

Together in Ministry



Collegiality * Competence * Centeredness

September 2020 Newsletter



THE JUBILEE JOURNEY WITH JESUS...

*¹⁸ 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'
- Luke 4:18-19*

National Update

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

**Bi-annual Gathering and Meeting of the Ministers Council ABCUSA
Thursday, November 19, 2020
7pm (Eastern)**

Preceded by these optional weeks of formation and fellowship--

MC LIVE WEBINAR/CHATS: "For Such a Time as This"
October 29 & November 5, 7pm Eastern

BUSINESS "Q & A" (Optional, for 11/19 meeting prep)
November 12, 7pm Eastern

Watch for coming details about our time together... watch and pray!



Honoring Excellence in Ministry

As we enter the Autumn of 2020, the Ministers Council invites you to remember an American Baptist minister(s) who has been significant to you in the past or present. On our website, you will find an opportunity to write a brief tribute as you make a gift to honor him or her. Your tribute will be placed among those recognized and honored on our website. All gifts collected will be used to encourage ministry competence, collegiality, and centeredness through the Excellence in Ministry Fund (now available to active local chapters and to ABC regions without active MC chapters). Image from "New Kind of Preacher" © 2016 Northern Seminary. www.seminary.edu.

Exploring Grant Station

Your national Ministers Council has a license to explore Grant Station, which allows focused searches of a massive database. Church leaders who have asked former President Dee Dee Turlington to search for their particular needs have received contact information for:

- 14 potential grant-makers for organ repair (Minnesota)
- 35 potential grants-makers for roof repair (Chicago area)
- 37 potential grant-makers for expansion of a food supply system (Boston area)
- 42 potential grants for equipment purchase for an Emergency Shelter (Bay area, California)

These are in addition to the many new resources available to those responding

to the COVID19 crisis. The need expressed by two of the projects above was expanded by fallout from the pandemic. They, and any of your churches or nonprofit organization, can search independently the COVID19 grants at <https://grantstation.com/covid-19-related-funding>

If you wish to receive names of additional grant-makers who are likely to consider your request, contact Dee Dee at darla.turlington@gmail.com.

Special thanks to DeeDee for being our contact for this project.

Bulletins from Grant Station have highlighted for September:

- “Life Comes From It” grants for leaders of color committed to movement-building work for restorative justice and indigenous peacemaking.
- Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation support of feeding agencies within 20 miles of a Food Lion in Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, and North Carolina.
- Duke Energy Foundation supports efforts to improve the quality of life in areas served in the Carolinas, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee, including response to hunger and homelessness.
- Capital Funds available from the Marbee Foundation in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, including Social Service and Religious organizations.
- The George W. Mergens Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that serve the youth of Vermont.

Events and Webinars

Have you missed our recent MC Live webinars? Visit the archive [here](#).



MC LIVE MONTHLY WEBINAR

Thursday, September 17
7pm Central (always recorded)

JOURNEYS FOR JUSTICE: TESTIMONIES FROM INTERNATIONAL

MINISTRIES

A Conversation with IM Colleagues

Join **Carlos & Mayra Bonilla-Giovanetti**, Lauran Bethell and Ray Schellinger in a conversation about ministry, leadership and justice-making informed by their testimonies of work in the international field.

ZOOM INFO [HERE](#).

OUR COVENANT, OUR CODE OF ETHICS-

A Discussion on 2020 Draft Revisions

Thursday, September 24
7pm Central

Join Subcommittee members Revs. Jacki Belile, Jerry Bertelson, Dan Hopkins and Steve Neal for a presentation on the document which Chapter Representatives will vote on November 19th. Learn more about the planning process, lessons and commitments to the revised Learning Guide for 2021 (after chapter ratification process).

ZOOM information [HERE](#)

JOIN US IN JUBILEE

Reflections from the national Leadership Team of Ministers Council ABC-USA.

Prayer of Lament for Human Rights

O, God Eternal,

My soul is distressed;
My heart is broken;
My anger is enraged
What I see THAT WALL.

THAT WALL does not reflect Your Glory;
THAT WALL does not imitate Your Grace;
THAT WALL does not mirror Your Goodness;
THAT WALL does not display Your Generosity.

My soul would have fainted had I not seen THE OCEAN;
My soul would have fainted had I not seen THE MIGHTY SEA;
My soul would have fainted had I not seen THE WAVES IN ALL THEIR
POWER;

For THESE, O, God;
For THESE, O, God;
For THESE, O, God;

THESE KNOW NOT THAT WALL!

JUBILEE! JUBILEE! JUBILEE!

Dr. Shane Kinnison
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Glendale, CA;
Treasurer, National Ministers Council

Originally shared on retreat with the Leadership Team.

Many thanks to the Rev. Dan Hopkins for writing the August Jubilee essay!

Milestones & Prayer Requests



The Rev. Dr. Daniel E. Weiss, who served as General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA from 1988 to 2000, died on Saturday, August 22. Prior to serving as General Secretary, Dr. Weiss was Executive Director of the American Baptist Churches USA Board of Educational Ministries from 1983-1988, and previously served as president of American Baptist-related schools, Eastern College in St. Davids, Pa., and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, from 1973-1981.

[Click to read more](#)

We celebrate the milestone of Stan Gockel's 40th anniversary of ordination on October 5.

We celebrate that this month marks the 35th Anniversary of Mikel Edward Satcher's ordination.

We celebrate with Rev. Dr. David H. Gregg the recent completion of his Ph.D. Dr. Gregg serves as Executive Minister of ABC-Metro Chicago.

We celebrate the recent 39th ordination anniversary of Rev. Jean Munro in Michigan.

Compassionate One, Help us to understand how racism finds life in our hearts and in our cries. In this time of tense anticipation, may we commit ourselves to be people of your way crying and creating a path for justice, equity, and peace for all people in this wilderness of hatred and racism. Amen.

From: a Prayer for Black History Month, 2017 by Alydia Smith

I was featured on the US Army Chaplain Corps FB on Women's Equality Day which felt like a big deal as you can imagine we experience some serious gender issues in military chaplaincy. I'm overseas now & would love the prayers! Lifetime American Baptist (Ella Hobart).

<https://www.facebook.com/ArmyChaplainCorps/videos/4383561728383259/>

Prayers for all loved ones of Mindi Welton-Mitchell's friend Lisa, who died this week after a battle with colon cancer.

How do we pray to be strong in the madness of these times? Natural disasters, political unrest, pandemic and just plain fear. – (Karen Pickler's Honest Word)

I have some job decisions to make in the next couple weeks. Thanks. (Jerrie Shepard Matney)

May God make us strong in faith, unwavering in hope, and constant in our work. Amen.

Prayer for pastors who are persons of color serving in majority communities. Adrienne Berry-Burton

Chapter News

Our Chapter Reps meet regularly by email and phone with one another, coordinated by Rev. Dr. Atula Jamir. See notes from August meeting [here](#). No chapter near you? Need help starting or restarting one? Contact Rev. Dr. Barbara Jim-George, our national Coordinator of Chapter and Membership Development. See www.ministerscouncil.com for more info.

Staff Reflection

Remember

A Word from Lisa

As a teenager and being in the youth choir, I remember often singing the song "Last Days" by the Grace Thrillers. The song speaks of the "end times" and bracing for what is to come.

I often wonder if this is the prelude to the "end times" during these unprecedented times. It is during these moments that I remind myself of God's promise and faithfulness. I reflect on His word and remember His pleas



not to be dismayed, have faith, and be of good courage.

He reminds me in His words:

Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV) "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you: he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Joshua 1:9 (NIV) "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged; for the Lord, your God will be with you wherever you go."

Psalm 27:14 (KJV) "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

Isaiah 40:31 (KJV) "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint."

Isaiah 41:10 (KJV) "Fear not, for I am with thee: be not dismayed, for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Jeremiah 29:11(NIV) "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Matthew 28:20 (KJV) "Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Reflecting on God's Peace

John 14:27 (NIV) "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you: I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
Amen

QUESTIONS FOR MINISTERS

*How are you interpreting the signs of these times?
Where are you turning for reminders of God's promises?
Where do you find community to discuss the feelings and questions you carry?*

ABC Announcements

American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) addiction Webinar Series will begin September 24, 2020, with a highly interactive webinar that will explore the ways addictive attitudes, thoughts, and behaviors affect the brain, body, and spirit of young women and their families. Practical interventions will be presented to decrease anxiety, improve self-confidence and boundaries, and make healthier decisions to promote resilience among

young women.

The series will feature a variety of experts, including Licensed Psychologist, Dr. Lynda Morris Parham and Jocelyn Cooper, executive director of Mercer Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction. Topics will range from an overview of substance-related challenges, practical resources for supporting those affected by addiction, treatment, and recovery needs of women in addiction and equipping families.

[Click to read more](#)

The MidAmerican Region of the American Baptist Churches- USA will be holding its regional gathering virtually on October 3 by Zoom.

Dale K. Edmondson personal reflections, “Living with no End in Sight.” published by Good Faith Media. Should you wish to view them: [link](#) or <https://goodfaithmedia.org/3-steps-how-to-live-when-no-ends-in-sight/>

Judson Press, the publishing arm of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), released a new video interview series with John R. Matthews, Kristina R. Gutiérrez and Ross D. Peterson, authors of the recently released title “Health, Holiness & Wholeness for Ministry Leaders.” The authors spoke to Jennifer Sanborn, program director for ABHMS’ In Support of Excellence program for ordained clergy, about key messages in the book. [Click to read more](#)



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Be on the lookout for more information to come!

Reminders



How to reach us:

- By phone: (610)314-7837
- By email:
info@ministerscouncil.com
- Address: 221 S. High
Street, West Chester, PA
19382
- We can generally be
reached in the office on
Tuesdays and Thursdays
(emails and voicemails will
be responded to during this
time)

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