

August 2022 Newsletter



August Adagio

Come unto to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11: 28 – 30



August was once an “adagio” (a slowing of the tempo) in the rhythms of life. It was a time of rest and refreshment before returning to the activities of everyday life. It was a time of restoration and setting burdens down. As Jesus invites us into his rest, I pray you too find a time of retreat where you can rediscover rhythms of grace and perhaps even make music with your heart.

A FEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Biennial Meeting of the Chapter Representatives Team

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Ministers Council ABCUSA is composed of Local Chapters from around the country and specialized Chapters, like Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors. Each chapter selects a Local Chapter Representative for every 100 members or fraction thereof. These Local Chapter Representatives compose governing body of the Ministers Council ABCUSA known as the Chapter Representatives Team.

The Chapter Representatives Team will convene in the afternoon of November 1, 2022 at the St. Benedicts Center in Schuyler, Nebraska to conduct the business of the Ministers Council including the ratification of the budget for 2023-2024, to receive the report of the Nominating Committee and to vote on their recommended nominees to serve on the Leadership Team.

Our constitution states that “Local Chapter Representatives shall attend and

convene at the Biennial Meeting (Article X, Section 1)." Local Chapters are expected to assume 50% of the travel expenses of their Representative. The national office will cover the other 50% of costs.* Some financial assistance is available for chapters with limited resources. Please contact our Program Administrator, [Rev. Michele Turek](#), for further details.

**If driving, mileage is calculated at \$ 0.14/mile - up to the cost of air travel.*

NOMINATIONS

We are currently still receiving nominations for the four positions on the Leadership Team: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Coordinator of Chapter Representatives. Take a moment of discernment and consider who might serve well on the national Leadership Team, then nominate them using [this electronic nominating form](#).

Thank you for your consideration of these matters in this season of rest and reflection known as August.

I wish you All Peace and Goodness,
Randolph Miller, President
Ministers Council ABCUSA
RTMiller.mc@gmail.com

Events and Webinars



Ministers Council ABCUSA

Retreat & Biennial Meeting

The Story We Live

Oct. 31 - Nov. 3, 2022

St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, Nebraska



Donald Davis
Professional Storyteller



Cheryl Harris
Leadership Coach, Organizational
Consultant, Trainer, and Founder of
Cheryl Harris and Associates, Inc.



Lin Story-Bunce
Pastor of Families and Education
College Park Baptist Church, NC



Register Here

tinyurl.com/mcretreat22

You are invited to a retreat at the beautiful St. Benedict Retreat Center in Schuyler, NE from Oct. 31 – Nov. 3. The retreat will begin at 5:00 pm on Oct. 31 and end at 11 am on Nov. 3. World-renowned storyteller, Rev. Donald Davis, will facilitate workshops on the art of storytelling and storytelling in preaching, and our colleagues in ministry, Rev. Lin Story-Bunce, and Rev. Cheryl Harris, will lead discussions that will help us to discover the intersection of our stories, each other's stories, and God's story. We will also spend time resting, praying, and playing together.

Cost for the retreat is \$250 per person. This includes lodging, food, workshops, and transportation to and from the Omaha Eppley Field airport, if needed

Please note: There will be a business meeting for all chapter representatives during the retreat. *Chapter Representatives are required to attend.* Registration and travel fees for representatives are covered by both the national Ministers Council and local chapter contribution.

If you have any questions about the retreat, please reach out to Rev. Jerry Bertelson at jerry.bertelson@gmail.com.

[Register Here](#)



3rd thursdays **mc live**

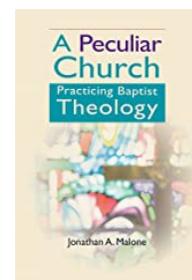
WEBINAR SERIES

August 18, 2022

8:00 pm Eastern

A Peculiar Church: Practicing Baptist Theology

Jonathan A. Malone



Jonathan A. Malone provides an excellent presentation of how Baptist theology emerged in the church historically and practically. This book is divided into three parts: first, the challenges and methodology associated with creating a Baptist Theology; second, worship and ordinances; and third, other aspects of church life and ministry such as baptism and funerals. A pivotal point in Malone's "doing theology" is rooted in convictions, which he describes as "centrally held statements out of which a theology emerges." Read this book to learn more about how Baptist theology is reflective of the responses of God's people to God's Word."

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Code of Ethics: Ongoing Opportunities for Discussion of Revisions

Our July info session was such an enriching conversation! Rev. Jacki Belile (from the Revisions Subcommittee) and Rev. Dr. Corey

just
5
months to go!

At the end of the year, the vote for the Code of Ethics ratification will conclude.

Fields, a committed Ministers Council member and pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Newark, DE, shared about the process, content, and ratification status. Eleven chapters have voted so far, and a number of others are in queue to vote this Fall. The conversation was itself an opportunity for some not connected in recent times to our work to share their insights, suggestions and questions. We want more of this - for the sake of excellence in ministry! See upcoming conversation opportunities below.

Has *your* chapter voted yet on the ratification of our [proposed revisions](#)*? Drop in to learn more at one of these upcoming Q&A sessions. Or, 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 ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org to arrange a presentation before your chapter's vote. Per our bylaws, the ratification process must be complete by December 31, 2022.

Next Sessions:

- Monday, August 22, 7pm Central Time | [ZOOM INFO](#)
- Tuesday, September 20, 9am Central Time | [ZOOM INFO](#)

*The document was approved at the national business meeting held November 19, 2020. These Q&A sessions are to raise awareness of the project, receive feedback that can be incorporated in the Learning Guide and other settings, and familiarize people with the ratification process. The document being voted upon is being ratified by Chapter votes and is not subject to further editorial revisions. Corey recently authored this [support letter](#) as we approach the deadline for ratification, December 31, 2022.

UPDATE ON ETHICS LEARNING GUIDE

The Editorial Team working on an updated Learning Guide for our national Covenant and Code of Ethics has been working diligently over the summer on a revised text, with a commitment to translate it into multiple languages. The Team is on track for editorial finishes this Fall, with final format contingent on the final ratification outcome of the revisions proposed in 2020. Project feedback will continue to be gained through diverse constituency focus groups and open feedback sessions through September. See next newsletter for dates. For more information, contact ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org.

Editorial Team Members: Rev. Jacki Belile, CPC; Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Dyer; Rev. Juan Angel Rodriguez Gutierrez; Rev. Jerrod Huguenot; Rev. Florence Li; Rev. Dr. Mary Day Miller, Rev. Dr. Randle Mixon; Rev. Dr. Alan V. Ragland.

Chapter News

Ministers Council Grants Available

Has your local Ministers Council chapter been struggling to keep in touch during COVID? Thinking about relaunching your chapter? You can apply for a Excellence in Ministry (EIM) grant from the national Ministers Council for up to \$1,000 to help. Any MC chapter is eligible to apply for the further growth of their ministers. Click the button below for more details. For any questions about the EIM grant, or the [Together in Ministry \(TIM\) grant](#), contact [Rev. Lin Story-Bunce](#).

[Apply for EIM Grant](#)

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](#).



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 September newsletter to ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org by August 27.

ABC Announcements

American Baptist Churches USA recently co-sponsored a booth at the International Religious Freedom Summit (IRFS), along with MMBB Financial Services, International Ministries (IM), and the Regional Executive Ministers Council. Read more [here](#).

In late August and early September 2022, Transition Ministries will host its next opportunity for pastors and other ministerial leaders to learn more about the skills needed to lead a church through a time of pastoral transition. Transition Ministries will offer an online training event on Friday, August 26-Saturday, August 27 and Friday, September 9-Saturday, September 10. Read more [here](#).

The Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches (previously the Asian Caucus) is having their 2022 Convocation in Kansas City following Space for Grace on Saturday, September 24th from 9:00am-2:00pm. If you want to learn more and/or register, please [click here](#).

The Search Committee for the next General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA is pleased to announce additional Focus Groups, and invites American Baptists to [participate in a focus group](#). Read more [here](#).

Recordings from the 2021 Biennial Mission Summit are now available on YouTube [here](#). Save the Date for the [2023 Biennial Mission Summit in Puerto Rico](#) June 23-25. The Ministers Council will be hosting a morning session and luncheon on June 22, 2023, so keep that in mind as you make travel plans!

Registration for ABHMS' Space for Grace conference is now open. Space for Grace will take place in Kansas City, MO in September. E

[Find out more 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 September issue, send these to ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org by August 27.



How to reach us:

- Phone: (610) 314-7837
- Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00am-12:00pm Pacific Time



Stay connected

- Visit us at our [website](#).
 - Join us on [Facebook](#)
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