



AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

COLLEGIALITY * COMPETENCE * CENTEREDNESS



TOGETHER IN MINISTRY GROUPS CONTINUE, EXPAND

As reported previously by President Turlington, we are proceeding with renewal strategies for nationwide “Together in Ministry” Covenant Groups. With resources from the endowment dedicated to these purposes, as well as the good news of opportunity to repurpose recent grants, we are blazing ahead with an ad hoc committee working on the initiative (board members Rev. Jacki Belile, Rev. Dan Hopkins, Rev. Ivan Marable and Rev. Dr. Dee Dee Turlington).

Watch for details this Fall on criteria and steps to access small gifts for existing groups in the fourth quarter. The elected chapter representatives will also be involved in planning for 2019 and beyond at the Annual Meeting in November.

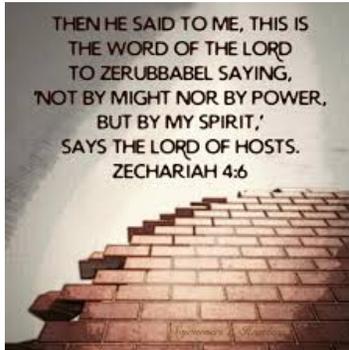
Our next steps require a solid list of existing groups that regularly meet, whether funded initially by Lilly funds or not. Here’s a personal word from Dan Hopkins, our Board contact for gathering these details:

"I am greatly excited by all the currently existing and thriving TIM groups going on across ABC USA and beyond. Many of you have contacted me personally about your small groups. Thank you!!

*Please know that your Board of Governors wants to partner with you every way we know how. Some of that will come in the form of funding which we are working on right now. But we also want to pray with you, encourage you, promote you, provide resources and other ways that you might suggest. Please shoot me an **email** on your thoughts. We want to strive to be helpful partners in ministry with you.*

*If you currently aren't in a TIM group, think about joining one...or starting one! Be inspired with colleagues' testimonies in the **video** at our website. And watch for info on an upcoming webinar on September 20, time tba, to learn more.*

BOARD AND CHAPTER REPS TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING November 11-14, 2018



Theme Verse: *“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord of Hosts ---Zechariah 4:6*

Members of the Ministers Council national Board of Governors and elected chapter representatives (aka "Ministries Team") will meet in Philadelphia, PA this November. This will be a time of fellowship, prayer, resource-sharing and business (including updating by-laws to reflect our changing paradigm of a leaner national central office and more grassroots engagement via local chapters).

The national board will begin meeting on Sunday, Nov. 11 and be joined by chapter representatives Monday afternoon, Nov. 12. We're hopeful a number of people will choose to linger for the exciting Space for Grace conference which begins Nov. 14. Please hold these gatherings in prayer. For more information, contact [**info@ministerscouncil.com**](mailto:info@ministerscouncil.com).

What is it like for you to minister in “times like these”? What are you finding are the unique challenges and needs where you are?

How can we support you as we covenant to be “Together in Ministry”? Our Member Services Coordinator, Ms. Lisa Simpson, shares this devotional thought. Let us remember the source of our strength!



IN TIMES LIKE THESE

As we go through life we are laden with the daily cares and fears of this world. All around us are wars and rumors of wars. It is tempting to feel a sense of hopelessness and helplessness. However; we should never forget that there is a man name Jesus! Throughout the Bible we are reminded that Jesus is so many things.

- Jesus is our rock. (Psalm 18:2)
- Jesus is the answer. (John 20:31)
- Jesus is love. (1John 4:7)
- Jesus is peace. (Philippians 4:7)
- Jesus is the light. (1John 1:7)
- Jesus is bread. (John 6:51)

What are you depending on Jesus to be for you? Remember, Jesus is a rock in a weary land. He is the Balm in Gilead. There is nothing He cannot do! (Philippian 4:19)

Lisa Simpson

Member Services Coordinator

CHAPTER REENGAGEMENT PROJECT SEES STRONG START



The national Board of Governors of Ministers Council ABC-USA extends its gratitude for the service of Rev. Dr. Randall Harris toward the goal of reestablishing connections with ministers in regions with inactive or struggling chapters. Thanks to Randy for bringing his pastor's heart into the short-term project to gain traction in this direction. During this four-month project, we made meaningful connections in seven regions and know there is more interest beyond that.

The Ministries Team (network of chapter representatives and its coordinator Rev. Jacki Belile), along with other volunteers who've stepped forward, will build on these conversations. For more information, contact jacki@livingwellministries.net or attend the next conference call on Thursday, September 6th at 12noon Central Time. Call-in info: 1-866-906-0123 PIN: 2427409.

IN MEMORIAM: Cheryl Renee Thomas



Cheryl Renee Thomas died on August 1, 2018. She is survived by her husband Hardy Whiteman, son John Whiteman, and his partner Kelsey Berryhill, daughter Glenna Whiteman, her mother B. Charlene Thomas, sister Cynthia Thomas and her spouse Jonathan Sweet, brothers Peter Thomas and his daughter Lovetann Ripoll, Charles Thomas, and Wesley Thomas.

Cheryl Graduated from Bethel College and United Theological Seminary. Cheryl was licensed to preach the gospel on July 16, 1989 at Temple Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN. Cheryl was ordained on July 18, 1993 at Temple Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN. Cheryl served a number of churches in Minneapolis, South Central, MN and Des Moines, IA.

A Celebration of Life will be held at West End Architectural Salvage in Des Moines, IA, on Sep. 15th, at 4:30pm. More details may be found at tinyurl.com/cherylthomas

[Read complete obituary](#)



A Conference Call Exploring Resource-Sharing & Advocacy

Join colleagues across the Ministers Council family who are invested in solutions for the best health care, access and advocacy for ministers. The third call of this past year, we'll meet next on Tuesday, August 28 at 4pm Central. We'll review the notes from our Spring 2018 call, and move forward on action items. For planning purposes, please rsvp to info@ministerscouncil.com. Contact Rev. Jacki Belile, Ministries Team Coordinator, at jacki@livingwellministries.net for more info.

The call-info is: 1-866-906-0123
Access code 2427409



Chaplaincy & Specialized Ministry Summit 2018

REGISTER ONLINE NOW TO SAVE!

Please join American Baptist Home Mission Societies Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries and co-host McCormick Theological Seminary at the Chaplaincy & Specialized Ministry Summit 2018!
Click here for **[more information and to register](#)**



**November 14-16, 2018
Loews Hotel, Philadelphia**

At this national conference in an urban retreat setting, Christian leaders from across the United States and Puerto Rico will consider critical issues around mission engagement, discipleship and church transformation to seek God's leading for bringing healing to a broken world.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION IS \$229 AND ENDS AUGUST 15
For more information, visit abhms.org or call 800.222.3872, x2452



Hear these inspiring speakers!
Dr. Amy Butler, pastor of The Riverside Church
Dr. Raphael Warnock, author, activist, and senior pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church
The Rev. Dr. Corey D.B. Walker, vice president of Virginia Union University; and dean of Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology
Dr. Molly T. Marshall, author and president of Central Baptist Theological Seminary



Join a "Baptist Roots" & Mission Trip to Amsterdam!

JANUARY 25 – FEBRUARY 2, 2019

Where did we come from and why? What do we bring?

Join with IM Personnel to burrow into the unique resources on Baptist identity and mission contained in the Smythe Library – and to engage in dialogue with current doctoral students and professors about their research into the core of Baptist life. **LEARN MORE.**



Membership Renewals:

It is not too late to submit your 2018 Minister Council Membership renewal. You can submit your renewal by accessing ministerscouncil.com and selecting the "join here" option

Chapter Updates:

Please remember to inform the national Minister's council of all updates/changes to Chapter officers and address info.



How to reach us:

- By phone: (610)314-7837
- By email: info@ministerscouncil.com
- Address: 221 S. High Street, West Chester, PA

Stay connected

- Visit us at [**www.ministerscouncil.com**](http://www.ministerscouncil.com)
- Join us on **Facebook**
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- We can generally be reached in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays (emails and voicemails will be responded to during this time)

“subscribe” on the home page of the website
