

To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

—Ephesians 4:11-12



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GET INVOLVED

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The Call to Renew Clergy Covenant Groups 2018-2019

AN ENDURING VISION

Since 1935, the Ministers Council has been the only organization dedicated solely to the wellness of American Baptist ministerial leaders (ordained, commissioned, licensed, and emerging). Our call to serve and sharpen one another is founded on the premise that professional excellence and personal wellness are deeply connected.

For this we know that none of us can walk alone. That we need each other for encouragement, collaborative learning and accountability to our Code of Ethics.

That's why our values of Collegiality, Competence, and Centeredness cannot be separated... We call them "the 3Cs."

We covenant together to deepen our spiritual journeys and to increase our effectiveness as leaders in Christ's Church. Here's what we've been learning...



A COVENANT INVESTMENT

PHASE ONE

The Ministers Council, ABCUSA, led the "Together in Ministry" program from 2002-2012 through a grant provided by the Lilly Endowment Sustaining Pastoral Excellence initiative. During this time, more than 2300 individuals participated in TIM or Christian Practice groups.

Their activities included a wide range of study, spiritual practices, recreation, and models of personal sharing. Participants appreciated the grace, questions, silence, laughter and challenging feedback from their companions.

One colleague testifies "Connecting on a deep level with a group of authentic - and, yes, flawed! - colleagues has helped me to be a better professional church leader."

PHASE TWO

- Following that grant period we held a TIM Capital Campaign Fund, secure donations of money and in-kind pledges for continued support of this model.
- Some groups continued to meet, some with longevity which are meeting yet today.
- We discovered some floundered without the structures of reporting expectations and financial support.



PHASE THREE

- We committed to renewing our focus on supporting groups at our February 2018 board meeting. We received good news in the summer that we could re-purpose grant monies from The Center for Pastoral Excellence for this purpose; we're developing criteria for these awards to be made in 2019.
- We will award small grants to eligible existing groups with Campaign Funds accruing through Fall 2018.
- We continue to update our roster of existing groups and those who would like to participate in a new group.