



"With God, nothing shall be impossible."



What's going on with the Ministers Council?

**WE'RE STILL HERE!
WE'RE DETERMINED...
WE'RE DISCERNING...**

WE'RE DOING...

Although it's been a while since you heard from us via Constant Contact, we're steadily doing the work of tending the Ministers Council family and future. With this newsletter issue, we're resurrecting a monthly correspondence after a season of transition and limitations in volunteer communication resources.

Read below for a greeting from Rev. Jabulani McCalister, LMSW, MDiv on important 2017 visioning updates. Also, Incoming President Dee Dee Turlington updates us on office relocation and Rev. Dr. Randy Harris on membership.

Check out the blessing of new initiatives for collegiality, competence, centeredness.

CONNECT WITH OUR CHAPLAINS & SPECIALIZED MINISTERS



WITH THE LATEST ABHMS NEWSLETTER [HERE](#).

**JOIN OUR CONVERSATION
ON HEALTH CARE
VULNERABILITY FOR
CLERGY... What models for
information sharing and
advocacy can we advance for
health support? For
insurance access? For
alternative products? For
policy advocacy?**



**Learn more about the November 9th Conference Call (2pm
Central Time) with Rev. David Van Brakle [here](#).**

WEBINAR



**Watch for upcoming webinar
sessions:**

**Supporting Bi-vocational Ministers
Spirituality of Self- Care
and More**

**Strengthened in Sanctuary:
Enhancing Leadership through the Family
System with Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson.***

**"Join us as we help clergy realized increased leadership
effectiveness and spiritual well-being through spiritual
practice and family systems theory." Deadline for April
2018 cohort is January 2019. Read more [here](#).**

***Our former Executive Director is providing grant-funded contract
resources for this program.**

MINISTERS COUNCIL

ORGANIZATION UPDATES: Discernment Membership Relocation

UPDATES...CHAPTER REPS & BOARD DISCERN IN 2017

A Recap of Spring & Summer Developments

Your national Board of Governors, committed to finding the sustainable path forward for Ministers Council mission, did visioning work to examine potential models (old and new) in the Fall of 2016 and Winter of 2017. We tested out the recommendation called "Becoming a Foundation" with the local chapter representatives (named Ministries Team in 2015 by-laws changes) in several spring conference calls, garnering feedback and preparing for the vote at the Annual Meeting in June in Portland. Our June survey, completed by nearly 300 constituents, clarified ongoing priorities of constituents as well as feedback on this idea.

Utilizing this data "in a kingdom mindset" at the Annual Meeting, we both affirmed elements of the proposal's rationale AND heard concerns about the language of "foundation" and potential diminishment of national denominational engagement. We therefore did not adopt a restructuring model, but agreed to further deliberations in the Fall 2017. Read a summer synopsis [here](#), and Rev. McCalister's update on moving forward below.

(To conserve resources throughout this period, we operated at reduced staffing for 2017 following Dr. Jackson's departure, grateful for the Interim Team of Rev. Dr. Randall Harris, Office Manager, and Rev. Jabulani McCalister, Operations Manager.)

*For the Good News,
Rev. Jacki Belile
Coordinator of Ministries Team
jacki@livingwellministries.net*

FALL GREETING/UPDATE FROM REV. JABULANI MCCALISTER

Over the last few months since the Mission Summit, the Board of Governors and the Region Representatives (aka Ministries Team) have taken on the task of formulating a new proposal based on the feedback from the annual meeting. They have centered on four main recurrent themes:

- 1) Staffing/Office operations
- 2) National programming (i.e. retreats, resources, etc.)
- 3) National presence/advocacy/communications
- 4) National grants to local groups

Based on our current revenue stream of dues and donations, we have budgeted enough funds to hire a part-time staff person to serve as an administrator of the office. This new person will provide office support and as national presence for advocacy. We have other restricted endowments, charitable gifts, and money raised from the "Giving Tuesday" capital campaign --which we'll do again for Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017 -- and financial partnerships with other ABCUSA ministries for programming and support of local ministries.

Of course, this year, the Board of Governors and Region Representatives will continue to meet monthly, diligently working towards a revised proposal to present for final approval at the next Minister's Council Annual Meeting. In the meantime, we wanted to give you an update so you know we are still looking ahead to a viable future supporting all you do for Jesus Christ.

*Rev Jabulani McCalister, LMSW, MDIV
Interim Operations Manager
The Ministers Council, ABCUSA*

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017 & 2018...

A PERSONAL WORD FROM DR. RANDY HARRIS

Dear wonderful colleagues,

It is so great being a part of the great company of Ministers Council. It is a blessing to all of us to honestly be among this group of professional clergy seeking ministry excellence for the glory of Jesus Christ!

During this year of transition, we been blessed that six hundred of you (so far) have renewed membership or become members of the Ministers Council. This in itself has helped us in our efforts of sustainability to keep programming and support of you across the country.

In our focus on administrative transitions, we have not been as present as we will be in 2018. So, if you've just lost track of renewing for 2017 - or want to renew NOW for 2018 - please do so [here](#).

As I shared on the Ministries Team call last week, it is our expressed desire that currently "inactive" regions will catch the fire and find new ways and supports to keep collegiality for one another going. Watch for a conference call in November to learn more about this.

As we reach forward to 2018, we are trusting that you will join us in continuing support as we find our sustainable path forward. The Savior is moving on our hearts to find the way to lift up our Ministers Council strengths in mission and to adapt where God leads. It is up to all of us to shape and renew the only organization dedicated solely and completely to support ABC ministers.

God bless you and remember... supporting ministers is what we do!

*Peace and Blessings,
Dr. Randy Harris*

*Interim Office Manager****Where Have All the Offices Gone?
Update on Relocation & Needs from Incoming President***

In the first part of 2018, ABCUSA will vacate the "Holy Donut." ABHMS, the Office of the General Secretary and some of the Associated Ministry Organizations will relocate to the new Mission Center location at 1075 First Avenue, King of Prussia, PA. IM will be located in independent offices nearby. Ministers Council is using this time of transition to re-design our own staffing and office set up. Read more [here](#).



Advent is around the corner...watch for a devotional series from fellow Ministers Council members. Contact jacki@livingwellministries.net if you'd like to write a brief devotional or host an Advent prayer call.

STAY CONNECTED:

