God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not
fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah. - Psalm 46:1-3,7

We have remembered the tragic attacks of 9-11 this day. May we be united in remembrance and search together for peacemaking ways which our truly grounded in Our Great Refuge.

Board Updates

A Word from the President

Looking Forward to Our November Annual Meeting

I am asking blessings on your fall start-ups and ongoing ministries! I also invite your prayers for the effectiveness of our Ministers Council’s various ministries of collegiality, centeredness and competence.

The eight members of your Board of Governors have been hard at work this summer, maintaining our priority emphases on revitalization of struggling chapters and of Together In Ministry (TIM) groups, while also planning for the 2018 Annual Meeting November 11-14, 2018.*

We are hoping to have every active Local Chapter represented at this important meeting, where the future structure and programming of Ministers Council will be determined. Information on the primary changes being proposed will be sent to representatives and officers soon, and the By-Laws changes that will authorize the decisions about those proposals will be sent out in October. I encourage you to be in contact with your Representative about these decisions; he or she is your voice at the meeting.

Read more

Chapter News

UPCOMING CONFERENCE CALLS FOR REPS

The next conference calls for the chapter representatives (Ministries Team) are Tuesday, September 18 and Thursday, September 20, both at Noon Central Time. Call-in info: 1-866-906-0123 and
PIN 2427409#. Please select the timeslot best for you. Beginning in October, these will be recorded. Residents in areas of inactive chapters are welcome to join us to gain support.

**Summer Revitalization Project** - Thanks to Rev. Dr. Randall Harris, a number of conference calls and 1-1 contact was made in late spring and summer. Conversations in support of refreshed local activity and reconnecting local chapters with national life will continue to be tended. For instance, in an upcoming call with Rev. Jacki Belile, Board Coordinator for Ministries Team (chapter reps). Jacki will be working with a new task force for revitalization to build on Randy's good work. Join she and Rev. Joyce Peebles if interested in helping.

**Greater Bay Area** - Thanks to spirit-leadings on Rev. Dr. Barbara Jim-George, the local chapter is reorganizing with new officers and vision after a time of relative inactivity and attrition. Contact BJ at barbzart@gmail.com to learn more.

**Metro Chicago** - The chapter has put together a Health in Ministry Initiative as chief theme for upcoming programs, as well as a new seminarians engagement project. A new chapter website is also in the works. Contact representative Rev. Erica Van Brakle to learn more and connect with team leaders. The chapter is also grateful for Rev. Dr. Delois Brown-Daniels leadership in the upcoming Chaplains and Specialized Ministries Summit on October 6th at McCormick Theological Seminary.

*Do you have chapter news? Send to Ms. Lisa Simpson, our Member Services Coordinator at info@ministerscouncil.com.*

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**Upcoming Events/Webinars**

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**NATIONAL WEBINAR ON "TOGETHER IN MINISTRY" GROUPS**

September 20, 2018
10:30am Central Time

Join Ministers Council Board members for "Together in Ministry Groups - Past, Present & Future." Revs. Dan Hopkins and Jacki Belile will share some background to our renewed TIM Groups initiative, including testimonies to the previous and current TIM groups' impact and where we are going from here. Please join us if you're a part of a current group or interested in joining or forming one.
Connection info--

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: https://zoom.us/j/5903082738

Or iPhone one-tap:
   US: +16699006833,,5903082738# or +19294362866,,5903082738#
Or Telephone:
   Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
      US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 929 436 2866
   Meeting ID: 590 308 2738
   International numbers available: https://zoom.us/u/bexhElWuh

HEALTH CARE SUPPORT & ADVOCACY PROJECT

Fellow colleagues continue to meet to cast a vision for the realistic impact the Ministers Council can have, in partnership with our denominational family and other entities, on affordable and accessible health care coverage for ministers and families. The recent August meeting spawned research into what other denominations have done to provide a "group insurance" model, as well as what might be possible within the ABC family. Join us for our next call by weighing in at this scheduling Doodle. Contact Rev. David Van Brakle at davidvanbrakle@gmail.com to be added to our project email list. The results of what has been some ad hoc brainstorming so far will be shared with the Board at its September meeting.

ABC Announcements
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
From the "Christian Citizen:"

Preparing congregations to do justice
Family of Rev. Cheryl Thomas, gathering in Des Moines this weekend for memorial activities. Remember all loved ones, especially family including Hardy, John and Glenna.

Loved ones of Rev. Karen V Hadley Dike, who passed on suddenly. A retired chaplain from Colorado (originally NJ), she was volunteering at a refugee camp in Bosnia a month ago, took acutely ill, was flown to Paris and died there. She is survived by her husband, Jerome, and two children, Christina and Nathaniel.

We celebrate with colleagues that Rev. Jacqueline (Jackie) Saxon has recently been called to serve as the next Executive Minister of Mid-American Baptist Churches (American Baptist Churches of Iowa and Minnesota). She begins her work October 1, 2018.

Our Metro Chicago colleagues said a fond farewell to Rev. Dr. Holale Azondjagni, as he and his wife Awenam, departed to begin his next chapter of ministry as an ABC Navy Chaplain in California.

Rev. Dr. Spitzer, General Secretary of ABC-USA, recovering from recent heart surgery. After 2-3 days in the intensive care unit, he will remain in the hospital for 5-7 days.

Rev. Barbara Welch on recent loss of her mother.

Rev. Mary Day Miller on recent loss of her mother.

Do you have requests or milestones to share? Please share in our Facebook group and/or send to Lisa Simpson, our Member Services Coordinator, at info@ministerscouncil.com.

Staff Reflection

Fruits of the Spirit

Several months ago I attended our Ministers Council Webinar led by Rev. Dan Hopkins (Pastor of Tell City First Baptist Church and National Ministers Council Board of Governors Member-At-Large). The webinar was entitled, “5 Words Jesus Never Uttered- I’ll Just Do It Myself”.

The webinar challenged us, to mentor and invest in others; identifying and knowing the spiritual gifts of the people in your church. During the webinar, attendees also brought emphasis on using Christian characteristics such as the “Fruits of the Spirit” to obtain insight into Christian maturity and purpose. By definition, the
“Fruits of the Spirit” refers to the nine visible attributes of a person living in accordance with the Holy Spirit.

God has given us all unique gifts for the building up of the Kingdom. There are so many among us who do not recognize their spiritual gifts. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we have the divine responsibility to mentor, invest, identify and nurture the spiritual gifts of others for His Kingdom’s sake. The Fruits of the Spirit are intended for ALL of us and will help us to equip others faithfully.

Identifying the “Fruits of the Spirit”

- Joy
- Love
- Peace
- Faith
- Goodness
- Meekness
- Longsuffering
- Temperance
- Gentleness

Reminders
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 addresses.

How to reach us:
- By phone: (610)314-7837
- By email: info@ministerscouncil.com
- Address: 221 S. High Street, West Chester, PA 19382
- We can generally be reached in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays (emails and voicemails will be responded to during this time)

Stay connected
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- Sign up for our monthly newsletter by selecting “subscribe” on the home page of the website