



Collegiality * Competence *Centeredness

July 2020 Newsletter



A Word From the President

Land of the Free?

“If all are not free, then none are free”
By The Rev. Dr. RT Miller, president



“Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God; ...for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. (I John 4:7-9) There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear... (4:18a-b)”

I am still haunted by the June MC Live presentation of **Practicing Courage in Ministry with Rev. Dr. Zina Jacque**. She reminded us that our brains are hard-wired for fear as a protective survival mechanism. Most of our power and control issues are in service of this fear center and it affects all aspects of life. Greed, racism, injustice, jealousy, dissents, wars, and our very survival instincts trace their roots to this primitive function of the brain. As Pastor Zina described these fear impulses, I was reminded “this is the way of flesh – the way of the world – the old humanity.” As she described her “courageous conversations,” I heard the angel cry, “Be not afraid, welcome to the new world, a new way of living, to the new humanity in Christ.” I remembered John’s words, *perfect love casts out fear* and *God is love*. To live in God’s love “beyond fear” allows us to walk in shoes of others. [Read more.](#)

Events and Webinars

Have you missed our recent MC Live webinars? Visit the archive [here](#).



THRIVING IN RETIREMENT:
A Conversation with Revs. Douglas Harris and Carol McVetty

Thursday, July 16
7pm Central
Zoom Info [Here](#)
Read bio [Here](#)

National Update

Help Available to Identify Grant Opportunities

National Ministers Council has purchased a subscription to Grant Station. This member-only web site posts descriptions of all forms of private grants and federal and state grantmakers. Members can filter searches geographically, by the deadline, by the target audience, and by type of service provided. Though we cannot share access to the database, we can search it following filters you provide and send you the most promising opportunities.

Read more [HERE](#)

Excellence in Ministry Grants Now Available

Local chapters in good standing* with the Ministers Council, ABCUSA are eligible to apply for grants supporting chapter-sponsored programs which nurture excellence in ministry. For more than a decade, we have lifted our witness that ministerial excellence is to be found and nurtured at the intersections of our 3C's: Competence, Centeredness and Collegiality.

The Excellence in Ministry Fund will distribute resources received from the Center for Pastoral Excellence at Christian Theological Seminary (Indianapolis, Indiana). Applications will be available August 1, 2020 for grants up to \$1000 for retreats, workshops or seminars which support excellency by one or more of the 3Cs. Contact info@ministerscouncil.com for more information.

*"Good standing" is defined as active engagement in our national organization's life and reporting requirements OR engagement in a chapter revitalization process with our National Leadership Team.

Business Meeting for 2020 - Now a "Bi-Annual" Meeting

Due to concerns shared about safe gatherings, we are planning to hold a renewing, generative, efficient ZOOM meeting this Fall instead of gathering in person. Stay tuned for details for this event, which may be held in brief sessions over multiple days. For more information contact info@ministerscouncil.com or rtmiller.mc@gmail.com.

Code of Ethics Review

Our Team has received feedback from a number of Executive Ministers, as we'd hoped. The next step is to share the final draft with Chapter Representatives and in this newsletter in preparation and discernment before the vote to adopt it at the Fall business meeting. Would you like to join the effort to update the Learning Guide as needed, and imagine expanded ways we can systematically engage this tool for accountability in learning?

Email info@ministerscouncil.com to register your interest.

Milestones & Prayer Requests

Pat Farrell, a former OGS staff member, passed away earlier this month. There will not be a memorial service. The funeral will be private, per the following obituary.

<https://msrfh.com/tribute/details/8291/Patricia-Farrell/obituary.html#tribute-start>

A Prayer for the Body

Gracious God,

We turn to you at this time when our nation and the world both need to be reminded of your sovereignty over the whole of creation.

While COVID 19 takes its toll through infections, and while protesters fill our streets in response to senseless and repeated acts of deadly force by law enforcement officers, we need you to lift us to the higher ground of mutual love and affection.

We are not just progressives or conservatives, Democrats or Republicans, Black or White or Asian or Hispanic. We are citizens of one earth bound together by one Lord, one faith and one baptism.

While some forces are at work to divide us based upon race and region and religion, remind us that we are all your children and that we are all part of one human family.

Your son died so that all of us might be saved from sin. Grant that we will not be content solely with personal salvation, but will live in ways that reveal the love of God that we must show to one another, and especially toward those you call "the least of these my little ones."

Lord, it may seem that things are spiraling out of control and that we are powerless to turn things around. That is why we embrace the words of Second Chronicles 7:14 that says: "If my people that are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins and will heal their land."

Amen

*by The Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle
Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program &
Professor of African American Religious Studies
Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School*

God of life, you call us to love our neighbor and promise abundant life – grant us wisdom and grace as we love our neighbors in a shared abundant life that allows for all to know equality of education, healthcare, job opportunities and security.

Holy God, Creator of ALL, on the day that the USA celebrates independence,

we pray that ALL people in the country might soon and very soon know this to be true. Shine down your loving light on all your children, so that we may see where freedom is yet to be reached, where independence is yet to be acknowledged, and how we might best strive for the justice and peace following you requires of us. Amen.

Loving God, with all the turmoil and change in this world you are steadfast. During this time of trouble, be to us a guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wisdom, comfort those in mourning and distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Chapter News

The Chapter Representatives meet regularly by conference call and will next meet via Zoom on August 20, 1:30 pm EST. Contact Rev. Atula Jamir, Ph.D. at jamiratula@yahoo.com for more information. Looking for support for your chapter's start-up or revitalization? Contact Rev. Dr. Barbara Jim-George at doctorbjg@gmail.com.

Recent Chapter News

Contact Rev. Atula or our Member Services Coordinator Ms. Lisa Simpson for general information. [Read here](#) for an excerpt of the notes from last national call.

Staff Reflection

Life's Imperfections *A Word from Lisa*



My prayer partner and I are currently exploring the 7-day devotional ***Don't Lose Heart***, by Jason Meyers. Personally, it compels me to focus on the good and eternal aspects of life rather than the not so good and temporal ones.

Sadly, our very humanistic nature forces us to dwell on the negatives of life such as our human flaws. Every negative thing that has ever happened to us is somehow accredited to a flaw that we think we possess. In truth, we give these ill-conceived traits more time and energy than they deserve. Their only purpose is to erect barriers and propagate untruths in our lives; if we allow them. These flaws cause us to look backwards and downwards instead of forward and upwards. They are distractions! They trick us into thinking that we are not worthy of God's blessings or even His love; what a tragedy! We matter to God; we are etched into him (Isaiah 49:16).

Let's face it, life is filled with many challenges; however, the reality is that they have a much shorter shelf life than that of blessings. Let us learn to focus on the positive things in life as we need not live in despair as those who have no hope; even in these unprecedented times. Jesus paid it all!

Reflection:

What are the negative things that are taking up space in your life?

What are the positive things in your life that you have been ignoring?

What are the things that cause you to feel unworthy of God's love and blessings?

Let us pray:

Father allow me to see myself as you see me. Help me to forgive myself as you have forgiven me. Teach me to love myself for you are love. Amen.

ABC Announcements

COVID-19 Information and Resources Available Online

You can find a comprehensive list of COVID-19 information and resources on the abc-usa website [HERE](#)

The District of Columbia Baptist Convention (DCBC) announced on June 15 that Rev. Dr. Trisha Miller Manarin has been called to serve as its next Executive Director/Minister. DCBC's Board of Directors voted to approve the Search Committee's recommendation to hire Dr. Manarin during a regularly scheduled board meeting held last week. Dr. Manarin, who currently serves as Executive Coordinator with Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, will be entering into her new position as the Executive Director/Minister of the DCBC on August 17, 2020.

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

American Baptist International Ministries (IM) has announced that the World Mission Conference is moving online. Plan to attend this July and experience life-changing storytelling and the latest news and testimonies from IM's global servants, who will help attendees see with 20/20 vision that God's mission is alive and well around the world.

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

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) "COVID Recovery: Renewing Hope and Service" One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) emergency grants, awarded on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA.—Food distribution, rent assistance, medical aid to homeless persons and child-care for low-income essential workers are among the projects that received grants during the first round.

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

American Baptist Churches USA(ABCUSA) 2021 Biennial Mission Summit to be held June 25-27, 2021, at the San Juan Convention Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In a new video, Interim General Secretary Dr. C. Jeff Woods introduces and gives an update on planning for the event. We encourage you to watch the full video to learn more about the 2021 Biennial Mission Summit.

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



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Be on the lookout for more information to come!

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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