

Together in Ministry



Collegiality * Competence * Centeredness

October 2019 Newsletter



Pastoral Care Week – October 20-26



Pastoral Care Week is a time of both celebration and education. Organizations and institutions throughout the world will recognize the spiritual care providers and the spiritual care given through professional chaplaincy and pastoral counseling within our communities. The theme, “Hospitality: Cultivating Space” offers a rich opportunity to develop relationships and extend hospitality to those who extend spiritual care, to those who collaborate with spiritual care providers and to those who are the recipients of spiritual care.

Spiritual Care Week is supported by the COMISS Network: The Network on Ministry in Specialized Settings (COMISS). COMISS members provide care in specialized settings such as hospitals, prisons, businesses, industries, long-term care facilities, pastoral counseling centers, hospices, military settings, nursing homes, corporations, congregations of sisters, priests and brothers, schools and universities throughout the world. Among the variety of celebrations will be hand-blessing ceremonies for health workers; open houses; poetry jams by clients; lecture series and luncheons. Many resources are available, including governmental proclamations, artwork, and merchandise, at www.spiritualcareweek.org or www.pastoralcareweek.org

October is Clergy Appreciation Month

Clergy Appreciation Month is a time set aside to recognize the contributions and service of pastors, priests, reverends, ministers, and all other clergy members. Within Clergy Appreciation Month is Pastor Appreciation Day. Pastor Appreciation Day (also referred to more generally as Clergy Appreciation Day) falls on the second Sunday in October and is a day when the faithful come together nationally to pay tribute to our pastors and their staff.



Upcoming Events/Webinars

Blessings Beyond the Pulpit: Celebrating and Learning from Our Specialized Ministries

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10
11am (Central Time)

Our Monthly Gathering

Join us for "MC LIVE" this month (Clergy Appreciation Month!) for a conversation with and about our specialized ministries. We'll host Rev. Sarah Fogg and other members of our extended chaplaincy and pastoral counseling community for conversations on ministry areas such as hospice, hospital chaplaincy, mental health chaplaincy and CPE supervision. Thanks in advance to Sarah and these colleagues for sharing with us:

Dale Pracht (recently retired hospice chaplain PRN Aseracare Hospice, Kansas)

Patricia Ray (mental health chaplain, Providence Alaska Medical Center, Anchorage)

Doug Vardell (Pastoral Care Coordinator/ACPE Certified Educator, Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo, MI)

Barbara Bullock (Director Pastoral Care, Ohio Health, Columbus, Ohio)

Dial/call-in information: [HERE](#)

Chapter TLC - Need Help to Start, Restart, Support?

October 21, 7pm OR October 22, 12 Noon (Central Time)

Our national Leadership Team is committed to supporting our chapters at the grassroots level. Under our new bylaws, we designate TWO national volunteer leaders to support existing chapters (Rev. Atula Jamir, Ph.D.) and those in start/restart/renew position (Rev. Jacki Belile).

On September 30th, members from five chapters met to share desires and challenges to rebuilding or growth. Going forward, these leaders will be supported in prayer and practical help in resource-sharing and contextual coaching. Join Jacki for continued monthly opportunities to connect for brainstorming, resource-sharing and prayer on behalf of Chapter TLC. Contact jacki@livingwellministries.net for more information.

Dial/call-in information: [HERE](#)

Did you miss recent webinars, like last month's conversation on the ministrElife platform that has replaced the ABPS Profile System? Listen to recordings at www.ministerscouncil.com.

National Update

Editor's Note: At a national Ministers Council meeting a few years ago, chapter representatives uplifted the phrase "inspiring ministerial excellence for the glory of Jesus Christ." This has been oft repeated in the paradigm, staffing and funding changes we've adopted since 2016. President DeeDee Turlington describes next steps below, as she outlines the development of the Ministerial Code of Ethics and our hopes for wise updating in 2019-2020.

**Our Code of Ethics and
Excellence:
What Do YOU Think?
Watch for Fall 2019 Survey**



The first ABCUSA Code of Ministerial Ethics was proposed by the Ministers Council in 1937. Few changes have been made to the document, now called "The Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches." The Code is reminiscent of the Constitution and Bill of Rights in its brevity and lack of detail. It intentionally points to areas of responsibility and calls for one's highest moral standards. By reference to principle rather than detailed application of shared principles, it provides a compass to be embraced by our diverse constituency.

But times, they are a-changin' and naturally the Code does not address some important areas of relevance in current times. At the 2018 Annual Meeting, Representatives and Officers appointed Jerry Bertelson (Great Rivers) and Steve Neal (Central) to examine the Code for such oversights. They made an initial report to the 2019 Annual Meeting with three suggestions which address plagiarism, social media and advocacy for justice. Read more [here](#). These may not be the final proposal; the Committee will examine constituents further input.

You will receive in a separate email blast this month (October) an invitation to take a survey that will allow you to respond to the three changes below AND to suggest any other area you think should be addressed by the Code.

Like our nation's founding documents, the Code of Ethics should not be too easily changed. Proposed changes must be approved by the representative body of national Ministers Council and also by 2/3s of active chapters. We pray this process will enable us to build consensus about potential updates as we seek to help one another serve Christ's flocks with faithfulness and excellence.

Rev. Dr. Darla "DeeDee" Turlington
President, National Leadership Team

GRANT PROPOSAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

Are you working on grant support for a project? Maybe we can help.

Your national Ministers Council has purchased a subscription to **Grant Station**, an online database of government and private/corporate/family grant makers who accept applications. I have accessed the data base and found it somewhat helpful in identifying grant opportunities, though it takes time to work through the possibilities and identify the most promising ones. Read more [here](#).

National Ministers Council has available small encouragement grants for existing collegial covenant groups (Together In Ministry) and larger start-up grants for new TIM groups. Contact Rev. Dan Hopkins at missionsdan@hotmail.com for more information. Applications are found at www.ministerscouncil.com.

MMBB awards annuitants and churches grants to help with emergency financial needs via the Heritage of Sharing Fund and is administering a Lilly Grant for Ministerial Excellence related to financial management and debt. <https://www.mmbb.org/about-us/gifts-and-bequests/ministerial-excellence-fund/>

ABHMS awards grants to ABC clergy for continuing education; ministry skills development; participation in conferences, one of the Centers for Ministry or mission trips; and sabbatical leave and study. Visit <http://abhms.org/ministries/developing-leaders/education-scholarships/ministries-of-financial-aid-for-ministerial-leaders/>

COMING SOON!

WE INVITE YOU TO HONOR YOUR MENTORS IN MINISTRY with a Fall 2019 Year-End gift. As many around the nation celebrate All Saints Day and Thanksgiving next month, we will be collecting thanksgiving gifts in honor and memory of the "saints" who have guided and shaped us. Watch for more details.



Thank
you

Staff Reflection

Despite ... She Persisted

A Devotional Reflection with Lisa

I have always been "that" person who enjoys reading the bumper stickers on cars as they fly by on the highway. For me, bumper stickers give a glimpse into the lives of strangers whose paths I will most likely never cross again. They tell of their hobbies and interests as well as the causes that they hold near and dear. I can tell if they are a soccer mom like myself, where they went to school, what fraternity or sorority they belong to, and even their political views and affiliation.



A few weeks ago, while driving to work, I saw a bumper sticker that read, "Despite... She Persisted," This one brought my thoughts into "overdrive" (pardon the pun). My mind was "racing" (oh no, another pun), and all I kept thinking was, "what struggles did she have to overcome?" In that moment, I prayed for strength to have the persistence needed to be an overcomer just like her!

Like cars plastered with bumper stickers, our lives are also a walking message board. We advertise our ideals and what we support, we publicize how we spend our time and money, we announce those we allow in our orbit and even broadcast how we choose to worship. We promote what we stand for.

Growing up, my grandmother used to say, "you should stand for something, or you will likely fall for anything." This advice holds true for our religious beliefs as we are reminded in Philippians 3:14, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Therefore; despite the perils, we should persist. Despite dwindling membership, we should persist. Despite not having the support needed, we should persist. Despite the erosion of societal norms, we should persist.

I beseech you my brothers and sisters in Christ to reflect on Hebrews 12:1, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that set before us". Let the "bumper sticker" of our lives tell the story of how we overcame, "despite... we persisted!"

Reflection

Aren't you glad that you serve a God that "Despite ... Has Persisted," What is your "despite," and will you persist? What is the "bumper sticker" of your life?

Chapter News

GREATER BAY AREA (Barbara Jim-George)- The chapter is planning for their annual retreat in January 2020, and working with ABSW on a seminary engagement program between the Council and the Seminary.

CENTRAL (Steve Neal) - In leadership transition, while celebrating the transition of Chapter President Jennifer Schneider to Associate Executive Minister.

EVERGREEN (Mindi Welton-Mitchell) - Will have a clergy event at upcoming Region meeting. Recently designed and shared a survey for clergy needs and engagement. See sample [here](#).

METRO CHICAGO (Erica Van Brakle) - The chapter leaders are engaged in reviewing the by-laws to update in accordance with national. An informational session on Together in Ministry groups will be held October 24. A 6-week Clergy Consultation will be held in partnership with the Center for Religion and Psychotherapy. A Winter Retreat on Self Care will be led by Revs. Jacki Belile and Francine White, and open to attendees from Wisconsin, Indiana and Great Rivers regions.

MID-AMERICA (Joe Greemore) - This chapter is planning an annual retreat centered on eco-justice in February 2020. Working on new clergy renewal possibilities.

OREGON (Anthony Doheny) - Ministers Council of Oregon is sponsoring a pre-Annual Gathering Continuing Education Event for Pastors and Church Leaders on Friday, October 18. Topic is "Unpacking the Impact of Race and Culture: A Leadership

Please share Chapter News with info@ministerscouncil.com by October 20. CHAPTER TLC Calls will continue to be held for inactive and struggling chapters, with the next webinars being on October 21 and 22.

ABC Announcements

MMBB | Financial
Planners, LLC



Register now for the Clergy Compensation and Taxes Webinar:

Clergy Compensation and Taxes

October 10, 2019

2:00 pm Eastern Time

This webinar for clergy and church finance administrators will explore the unique tax situation for clergy. It will also guide you through optimal ways to structure and report clergy compensation in order to be compliant with the IRS and maximize your benefits.

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Don't miss out on valuable information from MMBB Financial Services. Register now for the Clergy Compensation and Taxes Webinar.

[REGISTER](#)

American Baptist Women's Ministries-partners with Capital Area Baptist Association, American Baptist Churches of New York State, and Safe Heaven Ministries for a Domestic Violence Prevention and Education 2-day training, November 15-16, 2019. The conference will be held at Latham Community Baptist Church, where George Stefani is the pastor; he also serves as the moderator for the Association. This 2-day training will enable clergy, church leaders, community groups, and domestic violence educators to come together in a safe and intentional manner to learn ways to support and aid those in their communities that are suffering from Domestic Violence. People will gain knowledge, insight, and skills useful in addressing and preventing domestic violence.

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

New from Judson Press, “River of Life, Feast of Grace: Baptism, Communion, and Discipleship” considers the historic theology of the Christian rites of baptism and communion from a Baptist perspective. It then explores the practical implications of these rituals for a life of radical discipleship.

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

ABHMS - Close to 300 people were on hand Sept. 14 to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the founding of Seattle's Japanese Baptist Church (JBC), including Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, executive director of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), and four additional ABHMS staff members.

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

Milestones & Prayer Requests

We celebrate with our brother **Rev. Jabulani McCalister** on his recent call as Senior Pastor of Covenant Baptist Church in West Bloomfield Township, MI. The installation celebration is Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 4 p.m.

The American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin will join together to celebrate our 175th Annual Gathering. This is a special time for us. As part of this gathering we are creating a prayer space where participants can spend some quiet time in prayer and meditation. This space includes a place for our ministry partners' prayer request. These could be prayers for an ongoing need, thanksgiving for a special joy, petition for a specific concern- whatever you would like to bring to God. For more information as well as to submit your request please email handerie2409@gmail.com by October 9th.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For all seeking renewal and rest
For those struggling with wounds and in need of extra support
For our churches engaged in damaging conflict
For our divided country, that we may all be led to the wisest and most Christ-like paths of engagement
For our seminarians

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