

Together in Ministry



Collegiality * Competence * Centeredness

December 2022 Newsletter



National Updates

Advent Hope

“I bring you good news of great joy for all people.” (Luke 2: 10)

It seems timely to use the filter of Advent to reflect upon the new directions of the Ministers Council. Last month, Ministers Council Chapter Representatives gathered at the St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, Nebraska for their Biennial Meeting. There, 20 voting representatives adopted the proposed budget for 2023 - 2024 and elected the following officers to serve on the Leadership Team for the next two years.

President

Rev. Dr. Matthew Sturtevant of Lawrence, KS

Vice President

Rev. Rebecca Driscoll of Attleboro, MA

Secretary

Rev. Dr. Charlotte Myers of Alameda, CA

Coordinator of Chapter Representatives

Rev. Sarah Strashal-Kagi of Royersford, PA

Coordinator of Membership & Chapter Development

Rev. Jacki Belile, of Chicago, IL



Continuing on the Leadership Team for another term of office are:

Treasurer

Rev. Dr. Sara Day of Flagstaff, AZ

Coordinator of TIM Groups

Pastor Lin Story Bunce of Greensboro, NC

Representative for ABWIM (ex-officio)

Rev. Dr. Patricia Hernandez, Herndon, VA



This newly formed Leadership Team is a diverse and gifted group of clergy from across ABC life. There will be challenges in the next couple years, but there is a deep sense of Calling among the newly elected officers and this echos hope, encouragement, and joy among Council members. Be of Good Courage.

Other sources of encouragement and hope have been seen by the new interest in reviving inactive chapters. Five or six inactive chapters are in a renewal process. Additionally, new ministers groupings are exploring the possibility of becoming chapters. This is Good News since the local chapters – those collegial groups – are the very heart and soul of the Ministers Council, the place for support and encouragement of AB ministers. May your tribes increase.

I want to thank our Program Administrator, Rev. Michele Turek for her wonderful administrative skills and gifts. You have done well working with the complexities of our system and have done so with grace and kindness. Joy to you in the days to come.

While we are “on-boarding” a new team, we are also bidding farewell to those who have served faithful on the Leadership Team: Thank you for your good work. May the Holy One companion you in your continuing adventures.

- Rev. Cheryl Harris of Attleboro, Massachusetts, two terms as Secretary
- Rev. Dr. Atula Jamir of Lowell, Massachusetts, two terms as Coordinator of Chapter Representatives
- Rev. Jerry Bertelsen of Canistota, South Dakota, Coordinator of Membership and Chapter Development

As president of the Ministers Council, I too will step down after a transitional three year term. I have been deeply honored to serve in this capacity and give

thanks for those who have been companions along the way. You have brought joy in the journey and I am grateful for each of you.

We have seen the presence of God in the work of the Ministers Council, and have witnessed healings and souls restored. I am confident that the One who has brought us this far, will not abandon us.

Advent Peace and All Goodness,

Randolph T. Miller, President
Ministers Council, ABCUSA (2019-2022)

Full bios for each newly elected leader [here](#).

Events and Webinars



Proposed Revision to Code of Ethics: Ratification Process Will Close 12/31/22

We're grateful for the robust engagement with our proposed revisions which have occurred over nearly three years in chapter meetings, interchapter meetings and representative's meetings. As shared in our Annual Report on November 1, we will be tallying the decisions of twenty-one active chapters. We're grateful for the

Spirit's presence and leading in these Conversations. It's been a revitalizing process to engage in interdisciplinary conversations about ethical excellence and Baptist-style accountability. We will announce the results of our chapters' votes in a special January eblast following the deadline of 12/31/22. Contact ministerscouncil@abcusa.org if you have any questions.



**ADVENT AI:
Affirmations and Intercession in the Presence of the Anointed One**

**Tuesdays, 6:30am Pacific/8:30am Central/9:30am Eastern
December 6, December 13, December 20**
Zoom Info [HERE](#).

Join ministry colleagues for this brief oasis time offered for sustenance in the demanding Advent season. This 20-30 minute weekly session will draw us in toward silence, affirmation and intercession (adapting the Buddhist meditation form of tonglen). Led by Revs. Rebecca Driscoll and Jacki Belile. For more information contact drisre01@gmail.com.



3rd thursdays

WEBINAR SERIES

Thursday December 15, 2022
5:00pm PT / 7:00pm CT / 8:00pm ET
Featuring Rev. Sarah McCloy

Sarah will serve in partnership with the Japan Baptist Union's sister school, Shokei Gakuin University, and at the associated church, Shokei Baptist Church in Sendai, Japan. In her role as a part-time instructor at Shokei University, she will teach English and work with the chaplains' department taking part in the spiritual life of the school. Her ministry will include serving as an assistant pastor at Shokei Baptist Church as she preaches, teaches, and contributes to the pastoral ministry.



Rev. McCloy will share about her faith and ministry journey and how God led her from the rural churches of West Virginia to the mission field of Japan.

[Click here](#) for the Zoom information.

MINISTERS COUNCIL
GATHERING &
LUNCHEON

JUNE
22
2023

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
\$35 INCLUDES PROGRAM & LUNCH



AT THE
BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

SAVE THE DATE

Chapter News



Do you have Chapter News or Events to share? Challenges or lessons? Rev. Sarah Strosahl-Kagi is our new coordinator for chapter representatives and will be facilitating future meetings.

For more information contact pastorsarah@rbcab.org. Please send news for the January newsletter to ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org by December 27.

ABC Announcements



The Professional Ministries Team that is convened by the Office of the General Secretary have developed resources for clergy health and maintenance. Click the links to view [*The Great Resignation Impacts the ABC*](#) and [*Red Flags of Emotional Exhaustion*](#). These resources will also be made available on the Ministers Council website.

Remembering That It Happened Once: Christmas Carmen for Spiritual Life All Year Long

By Dennis L. Johnson

[Available on Amazon](#)



Board of General Ministries Meeting | The American Baptist Churches USA Board of General Ministries met November 4-6, 2022, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia, Pa. [Read more here.](#)

An Invitation to Leadership Inspired and Rooted in the Character of Christ | Who should a Christian leader be—both inside and outside of the church? That’s the question author Leslie Copeland answers in the new Judson Press release “24/7 Embodying Christ-like Leadership.” [Read more here.](#)

The American Baptist Churches Burma Advocacy Group calls for the immediate release of the Rev. Dr. Hkalam Samson, former General Secretary and President of the Kachin Baptist Convention. Dr. Samson was forcibly detained by the military junta and secreted away. We fear for his safety and life while being unlawfully detained. This is now the most recent in a string of attacks directed against the people of the Kachin State by the military junta. [Read more here.](#)

Ecumenical/Interfaith Announcements

*"I will refresh the
weary and satisfy
the faint."*

Jeremiah 31:25 NIV

refresh

A Contemplative Retreat for Clergy & Ministry Leaders

December 14-16, 2022

St. Raphaela Center, 616 Cooperstown Road, Haverford, PA 19041

\$150*

Includes
overnight
accommodations,
meals, and any
retreat materials.



Clergy and ministry leaders are invited to "come away" for a time of rest and refreshing before entering the busy holiday season. The retreat will begin on Wednesday evening, and close late Friday afternoon. For more information, or to register, contact CCFV@eastern.edu, or use the QR code.

**This is a subsidized fee; however, we want to make it possible for anyone who wants to attend to do so. To that end, we also have a limited number of scholarships available.*



A CALL TO CONSCIENCE: Defending Freedom & Human Rights

AUGUST 14-18, 2023 | MCCORMICK PLACE



The Early Bird rate for the [2023 Parliament of the World's Religions](#) has been extended to December 15th.

Explore the different ways that you and your community can save for the Chicago Convening with the Early Bird rate:



Book as an individual...

and save over 40% off the on site registration rate! Prices go up \$100 with the Advanced rate.



Book as a student...

with your student ID (through undergraduate) and save over 60% off the general admission rate.



Book as a group...

of 5-9 for a special rate of \$280 per registrant and groups of 10+ for a rate of \$250 per registrant.



Book as a student group...

for your community or institution, faculty enjoy access the student rate.





SAVE
40%
WITH EARLY BIRD

2023POWR.ORG

BOOK YOUR TICKET for the World's Premier Interfaith Convening

August 14 -18, 2023 | Chicago, USA

Have questions or concerns about registrations? Email us at info@parliamentofreligions.org or leave a voicemail at 312-629-2990; a member of our team will get back to you as soon as possible.

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 January issue, send these to ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org by December 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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