

Together in Ministry



Collegiality * Competence * Centeredness

June 2023 Newsletter

*Collegiality for Such a Time as This:
Baptist Covenants for Following Jesus & Resisting Evil*

"We cannot have true collegiality *without covenant*" said Rev. Juan Ángel Gutiérrez Rodríguez recently in planning conversations for our June 22nd session at the Biennial Mission Summit. (If you haven't already registered for his session you can do so by following links below.) As we join that collective conversation (literally or from afar), let us ponder the witness of the early church and the Holy Spirit's enabling power for evangelism, inclusion, hospitality, repentance, bridge-building, and social change. May we plead in these days for a revival of the power intended for us, the power to follow Jesus and resist evil in all its corrosive and idolatrous forms. --Rev. Jacki Belile, Planning Committee

**MINISTERS COUNCIL
GATHERING &
LUNCHEON**

AT THE
**BIENNIAL MISSION
SUMMIT**

**JUNE
22
2023**

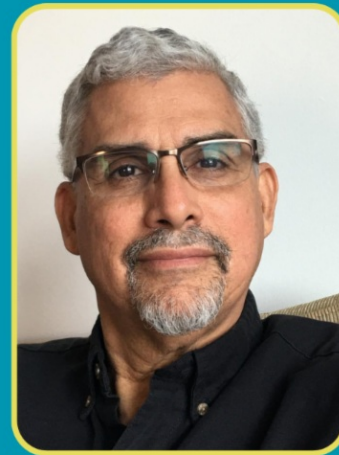
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

\$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



JUNETEENTH OBSERVANCES

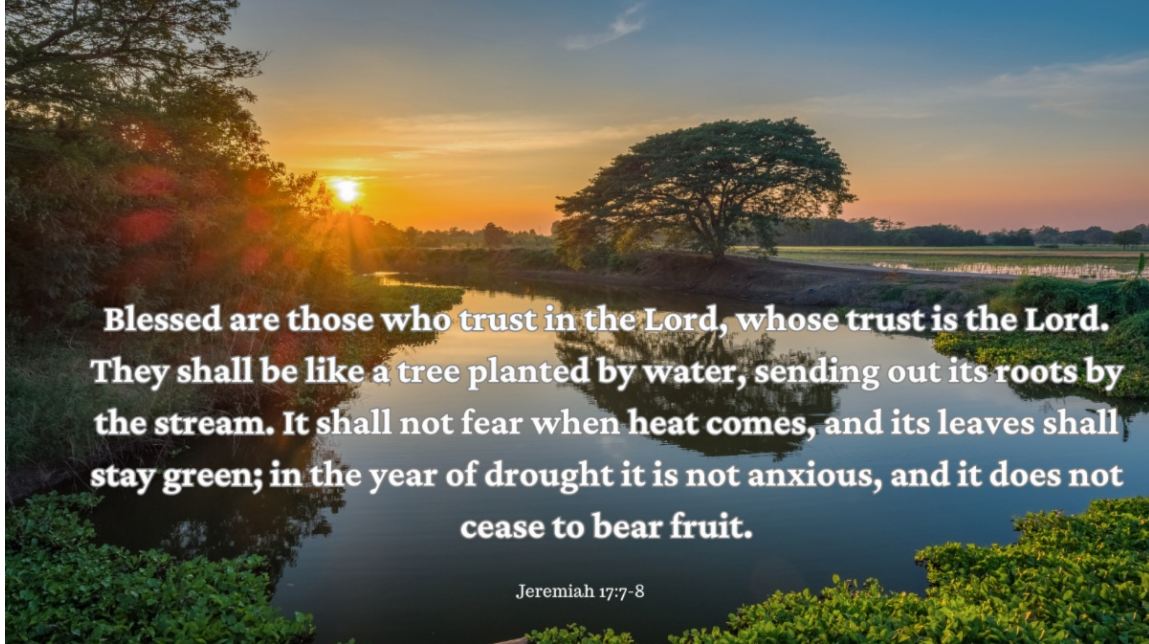
A Practice of Beloved Community

“We can use Juneteenth as a way to acknowledge our past faults, help heal current divisions, and move toward a future as a nation more united,” explains The Heritage Foundation (Source: [What Every Christian Should Know About Juneteenth \(billygraham.org\)](https://www.billygraham.org/what-every-christian-should-know-about-juneteenth)).

Juneteenth Resources

- [***In Celebration of Juneteenth***](#), The American Baptist Churches USA
- [***Why is Juneteenth Important?***](#), Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture,
- [***CHURCH PROGRAMS & CELEBRATIONS FOR ALL GENERATIONSJUNETEENTH - JUNE \(PDF\)***](#), Judson Press
- [***Freed at Last: A Juneteenth Poem***](#)
- <http://www.theafricanamericanlectionary.org/>
- <https://www.juneteenthcc.org>

From the Vice President



Dear Friends,

But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. -Jeremiah 17:7-8



During the first week of May, the Ministers Council Leadership Team gathered in-person and virtually at Daylesford Abbey in Paoli, Pennsylvania for a retreat. We reflected on where we have come as individuals and as a Ministers Council, offered gratitude for where we are now, and looked ahead to the future with great intention and discernment. Our time together was focused around the theme of being rooted: rooted in Christ, rooted in love, rooted in community, rooted in living water and nurturing soil, rooted in resurrection, using Jeremiah 17:7-8 to guide our time in community.

[READ MORE](#)

National Updates

Membership and Chapter Development Team Formed--

Communications Visioning To Be Undertaken this Summer

Leadership Team members have formed a task force to work on membership engagement and new/renewing chapter development. The team will begin its work this summer with a focus on our organization's communications visions and infrastructure. If you'd like to join this work with Rev. Jacki Belile, Rev. Rebecca Driscoll and Rev. Dr Charlotte Myers for Phase One (Summer 2023), contact Val at ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org. If you can join us for 3-4 meetings, that would be especially helpful. An early focus will be updating and

expanding our website at www.ministerscouncil.com. All feedback is welcome! Please share with jacki@livingwellministries.net.

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!

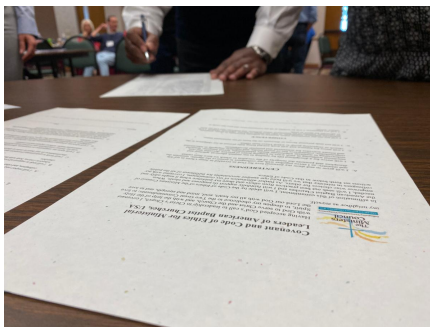
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084dada92aabffcf8-2023#/>

A Word From the President

On May 11, the National Leadership Council of the ABC-USA held a joint signing of the Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches, USA, which was ratified by Ministers Council chapters in 2021 and 2022 and became effective February 1, 2023. Members of the NLC are seen signing the document, including General Secretary C. Jeff Woods, ABC-USA president James Wolfe, NLC Chair Cheryl F. Dudley, and president of the Ministers Council ABCUSA Matthew Sturtevant. The NLC wanted to show their support of the updated document, an important part of the work to create an ethical and professional clergy body in the ABC-USA.



Matt Sturtevant
President
Ministers Council ABCUSA





New Payment System in Place



If you are a frequent visitor to The Ministers Council website, you may have noticed some changes. We have transitioned to a new platform for receiving payments from you.

This new platform is TalusPay and it was highly recommended to us by Christian Community Credit Union. This new payment system will reduce costs and allow us to take credit cards directly from you.

An added benefit of this change is that our website will be more secure than it was before.

Please let us know if there are adjustments that need to be made to make this even better for you.

Sara Day, Treasurer



2023 BIENNIAL

Scholarship Fund

If you are able, please consider making a donation of \$25-100 (or more) to help send as many ministers and seminarians as possible to attend the 2023 Biennial.

[Donate Now](#)

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

Staff Reflections

Ministers Council Family-

We shared in April our desire to share assistance from our modest funds to enable as many ministers and seminarians as possible to attend the 2023 Biennial through scholarship assistance. We have made commitments to assist 43 members!

We undertook this with a vision to invite the solidarity from our wide national family. If you have not yet done so, we invite you to consider giving a gift this month toward this project. Can you give \$25-100 in June for our "Biennial Scholarship Fund"?

We are excited about being together, and looking forward to cultivating collegial relationships, learning from one another, and centering ourselves through learning, corporate prayer and reflection in Puerto Rico. Thank you for helping to make this happen!

Rev. Dr. Valerie Andrews, Program Administrator



Events and Webinars



3rd thursdays

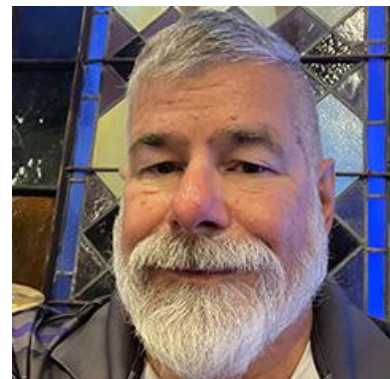
WEBINAR SERIES

Coming out of Covid, we know we are experiencing increasing levels of stress, trauma and anxiety at every level. As communities of faith we have an opportunity to bring together stakeholders within our communities to marshal the proactive development of networks of caring and action.” Join us for this presentation and conversation with Rev. Joe Gratzel, longtime Ministers Council member. He will share experiences and insights on the best practices for building resilience for ourselves and the communities we serve.

**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.

Editor's Note: The next MC Live will be held July 13th at 7pm Central. Watch for upcoming events as we continue to explore themes of health, resilience and thriving in these demanding times.

[ZOOM INFO HERE](#)



INSPIRING EXCELLENCE FOR THE GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST

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

Dues are still rolling in for 2023, as members take care of this on their own schedule of execution. Also, our various chapters' major gatherings happen at different times through the year, and these provide natural settings of reminders and assistance for people with questions.* IF YOU'RE ABLE TO STOP BY OUR BOOTH AT THE BIENNIAL, YOU CAN UPDATE YOUR DUES CONVENIENTLY THERE.

(Also, remember that this is a very appropriate expense to be covered by or reimbursed by your local church or employment organization as a professional development expense!)

[Read more](#)

Chapter News

UPCOMING MINISTERS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA EVENTS

Minister Council **will not meet in June** - Due to ABC Biennial preparations.

Our next meeting is in-person at Berkeley School of Theology, on Thursday, July 13 at 10AM.

Chapter Revitalization Visions Underway

We're working with about six chapters or locales where local leaders are discerning next steps for chapter revitalization. If you'd like to discuss your hopes for local efforts and learn about best practices and national resources OR to simply connect with your national colleagues despite a current lack of local chapter, contact Rev. Jacki Belile at jacki@livingwellministries.net or here. Rev. Dr. Valerie Andrews at ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org. The next monthly "drop in" call on this topic will be Tuesday, July 11 at 11am Central/12pm Eastern/9am Pacific.

Zoom dial-in information

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

Prayers and Milestones



ABC Announcements



We're grateful for the ministry of MMBB, whose staff care deeply about the flourishing of our ministers and their ministry contexts. Do you receive their newsletter? Read the most recent issue [HERE](#).

**NEW AGAIN - SOUL CARE EXPERIMENT FOR
PASTOR AND MINISTRY LEADERS**
With Charley Scandlyn

We want to invest in the care and support of our pastors and ministry leaders throughout our denomination. With that end in mind, “New Again”, a new ministry within the ABC-CPC, would like to invite you to join a Soul Care experiment. Participation involves meeting regularly at your convenience with a spiritual guide. These online meeting are at no cost to you. “New Again” ask for a three-month commitment, which could be extended up to a year at your option. If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to Pastor Charley Scandlyn at charley@newagain.life.



[Click here for more information](#)

Register

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 June 27.



How to reach us:

- Phone: (610) 314-7837
- Office Hours: Tuesdays



Stay connected

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

from 9am - 1pm (EST),
and Thursdays from
2:30pm - 6:30pm (EST).

Ministers Council ABCUSA | 221 S High Street, West Chester, PA 19382

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