

Together in Ministry



Collegiality \* Competence \* Centeredness

## June-July 2021 Newsletter



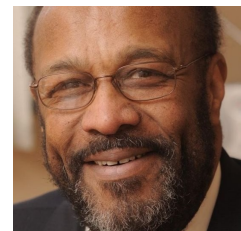
*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13*



### **For Such a Time as This -- Cultivating Prophetic Consciousness:**

**A Conversation with Dr. Marvin A. McMickle**  
Co-hosted by Revs. Cheryl Harris and Jacki Belile  
**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!



[Zoom instructions](#)

More upcoming MC Live Events Below.

### **FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS :**

Ministers Council Gathers throughout Biennial Week

We are excited to announce the share with you a number of opportunities for us to gather together throughout the week preceding and during the official biennial. We'll be using the online platform provided by the ABC-USA to set aside space for you in the ways listed below beginning Monday, June 21.

[See all events and Zoom Links here](#)

### **Coffee and Devotional Conversation**

Monday, June 21 - Saturday, June 26

10am-10:30am, Eastern

Join current and former MC leaders in a variety of sessions - some prayerful, some hanging out, some exploring resource-sharing questions.

Thanks in advance to leaders Margaret Marcuson, Randy Miller, Sara Day, Jerry Bertelson, Lin Story-Bunce and Jacki Belile

### **3Cs - Connecting with Current MC Offerings**

Monday, June 21 - Saturday, June 26

1:30-2:30 pm, Eastern

Join us for a variety of sessions on MC resources and current initiative, such as Together in Ministry Groups, Chapter Revitalization, Chapter Grants and the Code of Ethics

### **Social Gatherings**

Monday, June 21 - MC Social Gathering

Wednesday, June 23 - Chapter Social Gathering

7:30 pm, Eastern

Monday and Wednesday evenings there are opportunities for social gatherings.

MC Chapter of Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Gathering

Tuesday, June 22

7:30 pm, Eastern

### **Drop-in Times**

Did you miss the Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Gathering? They're generously hosting these additional Drop-In Times:

Thursday, 3pm and 10pm Eastern

Friday, 11am and 9pm, Eastern

Saturday, 11am and 2pm, Eastern

Your Chapter can also easily gather during our social nights Monday or Wednesday, if you'd like to join us and grab a breakout room.

Visit our [Facebook Event](#) (temporary alternative to website) for complete program updates and Zoom links. Contact [linbunce@gmail.com](mailto:linbunce@gmail.com) for more information.

### [Facebook Event](#)

[Download complete attendee schedule HERE.](#)

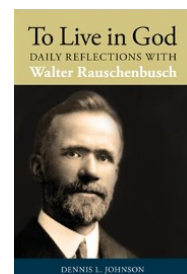
[OR use link to Google document](#)

[\(8\) Biennial Gatherings: Devotions, Chapter & MC Updates | Facebook](#)

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Friends,

In conjunction with the American Baptist Mission Summit and on behalf of the Ministers Council ABCUSA, it is my privilege to invite you to ZOOM discussion on our Baptist mystic, Walter Rauschenbusch, led by Dennis L. Johnson who authored the book, "To Live in God: Daily Reflections with Walter Rauschenbusch. We hope you will join us as we explore how the century old wisdom of Rauschenbusch still has meaning for our world today.



Please make a note of the day and time of this event.

Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 pm (Eastern Time) – open to all.



## [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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"LOVE FROM THE CENTER OF WHO YOU ARE" -  
A Personal Compass Conversation with Spiritual Director  
and Life Coach Lisa Beacham

**JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MC LIVE ON**  
**JULY 15 @ 8PM EASTERN/5 PM Pacific**

Do you need a "time out" for some reflection on where you are and where you're going? Join us for Conversation with Lisa Beacham, who will share activities drawn from the Personal Compass tool she uses with clients. Expect the blessing of spacious reflection questions! This session will provide meaningful take-aways for all, and may be of special interest to the spiritual directors and coaches among us.

## [ZOOM Information](#)

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## **WHAT'S "HOPE" GOT TO DO WITH IT?**

3C's a Framework for Abiding in the God of Hope

Romans 15:13 has captivated me in recent years, particularly after a powerful church revitalization event with Kenneth Callahan. He anchored questions of the relevance and impact of church life in this passage and the question "Is your church a church that enables seekers - longtime and new to the journey -- to connect to this God of Hope?" The passage often animates my benediction at the close of worship.

Think about our varied ministries of pastoring, chaplaincy, counseling, teaching, and more. How might you articulate what your ministry action and presence offer for the equipping those in your care for knowing the God of Hope? What does the art, the science, the spiritual practice of that look like in your place? I think today about how our 3Cs of Ministers Council commitment can nourish hope to smaller or greater degrees: Centeredness in Christ's love and grace, Collegiality on this lonely path, Competence as an affirmation that we can change, we can grow.

As you think about your spiritual tank, what might you honestly say today about your own needs for such hope? For a sustaining joy and peace in believing...What do you need? Who do you need? What core beliefs do you hold about this God of hope? What is being dismantled in these challenging times, perhaps for even greater Christly wisdom to emerge?

We pray for you all regularly, and devote our presence and programs to the sustaining hope intended by the God of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Joy and Peace,  
Rev. Jacki Belile  
Vice-President  
Ministers Council ABCUSA

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## **National Update**

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Group Retreat, Puerto Rico

**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.



TiM Group meeting, Jefferson, Iowa

**Want to learn more about opportunities for TIM Groups, best practices for small groups, or funding opportunities, join us for our Together In Ministry Virtual Gathering during the Biennial on Tuesday, June 22 at 1:30 pm.**

If you have questions about joining this virtual time, please contact Lin Story-Bunce (linbunce@gmailcom).

If you'd like to apply for a TiM grant, you can do so here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKFSAXoPwemVHpaTNAGgQA\\_8ZM2V5oPljds1ivCKdQA1myKg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKFSAXoPwemVHpaTNAGgQA_8ZM2V5oPljds1ivCKdQA1myKg/viewform)



Harrisburg Association Pastors Group

## Code of Ethics: Updates & Next Steps

The Proposed Revisions to our national Covenant and Code of Ethics are available, with explanatory notes at [www.ministerscouncil.com](http://www.ministerscouncil.com). These



were adopted by chapter representatives at the November 2020 national business meeting, and the next step is the deliberation and vote on ratification by our chapters. \* Several chapters have already taken their votes and have registered the results with the national office.

We're grateful that about a dozen committed folk from diverse backgrounds and ministry settings have indicated interest in potentially serving as the Editorial Team for the revisions to the Learning Guide, which will take place in stages and in sync with final status of ratification. Join Committee Leaders on Friday, June 25 at 1:30m Eastern at our Biennial Booth for more updates and conversation.

\*NOTE: We urge local chapters to schedule a "Q and A" session with national subcommittee leaders to prepare their membership in discernment before the vote. Eligible voters for ratification of this national document include only those chapter members who are currently up-to-date on their national dues.

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## Staff Transitions

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Thank you for all your well-wishes for our dear Lisa Simpson as she concluded her work on May 27th. Our Leadership Team members Atula Jamir and Lin Story-Bunce facilitated a wonderful send-off.

Our Search Committee continues to search for our national office's sole staff position - redesigned and titled "Program Administrator". We pray for the right person in the Greater Philadelphia area for this part-time position. Please circulate the [job description](#) widely! Our revised deadline is July 10th.

We have hired an Interim Program Administrator for the next 2-3 months. Ms. Linda Miller will hold down the fort capably. A disciple with American Baptist roots and family, Linda is a retired denominational staff person for the national offices of the National Association of Continuing Congregational Churches. The Search Committee was impressed by her long history of serving ministers and missionaries and grateful for her availability for this interim period.

A Brief Intro from Linda: "Raised in an American Baptist Church in the Chicago area. I attended University of Illinois - Chicago and received a BA in Studio Arts. My work experience took me through eight years at the Post Office, a volunteer year for the Esther Davis Center (a Locally Validated Mission of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago), and 20 years working with the homeless on Chicago's north and west side. After relocating to Wisconsin, I began working for the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, first as an administrative assistant to the Executive involved with Missions and Church Development. Later I became the Missions Administrator. I look forward to serving the Ministers Council this summer!"



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## Prayers and Milestones

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Let us step away from the conventional and the expected. Let us move toward transformation and transition, conversion and change. In these moments of prayer and reflection, let us set our course toward that which is: most important, most meaningful, and most faithful.

Dear Lord, storms arise in our lives. Waves crash in our communities. Winds rage in our world. Poverty and pollution persist. Violation and greed continue. Racism and homophobia wreak havoc. We pray for the tempests and troubles. Bring the storms in us, and on this earth, to silence. Center us in your divine peace. Ground the world in your sacred stillness.

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O God of all people, pour out your spirit upon us and cleanse our nations of fear and hatred. Fill us with compassion and peace and a thirst for justice. Give our nation a new beginning in your Grace. Amen

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God of the wilderness, breathe your Spirit of life into our dry bones. Show us your strength where we see only weakness. Sing to us your love where evil whispers hatred and judgment. In the name of your Holy Child, God with us, Amen.

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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](http://www.ministerscouncil.com) or through your local treasurer.

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## ABC Announcements

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**MMBB's 2020 Annual Report, Answering the Call to Adapt, Evolve, Respond** is now available [HERE](#)

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**ABHMS Center for Continuous Learning**  
ABHMS' Center for Continuous Learning launches its [online platform](#) of mission education programming this month. Watch for details about September's formal launch of the center's meeting and learning space in ABHMS' Leadership and Mission Building in King of Prussia.

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**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](#)

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## DO YOU "LIKE" US?

There are two opportunities for you to interact with us on Facebook. 

"Like" the official **page** of the Ministers Council ABCUSA for news and inspiration at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ministersabcusa>

For a more private social media experience, which is not open to the public, join our Facebook group at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/abcusamc>

## 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**

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