

*Together in Ministry*



Collegiality \* Competence \* Centeredness

## May 2023 Newsletter



*Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."  
-John 20:19*

### National Updates

MINISTERS COUNCIL  
GATHERING &  
LUNCHEON

AT THE  
BIENNIAL MISSION  
SUMMIT

JUNE  
22  
2023

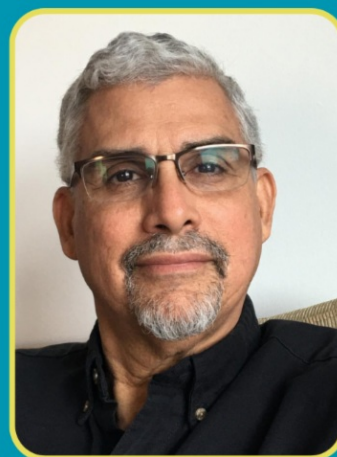
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

\$35 includes  
Program & Lunch



COLLEGIALITY FOR  
SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Baptist Covenants for  
Following Jesus and  
Resisting Evil



Feat. Rev. Juan Ángel  
Gutiérrez Rodríguez

*American Baptist Minister and Author*

Worship | Reflections | Round Table Talk | Luncheon



REGISTER NOW!

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

The MC Leadership Team cordially invites you to join us in **managing the Ministers Council exhibit table at the Biennial in San Juan**. If you are looking for an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, meet someone new to the ministry, or just want to share your personal testimony of the benefits of being a part of the Ministers Council, sign up by using the link below.

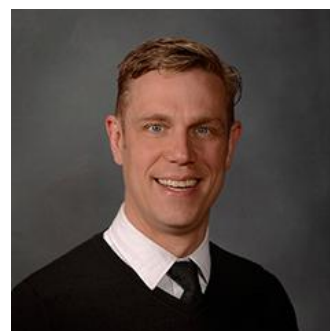
One hour time slots are available Friday, June 23 - Sunday, June 25, 2023. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084dada92aabffcf8-2023#/>

## A Word From the President

It's hard to believe that we are already under TWO MONTHS before our MC event in Puerto Rico! I invite you to join me in a few Biennial-related prayers as the date nears...

1. Pray for **our speaker** at the event, Juan Angel Gutierrez Rodriguez, who will be sharing "Collegiality for Such a Time as This: Baptist Covenants for Following Jesus and Resisting



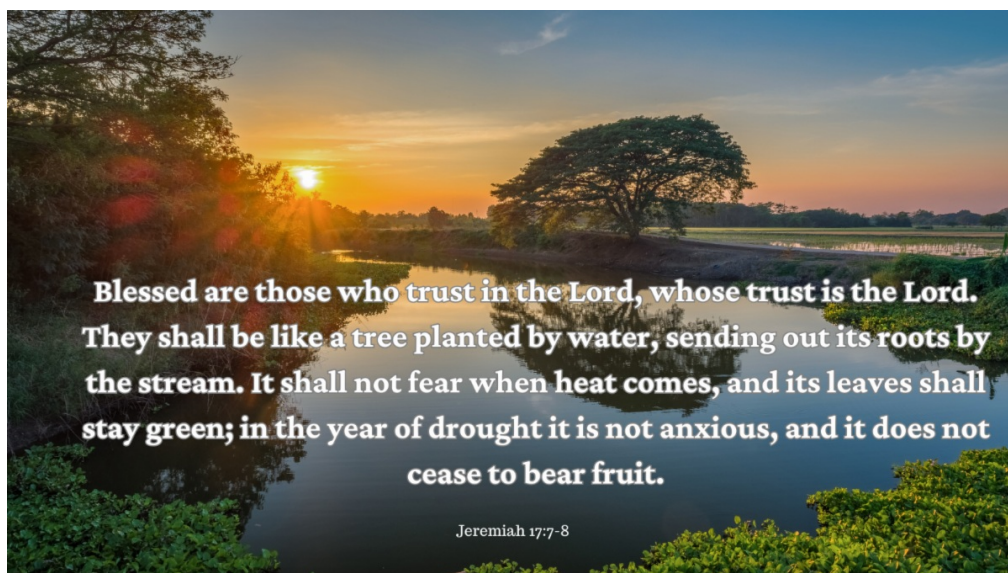


Evil”. It feels like his topic and his wisdom have only become more timely in the days since we opened the registration for the event.

2. Pray for **all who will be attending**, that they might be encouraged, challenged, and enlightened by his words. The Leadership Team was excited to see so many of you submit requests for Biennial scholarship funds! It looks like San Juan will be blessed with a lot of Ministers Council members, and I hope that most of you will be able to attend our event.
3. Speaking of scholarship funds, perhaps some of you will not be able to attend personally, but would like to help some other folks get to Puerto Rico. If you are able, please **prayerfully consider contributing** to the Biennial Scholarship Fund, so that clergy from across the country will be able to share in God’s blessings there. [You can contribute here](#)
4. The Leadership Team invites your prayers as we conclude our **Leadership Retreat this week in Paoli, PA**. We have had a rich prayerful visioning experience at Daylesford Abbey. We pray for you and look forward to connecting at the Mission Summit, on-line or in-person this year. Please reflect with us on a text which has become an anchor this week:

*Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. -Jeremiah 17:7-8*

Watch for a special edition e-blast on our retreat experience and the fresh stirrings of priorities the Spirit has led.



5. Finally, pray for **San Juan and Puerto Rico!** Remember all those who will be graciously hosting us in a few short weeks.

Thank you for your prayers, and your faithfulness to God’s call in such a time as this!

Grace and peace,  
Matt Sturtevant  
President  
Ministers Council ABCUSA

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## Staff Reflections

Several years ago, while in seminary, Minister Carol Shannon invited me to attend an American Baptist Women's Ministry Conference in Cleveland, OH. Little did I know about the ministry, but I was eager to learn, as I was very active in ministry with the women in our local church. However, when the time came for me to register, I needed more financial

resources to fulfill the commitment.

The national office of ABWM graciously provided me with the airfare to cover my travel and registration fees. I had no idea what I was walking into, but clearly, this was a God thing!

[Read more](#)



**SPRING INTO ACTION WITH**

*Ministers Council*

**As we raise funds for  
the  
2023 Biennial in San Juan, PR!**

**Your donation of \$25 - \$100 will help  
support  
ministers and seminarians with a desire to be  
in  
communities of mutual support and  
learning!**

**Visit the website at: [ministerscouncil.com](https://ministerscouncil.com) to  
make your generous donation today!**

**We wish to thank you in advance  
for your support!**

The graphic features a light green background with a subtle pattern of green leaves and branches. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold, sans-serif and elegant script fonts.

**Share your gift today! More info [HERE](#)**

## Events and Webinars

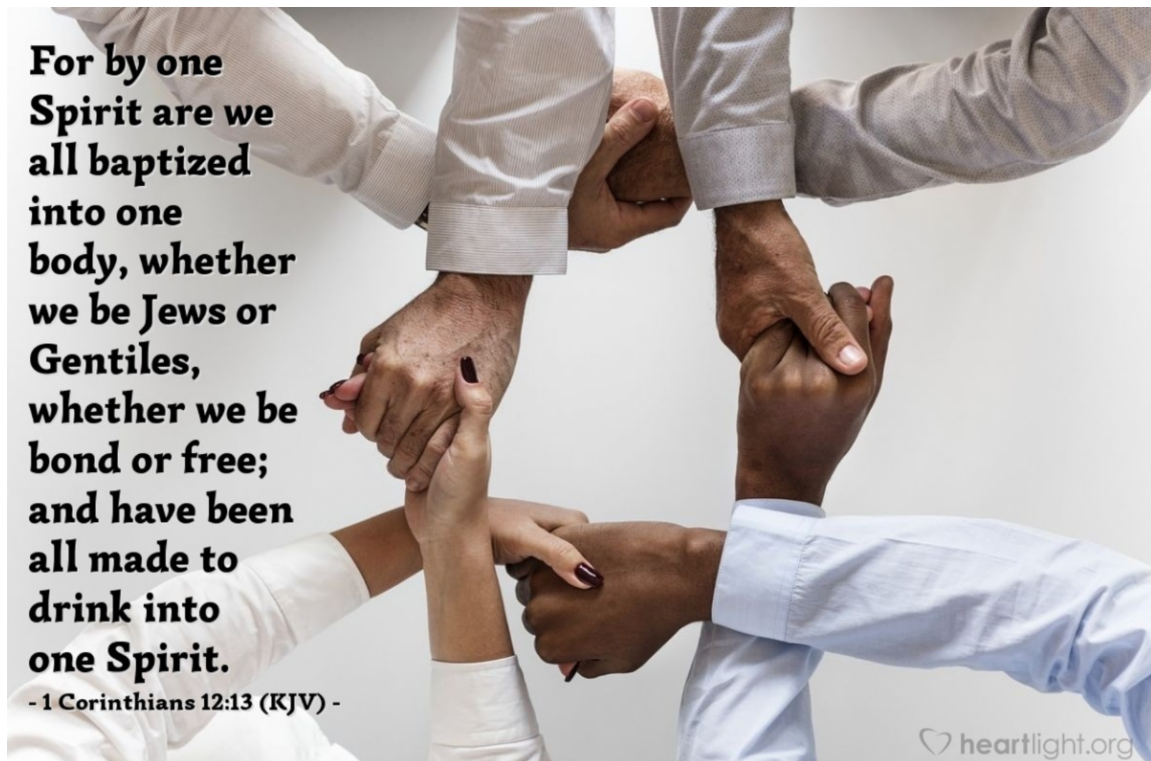




# 3rd thursdays **mc live**

WEBINAR SERIES

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**Many Needs, Manifold Gifts: Chaplains and Counselors'  
Testimonies to the Spirit's Power**  
**Thursday, May 18**  
**5pm Pacific/7pm Central/8pm Eastern**

***A Conversation with:***

**Rev Captain Lee Axtell, Navy Command Chaplain**, Pacific Force, Hawaii;

**Rev. Rick Barnes**, ICE Chaplain, Imperial Regional; Detention Facility, Calexico CA; **Rev. Nat Milton**, Pastoral Counselor, Peninsula Counseling Center, Newport News, VA; **Rev Petra Van de Water**, Hospice and Relief Chaplain, and DMin student, Stanford Children's Hospital, Palo Alto, CA

**Rev. Sarah L Fogg**, Director, Pastoral Care Dept, St. John's Riverside Hospital, Yonkers, NY, (ret).

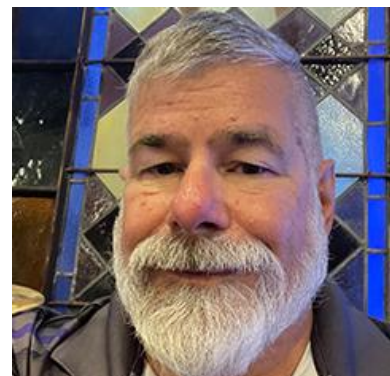
[\*\*ZOOM INFO HERE\*\*](#)

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**Moving from Crisis to  
Competent Community**  
**Thursday, June 15**  
**5pm Pacific/7pm Central/8pm Eastern**

***Led by Rev. Joe Gratzel***

Directly and in partnership with area non-profits, Joe provides Mental Health First Aid and crisis intervention training to first responders, military services members, educators, clergy, and the public at large.



A longtime member of the Ministers Council, Joe leads and serves in New Jersey.



## INSPIRING EXCELLENCE FOR THE GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST

[Join or Renew Your Dues for 2023](#)

A beloved colleague and mentor to many in the Ministers Council family, Rev. Dr. Alan V. Ragland once said: "We belong to each other." He was speaking to the covenantal bonds of ministers among ministers -- *ministers serving ministers*.

A sense of belonging and shared commitment ideally animates all we do for excellence in ministry. Ideally, this belonging undergirds our desires to share and receive resources, to grow in wisdom, courage and compassion as leaders, to offer mutual guidance and accountability. Ideally, these bonds inspire us to share our time, talent and treasure in the variety of settings we are called to lead collaboratively, including the Ministers Council as one organizational form God still uses for blessing.

We're receiving dues now for the 2023 calendar.

[Read more](#)

## Chapter News

**If you have questions or needs for support for your established chapter, contact Rev. Sarah Strosahl-Kagi**, Coordinator of Chapter Representatives via [ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org](mailto:ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org).

### For Such a Time as This

Membership & Chapter Development Support

Do you have questions about joining the Ministers Council? Would you like conversation on how to get more involved this year (whether or not there is an active chapter near you)? Would you like support to restart a chapter, or support others engaged in this work?



We'll be offering ongoing opportunities to connect throughout the year. The next two Zoom sessions for "drop-in" conversation with Rev. Jacki Belile, Coordinator of Membership and Chapter Development and other members of the Leadership Team, will be:

Tuesday, May 23, 9am Pacific/11am Central/12pm Eastern  
and  
Thursday, May 25, 5pm Pacific/7pm Central/8pm Eastern

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking here:

<https://ministrelife.zoom.us/j/2954166836> Or call in by dialing: 1- 312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 295 416 6836



You are also welcome to contact Jacki at [jacki@livingwellministries.net](mailto:jacki@livingwellministries.net) to set up a time convenient for you.

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## Prayers and Milestones

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**Dr. Keith Dahlberg** passed away April 27 in Kellogg, Idaho. His wife, Lois, and family were gathered around him in anticipation of his passing. Keith and Lois were IM medical missionaries. They moved to Kengtung, Burma in 1957 where he worked for the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society as medical superintendent of the Kengtung Christian Hospital from 1957-1962. After a military coup in 1962, the Dahlberg family transferred to Thailand where Keith opened a new hospital in Maesariang, Mae Hong Son Province. They returned to the USA in 1967, where Keith joined a medical practice in Kellogg, Idaho.



Keith authored six books, served twelve years on the executive board of the American Baptist Churches/USA and held various positions at the Community Baptist Church of Osburn, ID. Keith is also the son of Edwin Dahlberg, who is a legend among the ABC for his work for peace (the Dahlberg Peace Award is given in his honor).

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**Installation of the Rev. Karen Yee** Sunday, April 23, 2023 as Senior Pastor of New Life Christian Fellowship, Castro Valley, CA

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**Rev. Karen Walker Freeburg** has been named Acting President of Northern Seminary.

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*I am about to do a new thing!*  
Isaiah 43:19



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PENN YAN

## INSTALLATION SERVICE

REV. DR. RACHEL A. MCGUIRE

Sunday, May 7, 2023

3:00pm

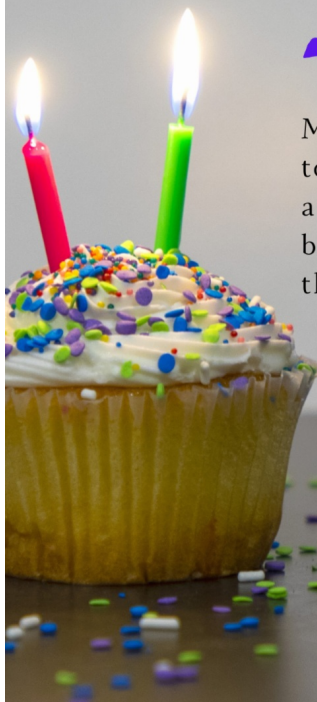
RSVPs (appreciated but not required)  
office@firstbaptistchurchpy.com  
315-536-9821

Clergy are invited to vest and process.

Please join us for light refreshments after.

**HAPPY**  
*Birthday*

Ministers Council wishes that  
today is the beginning of  
another wonderful and  
blessful year for those born in  
the month of May!



## ABC Announcements

THE  
Christian Citizen



# "Do You Know about The Christian Citizen"?

Here's a sample of recent prophetic wisdom

**A new, more modest, standard of living**—one which considers the interests of our neighbors and the environment, and which seeks to expand equity of access to the necessities of life for all—is possible. To achieve it will require a change in perspective. Read “With a change in perspective, a new, more modest, standard of living is possible,” by *Christian Citizen* editor Curtis Ramsey Lucas [HERE](#)

Curtis Ramsey-Lucas is editor of The Christian Citizen, a publication of American Baptist Home Mission Societies.

LIVE INTERACTIVE WEBINAR

Intersections of Asian American Identity and the Church

East Asian American Perspectives



Nikki Toyama-Szeto



Jay Kim



Sabrina S. Chan



Raymond Chang



Kayla Maysong Vue

REGISTER TODAY



THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2PM ET/1PM CT

SPONSORED BY:

SEMINARY NOW + CT

Deepen your cultural IQ! Join Nikki Toyama-Szeto, Jay Kim, Sabrina Chan, Raymond Chang, & Kayla Maysong Vue as they discuss this topic from East Asian perspectives.

[seminarynow.com](https://seminarynow.com)

[REGISTER](#)



**The Indiana Baptist Convention has a new address!**  
d/b/a American Baptist Churches of Indiana & Kentucky  
P.O. Box 125  
Franklin, IN 46131  
1.317.635.3552

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

2023 BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

JUNE 23-25, 2023

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

[Click here for more information](#)

Register

## Ecumenical/Interfaith Announcements



### **BPFNA Sunday - May 21, 2023**

The Baptist Peace Federation of North America invites all partner congregations to observe BPFNA Sunday. Join congregations around the world in worshipping around the theme Moving Mountains!

Mountains are a fundamental presence in our faith. In scripture God often appears on mountaintops and Jesus teaches faith can move mountains; in Latin America many movements for social justice emerged in rural mountain regions. This theme provides possibilities to engage in creation-centered spirituality as well as inspire peacemaking for creation justice and decolonization.

#### **Information & Resources:**

Email [erica@bpfna.org](mailto:erica@bpfna.org) to sign up or with questions.

Access liturgy and other relevant files [on Google Drive](#).

[In English](#)

[In Spanish](#)



### **SMALL CHURCH PASTORS' AND LEADERS' CONFERENCE - May 18, 3pm – May 19, 6pm**

Enjoy a time away to renew and energize. Spend time with other Pastors and Leaders from smaller churches and be inspired by teaching from gifted Christian leaders and teachers, including NFL Veteran Sam Acho, Pastor Karl Vaters, Ellen Gray and a panel discussion with the three sponsor organizations at First Baptist Church at Savoy, 1602 S Prospect Ave, Savoy, IL 61874, USA

[More Information](#)

LENTEN DETOX SERIES





This Lent the Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice (CLBSJ) offered a series on the Biblical Inspiration for Earth Care. Summaries of each event in the series and links to the video archive are available [HERE](#). The next session will be on May 18:

<https://clbsj.org/events/2023/05/18/yii-jan-lin-and-gale-ye/>



## A 5-Week Series on Bonhoeffer and Faithful Praxis

### Launching May, 2023

For more information and to register go to:

<https://homebrewedchristianity.lpages.co/bonfuturechurch/>

## 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 May 27.*



### How to reach us:

- Phone: (610) 314-7837
- Office Hours: Tuesdays from 9am - 1pm (EST), and Thursdays from 2:30pm - 6:30pm (EST).



### Stay connected

- Visit us at our **website**.
- Join us on **Facebook**

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