

Together in Ministry



The
Ministers
Council

Collegiality * Competence * Centeredness

June 2019 Newsletter



Upcoming Events/Webinars



SERVANTS
OF THE
JUBILEE

A GATHERING FOR ALL MINISTERIAL LEADERS

The
Ministers
Council

Collegiality/Centeredness/Competence

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

JUNE 20, 2019

10 AM - 4:30 PM

VIRGINIA BEACH CONVENTION CENTER

\$20 INCLUDES LUNCH & SNACK

SAVE THE DATE

STOP BY OUR BOOTH @ MISSION SUMMIT!
We'd love to connect, and hear about your ministries and needs.

Sign up this week at our [website](#) for an hour or more to volunteer there.

Download flyer [here](#)

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

Registration Deadline June 8th!



PRAYER MEETING FOR SUMMER GATHERINGS!

**JUNE 13th
11am Central**

Join us for a time of sharing about the schedules of Ministers Council meetings, Day of Jubilee, and Mission Summit. We'll spend most of the time sharing our hopes and prayers about these important gatherings.

Dial-In Info: [Here](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

July 2019 "MC Live" is Thursday, July 11th at 11am Central.

Dial-In Info: [Here](#)

Chapter News

Metro Chicago - Our chapter and national organization were represented at the recent annual meeting of the region. We're holding meetings over the summer to expand interest in "Together in Ministry" groups. In collaboration with the Center for Religion and Psychotherapy, we are holding a 2-part series on Healthy Congregations in July, as well as a Fall Clergy Consultation group. For more information, contact chapter representative Erica Van Brakle at

Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors- All *endorsed* chaplains and pastoral counselors are invited to dinner, conversation and fellowship at the ABC Mission Summit by the Sea on Thursday evening, June 20, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. This time together will give us the opportunity to discuss our concerns and hopes for making our chapter of the Ministers Council relevant to our current needs, as well as an opportunity to know one another better. Dinner is complimentary, but registrations are required. Please respond to Rev. Sarah L. Fogg, Treasurer, at [**sarahfogg4@gmail.com**](mailto:sarahfogg4@gmail.com).

National Update

Inspiring Excellence, Updating "Code of Ethics"

We've begun work this spring on a 2019 task to which we committed at the November 2018 Annual Meeting – *discernment on whether any necessary updates to our Ministers Council Code of Ethics should be undertaken at this time.*

The Original "Code of Ministerial Ethics" was drafted by the Ministers Council Committee on Vocational Studies, Ethics and Denominational Programs and adopted at the 1937 Northern Baptist Convention. We have shepherded its revisions ever since. Mindful that cultural and technological changes might point in the direction of fresh revisions, we appointed a team to review this and make recommendations.

Thanks to Chapter Representatives Rev. Jeremy Bertelson and Rev. Dr. Steve Neal for getting the ball rolling! Their recommendations were received by the national Leadership Team, and chapter representatives will discuss and discern further action at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach.

The Committee's Recommended Changes to **Code of Ethics**:

1) Add as 4th bullet point:

I will not plagiarize, and I will be truthful in my communication and give due credit to other's words.

2) Add words as indicated:

"I will maintain a disciplined ministry in such ways as keeping hours of prayers and devotion, endeavoring to maintain wholesome family relationships, sexual integrity, financial responsibility, **proper use of social media**, regularly engaging in educational and recreational activities for ministerial and personal development. I will seek to

maintain good health habits.”

3) I will not use my ministerial status, position or authority knowingly to abuse, misguide, negatively influence, manipulate, or take advantage of anyone, especially children.

(add below this)

I will use my ministerial status, position and authority to stand with the oppressed and advocate for justice in accordance with the teachings of Jesus and the prophets.

These suggestions are not yet proposals to be voted on. They are the start of a period of discussion and discernment in which we hope you will participate. Prayers and input are appreciated as we engage this task and consider what new forms of collegial engagement with the actual text will best serve competence and accountability to it.

For more information, contact Steve at revrun.steve@gmail.com or Jerry at Jerry.Bertelson@gmail.com.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Just two weeks from now I will attend my last face-to-face meetings as an officer with the Ministers Council. This will be national MC's last ANNUAL Meeting. In 2020 we will convene in our first BIENNIAL Meeting under the able leadership of Randolph T. Miller. After that, national Ministers Council will meet every even-numbered year, while executing a program for ministerial leaders every odd-numbered year prior to the denomination's Mission Summit.

This June's business includes the usual "necessary" stuff, like budget and nominations, and some exciting planning, like use of excess funds as a result of going to a Biennial meeting cycle. Discussion of updates to the Code of Ethics will begin and an announcement about 2020 as our own Year of Jubilee will be made.

This is an exciting time for the Ministers Council! I thank God for the privilege of being part of these transition years and working with a crew of talented, committed co-leaders. And I promise to be available to them and you going forward, whenever you need to question someone with "institutional memory."

Please pray for your Council and its leaders, as we meet this month and as we continue the work throughout this calendar year.

Gratefully yours,
Dee Dee Turlington

Staff Reflection

Keep the Faith! A Word from Lisa

Over the past several months, I have seen several small, beautifully decorated stones with the word “faith” painted on them. The most fascinating of all was their unusual locations. The very first stone was seen perched alongside a fire hydrant at a traffic stop. A few weeks after I saw another one along the sidewalk of a local college campus that I had visited. Around a month or so later, I spotted another stone sitting on the embankment of a parking lot in a shopping center.



Initially I thought that observing these stones was just a coincidence; however, by the third sighting I realized that this was an intentional act. I concluded that the locations of these stones were also purposeful. All locations were frequently traveled and highly visible areas.

I thought to myself how inspiring this is, especially in these uncertain times. How awesome that someone in their own small way is encouraging humanity to have “faith”.

It is truly a reminder to us that despite all that is going all in our lives and around us, we must “keep the faith” because “with God ALL things are possible!”

For Reflection:

*In this season of your ministry, **how is your faith?** What do you need to protect or restore a centeredness to your life and work? What can your colleagues do to encourage you if you’re in need of some “sightings” of encouragement? Who might you encourage in some simple way today?*

**Through the Looking Glass with
your Member Services Coordinator**

- Local Chapter Representatives, the 2019 Annual Meeting registration forms are now available. Please complete and email to info@ministerscouncil.com
- If you have not joined or renewed your membership for 2019, please consider doing so today by going to the “Membership” tab on the Ministers Council website.
- If there are changes to your chapter roster or dues, please notify Ministers Council at [**info@ministerscouncil.com**](mailto: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**](mailto:info@ministerscouncil.com)
- Please contact Lisa in the Ministers Council office with any questions regarding the upcoming Annual Meeting registration and the Ministers council sponsored events at the upcoming 2019 Mission Summit, in Virginia Beach.



Milestones & Prayer Requests

Prayer

Please pray for the fruits of the Spirit in our lives, ministries and public witness. Let us remember we “wrestle not against flesh and blood” but against the powers and principalities that would divide and destroy our churches and communities. Let us follow

Jesus’ in warning against the idolatries of today, including all the temptations to worldly power and any form of nationalism which would take our eyes away from his priorities for healing and justice.

Please pray for a Spirit-led Annual Meeting of the Ministers Council Chapter Representatives and Leadership Team June 17-20, and all the leaders and participants at “Servants of the Jubilee” Gathering in Virginia Beach.

We pray for Rev. Jean Engel, member from Metro Chicago, who has transitioned to hospice care recently.

Former Ministers Council Executive Director Joe Kutter was recently diagnosed with stage 4 bile duct cancer. He asked we remember him, his wife Peggy and his family in our prayers.

We celebrate the recent installation of Rev. David Gregg as Executive Minister serving American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago.

Continued prayer for Joyce Morin is more than welcome. She's working with a housing specialist from an organization, Senior Care and has an extension from a judge to June 30. She's also working on forms for Interim Ministry discernment in Massachusetts.

Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, American Baptist Home Mission Societies' (ABHMS) executive director emeritus, has been named co-executive director of New Baptist Covenant (NBC), Washington, D.C.

ABC Announcements

American Baptist Home Mission Societies' (ABHMS) Young adults are encouraged to apply for first "Intercultural Institute for Emerging Leaders." Slated for September, this innovative cultural-competency training program seeks to provide hands-on, in-depth experience to effectively engage across cultures.

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

Register by June 8th for the pilot phase of MinistrELife – the new online profile and online community launching this month.

Read more: **<https://ministrelife.org/>**

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is pleased to announce the names of American Baptist individuals who will receive its 2019 national-recognition ministry awards for significant faith-based endeavors. They were selected by ABHMS' board of directors from nominations submitted by clergy and laypersons across the United States and Puerto Rico. Presentation times and dates will be announced as they become available.

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

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)

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