

Together in Ministry



Collegiality * Competence * Centeredness

April 2021 Newsletter



For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. - Colossians 1:9-14*



Thursday April 15th at 8pm Eastern/7pm Central/5pm Pacific.

Join us for reflection and conversation with Rev. Marcia B. Bailey, author of recently published book ***Transformed by Pastoral Transition: A Guide for Congregations.***

Here's what she says about the book: "I intend it to be helpful resource for clergy and churches anticipating and experiencing pastoral transition. Most things written on this subject are directed at clergy: those who leave, those who interim, those who come as new settled pastors. This book includes those people but it is written specifically with congregations in mind. Every church can lead it's own transformative process and this book will help them do that!"

ZOOM INFO [HERE](#)

Rev. Dr. Marcia Bailey is an Associate Professor at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa, teaching ethical and critical thinking in the Intellectual



Heritage Program. She also serves as the part-time pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pottstown, Pa. Since ordination in 1986, Marcia has served as a settled pastor in three congregations and as a transitional pastor in four congregations. She is the author of *Transformed by Pastoral Transition: A Guide for Congregations* (2021, Judson Press) and

Choosing Partnership, Sharing Ministry: A Vision for New Spiritual Community (Alban Institute, 2007)

Marcia earned a BA from Alderson-Broaddus College, an M.Div. from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (now Palmer Theological Seminary) and a D.Min. in Transformative Leadership from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

[More information on webinar](#)

National Update



Transitions and New Life

In February, Lisa Simpson shared with Leadership Team that her husband, Perkin Simpson, had accepted a new position in Connecticut and the family would be moving in late Spring. Therefore, Lisa would be moving on from our office in Westchester, PA. We received her resignation, with May 27 as her last day.

Lisa has faithfully served the Ministers Council ABCUSA during an extraordinary three year period of transitions in staffing paradigm, contractual dependencies on administrative functions of ABCUSA structure, and development of a more cost-effective and sustainable central office. Time and again, she proved to be the right person at the right time.

In honor of her service, we are planning a time of farewell for Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 2pm Eastern. As our plans develop, we will give you more information.

Meanwhile, the Leadership Team will soon be posting an updated position description, seeking applicants and interviewing candidates. We covet your prayers as we navigate this time of transition, with its grief and opportunities.

In Christ's Service,
Randolph Miller
President, Leadership Team
Ministers Council ABCUSA

Job Search Underway

Deadline April 30

We convened a Search Committee in March which has been meeting weekly and seeking feedback on the shape of needs of our next chapter. We're so grateful for Lisa's input, with her perspective drawn from her strengths in helping us build our current structures and programs. We've also sought input from the Leadership Team and a recruitment professional. These have led to a revised position title and portfolio. Read more about the new part-time position ["Program Administrator."](#)

Our new staff will need to be in commuting distance to our West Chester office. Please share this widely with contacts who may be led to apply.

In Christ's Peace,
Search Committee (Revs. Jacki Belile, Jerry Bertelson, Sara Day; Randy Miller, ex officio)

We continue to be grateful for Rev. Dr. Darla "Dee Dee" Turlington's work in supplying our constituency with these resources from Grant Station. Here's the latest update:

Grant Station

Grant making organizations have application deadlines that vary. Here are a few whose deadlines for inquiries fall in April and May:

<https://grantstation.com/covid-19-related-funding> Click on this link for free access to grants responding to the pandemic.

Funds Available to Combat Substance Abuse Department of Health and Human Services

The Drug-Free Communities Support Program seeks to reduce substance abuse among youth through community coalitions addressing the factors in a community that increase the risk of substance abuse and promoting the factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse. The application deadline is May 10, 2021.

[MORE](#)

Code of Ethics: Updates & Next Steps

Editorial team for learning guide now being formed

Our Chapters have begun holding educational sessions on the Proposed Revisions to the Covenant and Code of Ethics which were adopted at our national business meeting on November 19, 2020. For the changes in text to pass, 2/3 of our active chapters must ratify the document and submit notification of their vote to our national office during this year. Members of the drafting committee are available to answer questions or make presentations for your chapter.

In the meantime, we are establishing an editorial team to update our Learning Guide (see present version at www.ministerscouncil.com). Please respond by April 30 to register interest in serving.

[MORE](#)

COMPETENCE FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

New Monthly Column Explores Aspects of Competence in Ministry

Your national Leadership Team has committed to envisioning ways we can best nurture "Competence" amid the important nurture of the other 2C's - Centeredness and Collegiality. With our ministry paradigm as a largely volunteer-led organization, this requires optimizing how we use our communication tools to share resources and reflections which enrich one another.

To that end, we invite YOUR experienced reflections and honest searching on competency themes going forward each month. We'll be following a [Competencies list](#) compiled and authored by the Midwest Ministry Development Center, starting with a section on "Relationship to Self." For April, we're claiming questions and discussion on competency and "being self-directed and managed." What does that mean to you? What are you learning? What resources could help deepen your capacity for this competency?

Do you have a witness or resource to suggest on Competency and Continuous Learning? Please share any contributions you are led to make on that theme by April 26, 2021.

Send to info@ministerscouncil.com.

We value your feedback on MC LIVE. Reminder that our simple survey (9 questions) deadline is THIS WEEK. Please complete [it](#) today!

Prayers and Milestones

The Rev. Dr. Marilyn P. Turner-Triplett will retire from American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) on May 31 after 20 years of steadfast service. ABHMS celebrates with gratitude the ministry of this faithful servant leader, who has dedicated her gifts to serving as the hands and feet of Christ since 2001.

[Click to read more](#)

We grieve with family, friends and colleagues upon the death of **Rev. Beverly Finley-Gardner** due to complications related to Covid-19. Beverly lived and served in Metro Chicago.

We pray for all our leaders who serve in chaplaincy, counseling and local church settings; may all discern rightly the time and place to listen, to speak, to act for Christ's Good News.

Chapter News

Our Chapters have begun their local conversations and votes on the proposed revisions to our national Covenant and Code of Ethics, as approved by the Chapter Representatives at our November 19, 2020 national business meeting. The draft and a process recap can be viewed [here](#). The Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors chapter has become the first to ratify the changes. Contact info@ministerscouncil.com to arrange for a presentation if needed.

Our Local Chapter Representatives meet bi-monthly to share news, ideas and encouragement. This body is convened by Rev. Atula Jamir, Ph.D. (jamiratula@yahoo.com) Don't have a local chapter? Need help restarting yours? Contact Rev. Jerry Bertelson (jerry.bertelson@gmail.com)

[Read more about highlights from March 16 meeting.](#)

Staff Reflection

Don't Look Back! *A Word from Lisa*

There is no need to carry yesterday's regrets, failures, and mistakes. Psalms 118: 24 reminds us that "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Each new day brings its own opportunities, grace, and mercy.



I invite you to listen to the song "Morning Has Broken" by Cat Stevens, as you mediate and refresh your spirit on the lyrics:

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world
Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day
Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Reflection: Be thankful for today and recognize that each day is a gift from God. Yesterday with all its cares and fears is gone and a new day is dawning. What are your plans for today?

ABC Announcements

Registration is now open for the American Baptist Churches Biennial Mission Summit, meeting online Thursday, June 24 to Saturday, June 26, 2021. Plan now to experience the vitality of our American Baptist family together with other American Baptists from all corners of the United States and the world during our first ever denomination-wide online Biennial Mission Summit. Visit www.americanbaptists2021.com to register.

[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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Join or renew your national and local chapter membership today! We're receiving dues now for the 2021 calendar. You can pay these affordable dues (on a sliding scale) conveniently online at www.ministerscouncil.com or through your local treasurer.

