



"With God, nothing shall be impossible."



***"Give and you will receive..."  
A Word at the Close of Giving Tuesday  
(November 28, 2017)\****

When I lived in Michigan, the state I am from, I loved to going to a restaurant called, "Mongolian Barbeque." The concept is you create your own recipe, place it in a small bowl, give it to the chef, and watch as he/she cooks your food to order on a large circular grill. For me, the fun part was piling up food in that tiny bowl as high as I could packing it down tight. The cooks would always give me funny looks when they received my bowl, because it was always running over. Yet, the more I gave the more they gave back until I was full. This reminds me of a tiny saying that Jesus inserted in His run of colloquialisms found in the Gospel According to St. Luke 6. In Verse 38, Jesus said,

**"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full--pressed down, shaken together to make room for more,**

**running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back (NLT)."**

**My Pastor put it like this, "You can't beat God giving." I so agree with both statements. Today is giving Tuesday where you will be getting correspondence from all types of organizations requesting support. Yet, when you really think about it which ones will really give back to you? If you give to the Ministers Council today, you know you will receive abundant blessings because we exist to support you and all the ministry you do. Think of it this way, when you give, you support another Pastor(s) who perhaps supported you through their gifts when you needed it most. When the gifts circulate all are blessed.**

**Use this day as a launching pad for on-going giving. What does that mean? Consider becoming a monthly Partner by giving \$20 or more a month beyond your regular dues. Imagine if Pastor or Ministers who benefited from the Minister's Council's support gave today and monthly? We would have enough resources to provide national programs and support local ministry. In addition, we would have enough funds to support staff who are here to meet your needs. Help us help you. Give today. (See address below... our website is temporarily under construction.)**

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**\*DON'T LET THE AVALANCHE OF TODAY'S REQUESTS GET YOU DOWN OR DULL YOUR GIVING SENSES... Focus on what you know Christ's church needs, and your testimony of investment in the body of peers who walk this road with you. We encourage you to claim an entire Week of Thanksgiving for the Ministers Council, pondering and sharing stories which illustrate the gifts God's provided through the vessel of our organization. Use this to discern your year-end gift (and timely dues payment) before December 31<sup>st</sup>.**



***Advent is around the corner... Watch for our weekly Advent Devotionals written by these colleagues:***

***Rev. Dr. Richard Haley (Massachusetts)  
Rev. Dr. Kimani Davis (New Jersey)  
Rev. Dr. Barbara Jim-George (GreaterBay Area)  
Ivan Marable (Rochester-Genesee)***



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

***Watch for more details in follow-up to a first conference call on November 9th with Rev. David Van Brakle. About a dozen colleagues so far have signaled desire to be engaged in this project. Contact David at [davidvanbrakle@gmail.com](mailto:davidvanbrakle@gmail.com).***

**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 19, 2018. Read more [here](#).**

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

### ***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. Negotiations are being finalized for a physical move to an area church. Read more [here](#).**

STAY CONNECTED:

