

Together in Ministry



Collegiality * Competence * Centeredness

January 2022 Newsletter



The Spirit of God is upon me, because the most high has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free - Luke 4:18

A Pastoral Reflection from the President

KNIT TOGETHER FOR SERVICE – Join Us for Common Mission in 2022!

Since 1935, the enduring goal of the [Ministers Council](#) has been to “knit God’s holy people together for the work of service to build up the Body of Christ, until we all reach unity in faith and knowledge of the Son of God, ... fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.” Ephesians 4: 12 – 13 (New Jerusalem Version).



Today, we name three core values which describe this enduring work and *how* we knit together and build up the Body of Christ:

- A. **Collegiality:** Because the work is peculiar – often isolated and complex, the Ministers Council seeks to facilitate and encourage the gathering of ministers for mutual support and prayer.
- B. **Centeredness:** Because it is easy to get lost along the way of ministry, to lose focus, and forget the calling in which we have been entrusted, the Ministers Council places high values on practices that aid the servant of Christ to rediscover and maintain one’s relationship with the Holy One and with self.
- C. **Competence:** While academic preparation (Divinity School, Seminary, or Bible School) is foundational for ministry, refinement of ministry skills and practices are developed over time as ‘on-the-job’ training. The Ministers Council strongly values life-long learning practices and seeks ways to facilitate

on-going competence for excellent and ethical ministry.

These emphases have taken different forms of expression over the decades, but they remain our calling!

We celebrate that the Local Chapter is our “fundamental unit of mission.” These local chapters, whether regionally based or for specialized ministries, gather regularly in meetings, retreats, and conferences to inspire ministerial excellence to the glory of Jesus Christ. Called into Baptist association, these local chapters form a national community of practice which is resourced through our meetings of representatives, MC Live Webinars, funding for Together in Ministry groups, Excellence in Ministry Chapter Grants and our national newsletter. We are called to knit together...

We wish you courage and hope as you continue to live out your calling as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you value our common profession's work of “knitting together” we ask you to renew your [dues](#) or join us for the first time in 2022. Our affordable dues structure is a sliding scale; see details at the end of this newsletter.

Sincerely yours,

Randolph T Miller, President



The Words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

The “I Have a Dream” speech is the The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King’s most famous speech. It was delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963. But his equally eloquent words concerning God and faith were delivered from pulpits across the country. In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which we celebrate on January 17 this year, here are 7 quotes for you to ponder.

“It is pretty difficult to imagine a single person having, simultaneously, the characteristics of the serpent and the dove, but this is what Jesus expects. We must combine the toughness of the serpent and the softness of the dove, a tough mind and a tender heart.” — “A Tough Mind and a Tender Heart”

“Jesus eloquently affirmed from the cross a higher law. He knew that the old eye-for-eye philosophy would leave everyone blind. He did not seek to overcome evil with evil. He overcame evil with good. Although crucified by hate, he responded with aggressive love.” — “Love in Action”

“Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction. So when Jesus says ‘Love your enemies,’ he is setting forth a profound and ultimately inescapable admonition.” — “Loving Your Enemies”

“Worship is as much a part of the human organism as the rising of the sun is to the cosmic order.” — “The Rewards of Worship”

“Our capacity to deal creatively with shattered dreams is ultimately determined by our faith in God.” — “Shattered Dreams”

“Christianity has always insisted that the cross we bear precedes the crown we wear.” — “Transformed Nonconformist”

“Never must the church tire of reminding men that they have a moral responsibility to be intelligent.” — “Love in Action”

After reading these quotes, what do Dr. King’s words spoken in the second half of the 20th Century mean to you in the 21st Century? Are they still applicable? Which quotes apply to your call and your ministry? Which quote touched your heart today?

Events and Webinars



MC LIVE – Third Thursdays
Join us! January 20, 2022
7pm Central/8pm Eastern/5pm
Pacific

Time: 8pm-9pm EST
[Zoom Information](#)

Small Group Formation and Funding.

If you are already a member of a clergy small group or would like to start one, you don’t want to miss this session.

Ministers Council Leadership team member, The Rev. Lin Story-Bunce will interactively share the process for receiving small grants from the Together in Ministry Fund.

If you’d like to start a small group, Rev. Lin will engage a lively discussion to brainstorm ideas to help you get started and pursue funds to support your small group vision.

Learn more about the program at our [website](#).

Please set the date and time. We look forward to seeing you there.

Rev. Cheryl Harris
Secretary, National Leadership Team
Coordinator, MC Live 2022

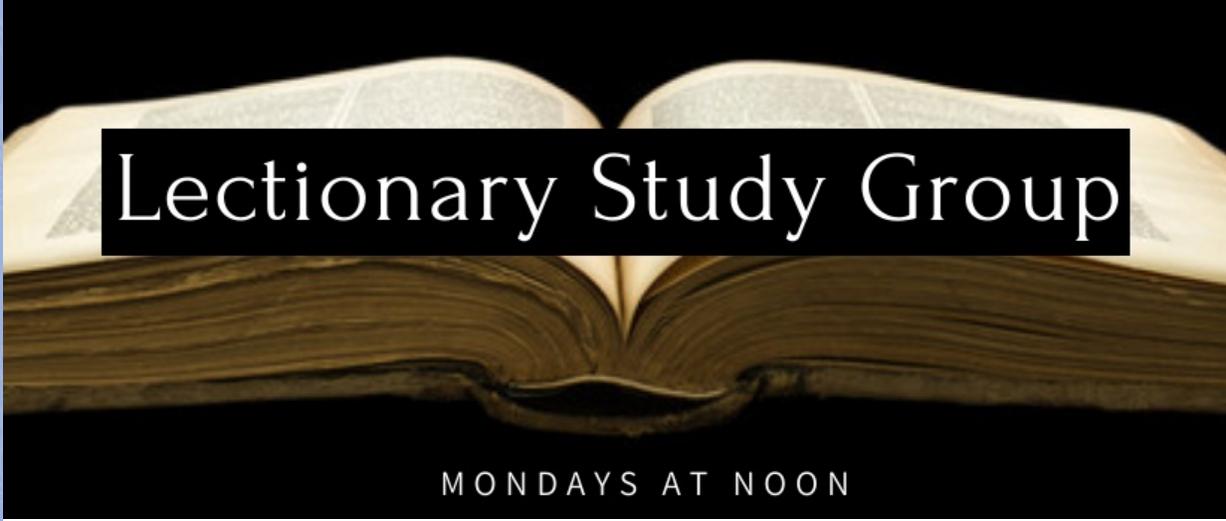
SAVE THE DATES!

LENTEN PRAYER
GATHERINGS
Wednesdays March 9-April 13
9am-9:30am Eastern Time/8am
Central/6am Pacific
[Zoom Information](#)



We continue the tradition of creating Lenten space for prayer and fellowship. Join Revs. Rebecca Driscoll, Jacki Belile and others for this year’s devotional

experiences. Interested in helping to plan or co-lead? Contact Rebecca at drisre01@gmail.com.



Lectionary Study Group

MONDAYS AT NOON

SERMON PREPARATION LECTIONARY STUDY MONDAYS AT 12NOON (Eastern)

We're grateful to pass on that a member of our ministry family, Rev. Troy Shaw, has convened a regular weekly gathering for sermon preparation. Contact Troy for more info at tshaw@lhbcolumbus.com

ZOOM INFO

Zoom Meeting Link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72834436533?pwd=d3JRbENKVmJKOTRXVy9ZWjNmZUhDQT09>

Meeting ID: 728 3443 6533

Passcode: SdmaG7

National Update



JOB OPENING

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. Interviews and discernment are in process.

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

ABC Announcements

Let the Walls Fall Down

Virtual Retreat for Young
Adult Women
(women ages 18-40)

Saturday, January 15, 2022
3:00-6:00 PM EST



Join ABWM's Young Adult Women's Ministries for a free virtual retreat on Saturday, January 15, 2022, at 3:00 PM EST. Through conversation, activities, and fellowship, young adults will build connections and grow as leaders. Our guest speakers include Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri, Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development of the America Baptist Churches USA, and Rev. Maureen Gerald, Executive Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church.

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)



Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri will help us to look at how our culture and upbringing have both formed and informed who we are today.

Foundational to Rev. Dr. Marie's leadership and ministry endeavors is her commitment to being as self-aware as possible to how her presence is impacting the context she is in while also remaining true to her journey of divine calling and becoming the person God has designed her to be. To this end, she has particularly developed a lens for cultural self-awareness through her over thirteen years as a cross-cultural competency trainer and consultant in faith-based, educational, and professional settings and a lifetime of formation and bridging at the intersection of cultures.

Marie's formal education includes a BS in Management, a Master of Divinity with an emphasis in multicultural ministries, and a Doctor of Ministry in Transformational Leadership, which culminated in her dissertation topic, "Cultural Self-knowing and Negotiation: A Spiritual Practice for Intercultural Leaders." Marie is co-editor and chapter author of *Trouble the Water: A Christian Resource for the Work of Racial Justice (Nurturing Faith, 2017)*. She has served as a regional executive minister, local church pastor, seminary staff member, secular business executive, and in various volunteer roles within the American Baptist denomination and local community groups. Since January 2021, Marie has been serving as Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development with the America Baptist Churches USA in King of Prussia, PA.

Support our ministry with women and girls!
Give now at www.abwomensministries.org/give.

PALMER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CELEBRATES AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH!



The 41st Frank B. Mitchell, Jr. Lectureship

AFRICAN AMERICAN SCHOLARS ON THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH

Friday, February 4, 2022 – 10 AM

Pinn Memorial Baptist Church

2251 N 54th St, Philadelphia, PA 19131

Our 2022 Theme

*“When Normal No Longer Exists:
Constructing New Paradigms for Pulpit and Pew”*

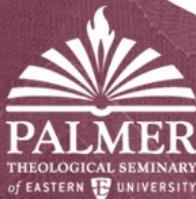
Guest Lecturer

Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown

Bandy Professor of Preaching
Candler School of Theology
Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia



Attend in person, or watch via Facebook
www.facebook.com/PalmerTheologicalSeminary



Join us for this annual celebration of distinguished African American scholarship honoring the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Frank B. Mitchell, Jr.

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

We are committed to an exchange of chapter news, as well as announcements of personal and communal milestones and prayer requests. For inclusion in the February issue, send these to ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org by Jan. 28th.



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
 - Join us on [**Facebook**](#)
 - Consider signing up for our monthly newsletter by selecting "subscribe" on the home page of the website
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