also learned in the process. For example, I did not know the story of Veronica wiping the face of Jesus. But more than that, I did not know how prominently women played in the Stations of the Cross. It seemed that in every step that required courage, the example of that courage was a woman. It was Mary who went into the streets to be with her son even as he was bearing this tremendous burden. It was Veronica who undauntedly marched into the streets to minister to Jesus by wiping his face. It was a group of women in Jerusalem who did not flee, but remained loyal and supportive of Jesus until the end. Thus having the time to reflect on each station was a real blessing.

The second gift was revealed as we had time over lunch to share. I learned that several of the participants were clergy. That made me to feel so good. Yes, my call is to serve clergy. But I was thrilled by the fact that so many took the time to actually be refreshed. Sadly, as a pastor, I would not have considered such a refreshment day. Instead, I would have convinced myself that I did not have the time; that the season was too busy; or that I would consider something like that at another time. These pastors ignored those voices that said no and chose the better part by saying yes to a refreshment day.

How many of us would say yes? It is not easy to step away from our leadership context. We can always find something else to do that in the moment seems so much more important than our own self-care. But we need to be refreshed. We need the refreshment that comes from a new practice or a new learning that provides expanded perspective. We need the refreshment that comes from stepping away from the work to engage with others. We need the refreshment that comes from gathering with colleagues so that we can learn together. I did something different and I was refreshed. I pray that each of you will take the time to be refreshed as we move through our Lenten journey.



Join us for prayer every Wednesday in Lent

Through April 9, we'll be praying together for 20 minutes via phone each week at Wednesdays at **10 am Pacific/11 Mountain/noon Central/1 Eastern**. Call toll-free: 866-906-0123; Passcode: 2925027- Sponsored by the Spiritual and Personal Wholeness Committee. Questions? E-mail Margaret Marcuson, Margaret@margaretmarcuson.com.

The Women in Ministry Action Learning Team Prepares to Launch National Experiments

God has provided the Church with marvelous gifts and talents to be used for the up building of God's Kingdom here on earth. However, due to barriers spoken and unspoken, the Church is missing out on many opportunities to be blessed – particularly when it comes to pastoral leadership!

The Women in Ministry Action Learning Team (WIM ALT), a Ministers Council, ABCUSA / "Transformed by the Spirit" initiative is exploring adaptive challenges that may prevent churches from calling the most qualified candidates, regardless of gender (male or female) to serve as senior/solo pastors in American Baptist Churches.

The WIM ALT has identified several "experiments" to be conducted nationally with the assistance of the National Ministers Council and the American Baptist Women in Ministry offices. Below is a brief description of each initiative:

- Launch a "Mentor/Mentee" Initiative: Invite "seasoned" ABC female pastors from across the Nation to serve as mentors to women entering the ministry, desiring mentorship in general and guidance regarding the ordination process in particular. Create a database of mentors and mentees, identifying "point persons" in each ABC region to assist with coordinating connections.

- Create opportunities for ABW and ABWIM (lay and clergy women) to have small group discussions as well as other opportunities to dialogue. Facilitate experiences that help both groups to freely consider and explore the tensions that exist between clergy and lay women, and how those issues may play a role in the "call" process for women to serve as senior/solo pastors. Together, discuss strategies that might help churches understand the many gifts, talents and blessings they are missing when they are not open to calling the most qualified individuals, irrespective of gender (male or female).
- Conduct a national survey to identify ABC senior/solo pastors retiring within the next 3-5 years. Identify pastors who would be willing to adopt some specific strategies and use specific resources (recommendations provided by WIM ALT as well as ABWIM and the Ministers Council) to intentionally prepare congregations to be open and willing to call the most qualified person irrespective of gender (male or female)

More information coming soon! Watch for invitations to participate!

The following individuals currently serve on the Women in Ministry Action Learning Team: Rev. Susan Crane, Rev. Dr. Paulette Birchett, Rev. Dr. Steve Bils, Rev. Dr. Jim Kent, Rev. April Van Ness, Rev. Allison Tanner. Facilitator: Rev. Christine A. Smith, Coach, Rosey Oaks-Lee.

The following resource list may be used to assist congregations and ministerial leaders in helping churches to cultivate acceptance of both men and women in pastoral leadership roles.

- *They Called her Pastor* – Ruth Wallace (This book tells stories of female priests in the Catholic church, explaining how women came into their positions and the particular struggles they face.)
- "Gender and the Political Choices of Women Clergy" – Chapter 4 of *Christian Clergy in American Politics* edited by Laura R. Olson and Sue E. S. Crawford. (An article highlighting some of the differences women face as they address different political/social/moral issues. It also provides some current stats on the percentage of women in various denominations.)
- Lynch, James R. "Baptist Women in Ministry Through 1920." *American Baptist Quarterly* 13. 1994: 304-318; Lynch, James R. "A Preliminary Check List of Baptist Women in Ministry." *American Baptist Quarterly* 13. 1994: 319-371. (These are reminders of our journey and ongoing struggle to support women in ministry in ABC life.)
- *Beyond the Stained Glass Ceiling: Equipping and Encouraging Female Pastors*, by Christine A. Smith, Judson Press, 2013
- *Review and Expositor*, Vol. 110 No.1, "Current Status of Baptist Women in Ministry"
- *Streams Run Uphill: Conversations with Young Clergywomen of Color* by Mihee Kim-Kort, Judson Press, (2014)
- "Bitter to Better: Engaging American Baptist African-American Women Clergy to Mentor African-American Women on the Path to Ordination" a Drew thesis project by Dr. A. Paulette Birchett
- *A Biblical Basis for Equal Partnership: Women and Men in the Ministry of the Church* by David M. Scholer link: <http://www.abc-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/biblicalbasis.pdf> or it may be ordered through ABWIM: 800 222-3872 ext: 2070
- *A Church of Her Own: What Happens When a Woman Takes the Pulpit* by Sarah Sentilles, published by Harcourt Books, 2008.
- "Bible Study on Women in Ministry," by Susan E. Crane, ABCOM Advocate for Women in Ministry. Originally published in the American Baptist Women in Ministry Sunday Celebration, March 19th, 2006, *Mentoring Women in Ministry: "Follow Me, As I Follow Christ!"*

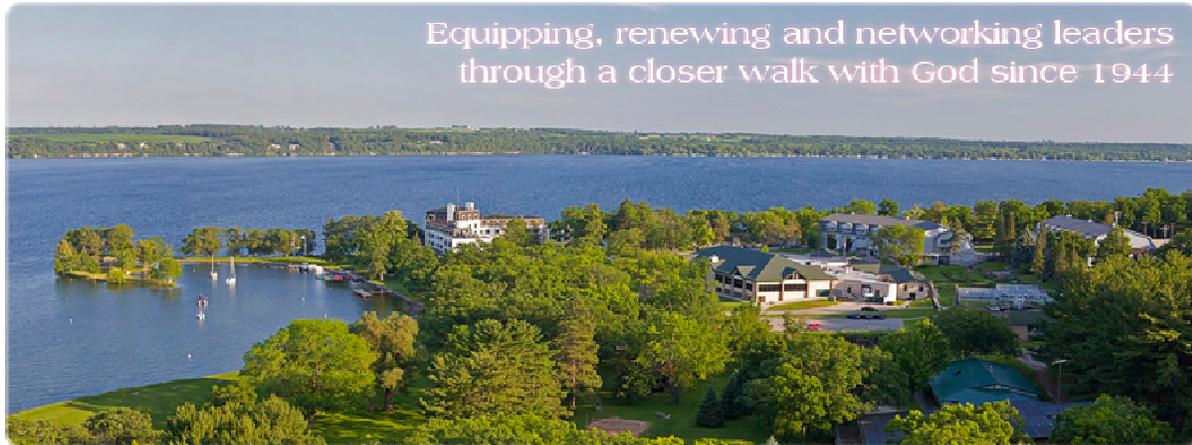
Dear Pastor,

God has provided the Church with marvelous gifts and talents to be used for the up building of God's Kingdom here on earth. However, due to barriers spoken and unspoken, the Church is missing out on many opportunities to be blessed – particularly when it comes to pastoral leadership!

The Women in Ministry Action Learning Team (WIM ALT), a Ministers Council, ABCUSA / “Transformed by the Spirit” initiative is exploring adaptive challenges that may prevent churches from calling the most qualified candidates, regardless of gender (male or female) to serve as senior/solo pastors in American Baptist Churches. Statistics reveal that churches with pastors who acquaint their congregations to female clergy in positive and specific ways are more open to receive God's best for them, whether male or female upon the supporting pastor's retirement. If you are an American Baptist Senior/Solo pastor who may retire in the next 3-5 years, we ask that you complete the following survey, designed to help us identify pastors that are willing to use specific strategies to break down barriers that may hinder a congregation from considering and calling the best possible candidate irrespective of gender. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

WIM ALT Retiring Pastors Survey link...

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



Register Now for the Ministers Council Senate / Annual Meeting – August 11-14, 2014 at Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI

This year's Ministers Council Senate is an open meeting and you are invited. This is a gathering of ministerial leaders to come and enjoy the Green Lake / Senate experience. We want you to learn about the work of the Ministers Council, come and enjoy the fellowship, spiritual renewal, and opportunity for learning in the company of colleagues.

The schedule has been set and we are excited to announce that Rev. Dr. Molly Marshall, President of and Professor of Theology and Spiritual Formation at Central Baptist Theological Seminary will be our featured speaker for our meeting. Senators should plan to arrive to Green Lake on Monday,

August 11 for Senate Meetings. Visitors are welcome to come and be a part of the entire experience. However, we will officially welcome everyone with a banquet on Tuesday at which Dr. Marshall will preach. On Wednesday, during our plenary session, Dr. Marshall will share her story about Central Baptist Theological Seminary and its miraculous turnaround, and offer her deep learning of spiritual practice and formation. Wednesday afternoon will feature a Conversation Café, where participants will have the opportunity to share and dialog about how Dr. Marshall's experiences might be applied in their leadership. Following the conversation café, a series of workshops with a focus on clergy health and wellness will be offered. Workshop presenters are Rev. Margaret Marcuson on Leadership, Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins on Spiritual Direction, Rev. Denise Henderson on Clergy Health, Rev. Dr. Perry Hopper on Planning for Retirement and Rev. Perkin Simpson on Financial Wellness. Late Wednesday afternoon we will enjoy a period of Sabbath rest and recreation. Thursday marks the end of our Senate / Annual Meeting with a closing business meeting and communion.

Sunday – 8/10	Monday – 8/11	Tuesday – 8/12	Wednesday – 8/13	Thursday – 8/14
7:00 – Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 – Breakfast 9:00 - Executive Committee Meeting 3:00 - Senate Committee Meetings 5:00 – New Senator Orientation 5:00 - Dinner 7:00 – Business Meeting	7:00 – Breakfast 9:00 – Business meeting 12:00 – Lunch 1:00 – Local Council Sharing 7:00 – Opening Banquet	7:00 – Breakfast 8:45 – Opening Plenary Featuring Rev. Dr. Molly Marshall 12:00 – Lunch 1:00 – Conversation Café 2:00 – Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self Care • Spiritual Direction • Leadership Wellness • Financial Wellness • Retirement Planning 3:00 – Sabbath Time 8:00 – Compline Service	7:00 – Breakfast 9:00 – Closing Meeting / Gathering and Communion 11:30 - Dismissal

Don't miss this opportunity to register and attend the Ministers Council Senate / Annual Meeting. Go to <http://www.abc-usa.org/coordinatedcalendar/event-registration/>.

Online Registration Instructions:

To register for the **Ministers Council Senate/Annual Meeting 2014**, please use the following link: <http://www.abc-usa.org/coordinatedcalendar/event-registration/>. Click “Register Now” located next to the **Ministers Council Senate/Annual Meeting**. Once the new page loads, please click “Register Now” located next to **Min Council Senate/Annual Mtg**. If you have previously created an account on the ABCUSA website, please input your username and password and log into your account. If you forget your password, **DO NOT** create a new account, please contact Stephanie Heflin and she will reset your password. If you have not previously made an account on the ABCUSA website, please create an account by clicking on “Do not have a login? Click here to create an account”. Once you have logged into your account, select the appropriate registration type and adjust arrival and departure dates, if needed, and proceed through registration as prompted (take note to the instructions at the top of each screen). If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact Stephanie Heflin at Stephanie.Heflin@abc-usa.org

The Christian Community Credit Union Offers a Special, Limited Time Offer to Ministers Council Members

From April 1 to June 30, 2014, the Christian Community Credit Union will give a **\$50 Visa Gift Card to those who get an IM credit card using promo code 9001**. This is a wonderful opportunity. When you apply and are accepted, International Ministries gets \$50; the Ministers Council gets \$50; and you get a \$50 Visa Gift Card. Apply today. Go to <http://myCCCU.com/tmc> or call (800) 347-2228 ext. 4125. Remember to use Promotional Code 9001.

The Card that Gives to Global Mission

The Ministers Council partners with Christian Community Credit Union to offer you the International Ministries (IM) Platinum Rewards Visa—a unique credit card that gives to global mission while you save money and earn significant rewards.



- **No Annual Fee**
- **0% APR** introductory rate on purchases for 12 months.¹
- **0% APR** for 12 months on balance transfers.²
- **Earn rewards**—use points for travel, merchandise, gift cards, and more! Double points for donation to The Ministers Council, IM, and many churches.

When you are approved...

- The Ministers Council gets \$50
- IM gets \$50
- YOU get \$50*

Scan QR code to learn more!



The Ministers Council encourages wise stewardship and does not promote indebtedness.



Christian Community CREDIT UNION

Apply for the IM Card today!

myCCCU.com/tmc
 800.347.CCCU (2228), ext.4125
 Use Promo Code 9001



The Ministers Council

*APR= Annual Percentage Rate. Rates effective 04/01/14 and subject to change.
 (1) 0% introductory APR on purchases for 12 months, thereafter variable APR of 10.90% to 15.90% based on your creditworthiness.
 (2) 0% introductory APR for 12 months when balances are transferred during the first 60 days of account open date, thereafter variable APR of 10.90% to 15.90% based on your creditworthiness.
 Balance Transfer Fee is 2% of the amount transferred with a \$5.00 minimum. New Credit Card Member only accounts have a one time \$5.00 membership fee added to your credit card. Visit mycccu.com/cards for credit card application and terms. *Effective 04/01/14 and is subject to change without notice. Please allow up to four weeks to receive the \$50 Visa Gift Card upon card approval. Promotion ends 06/30/14 and International Ministries credit card application must be postmarked by 06/30/14.
 Christian Community Credit Union is privately insured by American Share Insurance up to \$250,000 per account. By members' choice the Credit Union is not federally insured or insured by any state government.



Together in Ministry – Current Status

Have you noticed of late? Each month, our totals are moving upward. Clergy and lay are contributing to the Together in Ministry Capital Campaign. Do you know why? Because it is an opportunity to ensure and sustain pastoral excellence for the future. We want to strengthen clergy by creating and encouraging the opportunity for clergy peer group learning. Coming together as colleagues who share and learn together makes each of us better in ministry. You see as we are strengthened in our ministry, we are better leaders and more faithful servants to God's call on our lives.

To date, our cash gifts and pledges total \$ 281,773.05. Our in-kind contributions total \$70,519.20. Our overall total is \$352,292.05. We are over \$350,000!!! Have you added to that total? Maybe you gave early in the campaign, but could you consider an additional gift to help us meet our goals? Maybe you have not had a chance to give because you wanted to see how others would respond. Hundreds have contributed. Now its time for you to add your name to the ledger.

Don't delay, contribute today. Make your tax-deductible donations securely and electronically by going to <http://ministerscouncil.com/together-in-ministry-capital-campaign/> and click on the Donate button. Keep the numbers rising and together let us make a difference for the future.

“Break Every Yoke: Homelessness” A Virtual Mission Encounter for Women from AB Women’s Ministries

2014 Virtual Mission Encounters

**A unique mission experience
for women**



“Break Every Yoke,” May 5-9, 2014, is a virtual mission encounter for women that offers the opportunity for participants to explore homelessness from a faith perspective. What are the causal factors? What are the risks? How can we support those who are homeless? How can our congregations, or we as individuals, engage in ministries of prevention, support, and advocacy? Each day's focus will be explored as it has impact upon youth, adults and families, and seniors, with suggestions for advocacy around a range of issues throughout the week.

Virtual mission encounters are a way for women to explore mission topics more deeply while still being able to attend to their responsibilities at work, home, church, or in their communities. Suggested activities to explore each day's focus are emailed to participants: each participant determines how many activities she may have time to do within her daily schedule. Activities may include such things as reading the newspaper, exploring websites, reading and responding to blog posts, taking prayer walks, researching a topic of interest further, listening to audio files or watching videos, and so forth. Every evening includes a conference call featuring a special guest with particular expertise or stories to share on the daily theme; participants may attend as many or as few conference calls as their schedule and interest allow.

Special guests for “Break Every Yoke,” include Rev. Francesca Crane, executive director of Bridge of Hope Lancaster and Chester Counties (PA); American Baptist missionary in Brazil Corenne Garrison Smith; American Baptist woman Luz Jurado, who serves with homeless youth in Los Angeles, CA; and Rev. Judy Fackenthal, pastor of the Garfield Park Baptist Church in Indianapolis, IN, and vice president of ABCUSA, whose congregation was led by God to involvement in ministry with homeless and inadequately housed persons.

For more information, speaker bios, and online registration, visit www.abwministries.org/vme. Spread the word in your congregation—this is an excellent mission opportunity for busy women!

Do you have events coming up in your regions? Share the word and expand the benefit of the good work that you are doing. Send email announcements to Debora Jackson at Debora.Jackson@abc-usa.org. We will do our best to include your events in upcoming announcements through the Ministers Council.



(((HEARtheCALL)))

On July 19-21, 2014, International Ministries and the Ministers Council will partner to sponsor **Hear The Call** Retreat. Attendees will participate in and register for only ONE of three tracks: Track 1 for those exploring a call to cross-cultural global mission service; Track 2 for those feeling a call to pastoral ministry in the US & Puerto Rico; and Track 3 for people wanting to be more involved in local mission in their church, community, state or region. Our weekend will also include worship, inspirational messages, Bible Study, workshops and personal reflection time. It will be a powerful discernment experience. Invite those who you know who are sensing God's call on their lives to register now at <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/50426-2014-program-fees>. More information can be found at <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/49675-2014-world-mission-conference>.

Congratulations!



On March 30, 2014, Kyle Larginha successfully passed his ordination council. Also on March 30, 2014, Joseph Elie Lapaix celebrated 50 years of ordained ministry. One is just beginning his ministerial career. The other is nearing the end. But do you know what these two leaders have in common?

They are both member of the Ministers Council!

Congratulations Rev. Kyle Larginha and blessings as you prepare for ordination. Congratulations Rev. Joseph Lapaix on your 50 years of ordained ministry. May you both carry on as God blesses, living faithfully in the call that God has placed on your lives.



You too can be a member of the Ministers Council, enjoying the benefits of collegial relationships, and opportunities for spiritual deepening and ministerial effectiveness.

Join the Ministers Council. Contact your local regional/constituent council or go to <http://ministerscouncil.com/subscriptions/>, and click the map to find your local council.

AHMS Participates in White House Meeting Aimed at Expanding Opportunities for People with Disabilities

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) participated in an [Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition](http://www.aapd.com/what-we-do/interfaith/interfaith-disability-advocacy-coalition.html) (<http://www.aapd.com/what-we-do/interfaith/interfaith-disability-advocacy-coalition.html>) (IDAC) meeting at the White House on March 10.

Representatives of 16 IDAC member organizations as well as staff from the [American Association of People with Disabilities](http://www.aapd.com/) (<http://www.aapd.com/>) (AAPD) met with Melissa Rogers, executive director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives, and Claudia Gordon, liaison to the disability community, White House Office of Public Engagement, for a conversation on faith and disability.

The meeting focused on IDAC's efforts regarding employment of people with disabilities, reducing the stigma associated with mental health conditions, and support within the religious community for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, also known as the disabilities treaty.

"It was a constructive dialogue, introducing the work of IDAC in these and other areas and making connections for future collaboration to expand opportunities for people with disabilities," says Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, whose recent commentary on the disabilities treaty was published by [The Washington Post](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/commentary-us-senate-should-ratify-disabilities-treaty/2014/02/24/0a331b26-9d9f-11e3-878c-65222df220eb_story.html) (http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/commentary-us-senate-should-ratify-disabilities-treaty/2014/02/24/0a331b26-9d9f-11e3-878c-65222df220eb_story.html). Ramsey-Lucas attended the meeting on behalf of ABHMS.

IDAC, a program of AAPD, is a nonpartisan coalition of 33 national religious organizations from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh traditions with a mission to mobilize the religious community to speak out and take action on disability policy issues with Congress, the president and administration, and society at large. The core spiritual values of IDAC members affirm the rights and dignity of people with disabilities.

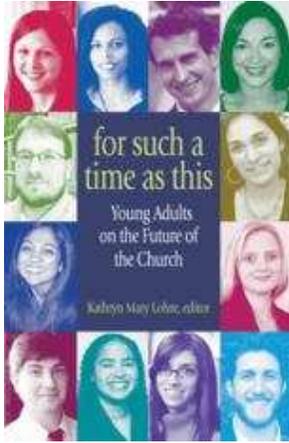
Ramsey-Lucas represents ABHMS on the IDAC Steering Committee and chaired the IDAC committee that wrote "[Grounded in Faith: Resources on Mental Health and Gun Violence](http://www.aapd.com/assets/grounded-in-faith-resources.pdf)," published by AAPD in April 2013. (<http://www.aapd.com/assets/grounded-in-faith-resources.pdf>)

In addition, IDAC has partnered with the [American Psychiatric Association](http://psychnews.psychiatryonline.org/newsarticle.aspx?articleid=1850668) (<http://psychnews.psychiatryonline.org/newsarticle.aspx?articleid=1850668>) and the American Psychiatric Foundation to reduce the stigma associated with mental health conditions, improve services and supports for individuals and families, and encourage communication among psychiatrists and the faith community.

For information about ABHMS' Disabilities Ministries, visit www.abhms.org > Ministries & Programs > Justice Ministries > [Disabilities Ministries](http://www.abhms.org/disability_ministries/index.cfm) (http://www.abhms.org/disability_ministries/index.cfm).

Judson Press New Book By Young Adults Offers Fresh Thinking and Fresh ideas for the Twenty-First Century Church

Churches in the U.S. are grappling with unprecedented change. Financial challenges, globalization, the digital revolution and church-dividing topics are taking a toll on the institution and membership. Americans are increasingly not affiliating themselves with any religion, including one third of adults under 30. In light



of all this, what is the future of the churches? In *For Such a Time as This: Young Adults on the Future of the Church*, Christian young adults, representing a broad spectrum of cultures, races, and Christian traditions, offer an invigorating, new, and timely word on issues such as eco-justice, immigration, interfaith relations, peace and justice, and inclusivity of those on the margins.

Roy Medley, General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA, and President, National Council of Churches (2014–15) had the opportunity to read the book and remarked, “If you are curious about what some of the most articulate young leaders of the church are thinking, *For Such a Time as This* is an excellent introduction. Speaking in their own voices, the authors whom Kathryn Lohre has so ably assembled are clearly Jesus followers who love the church as community but who hold lightly its institutional expressions. As you read their essays you will find distinct melodies and rhythms orchestrated in a theological symphony that reflects the fullness and unity of life in the Spirit to

the glory of God.”

For Such a Time as This retails for \$15.99. Ministers Council Members receive free shipping on Judson Press book purchases greater than \$15.00.

Upcoming Events

- The Ministers Council Spiritual and Personal Wholeness Committee presents the Lenten Series 2014 – an opportunity for prayer and spiritual centering during Lent. The series continues through April 9th at 1:00 PM Eastern Time and will be held every Wednesday at 1:00 PM Eastern Time through Lent. The call in numbers is (866) 906-0123, pass code 2925027.
- National Leadership Committee Meeting – April 7-10, 2014. Green Lake, WI
- American Baptist Churches of the South 44th Annual Session – April 22-25, 2014. Theme: Preparing Church Leaders for God’s Changing World. Scripture: James 2:14-24. Rev. Debora Jackson will be the featured speaker for the Evangelism & Mission Luncheon on Friday, April 25. For more information or to register, go to www.abcots.org.
- Prairie Pastors Conference (formerly known as the Tri-Region Event). Prodigal Christianity: Beyond Worn Paths. The conference will be held at the New Life Baptist Church, Bellevue, NE – April 28-30, 2014. The conference is sponsored by the following Regions and Ministers Councils: ABC of the Central Region, ABC of the Dakotas, ABC of Nebraska, Mid-American Baptist Churches. .6 CEU will be granted for this event. Register online at www.prairiepastors.org
- The Ministers Council Senate / Annual Meeting – This year’s **Ministers Council gathering will be open to all ministerial leaders**. August 11-14, 2014, at Green Lake, WI. Register at <http://www.abc-usa.org/coordinatedcalendar/event-registration/>.

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 2334 (Joyce Moon), 2334 (Rev. Debora Jackson, DMin)
 FAX: 610/768-2066