

Together in Ministry



Collegiality * Competence * Centeredness

July 2023 Newsletter



If My People's Hearts Are Humbled

by Claire Cloninger

If My People's Hearts Are Humbled,
If They Pray And Seek My Face;
If They Turn Away From Evil,
I Will Not Withhold My Grace.

I Will Hear Their Prayers
From Heaven;
I Will Pardon Every Sin.
If My People's Hearts Are Humbled,
I Will Surely Heal Their Land.

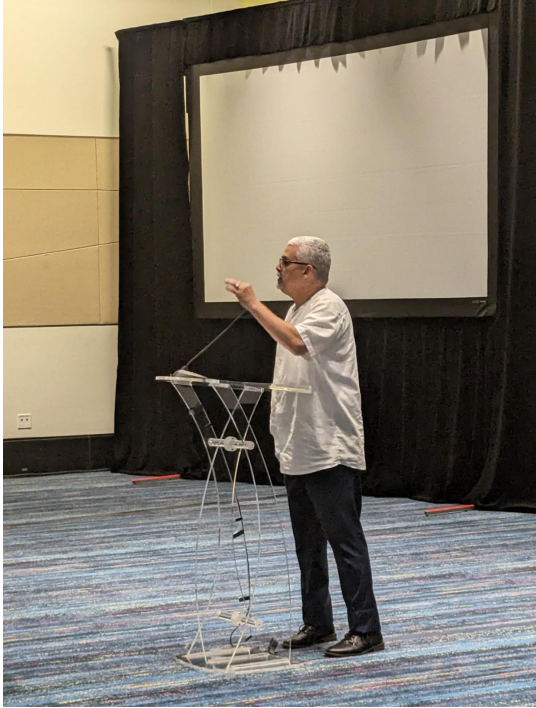
Then My Eyes Will See Their Sorrow,
Then My Ears Will Hear Their Plea,
If My People's Hearts Are Humbled,
I Will Set Their Nation Free.

If My People's Hearts Are Humbled,
If They Pray And Seek My Face;
If They Turn Away From Evil,
I Will Not Withhold My Grace.

May our actions, words and worship this week bear witness to Jesus Christ's humility, non-violence and obedience. May our patriotism be refined in truth and love, and may we be vigilant in resisting all expressions which might found to be idolatrous or self-serving,

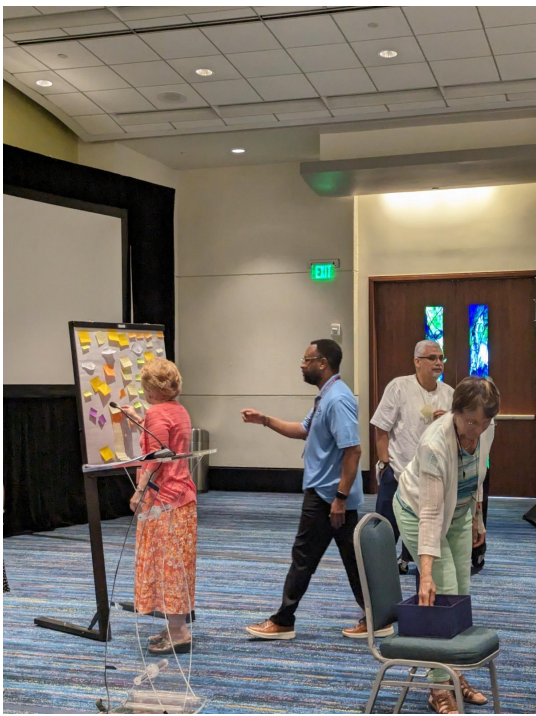
National Updates

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: Reflections from Puerto Rico



We give thanks for all who joined us for "Collegiality for Such a Time as This," especially presenter **Rev. Juan Ángel Gutiérrez Rodríguez** and **Rev. Rebecca Driscoll**, who led us in a time of communal lamenting pictured here.

Visit www.ministerscouncil.com for more pictures and reflections.



Over the past few days, I have been thinking about Psalm 133: 1, a familiar passage of scripture written by King David. The passage reads: ***“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”*** As I think about my time in San Juan, I can still picture the many faces, nationalities, cultures, and identities, which richly wove us together in a space where clearly, the Spirit of the Living God was at work. Each day was an exciting venture for me, as I waited in anticipation of seeing whom I would see or meet next.



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LEARNING GUIDE FOR NEW CODE OF ETHICS -

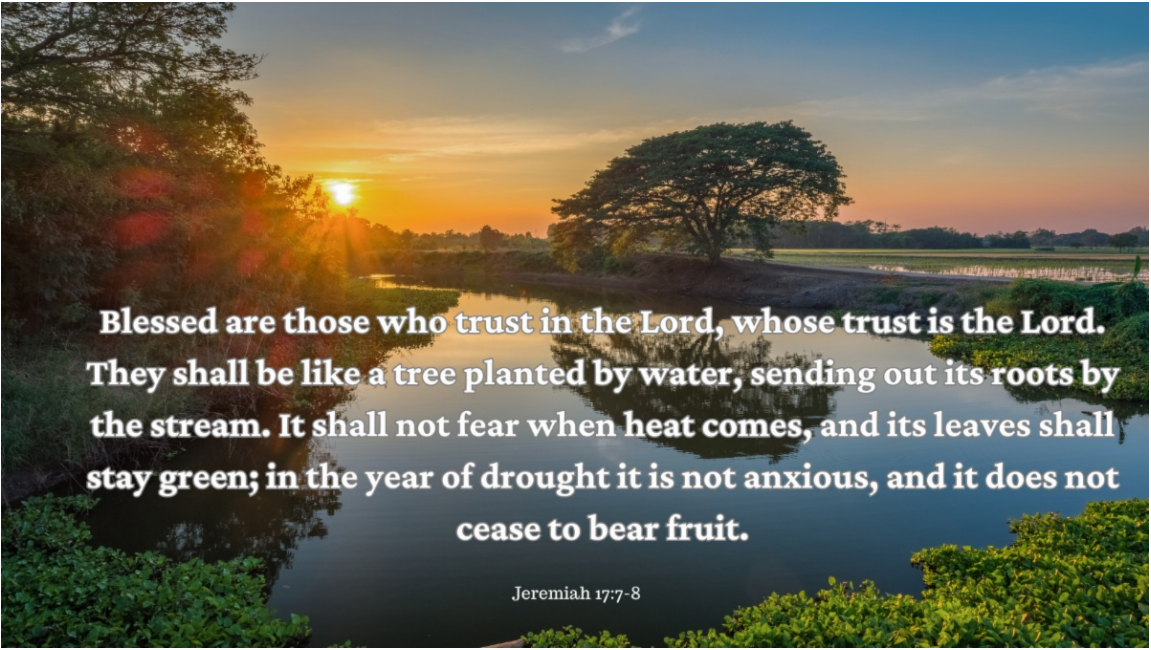
We're close to publication! A "pre-print" version of this 32-page learning tool was shared with Regional Executive Ministers at the recent ABC-USA biennial. Additional focus group conversations with diverse constituencies are underway this summer, as well as final grammatical and layout edits. For more information contact ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org.

More pictures from the Biennial



We give thanks for and congratulate all who worked so hard to host "For Such a Time as This" in San Juan, Puerto Rico last month. Enjoy reflections and pics at #abcmissonsummit and #abcusa2023.

REFLECTION SERIES ON JEREMIAH 17 & RESILIENCE CONTINUES



Devotional Study Seeds from Rev. Dr. Charlotte W. Myers, Leadership Team

Rooted to Create New Life
Jeremiah 17:7 – 8

Thanks to Charlotte for leading us in a brief devotional on this text July 20th at MC Live, and a more complete Bible study experience August 17th.



The Back Story

The outward appearance of a person or situation may not tell the whole story. For example, Jeremiah declared God’s message repeatedly. Yet, the people were not moved and did not listen. The result was Jeremiah was poor and deprived and had no material success. Yet, regardless of the personal cost, he faithfully spoke the word of God. He simply stated, “Repent and turn to God, or He *will* punish.” As pastors and preachers, we, too may wonder why the Spirit keeps pressing us to speak up. Why we cannot be comfortable telling people only what they want to hear. Yet, the Lord continues to send us messages of

such urgency and necessity for change; and like Jeremiah, we too have a responsibility to bring God's word to the people.

[Read More](#)

Events and Webinars



**Biennial Blessings -
A Gathering for Testimony, Feedback, Looking Ahead
Thursday, July 20
5pm Pacific/7pm Central/8pm Eastern**

Hosted by Rev. Rebecca Driscoll and other Leadership Team members

We dedicate this month's "MC Live" to a time of devotions and conversation about our experiences at June's Biennial Mission Summit. Together, we will name its blessings in various forms - connections and inspiration, challenges, food for thought for moving ahead together "for such a time as this." We warmly invite BOTH attendees and those who missed this year's gathering! Join us for honoring and honest Christ-centered conversation.

"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." -- Colossians 2:2-3

[ZOOM INFORMATION HERE](#)

LOOKING AHEAD - Bible Study on Jer. 17 on August 17th!
Join Rev. Dr. Charlotte Myers and others for a deep dive on trust, resilience, and flourishing. 5pm Pacific/8pm Eastern

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.

Chapter News

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

The next meeting of our **nationwide group of local chapter representatives** will be hosted by Rev. Sarah Strosahl-Kagi, Coordinator of Chapter Reps, on Wednesday, July 19th at 2pm Eastern. Zoom link for the meeting will be sent prior to meeting; please contact Sarah at sarahstrosahl@gmail.com for more information.

Prayers and Milestones



“Well done, thou good and faithful servant!” Our hearts are saddened upon the news of the passing of **Rev. Dr. Darla “Dee Dee” Turlington**. A beloved friend and mentor to many in the Ministers Council family, Dee Dee shepherded us wisely through organizational transition as our President from 2017-2019. A memorial service will be held at Hammock Community Church in Palm Coast, Florida on Saturday, July 29 at 10:30am. (To receive a link to service recording, contact ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org).

Read Grateful Tributes [Here](#)

Ecumenical Resources

Braver Angels
[Livestream of National Convention July 5-8](#)

Get Free Mental Health Resources at the 2023 [Church Mental Health Summit](#)

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 August issue, send these to ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org by July 27.



How to reach us:

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



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