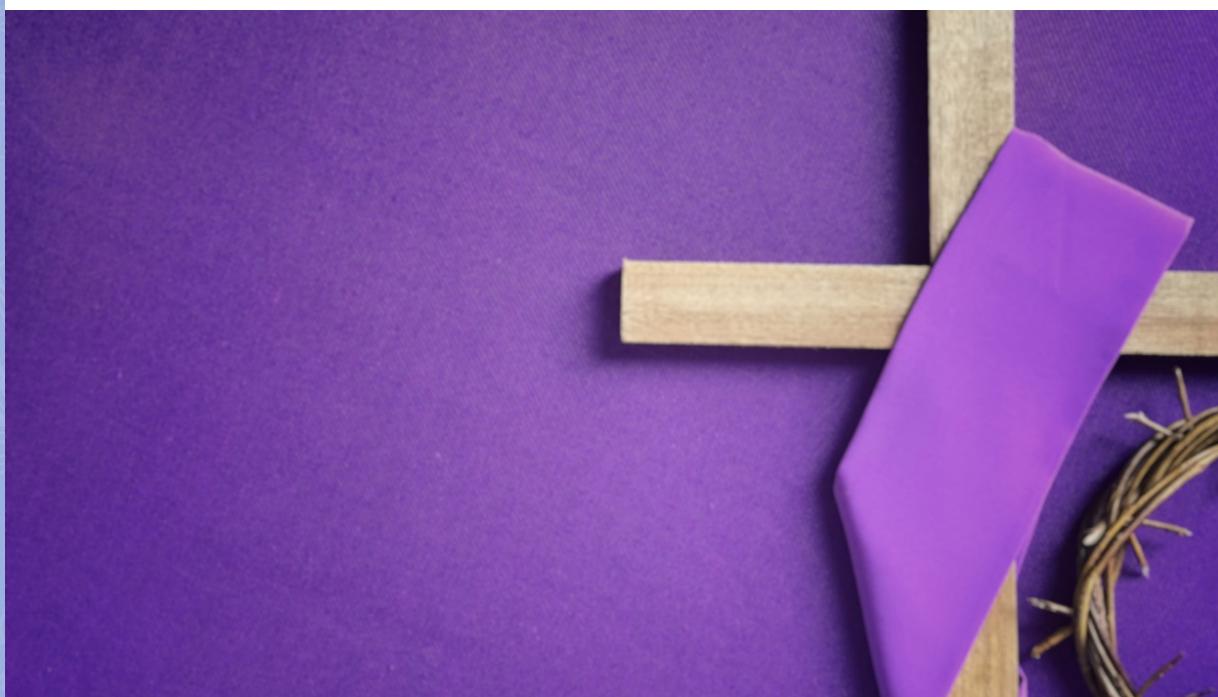


Together in Ministry



Collegiality \* Competence \* Centeredness

## March 2022 Newsletter



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### **\$15,000 in OGHS Emergency Relief Funds to Ukraine, More Help Urgently Needed**

In response to immediate needs resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began on February 24, 2022, International Ministries, on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, has sent an initial grant of \$15,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) emergency relief to the European Baptist Federation to provide humanitarian aid for Ukrainian Baptists. This grant joins a larger, global Baptist response to this evolving situation. [Read More](#)

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### **Call to Prayer Amidst Conflict in Ukraine**

American Baptist Churches USA General Secretary Dr. C. Jeff Woods released a statement calling American Baptists to prayer amidst the recent military action seen in Ukraine. Read Woods' [statement](#) .

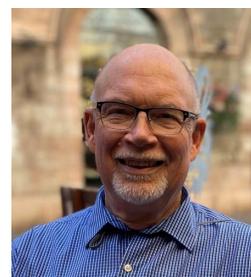
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## A Word From Our President

### ***VIA POSITIVA***

A Lenten Fast to Consider

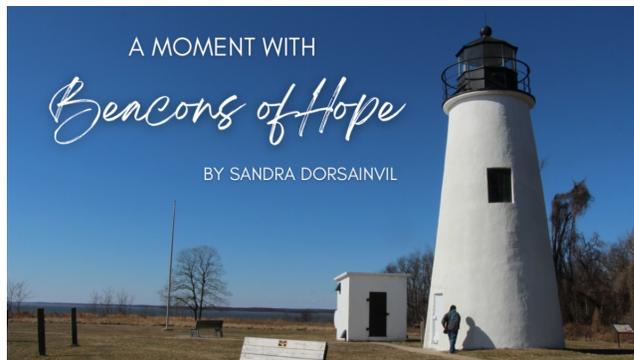
I was grouching about the prevailing darkness that surrounds us these days – two years of pandemic life, culture wars, creation injustice, and the outbreak of war in the Ukraine – remarking that we may never see the promised and blessed reign of God on earth – never see the light and beauty of God manifest. It seems as if we are in a dark night of the soul, dark night of culture, and dark night of our species. Without missing a beat, my spiritual director said to me, “then - you be the light!” Ouch! What a healing Word!



Her words reminded me of Julian of Norwich (1342 – ca 1415) whose way of hope, *Via Positiva*, was a bright shining star in the dark days of the Black Death. Often dismissed as irrelevant and too “other worldly” for the modern church, Julian still speaks words of encouragement and hope to our age. “Goodness... is the quality of God that meets evil with good” and of course, “All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of things will be well.”

[Read more](#)

## Events and Webinars



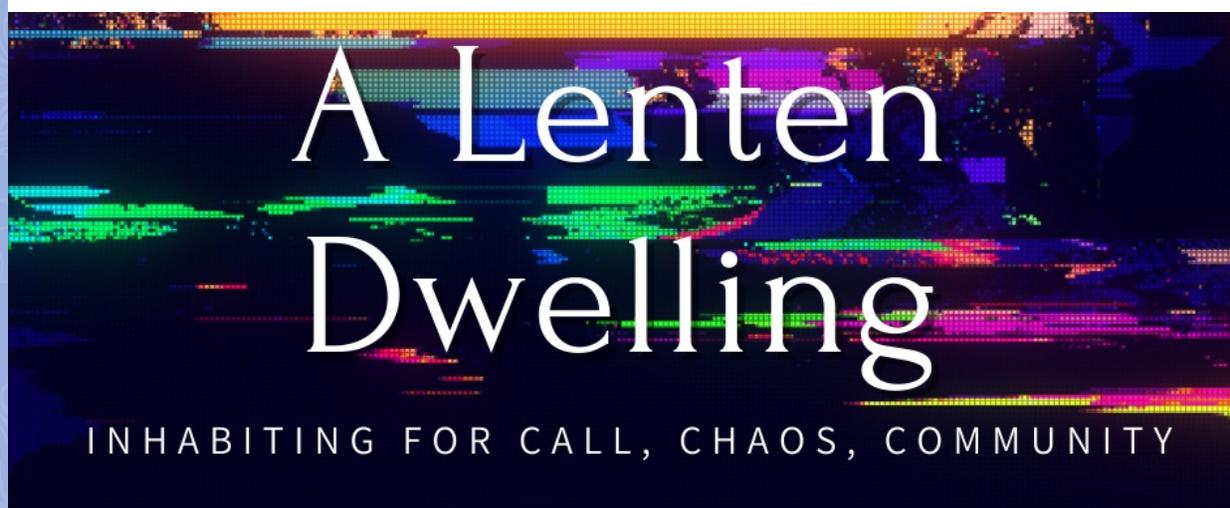
**March 17**  
**8pm Eastern**

“Please join us at our next MC Live event on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm Eastern to hear from our featured guest, Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil. She will engage our hearts and minds as she shares

insights from her new book, *Beacons Of Hope*. In this devotional book, Rev. Dorsainvil sheds light on fifteen (15) US born women lighthouse keepers. She explores what it means to lean into Micah 6:8 while living Matthew 22:39 as Christ followers and servant leaders.

"We look forward to your presence and responses in our introduction to this sacred work."

[ZOOM INFO](#)



A Lenten Dwelling: Inhabiting for Call, Chaos, Community  
Wednesdays, March 9-April 13  
6am Pacific/8am Central/9am eastern

Join us for 30 minutes with your ABC colleagues during Lent. This seven-week

journey will "re-turn" us to Jesus' baptism, wilderness temptations, and anointing. Where will it take us? Through this time of music, prayer, Scripture and fellowship we'll open up together to the Spirit's lessons for this Lent. Convened by Revs. Jacki Belile, Rebecca Driscoll and Scotty Robertson.

## [ZOOM INFO](#)

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# National Update

## **OUR COVENANT & CODE OF ETHICS --**

Proposed Revisions Making Their Way Through Ratification Process

We're pleased to report that so far seven of our chapters have taken their local chapter votes on the proposed [revisions](#) to the national Covenant and Code of Ethics, as adopted by the chapter representatives at the national business meeting in November 2020. A number of other chapters have plans underway for upcoming votes. Our national by-laws obligate us to conclude this business in a 2-year time frame.

Chapter officers can access the proposed revisions and the required chapter ballot form at [www.ministerscouncil.com](http://www.ministerscouncil.com).

Does your chapter have a vote scheduled yet? Would it be helpful to schedule a presentation/Q & A session with one of our committee leaders? Contact our Program Administrator Rev. Michele R.C. Turek at [info@ministerscouncil.com](mailto:info@ministerscouncil.com) to arrange this.

A general informational session will be held on the document and process to date on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am Central. [Zoom info here](#).

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## Join or Renew Your Membership



### **Membership has its Benefits!**

Grace and peace to you, dear colleagues in ministry.

It's that time of the year, again!

Most members join or renew in the first quarter, so that our dues are paid for the calendar year. This grants voting privileges, occasional program discounts and is sometimes the criteria for various grants. Additionally, your dues express your commitment to our organization's mission and sustainability.

The Ministers Council Leadership Team would like to announce a special gift for all who sign-up as members of the Ministers Council for 2022. For all who have already joined, and all new members who join by April 30th, a book will be sent to you as a gift of appreciation.

Two book options are being offered:

*How to Heal Our Divides: A Practical Guide* by Brian Allain, Brian D. McLaren, et al. and *Freedom Faith: The Womanist Vision of Prathia Hall* by Courtney Pace. Each of these books are timely in their own right. They both offer a way forward during these days, and also open up space for dialogue and discovery.

If you have already joined the Ministers Council or join by the end of April and you would like a copy of one of these books sent to you as a gift of appreciation, please



submit your request via email to Michele Turek, our Program Administrator, and one will be sent to you free of charge. Please indicate your choice and shipping address in the email.

In addition to the book, the Leadership Team will be hosting discussion sessions on each book over the coming months. More details will be available in May.

On behalf of the Leadership Team I thank you for your support of The Ministers Council and your active involvement in promoting collegiality, competency, and centeredness.

With gratitude,  
Jerry Bertelson  
Coordinator of Membership and Chapter Development

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## Chapter News



Do you have Chapter News or Events to share? Challenges or lessons? Rev. Atula Jamir, Ph.D., coordinates the bi-monthly meetings of our chapter representatives. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 15 at 12:30pm Pacific/ 2:30pm Central/3:30 Eastern. On the agenda will be a substantial update on our Code of Ethics projects.

For more information contact [jamiratula@yahoo.com](mailto:jamiratula@yahoo.com). Please send news for the April newsletter to [info@ministerscouncil.com](mailto:info@ministerscouncil.com) by March 25th.

## Prayers and Milestones



### **Rev. Michele R.C. Turek joins the Ministers Council as its New Program Administrator**

Dear Ministers Council Community, it is with great joy that I join you all as the new Program Administrator. We occasionally find ourselves in waiting, trying to sense the Lord's leading in times of transition. It was in one such moment that God opened the door to be here. Thank you all for your warm welcome, and especially to the National Leadership Team who joined me in the journey of discernment and have seen to my transition into this position. It is my hope to fulfill my role in Christ's Body, enabling, supporting, and caring for you all who care, preach, disciple, and serve the Lord's people in your communities. I look forward to future opportunities to usher in God's *shalom* in our shared mission together.

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We continue to grieve the passing of **Rev. Karen Pickler** with family, friends and colleagues. Karen was a devoted leader of our Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors chapter. Read her obituary [here](#).

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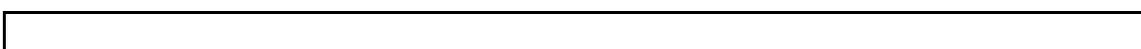
**Rev. Jacki Belile**, recovering and doing follow-up diagnostics after a recent hospitalization while away from home.

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## ABC Announcements

**Asian Americans and Burmese History: Immigration Experiences in America and the Impacts of Racism**—the first session of American Baptist Home Mission Societies' (ABHMS) Asian and Burmese **training series**—will be held 7-8:30 p.m. ET on March 24. This session will be held virtually at no charge. Click [here](#) for more."

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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](#)

Through March 8, the registration fee for conference attendees is \$139. After the early registration deadline, the registration fee will be \$170.

Find out about financial aid to make attendance to this conference possible if needed. More information [here](#).

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## Statement of Support of Women in Ministry

*“Until women are freely welcomed as full ministry partners, the impact of the Gospel in our age will be inadequate and incomplete.”*

In preparation to attend *Radical, Redeemed, Ready: Celebrating Ministering Women* in June at the Green Lake Conference Center, I am remembering the many male-dominated conferences I attended over the years and wondering where were the women presenters?

I am also mindful that both male and female clergy continue to struggle to overcome systemic sexism and gender bias that stifles the work of the Holy Spirit. Even after Dr. David Scholer and others (some 40 years ago) dismantled the biblical and theological barriers to women in ministry, ecclesial barriers still exist. But while the work of the Holy Spirit may be thwarted by human willfulness and ignorance, the divine work of God continues to unfold with grace, beauty, and love.

[Read more](#)

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## 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 April issue, send these to [ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org](mailto:ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org) by March 25.***



### How to reach us:

- By phone: (610)314-7837
- By email: [info@ministerscouncil.com](mailto:info@ministerscouncil.com)
- Address: 221 S. High Street, West Chester, PA 19382

### Stay connected

- Visit us at [www.ministerscouncil.com](http://www.ministerscouncil.com)
- Join us on **Facebook**
- Consider signing up for our monthly newsletter by selecting "subscribe" on the

- We can generally be reached in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays (emails and voicemails will be responded to during this time)
- 

home page of the website