



## June 2022 Newsletter



### The Whole World in our Monastery

It is tempting to withdraw (if able) from this present world with it's prevailing reports of violence, crime, and disasters. Upon retirement, my neighbors moved from our little community in our little city to a gated community somewhere in Arkansas. They were fearful of media reports of the increased levels of crime and they had the resources to make such a move. They are now well cloistered in their illusions.



St Francis (1184-1226) believed that ... the whole world – not just a single building - was our cloister – our monastery. We were to be “friars” instead of monks, living in the midst of ordinary people, in ordinary towns and cities.”

In the Franciscan worldview – the Christ can be found everywhere. Nothing is secular or profane. You don't really “get” the Christ mystery until body and spirit begin to operate as one. Once you see the material and the spiritual working together, everything is holy. The Christ is whenever and wherever the material and the spiritual co-exist – which is always and everywhere.<sup>[1]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> Father Richard Rohr, Center for Action and Contemplation, Daily Devotions, Sunday, June 26, 2017.

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# Ministers Council

## Retreat

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

St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, Nebraska



Feat. Donald Davis, Storyteller

T h e  
S t o r y  
W e  
L i v e

The American Baptist Ministers Council's Retreat and Biennial Meeting will take place at [St. Benedict's Center](#) in Schuyler, Nebraska from Monday dinner, October 31st – Thursday breakfast, November 3, 2022. With the theme, "The Stories We Live," we have invited internationally known storyteller, Rev. Donald Davis, along with our own Rev. Lin Story-Bunce and Rev. Cheryl Harris to help us discover and shape our own stories. As this is the Biennial Meeting, Chapter Representatives are required to attend (registration and travel fee covered by both the national Ministers Council and local chapter contribution). Registration is \$250.

Space is limited, so be sure to register soon!

[Register Here](#)

3rd thursdays

  
WEBINAR SERIES

**June 16, 2022**  
**8pm Eastern**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

View video archives [here](#).

## National Update

### OUR COVENANT & CODE OF ETHICS



Ongoing Opportunities for Discussion of Proposed Revisions

Two Opportunities to Choose From This Month --  
June 14, 1pm Central Time [Zoom Information](#)  
June 27, 7pm Central Time [Zoom Information](#)

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](mailto:info@ministerscouncil.com) to arrange a presentation before your chapter's vote. ***Per our by-laws, the ratification process must be complete by December 31, 2022.***

#### ETHICS LEARNING GUIDE

Editorial Team Working Over Summer, Seeks Feedback

As reported last [month](#), 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.) Project feedback will be gained through this [survey](#), open through June 30, as well as diverse constituency focus groups and open feedback sessions in July and August.

For more information, contact [info@ministerscouncil.com](mailto:info@ministerscouncil.com).

## Chapter News

*Rev. Alan V. Ragland, Pastor Emeritus*  
*Rev. T.D. Hughes, Senior Pastor*



### Raving Reviews for Workshop on The Transition of Pastoral Leadership

On May 24, 2022 a virtual workshop, sponsored by **ABC Metro Chicago Ministers Council**, was facilitated by Rev. Dr. Alan V. Ragland and Rev. T. D. Hughes on "Lessons Learned in the Transition of Pastoral Leadership: Best Practices." In the words of one of the attendees, "it was an example of ministry at its best in that decisions were made with the spiritual and emotional needs of the congregation and staff in mind. It was also done in a way which addressed the reality of the needs of Pastor Ragland and Pastor Hughes. Moreover, it was done in a way that minimized disunity."

The 27 virtual attendees (21 were ministers council members) were blessed to have two exceptional ordained clergy, Rev. Dr. Alan V. Ragland, pastor emeritus, and Rev. T. D. Hughes, current senior pastor, of the Third Baptist

Church of Chicago share valuable lessons that they learned from their real-life experiences and the best practices that they employed to enact a healthy pastoral transition as senior pastors. The workshop demonstrated that when transitions are done well a congregation can continue to function and grow in a healthy manner. However, when these transitions are not done well, it can be very harmful to the life of the congregation as well as to the incoming pastor and the predecessor pastor.

[READ MORE](#)

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### **Ministers Council In-Person Gathering Berkeley School of Theology**

2606 Dwight Way, Berkeley

Thursday, June 9 at 10am

Topic: **“Aging With Faith”** - Facilitated by Rev. Laurel Balyeat Morrison.

II Corinthians 4:16, *“We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.”* Part of aging with faith rests with the preacher whose life and identity has been wrapped up in being a pastor and may lead to a lack of preparation for a new chapter in life and ministry. Instead of pining about how things might have been, it may be more potent and healthy to ask, “Lord, what do you want me to do NOW?” There are many ways to serve Christ and the church in a new season of life beyond being a senior pastor. If you’re an older pastor or just someone who wants to consider an optional ministry, let’s discuss and reflect on ways to teach the Bible, reach the lost, go on mission trips, and make disciples in a different capacity. Contact: Charlotte Myers [[link Charlotte's email address: cmyers987@gmail.com](#)]

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On April 28, 2022, our **Puerto Rico Minister Council** developed a seminar on Neuropsychology and communication: preaching, theological / Christian education teaching. Dr. Joel Acevedo Nieto was the professional resource on this occasion. WE are planning a second seminar on Neuropsychology and

pastoral care this year.

Thanks for your continuous support and solidarity.

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Celebrating the new publications of **Rev. Dr. Luis G. Collazo**: [Esperanza Y Liberacion: Desde Abelardo Diaz Alfaro A Leonardo Boff](#) and [Pedro Albizu Campos: la espiritualidad de un revolucionario](#)

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## **Call for Newsletter Help**

With Karen Pickler’s sudden, untimely death in February, the Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Chapter we lost not only a dear friend and colleague, but her talents and skills as our Newsletter creator. They find themselves needing someone to help with their newsletter. Please let us know if that could be you, or if you know of someone to recommend. The newsletters have been an important means of providing support to our members and we want to continue with them.

If you're interested, please contact [Sarah Fogg](#).

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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](mailto:jamiratula@yahoo.com). Please send news for the July newsletter to [info@ministerscouncil.com](mailto:info@ministerscouncil.com) by June 27.

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# ABC Announcements

**General Secretary Dr. C. Jeff Woods** released a statement on May 18, 2022, following recent shootings in California, New York and Wisconsin.

[Read more here](#)

You are invited to attend an Everyday ABC Conversation, "Homelessness and the Housing Crisis," on Monday, June 6, 2022 at 2:00pm EDT, with presenters Jill Scalise and Josh Sabo.

[Read more here](#)

**SPACE FOR GRACE 2022**  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI



Registration for ABHMS' Space for Grace conference is now open. Space for Grace will take place in Kansas City, MO in September. Early bird pricing ends June 30th.

[Find out more here](#)

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](#)

*The Ministers Council is a proud partner of this event and we look forward to seeing you there!*

## 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](mailto:ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org) by June 27.***



**How to reach us:**



**Stay connected**

- Visit us at

- By phone: (610)314-7837
- By email:  
info@ministerscouncil.com
- Address: Ministers Council  
ATTN: Rev. Michele Turek  
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Fresno, CA 93710

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

**www.ministerscouncil.com**

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