

Together in Ministry



Collegiality * Competence * Centeredness

March 2019 Newsletter



The Season of Lent

President's Update

As you are reading this newsletter, your Ministers Council Officers (aka Leadership Team) are preparing to gather at the Franciscan Retreat Center outside Philadelphia to worship, pray and plan. We will discuss the theme of our June 20 “Servants of the Jubilee” event in Virginia Beach (the day before the Mission Summit) and be inspired by the remarkable possibilities of Biblical Jubilee.

We will wrestle with and propose answers to some additional questions about our future:

1. We are moving to a Biennial Meeting – should we meet in even years (with the Mission Summit) or in alternate years (independently or with a Ministers Conference)?
2. Biennial meetings will free thousands of dollars on alternate years – what should we do with that income? The possibilities are many and varied, but the parameters are clear: it must benefit our members and local chapters.

The Leadership Team will also review a draft 2018 Annual Report drawn from November 2018 and year-end reports, and approve it for wider dissemination to our members.

Suggestions in response to these questions will be brought to the 2019 (bi)Annual Meeting June 18-19 in Virginia Beach and decisions will be made by Local Chapter Representatives and the National Leadership Team meeting there. Other topics on the move include support for Together in Ministry (TIM) groups and revision of the Code of Ethics.

All members are encouraged to communicate with your Local Chapter Representative to be sure he/she will be present at the June meeting and knows your thoughts on these matters. (If you do not know who your Rep is, contact our Members Services Coordinator Lisa Simpson at info@ministerscouncil.com)

Rev. Dr. Darla (Dee Dee) Turlington

Upcoming Events/Webinars



VIRTUAL LENTEN PRAYER GATHERING

We continue our tradition of a virtual Lenten prayer gathering for ministers. One session will be held weekly on Mondays from 8:30am-9am Central Time.

Dial-in instructions [here](#).

Rev. Jacki Belile and Rev. Carolyn Dugan are finalizing a schedule to include an option for Tuesday evening sessions at 6:30pm Central Time. Contact Jacki at jacki@livingwellministries.net to volunteer to lead one or more of these 30 minute sessions. Zoom link pending.

UPCOMING "MC LIVE" MONTHLY WEBINAR

Thursday, March 14
11am Central Time

Call-in info [here](#)

RIDICULOUSLY MORE EFFICIENT...

How We (through Tech) Can Share Grassroots Church
Wisdom for EXCELLENCE

Join our colleagues Rev. Rachel McGuire and Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby for a time of collaborative learning. Here's their invitation to us:



"In the last few decades, as denominations struggled, most cut their educational resources and scaled back their publishing. Today, when Pastors and Sunday School teachers need educational material, they think "google" more than they look for resources from the denomination. WE think that reinventing the wheel is frustrating and unnecessary when it comes to education and discipleship in the church."

Rachel will share more about the fascinating technology she pioneered to elevate and network the grassroots knowledge present in every church. She and Rev. Katie Jo have left traditional ministry to help equip American Baptists and other people of faith for tomorrow's church. What will tomorrow's church look like? They say, "organically networked," "digitally networked," and "ridiculously more efficient." What do you think? Join us on March 14th via Zoom

Call-in info [here](#)

"MC LIVE" -- LOOKING AHEAD



April 11th - Leadership Team Updates on "Jubilee" (11 am Central, Recorded)

Fresh from their March meeting at a retreat center, various members of our national Leadership Team (formerly Board of Governors) will share in a time of fellowship, updates and looking ahead. Join us to hear about good longstanding habits, fresh starts and hopes for June meetings (including the June 20th day dedicated to Jubilee.

May 9th - Servants of the Jubilee: Embracing the Biblical Wisdom for Excellence (11 am Central, Recorded)

Join colleagues across the nation in a facilitated conversation about Jubilee, its precepts and applications to our personal, communal and professional lives. We may well continue this into June 13th and July 11th meetings, in follow-up to deep engagement in Virginia Beach on June 20.

LATER in summer/fall: ABC authors and book study options, and sessions on excellence in pastoral care.
"

TOGETHER IN MINISTRY GROUPS: PROJECT UPDATE

Did you miss the February webinar on Together in Ministry groups? You can listen to the recording (as well as previous sessions on suicide prevention, "beloved community," preaching and more [here](#).

The national Ministers Council is directing financial support (drawn from TIM Capital Campaign) to existing groups in 2019. Applications for support can be submitted on a rolling

basis, and decisions are made quarterly. **Download** this application today to meet March 31, 2019 deadline.

At our March national Leadership Team we'll work more on funding guidelines for start-up groups. Watch the newsletter and website for more info, or contact Rev. Dan Hopkins at missionsdan@hotmail.com.

National Update

Save the Date Summer 2019 Meetings

Come early to the **Summit by the Sea in Virginia Beach** and connect with colleagues:



Servants of the Jubilee Event for all Ministerial Leaders and their guests, Thursday, June 20, 10 am - 4:30 pm (speakers, discussion groups and lunch for only \$20!)

LOCAL CHAPTER REPS ONLY: 2019 Annual Meeting, 4:00 pm Tuesday, June 18 - breakfast, Thursday, June 20 (Chapter Representatives should arrive before 4 Tuesday, June 18.)

Leadership Team/Officers ONLY will meet June 17-18, so should arrive before 4:00 pm Monday, June 17

Monday-Wednesday meetings are at the Doubletree Hotel. Jubilee program is at the convention center.

Book everything yourself via the ABCUSA Mission Summit website. Details of reimbursement will be sent to Local Chapter Presidents, Treasurers, and Representatives.

Chapter News

“You have a role to play, a place to fill, a dimension toward which it is your duty and your privilege to focus everyone’s attention.” Rev. Atula Jamir, our Coordinator of Chapter Representatives, opened their January call with this wonderful poem “Calling”.

Read more [here](#).

JANUARY CONFERENCE CALL EXPLORES CHAPTER LIFE & NATIONAL “JUBILEE” THEME FOR JUNE EVENTS

Revs. Atula Jamir and Jacki Belile co-hosted the first 2019 conference call with your chapter

representatives. Representatives from thirteen chapters were able to join “live” (contact jamiratula@yahoo.com for the minutes and future call schedule).

After a time of introduction and devotions, representatives shared news about recent or upcoming local retreats. (New York, Central, Metro Chicago, ABCOPAD, Greater Bay Area). Retreats continue to be a centerpiece of local chapters’ expression of Collegiality, Competence, Centeredness.

Another theme for chapter vitality is doing collaborative work within and among adjacent chapters (explorations or “in place” habits in New York, Central, Massachusetts, Mid-America). Chapters in transition and exploring next steps of revitalization include Evergreen, Rochester-Genesee, Greater Bay Area. (There others beyond the January call attendees with whom Jacki Belile will be working). One strategy lifted up by Rev. Dr. Barbara Jim-George is finding sources of funding beyond dues.

Conversation turned to our national gathering “Servants of the Jubilee” in June. Committee chair Rev. Erica Van Brakle and attendees had an engaging conversation about the optimal format of the day, and the potential of this theme to be professionally beneficial and personally renewing, as well as a unifying concept for our diverse constituents. Share your thoughts and questions with Erica at ericavanbrakle@gmail.com.

Rev. Dan Hopkins is the contact for support in sustaining and launching “Together in Ministry” Groups and can be reached at missionsdan@hotmail.com.

Share your chapter news with Rev. Atula Jamir at jamiratula@yahoo.com and Lisa Simpson at info@ministerscouncil.com.

Staff Reflection

Gratitude through Reflections...

A Word from Lisa

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

--1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV)

As we anticipate the warmer months ahead it always brings with it a time of reflection. Reflections in most instances leave us with a sense of gratefulness! We are grateful for health, family, friends and all the good things in life. Gratefulness is defined as warmly, deeply appreciative kindness or benefits received and thankful. Usually, in order for us to exhibit gratefulness we must have a spirit of acceptance and humility.

I encourage you today to demonstrate gratitude in all things as this is a true reflection of our thoughts which in turn shows up as an action.

Questions for Reflection:

Are there obstacles to gratitude you experience in ministry in this time?

As you look ahead to Lent, what practices might you take on or give up in the service of more available gratitude?

Do you have a gratitude-impact story you could share with your Ministers Council Colleagues?



Through the Looking Glass with your Member Services Coordinator



- New accepting your 2019 Membership enrollment. If you have not joined or renewed your membership for 2019 please consider doing so today by going to the “Membership” tab on our [website](#).
- If there are changes to your chapter roster or dues rates, please notify Ministers Council at info@ministerscouncil.com so that we can update these changes on our website.
- We would love to hear from you! Please submit any chapter/member milestones or announcements to info@ministerscouncil.com
- Please contact Lisa in the Ministers Council office with any questions regarding the upcoming registration and attendance for the upcoming 2019 Mission Summit which is being held in Virginia Beach.

ABC Announcements

JUDSON PRESS PUBLISHERS SINCE 1824

Ministers Council members can enjoy a 30% discount on Judson Press resources by using the discount code MCM19.



American Baptist Women’s Ministries Announces New Associate Executive Director

American Baptist Women’s Ministries announced on Tuesday, February 26, that the Rev. LaThelma A. Yenn-Batah will join the American Baptist Women’s Ministries Team as its new associate executive director on March 8, 2019.

[\(Click to read more\)](#)

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Williams, Executive Minister of the ABC of Michigan, Announces Retirement

The Rev. Dr. Michael A. Williams, executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of Michigan (ABC-MI), announced to the ABC-MI Executive Committee his plan to retire December 31, 2019.

[\(Click to read more\)](#)



Judson Press Releases Women’s History Month-Inspired Devotional

In time for Women's History Month in March, Judson Press releases "Devotions from HERstory: 31 Days with Women of Faith," perfect for women's group study or individuals seeking to meditate on the female experience.

[\(Click to read more\)](#)



Register Today for the 2019 Biennial Mission Summit; Registration Brochure Available

Individual registration is open for the American Baptist Churches Biennial Mission Summit, June 21-23, 2019, to be held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, Va. View our registration brochure [here](#), or learn more and register online at www.americanbaptists2019.com.

[\(Click to read more\)](#)

FOCUS ON YOUR GOALS.

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Applications due
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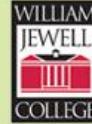


2019 SHURDEN LECTURES

Aidsand Wright-Riggins

Preacher / Teacher / Politician / Advocate

March 26-27



Interested in the Shurden Lectures? Follow this link: BJCOnline.org/ShurdenLectures

Milestones & Prayer Requests

Remember to share news and needs with us on a regular basis. Your colleagues care! Send to: Ms. Lisa Simpson, Member Services Coordinator, at info@ministerscouncil.com at any time.

Reminders



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

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