

Together in Ministry



The
Ministers
Council

Collegiality * Competence * Centeredness

November 2021 Newsletter



*The steadfast love of the God never ceases,
God's mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:22-23*



DO BAPTISTS DO “ALL SAINTS DAY”?

by Jacki Belile,
Vice-President, Leadership Team

Old Song

Do not seek too much fame,
but do not seek obscurity.

Be proud, but do not remind
the world of your deeds.
Excel when you must,
but do not excel the world.
Many heroes are not yet born,
many have already died.
To be alive, to hear this song
is a victory.
--West African Proverb

This text has been an enormous personal blessing to me for over 20 years. It was read in a dedication moment for me by an intuitive elder who knew I needed to hear it in a setting of disappointing organizational transition. It rang such deep resonance that another friend made a lovely script version of it for my ordination later that year. It greets me every day 22 years later. In the intervening years I've shared it with many clients, retreatants and congregants. I'm so deeply grateful for the call to a humility that accepts our place in the scheme of things. A balance in ambitions. A responsibility to the day which has been entrusted to us.

[Read more](#)

A Pastoral Reflection from the President

The Wound that Lingers

Raised in the era of Jim Crow in east Texas, he was drafted into the US Army at the age of 21 serving in an integrated combat division during the Korean War.



He was as a decorated veteran, honorably discharged at 23 years of age. Shamefully, he was denied the medals earned until much later in life. He returned to the racist South with war-related spiritual and moral traumas in addition to a loss of hearing. Like many veterans of that time, he kept silent about his war-time experiences.

He married, moved to Los Angeles, and began raising a family of six children. He believed his prime duty as husband and father was to be a good provider, which he was. But due to his early adult trauma, he remained emotionally unavailable and distant from those he cared the most about. Early family life was accentuated with fits of rage and other forms of undiagnosed and untreated PTSD. Subsequently this trauma would be visited up his children and their children.

At the age of 91, these untreated traumas still haunt this man. He finds some solace in the informal networks of other veterans, but the hidden wounds of the soul are still festering deeply within.

As we honor Veterans this November, let us find hope in the advances of treatment of PTSD and other war-related spiritual issues. It was timely that the October MC-Live hosted chaplain [Rev. Karen Pickler in a presentation, “What Brings You to Today: A Look at Traumatic Healing and Recovery.”](#) It is also available for viewing under the Archive Tab on the Ministers Council’s website, click in “Video Archive.”

*He (the LORD) heals the broken hearted,
and binds up their wounds.
Psalm 147:3*

Randolph T Miller
President, Leadership Team



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

**A Pilgrim's Perspective: Why We Walked the
Way of St. James
Led by Rev. Dr. Don and Rev. Lauren Ng**



Don Ng is an actively retired minister who served denominationally in Valley Forge and locally as a pastor in San Francisco Chinatown. He currently serves on a number of boards, a member of a TIM and co-leads the Asian Colloquium. Lauren Lisa Ng serves as director of Leadership Empowerment at the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS). She earned her MDiv from the Berkeley School of Theology and is currently pursuing her DMin at Central Seminary in Kansas. She is a poet, artist, and musician as well as a mother of three. Together in August, they walked the Camino Portuguese to bond as father and daughter, pray for people at home, and reflect on life's purposes by reaching the Cathedral de Santiago.

[Zoom Instructions](#)



Advent Vespers

Topic: MC Live Advent Vespers

Time: Dec 16, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join us for a 30-minute gathering of music, devotions and prayer. We are preparing a simple time for Advent refreshment.

[Advent Vespers, December 16 Zoom Instructions](#)

National Update



We're so blessed by the participation of all those who've gathered for our **MC Live monthly sessions** - leaders and attendees alike. We'll be doing some fresh visioning for these regular sessions as we plan the 2022 calendar. If you have feedback or suggestions for content, please email info@ministerscouncil.com to reach Rev. Cheryl Harris. Rev. Harris will be assuming leadership of planning and hosting at the turn of the year.



Program Administrator (PA) Search Process Underway

The Ministers Council ABCUSA continues in its active search for a part-time Program Administrator to work from the Greater Philadelphia area. Watch for a Special Edition announcement next week with a revised job description. If you are interested in this opportunity, write us at ministerscouncil2021@gmail.com. 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,

Search Committee:

Jacki Belile
Jerry Bertelson
Sara Day
Randy Miller



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Together In Ministry Grant

We are now accepting Together In Ministry Grant Applications for the 2022 year. These funds are available to small groups affiliated with The Ministers Council, ABCUSA, and can be used to support spiritual renewal and well-being of new and existing groups. Groups can receive one grant of up to \$500 per year.

Excellence in Ministry Grant

We are now accepting Excellence In Ministry Grant Applications for the 2022 year. These funds are available to local chapter groups affiliated with The Ministers Council, ABCUSA, and can be used to support spiritual renewal and well-being of the chapter and its members. Chapters can receive one grant of up to \$1000 per year.



For more information contact **Rev. Lin Story-Bunce** through office at info@ministerscouncil.com or linbunce@gmail.com

Chapter News

Metro Chicago - A number of members joined Steering Committee member Rev. Dr. K. Joanne Lindstrom for "A Play Date with God" by Zoom last month. It was a delightful session of fellowship and laughter. The Chapter will take its vote on the proposed revisions to the national Covenant and Code of Ethics on December 7th at 7pm. Three Q&A Sessions are planned for November at diverse times.

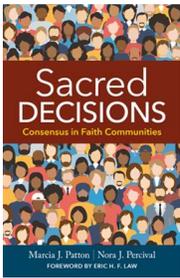
Northern California

The Chapter will hold a next meeting on November 11 at CrossWalk Community Church at 10am, with a discussion on an article by David Gushee. An Advent Service will be held by Zoom on December 9th, coordinated by Rick Mixon. An Annual Retreat will be held on January 9 - 11, 2022 at Redwood Glen Campgrounds. Speakers Don and Lauren Ng will lead on the theme "Fostering Connection and Community through the Power of Stories." For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Charlotte Myers at cmyers987@gmail.com or (415)887 8743.



Please submit your chapter news for the December issue by Monday, November 22nd to info@ministerscouncil.com. Contact Rev. Atula Jamir, Ph.D. at jamiratula@yahoo.com to get the latest on chapter representatives' regular conference calls, a vital part of our resource-sharing with one another.

Prayers and Milestones



We congratulate Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton on recent release of *Sacred Decisions: Consensus in Faith Communities*. The book is co-authored by Nora J. Percival. Order from Judson Press [here](#). Interested in joining a study-reflection group in January? Email info@ministerscouncil.com

Please continue to pray for **Rev. Rick Harris** who is battling with his cancer, and is under treatment. Rick is a member of the Valley Forge Ministers Council.

O God of all our people: rich and poor, young and old, famous and unknown. Pour out your spirit upon us and cleanse our nations of fear and hatred.

We thank you, loving God. We acknowledge that all good things come from you. Help us to never take for granted your gifts, your love, or the life we have through knowing Jesus Christ.

Please share your prayers and milestones for the December issue by sending an email to info@ministerscouncil.com before November 22nd.

ABC Announcements

Radical.
Redeemed.
Ready.
Celebrating
Ministering
Women

**Conference Dates: June 15-18,
2022**

With women serving in a multitude of ways and a variety of roles throughout the United States and around the world, American Baptist Women in Ministry (ABWIM) is hosting a unique conference: Celebrating Ministering Women: Radical. Redeemed. Ready.

[MORE](#)

Join or Renew Your Membership



2022 Membership:

It's time to join for 2022! Our dues are collected for the calendar year, with dues received after November 1st going to the next year unless marked otherwise. 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)



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