

Together in Ministry



Collegiality * Competence * Centeredness

May 2022 Newsletter



In her poem, Violet Nesdoly reveals a window to the mystery of the Nativity in this Christmas poem from Dennis L. Johnson's recent book, *Remembering That It Happened Once: Christmas Carmen for Spiritual Life All Year Long*, (Eugene, Oregon: Resource Publications, 2021), 94-95. Living in the mystery of the Nativity, I wonder how might the mystery of Resurrection be expressed in poetry.

Randolph Miller
President Ministers Council ABCUSA

How the Natal Star Was Born
by Violet Nesdoly

The Son vanishes just after I am sent
to the Galilean virgin
and heaven isn't the same.
Gone the laughter, mischief, hijinks.
Music replaced by silence
all monochromatic, sober
like the life of the party has left
and we don't have the will
to keep partying or to go home.

[Read more](#)

This is the last call for 2022 members to claim their free book!

Please submit your request via [this GoogleForm](#). In addition to the book, the Leadership Team will be hosting discussion sessions on each book over the

coming months. You have until May 31 to claim your free book (eligible if your 2022 national dues have been paid).

Click on the following book titles for more information.

[How to Heal Our Divides: A Practical Guide](#)

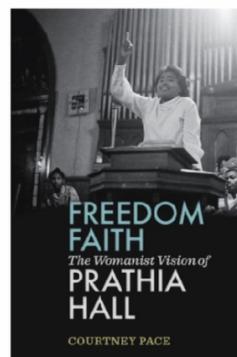
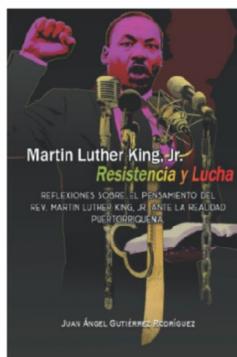
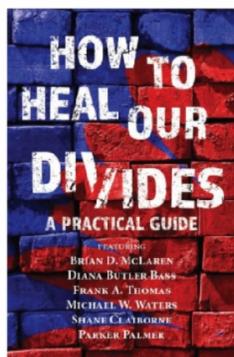
[Martin Luther King Jr. Resistencia y Lucha: Reflexión sobre el pensamiento del Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. ante la realidad puertorriqueña \(Spanish Edition\)](#)

[Freedom Faith: The Womanist Vision of Prathia Hall](#)



MINISTERS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

BOOK CHOICES



Each of these books are timely in their own right. They each offer a way forward during these days, and also open up space for dialogue and discovery.

Events and Webinars

Ministers Council Retreat

Save the Date
Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2022

St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, Nebraska



Feat. Donald Davis, Storyteller

O u r
S t o r y
G o d ' s
S t o r y

*Retreat gathering will include the Biennial National Business Meeting
of the Ministers Council.
Space limited!
Registration opens soon.*

3rd thursdays 
WEBINAR SERIES

May 19, 2022
8pm Eastern

Zoom Meeting: 889-6254-4887
Passcode: 065238

Host: Rev. Cheryl Harris

Join us for a monthly dose of the 3Cs - Collegiality, Centeredness, Competence

National Update

OUR COVENANT & CODE OF ETHICS -- Ongoing Opportunities for Discussion of Proposed Revisions

Has your chapter voted yet on the ratification of our proposed revisions? Do you serve in an area without an established chapter and desire conversation about the content and process underway? Join members of the Leadership Team in ongoing opportunities to learn more.

Contact info@ministerscouncil.com to arrange a presentation before your chapter's vote.

Next Code of Ethics Q&A Session
May 10, 2022
1:00pm CT

[ZOOM INFO](#)

TEAM FORMED FOR ETHICS LEARNING GUIDE REVISIONS

The Editorial Team working on revisions to the 2006 "Learning Guide on the Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches" officially launched its work earlier this year. Members include Rev. Mary Day Miller, Rev. Jerrod Huguenot, Rev. Juan Ángel Gutiérrez Rodríguez, Rev. Jacki Belile, Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Dyer, Rev. Florence Li, Rev. Dr. Alan V. Ragland, and Rev. Dr. Randle (Rick) Mixon. The team envisions working diligently over the coming months to release a revised text, translated into multiple languages, in conjunction with the national bi-annual meeting of the Ministers Council to be held October 31-Nov. 2, 2022. (See retreat/meeting info elsewhere in this issue.)

Over the coming months, feedback will be sought from constituents on

- a) potential improvements to the text of the 2006 [version](#)
- b) new text and potential scriptures to companion the 2022 Code of Ethics (currently in the process of ratification), which includes a number of additions

Feedback will be gained through [this survey](#), open through May 31st, as well as constituency focus groups and open feedback sessions to be scheduled between now and July 31. The Editorial Team will seek reviews beyond its membership. The Team's goal is to create an updated tool articulating insights from across our diverse settings of ministry.

For more information, contact info@ministerscouncil.com.

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.

For more information contact jamiratula@yahoo.com. Please send news for the June newsletter to info@ministerscouncil.com by May 26.

ABC Announcements

An American Baptist Anti-Racism Convening Table has been formed as the next step following the American Baptist Churches USA Board of General Ministries decision at its November 2021 meeting to approve a proposal to form an Anti-Racism Commission, initiated by the 2020-2021 ABCUSA Anti-Racism Task Force. The Anti-Racism Convening Table will meet regularly to discern faithful ways to move forward with an ongoing denomination-wide commitment to anti-racism work. To find out more about this, [click here](#).

“**Care of the Earth: Our Responsibility and Response for the Well-being of the Environment**” was the topic of American Baptist Home Mission Societies’ (ABHMS) first Justice Dialogues of the year, which was held online Wednesday.

Discussion was led by the Rev. Karyn Bigelow, co-executive director of Creation Justice Ministries, Washington, D.C.; the Rev. Rebecca Driscoll, Creation Care Minister, The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts; and Scott Sabin, author of “**Tending to Eden: Environmental Stewardship for God’s People** (Judson Press, 2010) and CEO of Plant with Purpose, a nonprofit Christian organization that works in developing countries to improve the lives of people in poverty.

[Read more](#)



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](#)

Registration closes May 13. The registration fee is \$139. Find out about financial aid to make attendance to this conference possible if needed. More information [here](#).

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 June issue, send these to ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org by May 26.



How to reach us:

- By phone: (610)314-7837
- By email: info@ministerscouncil.com
- Address: Ministers Council
ATTN: Rev. Michele Turek

Stay connected

- Visit us at www.ministerscouncil.com
- Join us on [Facebook](#)
- Consider signing up for our

c/o 6080 N. Angus St.
Fresno, CA 93710

- Office Hours: Tuesdays
and Thursdays from
8:00am-12:00pm Pacific
Time
-

monthly newsletter by
selecting "subscribe" on the
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