

Together in Ministry



Collegiality * Competence * Centeredness

May 2021 Newsletter



As we shared last month, our wonderful Member Services Coordinator, Ms. Lisa Simpson, is departing after three faithful years of service in our national office.



Join us for
**A Service of
Gratitude and Blessing**

to celebrate and honor
our beloved friend and colleague

Lisa Simpson

May 27, 2021
at 2 pm Eastern Time

This will be a virtual service.
Meeting details will be sent via email closer to the
service date. If you have questions, please contact
linbunce@gmail.com or jamiratula@yahoo.com.

Help us find Lisa's successor! The right candidate for the revised staff position (Program Administrator) will be able to commute to our office in West Chester, PA. Do you have friends or colleagues who might be called to this part-time position? See and share the job description found [here](#). We're accepting applications until May 10th.



**For Such a Time as This --
Pentecost Power and Practices in
a Divided World**

A Conversation with Rev. Dr. Marie
Onwubuariri and Rev. Chakravarthy Zadda-
Ravindra, Ph.D.

**May 20, 2021
8pm Eastern/7pm Central/5pm Pacific**



What does the Pentecost story mean for the multi-cultural and multi-national Body of Christ? Does it give fresh direction for this divisive and pain-filled time in the world we are called to serve and bless? How do we imagine the gifts of the Spirit for the speaking, listening and acting to which we are called today? What might we learn as leaders from the rhythms of the Spirit as we retell the birth of the Church? Join us for conversation with two colleagues whose ministries embody a multiplicity of experiences and lenses, including deep connections to the international family in India and Myanmar. Together, we'll explore our common call to empathic and empowering leadership. Hosted by Rev. Jacki Belile, CPC

Zoom and Presenter Info [Here](#).

SAVE THE DATE!

Cultivating Prophetic Consciousness:
A Conversation with Dr. Marvin A. McMickle

June 17, 2021
8pm Eastern/7pm Central/5pm Pacific



We welcome Dr. Marvin A. McMickle to "MC Live" for a spirited equipping conversation anchored in his most recent book *Let the Oppressed Go Free: Exploring Theologies of Liberation*. Be sure to pick up a copy in advance and join in the conversation!



survey

Your Feedback is Important!

Please take a few moments to fill out a simple survey on MC LIVE. The short survey (9 questions) deadline is THIS WEEK. Please complete [it](#) today!

JOIN US AT THE MISSION SUMMIT VIRTUAL

EXHIBIT HALL

Gatherings Envisioned at our "Booth" between June 24-26th

Join us in the Virtual Exhibit Hall during the 2021 ABC-USA Biennial Mission Summit event. Using the Cvent platform, this one-of-a-kind online experience gives attendees opportunities for meetings one-on-one or in groups throughout the event. Live events will kick off on June 24 and run through June 26. The Ministers Council is excited to imagine how this virtual offering will allow us to celebrate, learn, connect and grow collectively over the time of this event. If you are interested in reserving a block of time during the Biennial Summit for a chapter meeting, a ministry gathering, or an information session, please contact The Ministers Council Leadership Team at linbunce@gmail.com or ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org.

See more information in our mid-May Special Edition newsletter.

National Update

Together in Ministry

Profile: Evergreen

The Evergreen Younger Clergywomen Group is one of our Together in Ministry small groups and a 2021 TiM Grant recipient. This small group out of Washington State represents the Evergreen Chapter of the The Ministers Council ABCUSA. They have been meeting for over a year now and support one another through study, spiritual practice, recreation, and personal sharing.



Evergreen Younger Clergywomen Group at their Pacific Beach, WA 2020 Retreat

Last year they headed to Pacific Beach, WA (following COVID-19 testing) where they spent two nights, cooked together, made spiritual collage candles, talked about their call to ministry, and spent time reading and relaxing on the beach. This year they will use their grant money to help fund their second retreat together scheduled for July 2021.

The Together in Ministry (TiM) program offered by The Ministers Council provides a flexible support system that encourages collaboration and spurs creativity, leading to greater success in sustaining ministers. Groups and ministers who participate in our TiM are regularly engaged with a Clergy Covenant Group, have access to bi-annual opportunities to learn from the practices of other TiM groups, and are eligible to receive small grants for group needs or activities. TiM groups are one of the important ways we are able to care for and support the health and well-being of the ministers within our community.

If you have questions about joining a TiM group, forming your own TiM group, or receiving small grants for your already existing TiM group, please contact Lin Story-Bunce (linbunce@gmail.com).

If you'd like to apply for a TiM grant, you can do so [HERE](#)

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 May 10 to register interest in serving.

[MORE](#)

Prayers and Milestones



Please join the IM family for a celebration of life.

*IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JOHN A. SUNDQUIST*

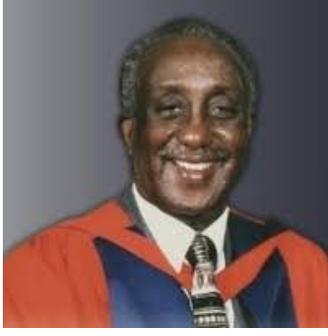
Rev. Dr. John A. Sundquist who served as Executive Director of American Baptist International Ministries (IM) from 1989 until 2003, entered fully into the presence of our Lord on Sunday, February 21, 2021.

On Friday, May 21, 2021, the 207th Anniversary of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (IM), we will gather online at 10am EDT to remember the life and ministry of John Sundquist.

*Please rsvp to Executive Assistant Alisha DeJesus, to receive the Zoom invitation closer to the event.
adejesus@internationalministries.org*

international
ministries 

A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Rev. Dr. Horace Orlando Russell was held on Saturday, April 17, 2021 in West Chester, PA. The service was



officiated by the Rev. John Murrow, retired associate executive minister of the Philadelphia Baptist Association, and was attended by a small gathering of family, colleagues, and friends.
[Click to read more](#)

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) announces that the Rev. Lisa Harris Lee has assumed leadership of its Healing and Transforming Communities ministry.
[Click to read more](#)

We continue to pray for wisdom as our communities strive for peace and justice. May it be Christ's peace and Christ's pattern.

We pray with our entire world ravaged in this day by Covid; we pray for the hundreds of Indian pastors' families and churches who have lost pastors in recent weeks. (Contact our office if you would be led to offer financial support for these families and ministries.)

We pray for our ministry siblings in Myanmar and ask for protection, peace and justice.

Chapter News

Are you interested in starting or renewing a Ministers Council Chapter?

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

I was on the job three days when I received a phone call from my Executive Minister. Fresh out of seminary and swimming in a sea of new names and responsibilities in my first call I felt overwhelmed. The phone call, however, turned out to be the balm that my anxious heart and mind needed. Rev. Dr. Marshall Peters offered his support and encouragement and pointed me toward the upcoming gathering of a local Together in Ministry group. The T.I.M. group (and the Ministers Council itself) was new to me at the time, but it became a source of friendship, encouragement, and collegiality, and helped to sustain me for these past 12 years of ministry. The Ministers Council has been crucial in helping me stay connected to colleagues and deepen my appreciation for the breadth of ministry represented in the ABCUSA. I am deeply grateful for picking up the phone call that day.



For the past 12 years, I have served churches in both Iowa and South Dakota and now I am also blessed to serve on the national Ministers Council Leadership Team as the coordinator of Membership and Chapter Development. In this role, I look forward to assisting local chapters in renewing their connection to the Ministers Council and with individuals and small groups who desire to start anew a Ministers Council chapter.

If you are interested in starting or renewing a Ministers Council chapter, please reach out to me and we'll begin a conversation about how to go about it and what resources are available to you from the National office. Feel free to contact me via email at jerry.bertelson@gmail.com or at 605-321-0388.

All the best,

Our next Chapter Representatives meeting is May 18, 3:30-5pm EST. May is Mental Health Awareness month! We are excited to have Rev. Dr. Delois Brown-Daniels, President and Representative of the Chicago Chapter speaking to us on mental health, followed by Q&A. Prior to her presentation, all chapter reports will be made. You do not want to miss this meeting. Looking forward to our sharing, learning, and healing, together. --Rev. Atula Jamir, Ph.D. (Contact info@ministerscouncil.com for zoom info).



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.

Staff Reflection

With Gratitude *A Word from Lisa*



With my last addition to the newsletter I would like to express my gratitude to the Leadership Team and all the members of the Ministers Council for allowing me to serve as their Member Services Coordinator. Over the past 3 years I have met and worked with some of the most amazing men and women of God. I am grateful for all the experiences that I have shared with each of you. We have had times of celebration and even times of uncertainty, however God was always in the midst to ensure that His work was accomplished, and His name glorified. As I get ready to start the next chapter that God has ordained for me and my family, I ask that you continue to pray with us. I will miss each of you, however, please know that this is not goodbye but, "so long until we meet again!"

I would like to share a piece that my son Christian wrote recently which I thought was fitting "for such a time as this."

Patience and Silence (The Journey)

It is that calm feeling, it feels nice
The sense of peace in the air
Everything seems to be going fast all around me
But I still feel His presence

The views of society and the world around us through the lenses of our eyes
As time goes on, days come and go
Times filled with silence makes everything seems slow

During times where the future is uncertain should we worry about the uncontrollable?
Well, there is a thing that can fill the void, it is patience
Yes, patience is key

From the time we wake up and start the day having the belief that today will be better than yesterday
It takes patience

[READ MORE](#)

ABC Announcements

I hope you'll join me for "**Starting the Money Conversation**," a two session workshop to be held virtually **noon-1:30 p.m. ET on May 18 and 25**. ABHMS is hosting this training with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to expand participants' financial toolkits with booklets designed around four common money issues:

- resolving debt,
- getting bills in order,
- understanding and using credit, and
- saving for goals.

The first 500 individuals to register will receive copies of all four booklets, plus two that are published in Spanish—a gift and resource you can use personally or in your ministry settings. [Register online](#) today to ensure you receive the booklets ahead of the training. You can also [preview](#) the resources to learn more of what the training is about.

REGISTER NOW for this insightful 90-minute, two session event being held on May 18 and May 25.

Jennifer Sanborn
National Coordinator, In Support of Excellence
[American Baptist Home Mission Societies](#)
[Judson Press](#)
p 610.768.2416 f 610.768.2470

Judson Press is proud to announce that five books published by Judson Press have received Independent Press Awards.

[Click to read more](#)

International Ministries will be a partnering sponsor of the first-ever online Biennial Mission Summit this June 24 – 26. New features at the summit will help participants "**Imagine**" a world of possibilities as they seek to respond to God's call.

[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



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

time)
