Holy Week

Jesus of Nazareth,
King of the Jews,
may your reign become real
through the works of our hands
and your love become alive in our hearts. Amen.
— Common Prayer

A Prayer for Lent
by Abigail James

O gracious Master, infuse in our hearts the spotless light of Your Divine Wisdom and open the eyes of our mind that we may understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, so that having curbed all carnal desires, we may lead a spiritual life, both thinking and doing everything to please You. For You, O Christ, our God, are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies; and to You we render glory, together with Your eternal Father, and with Your all holy, life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever.
VIRTUAL LENTEN PRAYER GATHERING

Colleagues from across the country to continue to meet for 30-minutes of silence, fellowship, scriptural reflection and prayer on Mondays at 8:30am (Central) and/or Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Thanks to Rev. Carolyn Dugan, Rev. Jacki Belile, Rev. Rebecca Driscoll and Dr. Charlotte W. Myers for leadership.

LENTEN PRAYER TIME 2019

MONDAYS, 8:30am Central

See Call-In Info: Here

JUNE 20, 2019
10 AM - 4:30 PM
VIRGINIA BEACH CONVENTION CENTER
$20 INCLUDES LUNCH & SNACK

SAVE THE DATE

Download flyer here

See Annual Meeting Schedule for Chapter Reps, June 18-19, at:
www.ministerscouncil.com

Upcoming Events/Webinars

MC LIVE MONTHLY WEBINARS -
2ND THURSDAYS, 11AM CENTRAL

Join us each month for a rich time of sharing in best practices, resources and fellowship.

APRIL 11
11am -12pm (Central Time)

"Servants of the Jubilee: Conversations with the Leadership Team."
Meet members of our national Leadership Team and planners for the June 20 Ministers Council gathering in Virginia Beach. Hear about recent national Leadership Team meeting, why "Jubilee" has captured our imagination and what we've set in motion for a great inspiring and equipping day on June 20. (Complete event details on our website April 1).

See Call-In Info: [Here](#)

**NATIONAL WEBINAR ON CHAPTER STARTS & RESTARTS**

Do you want to connect more deeply with colleagues nationally and/or locally? Has your local Ministers Council chapter been inactive or defunct for a time short, or long? Interested in virtual connections where local ones don't exist? Join colleagues in similar boats on this national webinar hosted by Leadership Team member Rev. Jacki Befike. Jacki is the Coordinator of Membership and Chapter Development.

Topic: Chapter Support & Revitalization  
Time: May 6, 2019 3:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

See Call-In Info: [Here](#)

**President's Update**

**YES! These tasks are accomplished!**

- **Updated Standing Rules** are posted on the Ministers Council website.
- Ideas for the “Servants of the Jubilee” event June 20 (prior to the Mission Summit) have been sent to the Annual Meeting Committee.
- **Proposals about when to hold our Biennial Meetings** and what to undertake with funds saved by going to a biennial format are drafted and will be presented at the Annual Meeting June 18-19.

These tasks were accomplished at the March 5-6 Leadership Team retreat at the Franciscan Spiritual Center outside of Philadelphia. All Officers were present. Rev. Rebecca Driscoll, ABCUSA Intern this year, sat in for Pat Hernandez, Director of ABWIM, and Member Services Coordinator Lisa Simpson joined us for a day.

All of us could sense the essential goodness of the place, radiating the faith and hospitality of the Sisters of St. Francis. In this serene setting, we had wonderful success in getting acquainted, exploring the dimensions of Jubilee and it's call to us today, and planning for the Ministers Council's future.

In other news, I represented us on a webinar hosted by Orientation to American Baptist Life and told the 60+ participants about our past and present work. Our Vice President, Randolph T. Miller, will represent us at our denomination's National Leadership Council* meeting the first week of April.

Your officers are working hard on your behalf and appreciate your membership, participation in hosted events, and prayers.

Blessings,
*The NLC is the largest staff council of the denomination, where senior executive staff of the regional and national organizations of American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) meet to strengthen relationships, to discuss its mission and ministry, and advance the common good of the denomination. According to our new by-laws, the Ministers Council may appoint a board member to serve in executive capacity for purposes of such representation.

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**National Update**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUR AUDIT**

Ministers Council ABC-USA is seeking 2-3 individuals (auditors) to perform an internal financial audit on their 2018 records. All interested parties please contact the Ministers Council at info@ministerscouncil.com

**TOGETHER IN MINISTRY GROUPS**

Has your local "Together in Ministry Group" been meeting since the previous chapter of Lilly funding? THANK YOU for embodying the mission and vision of the Ministers Council. You're eligible for small support grants for continuation. See the application form at www.ministerscouncil.com. Contact Rev. Dan Hopkins at missionsdan@hotmail.com if you're interested in launching a new group and seek support or counsel.

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**CLERGY HEALTH CARE ADVOCACY PROJECT**

How can we work together to ensure the most accessible and affordable support for clergy health? Both in it's broadest conception, as well as in terms of health insurance products, WE CARE! A team of your colleagues have met a number of times in last year, shared ideas and needs electronically, and hold a vision for improved advocacy in this arena. The next call for updates and visioning will be held Monday, May 6th at 5pm Central Time.

See Call-In Info HERE.

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**Chapter News**

**CENTRAL REGION**
We held our annual Executive Committee overnight retreat in January, in Council Grove, KS. Rev. Jennifer Schneider from Stilwell, KS began her term as president, with thanks given to Rev. Tim Schwartz from Kansas City, KS for his work as past-president. Rev. Paul Brigham of Colby, KS continues to serve as treasurer, along with Rev. Jack Gilstrap from Abilene, KS as treasurer and Rev. Dr. Steve Neal continuing as Ministers Council Representative.

More

METRO CHICAGO
The Chapter recently co-sponsored a retreat called “Sharing our Stories” with the Region. It was a well-attended and diverse gathering of seasoned and new ministers, in a delightful, restful and lightly structured gathering. We shared stories of humor, anger and meaning.

More

GREATER BAY AREA (Northern California)
The Ministers Council rejoices that Minister Adaku Omekenyi will be ordained on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 3:00 pm at the New Life Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in Castro Valley, CA where Rev. Katie Choy-Wong is Senior Pastor. Omekenyi is a senior student at ABSW slated for graduation in May. (Rev. Dr. Barbara Jim-George, Chapter Representative)

Do you have chapter news to share? Remember to send to info@ministerscouncil.com for newsletter submission, and to be in touch with colleagues for regular bi-monthly calls of the Chapter Representatives. Contact jamiratula@yahoo.com for more information.

Staff Reflection

My Prayer for You This Season of Lent
A Word from Lisa

We are now at the midpoint of the 2019 Lenten season. I pray that you have been experiencing the spirit of refreshment and renewal. I pray that doing this Holy season you will receive the clarity and answers you so earnestly seek. I pray that during this Holy season you receive the peace and comfort you so richly deserve. However; most importantly, I pray that during this Holy season you deepen your connection with Christ.

Blessings,
Lisa
Member Services Coordinator

Through the Looking Glass with your
Member Services Coordinator

- 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.

- We are now 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.

- Interested in reactivating your inactive chapter or starting a new one? Contact national Leadership Team member Rev. Jacki Belile at jacki@livingwellministries.net.

- If there are changes to your chapter roster or dues; please notify Ministers Council at info@ministerscouncil.com so that we can update these changes on our website.

ABC Announcements

AMERICAN BAPTIST PERSONNEL SERVICES NOW ministrElife
American Baptist Personnel Services, ABPS, is now part of a new platform called ministrElife, custom built and under the direction of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS). MinistrElife addresses:

- The full spectrum of ministry professionals, from full-time senior pastors to ministers of music
- The full life journey of ministers, from seminary studies to job search to retirement
- The full life needs of ministers, continuous learning, leisure and personal

Click here for the full story.

News from American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS):

- Nominations are being sought for ministry awards to be announced at American Baptist Churches USA’s (ABCUSA) 2019 Biennial Mission Summit to be held June 21-23 in Virginia Beach, Va. (read more)

- A variety of home mission-related opportunities will occur during “Summit by the Sea,” American Baptist Churches USA’s 2019 Biennial Mission Summit June 21-23 in Virginia Beach, Va. (read more)
Judson Press Releases New Book

Dr. Clifford A. Jones Sr. to Speak at Biennial Mission Summit in Virginia Beach
The American Baptist Churches of the South (ABCOTs) region, host of the Biennial Mission Summit June 21-23, 2019 in Virginia Beach, Va. has invited Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr., senior pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. to bring the message at the culmination service on Sunday evening. This culmination will also serve as the beginning of the 50th anniversary celebration of the American Baptist region. (read more)

Milestones & Prayer Requests

Don Rasmussen, former executive minister for ABC of Rhode Island died on Sunday, March 17, 2019. Funeral arrangements are still being made, but cards may be sent to his wife Ginny Rasmussen at 33211 Pennbrooke Pkwy, Leesburg FL 34748.

Ronald Gregg, the father of Chicago executive minister, David Gregg, died on March 16. The funeral service for Ron Gregg will be on Saturday, April 6, 1:00 pm at the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, 517 E Washington St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Family visitation is Friday evening. The family has asked that in lieu of flowers that memorial donations be made to the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, to the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (www.icpj.com) or to “the just cause that you most deeply believe in.” The address of the ABC office of Metro Chicago is 4401 W Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60641-2804.

We join our Massachusetts colleagues and friends and family across the nation in sadness at the passing of Milton Ryder. We remember his wife, Helen, his family, and his many friends in prayer. "His memorial service will indeed be a celebration of his life," says Michael Harvey, Executive Director of the Conference of Baptist Ministers in Massachusetts.

Joyce Morin asks for prayer for the upcoming retreat on gifts identification she’s facilitating April 12-13. Also for a place to live, as she needs to move by April 20.

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 time)

Stay connected
- Visit us at www.ministerscouncil.com
- Join us on Facebook
- Consider signing up for our monthly newsletter by selecting "subscribe" on the home page of the website