

Together in Ministry



September 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

Paul invites us here to picture a fullness -- an abundance and abiding -- which may often be hard to imagine in our stressed, broken and spiraling world. As I take in his benediction this day, I recognize the calling as minister to be one *embodying such abundance*. Not because Joy or Peace are naturally my "go to" place or project or professional achievement. But because the God of hope provides these. Not because lament ought to be denied or feelings suppressed, but because our God would place all these truths under a horizon of hope. An atmosphere of hope.

I've been wondering this lately... How do our Ministers Council "3C's" relate to receiving these gifts? Competency, Collegiality, Centeredness... [Read more](#)



**Join us September 16 @7pm
Central Time for :**

**Holding Space: The Ministry Arts of
Spiritual Direction and Coaching**

Do you want to connect with other Spiritual Directors or coaches in the ABC ministry family? Are you drawn to explore transitioning to this work, or adding these competencies to your present work? Rev. Dr. Randolph Miller, our national president, will host this special networking and sharing session of "MC Live." (We're considering the formation of a new chapter for these specialized ministries.) Bring your stories, questions and resources!

[Zoom Instructions](#)

October MC Live
What Brings you to Today? A look at

Traumatic Healing and Recovery Led by Rev. Karen Pickler

Thursday, October 21
8pm Eastern/7pm Central/5pm Pacific

[Zoom Instructions](#)



Join us for this webinar and collegial conversation in this difficult time. With Chaplain Karen Pickler, we will take a look at recovery from traumatic events for Veterans and also what it means for us all to recover and care for others. The session will be applicable to ministers across settings, and hopefully serve as a wake-up call for personal self-care along with endgame planning. [Read more](#)

SAVE THE DATE

A Pilgrim's Perspective: Why We Walked the Way of St. James

Led by Rev. Dr. Don and Rev. Lauren Ng

Thursday, November 18
8pm Eastern/7pm Central/5pm Pacific

[Zoom Instructions](#)



National Update

Code of Ethics Revisions - Ratification Process Underway

Three chapters have voted on the proposed revisions, and others are planning their votes for upcoming months. We ask that chapters consider doing the following as part of their processes:

- a) circulate the proposed revisions, available with a companion hand-out [here](#).
- b) schedule a "Q and A session" with a member of the national Leadership Team, to review the 2018-2020 project, share questions and offer feedback
- c) hold a duly-organized meeting at which chapter members* will hold an "up or down" vote, preferably before 12/31/21.

In addition, we give thanks for those who signaled willingness this Spring to serve on an editorial team for the companion resource we will be updating. This Learning Guide will be inspired by and drawn from the [tool](#) created in 2006 by a group of 10 colleagues. (The Guide will serve as a professional development resource for clergy discussions on the topics included in the Code of Ethics; it is not an interpretative guide for the Code of Ethics.)

The Team will be convened this month for an official launch. For more information, contact ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org.

*Those who are national members of the Ministers Council in the year of the chapter vote

Together in Ministry

The Evergreen Younger-ish Clergywomen Group is a TIM small group and 2021 grant recipient. This summer, they used their grant to go on retreat to Pacific Beach, WA. They spent time on the beach, went hiking in the Quinault

Rainforest of the Olympic National Forest (and visited the world's largest spruce tree), painted mugs, ate together, and played epic games of Phase 10. They also talked, prayed, had a great time, encouraged and built up each other. You can see the rest and joy they found together on retreat in the photos here.



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

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKFSAXoPwemVHpaTNAGgQA_8ZM2V50Pljds1ivCKdQA1myKg/viewform

If you have questions about creating a small group or applying for TiM Grant funds, please contact Lin Story-Bunce (linbunce@gmail.com).

Grant Station Sheds Light on Current Trends in Grantseeking

National Ministers Council purchases an annual membership to Grant Station, a database of grantmakers who accept unsolicited requests. Grant Station sponsors *The 2021 State of Grantseeking™ Report*, which sheds light on current trends in grantseeking. This year, they added a special section on grantseeking during the pandemic: [CLICK HERE](#)

Key Findings of the general questionnaire include:

- Compared to the prior year, 62 percent of respondents applied for more grants, and 53 percent were awarded more grants. In addition, 46 percent reported the receipt of larger awards.
- Applying for at least three awards increased the frequency of winning an award: Only 9 percent of organizations that submitted three to five applications won no awards.
- The median largest award from non-government funders was \$40,000. The median largest award from government funders was \$154,000.
- The median size of the largest individual award ranged from \$9,000 for small organizations (annual budgets under \$100,000) to \$1.4 million for extra-large organizations (annual budgets of \$25 million or higher).

To learn more, see the full report [HERE](#).

Current COVID-19 funding opportunities are available on the Grant Station website, grantstation.com, without membership or fees.

For more information on the following opportunities, or to have former MC President Dee Dee Turlington search the Grant Station data base on your behalf, email Dee Dee at darla.turlington@gmail.com.

- The Fund for a Just Society, a program of the Unitarian Universalist Association, provides grants to nonprofit organizations in the U.S. that address issues of social and economic justice. Preferred emphases on community organizing with the disenfranchised for systemic change.
- If your Church is working with other community nonprofits to respond to economic losses due to the pandemic, you may qualify for an American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge.
- The Jackson Community Grants program supports nonprofit organizations that serve the residents of the Chicago, IL; Lansing, MI; or Nashville, TN in the areas of strengthening families or providing economic opportunities.



Program Administrator (PA) Search Process Underway

The Ministers Council ABCUSA continues in its active search for a part-time Program Administrator to work in the West Chester, PA office. If you are interested in this opportunity, follow [this link](#) for a copy of the position description. We are also soliciting referrals for this position if you know of someone who would be suitable. Thank you for your patience and support during this interim period of time.

In the spirit of prayer and discernment,

Rev. Dr. Randolph T Miller
Ministers Council Leadership Team

A Word from our Interim Program Administrator



Greetings from the remote Ministers Council office. While MC is looking for that permanent Program Administrator to serve in our West Chester, PA office, I maintain weekly contact with emails, phone calls and maintaining the database. I am available Tuesday and Thursday mornings, by phone or email.

We are developing temporary membership cards that will

serve until permanent cards can be issued. Those who have become members since the end of May, will receive this temporary card once it is printed. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at: ministerscouncil1935@gmail.com or call and leave a message on the Ministers Council phone: 610-314-7837. I will respond as soon as possible.

Thank you for your patience during this transitional time.

Blessings,

*Linda Miller
Interim Program Administrator
Ministers Council*

Prayers and Milestones

Prayers requested for **Gerald R. Brown**, who has stage 4 cancer.

For Joyce Morin, for permanent housing so she can have a hip replacement.

Dear God, our comfort and strength in times of sudden disaster. Surround all who have been affected by fire, earthquake, and storm with your grace and peace; through Jesus Christ. Amen

Lord, we lift up the people of Afghanistan to you. We pray that you hold them and help them walk through this fearful time. Protect them under your wing and help them feel the comfort and peace that comes from your powerful presence.

ABC Announcements

First Baptist Church of Topeka, KS is looking for a NextGen Pastor. For more information check out the Ministers Council Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/127469550314/>



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.

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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