

Together in Ministry



## October 2021 Newsletter



*The gifts God gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. -Ephesians 4:11-13*

### October is Clergy Appreciation Month

Clergy Appreciation Month is a time set aside to recognize the contributions and service of all clergy. Within Clergy Appreciation Month is Pastor Appreciation Day, which falls on the second Sunday in October. This year it is celebrated on October 10. It is a day when the faithful come together nationally to pay tribute to our pastors and their staff.

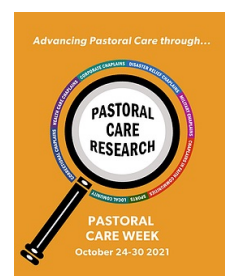
*So...it's Clergy Appreciation Month. What does that mean to you, if anything? What might you predict in ways of acknowledgment, if any, in your setting? Do you want that or more or less? Do you need any "appreciation" you do not now feel? From whom? For what? Join this week's sharing about this on our Facebook Group [here](#).*

### PASTORAL CARE WEEK

October 24-30

Theme: Advancing Spiritual Care Through Research

Spiritual Care Week/Pastoral Care Week is hosted by The COMISS Network: The Network on Ministry in Specialized Settings. The first Pastoral Care Week was held in October 1985. Since then it has grown from a national to an international celebration. The celebration of Spiritual Care Week provides an opportunity for chaplains and pastoral care counselors, educators, and providers to share their story and to celebrate various ministries.





*We're so grateful our Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors' chapter for their leadership for Collegiality, Competence and Centeredness. Learn more and connect [here](#).*

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## A Word From Our President

### A Case Study for Group Spiritual Formation:

#### 2021 Walter Rauschenbusch Pilgrims



At the end of 2021, Ministers Council distributed to ABC ministers and friends over ninety copies of Dennis Johnson's book, "To Live in God: Daily Reflections with Walter Rauschenbusch. From that group, a cohort of forty people from around the country joined the six-month pilgrimage with Walter Rauschenbusch beginning on January 1, 2021, and ending 180 days later on July 2. Meeting through ZOOM, the cohort was invited to check in monthly basis. The group was also encouraged to join and participate in a small group experience known as Circles of Spiritual Companions (CSC). From the larger cohort, six small groups formed meeting monthly. At the conclusion of the pilgrimage, four groups have covenanted to continue meeting monthly.

#### Assessment

- 1) All who committed to the six-month journey expressed a desire for a deeper walk with God and a connection with other ministers.
- 2) Those in the smaller CSC groups expressed greater fulfillment of the above-listed desires. The covenant and structure of these smaller groups provided an atmosphere of confidentiality, allowing for deeper and intimate sharing.
- 3) In a time of ZOOM fatigue, these small groups were particularly life-giving and spirit-filled.
- 4) Groups with designated leaders were especially able to divide the time equally among all members.
- 5) These CSC groups were remarkably similar in structure and outcomes to groups dedicated to group spiritual direction.

#### Conclusion

Amid the COVID pandemic, this informal experiment with group spiritual direction, aka "Circles of Spiritual Companions," offered meaningful encounters of collegiality and centeredness, providing encouragement for clergy, and suggests a model for further *"equipping of the saints for the work of the Gospel, for building up the body of Christ...."* If you are a spiritual director in ABC life and would be interested in furthering this kind of work, please contact me at [rtmiller.mc@gmail.com](mailto:rtmiller.mc@gmail.com).

Randolph Miller, Leadership Team,  
Ministers Council ABCUSA

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

**What Brings you to Today? A Look at**  
**Traumatic Healing and Recovery**

**Led by Rev. Karen Pickler**

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](#)

[Zoom Instructions](#)



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## 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](#)



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## Chapter News

**Valley Forge:** The theme this year is “Living in the New Normal.” Invited speakers and Chapter members to share their insights and experiences. The theme for 2022 “Being the Body of Christ: Postures of Christian Humility.” This is in process; detailed information will be shared as it is finalized and become official.

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**Oregon:** The Chapter has been idle for two years. Randolph Miller, our national President, recently met with a group of people who are interested in revitalizing the Chapter.

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**Metro Chicago:** The chapter steering committee starts meetings with an engagement of play. A Zoom Play Date is scheduled for October 12 on the theme “Spiritual Play Date: God is Always Looking for Playmates” (Ruben Alves) led by Professor Joanne Lindstrom. The Chapter is also planning a series of workshops, and membership drive. The Chapter will vote on the Code of Ethics in November or December.

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**Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors:** The Chapter celebrates its 30 year anniversary. Members received a special gift– a beautiful coin. On one side is printed Ministers Council Collegiality, Competence, and Centeredness. On the other side, ABCUSA Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors. It is meaningful in a personal way for each of us. Rev. Karen Pickler will be on MC Live on Oct. 21, and excited to participate in that session on Traumatic Healing and Recovery. 7pm Central.

[Newsletter](#) is published regularly leading to visibility.

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### **Northern California:**

Upcoming MCNC Meetings

We now meet monthly on 2nd Thursdays either by Zoom or In-Person

Our meetings are 10 - 11:30am Pacific Time

Virtual Meeting of ‘Green the Church’

Rev. Ambrose Carroll

**October 10 - 13, 2021**

[More](#)

Thursday, **October 14**, 2021 at 10am by Zoom

Robert Wilkins, Director of Seafarers Ministries



2022 Ministers Council of Northern California Annual Retreat  
**January 7-9, 2022** at Redwood Glen Campgrounds  
Speakers: Don and Lauren Ng

For more info, contact [cmeyers987@gmail.com](mailto:cmeyers987@gmail.com)

## National Update



### **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

## Prayers and Milestones

Almighty God, you have called from among your people those who will carry out the ministry of the church. Let your blessing rest on all who answer that call.

Eternal God, you calm and quiet us. Spread over us the shelter of your peace. Hold before us the wisdom of your cross, where we are drawn to you not by might or power, but by your boundless love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Faithful God, we joyfully lift up the families of our Pastors. Holy Spirit, we ask You to fill their homes with Your gentleness, peace, joy, and Godly order.

## ABC Announcements

### **Ministers Council Bibliography**

Grose, Gordon S. *Tragedy Transformed: How Job's Recovery Can Provide Hope for Yours*. Boulder, CO: Believers Press, 2015.

Harvey, Michael. *Attempts at Light*. Bloomington, IN: Archway Publishing, 2020.

Marcuson, Margaret J. *Leaders Who Last: Sustaining Yourself and Your Ministry*. New York: Seabury Books, 2009.

Van Loon, Preston C. *The Path to Forgiveness: Moving forward with hope and healing one day at a time*. Boulder, CO: Blue Mountain Press, 2018. Study Guide, 2019.

Yarbrough, Slayden A. *I Am...: Storytelling in Worship*. Rapid City, SD: New Harbor Press, 2020.

Over the last year, I have been invited to review several books published by members of our Ministers Council, and it has caused me to wonder who else is publishing works and what they are writing about. Above is a small sample of current authors who are members of the Council.

To that end, we would like to begin a bibliography of works produced by members of the Ministers Council, so we would like to invite you to send us the titles, publishers, and dates. We will begin to collate and create a bibliography that reflects the breadth of Ministers Council membership. Please send all information to [info@ministerscouncil.com](mailto:info@ministerscouncil.com).

Randolph Miller



## 2022 Membership:

Ministers Council begins accepting membership dues for 2022 in November of 2021. The 2022 national dues continue to be structured based upon income with the brackets remaining the same as 2021. They are as follows:

Under \$ 10,000	\$ 10.00
\$ 10,000 to \$ 24,999	\$ 25.00
\$ 25,000 to \$ 59,999	\$ 50.00
Over \$ 60,000	\$ 100.00

If you pay your dues through PayPal via the Ministers Council website, it will also offer you the option to pay your local chapter dues as well. If you pay both your local and national dues together, we will forward the local dues to your chapter. We thank you for your continued support of the Ministers Council.

## 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**

- Visit us at  
**www.ministerscouncil.  
com**
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home page of the website