

July 2026 Newsletter



BY NAME I HAVE CALLED YOU

Isaiah 43:1-7

Rev. Randle R. (Rick) Mixon, PhD



The last Sunday of June marks the 30th anniversary of my ordination to the ministry. It was a hot day in 1996 when the congregation of Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church in Oakland, California, gathered with my family, friends, and colleagues to celebrate my call to serve as a minister of the gospel. This service was the culmination of a long and winding road for me and for that congregation.

Ordination to professional ministry is a complicated thing especially for a people who profess to hold to the “priesthood of all believers.” To address this, many churches record some announcement such as “pastor, So and So; ministers, the whole congregation.” In the end, all are called to serve. Much has been written to explain and justify the role of professional clergy – institutional guardian, servant leader, first among equals, shepherd of the flock, leader of the pack.

[READ MORE](#)

A Gentle Reminder About Rest

Many ministry leaders encourage others to practice Sabbath but struggle to claim it for themselves.

Rest is not a reward for finishing every task. It is a spiritual practice rooted in trust. When we pause, we acknowledge that the world continues turning without our constant effort and that God's work is larger than our own.



This month, consider one small act of Sabbath. Take a walk without your phone. Read something that nourishes your spirit. Spend time with people who know you beyond your role in ministry.

Faithful leadership includes caring for the soul that God has entrusted to your keeping.

National Updates

Join or Renew
your membership

Ministry is Better Together

No one enters ministry expecting to do it alone.

Yet many clergy and ministry leaders find themselves carrying enormous responsibilities: preaching, pastoral care, administration, community leadership, crisis response, and countless unseen tasks that come with serving God's people.

The Ministers Council exists to remind you that you don't have to carry those responsibilities by yourself.

For nearly a century, we have been building connections among ministry leaders who understand the realities of the call. Through educational opportunities, affinity groups, local chapters, grants, national gatherings, and peer relationships, Ministers Council provides encouragement, practical support, and a place to belong.

Membership is more than access to resources. It is an investment in your own growth, well-being, and effectiveness in ministry. It is a connection to colleagues who can celebrate your successes, support you through challenges, and help you stay grounded in your calling.

We invite you to renew your membership or join the Ministers Council community.

Because ministry is stronger when we learn together, serve together, and support one another along the way.

Join or Renew Today

Questions?

Rev. Lachelle Dixon-Harris

ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org

Events and Webinars



3rd thursdays **mc live**

WEBINAR SERIES

8 PM EASTERN / 7 PM CENTRAL / 6 PM MOUNTAIN / 5 PM PACIFIC

MC Live Update

Please note that there will be no MC Live gathering during the summer months. We look forward to being together again in September!


Prayers and Milestones

Loving God, surround those who are rejoicing and those who are struggling with your steadfast presence. May we be reminders of your grace to one another.

Holy One, we thank you for the ways you continue to call and sustain your servants in ministry. Strengthen us for the work before us and renew us with your peace.

Loving God, refresh weary spirits, strengthen tired hands, and renew the joy of serving you. May your grace sustain all who answer your call.

ABC Announcements



The Power of Sisterhood, ABCUSA Women in Ministry Brunch

- Welcome from Wisconsin Region
- Welcome from Office of the General Secretary
- Welcome from Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church
- Opening Prayer
- Ministers Council Update
- Blessing of the Meal

Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell
Region Executive Minister ABCWI

Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain
General Secretary of ABCUSA


Rev. Dr. Demetria C. McCroskey
Senior Pastor
Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Carolyn Dugan
Associate Regional Minister ABCWI


Rev. Dr. Naomi Mitchell
President of ABCMC

Sister Amanda Huff

Our Speaker



Dr. Pamela R. Durso
President of Central Seminary



**American Baptist Churches
Of Wisconsin**

Scholarships Available
For more information please visit abc-usa.org/events

Saturday, August 15, 2026
10AM - 12PM

The Power of Sisterhood: ABCUSA Women in Ministry Brunch

Women serving in ministry are invited to gather for a morning of connection, encouragement, and inspiration at The Power of Sisterhood: ABCUSA Women in

Ministry Brunch on Saturday, August 15, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

This special event will bring together women from across the American Baptist family to celebrate their callings, strengthen relationships, and share in the power of community. Whether you are serving in a local congregation, chaplaincy, denominational ministry, nonprofit leadership, or theological education, this gathering offers an opportunity to connect with sisters in ministry who understand both the joys and challenges of faithful service.

The brunch will feature keynote speaker Pamela R. Durso, President and Professor of Historical Theology at Central Baptist Theological Seminary. A respected pastor, educator, author, and advocate, Dr. Durso is widely known for her leadership in theological education and her longstanding commitment to supporting and empowering women in ministry.

Registration is open through **August 7, 2026**.

Don't miss this opportunity to be renewed, affirmed, and inspired alongside women from across ABCUSA.

Register today: <https://web.cvent.com/event/9cb6b327-19b0-4102-9604-3c94357cee7e/register>



AN HOUR OF
Soul Care

July 10th
12-1pm EST
Via Zoom

Calling clergy to a Noon time to pause and be invited into a guided meditation and contemplative practice of breath. Give yourself an hour to step away from divisive conversations, polarizing statements, stirring newsfeeds and intentionally pause and receive gentle nourishment from the Holy Spirit. Make this hour a choice to sit, breathe and feed your soul. Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil will lead a guided meditation and time of silence.

To Register:
Email Erin at
admin@ccdmin.org
by July 7th





Join Us At
**RENEW AND LEAD:
A WORKSHOP FOR MINISTRY WELLNESS**

Our Speakers Will Be:



Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins
Chaplain and Director of Religion and
Spiritual Life at Ursinus College

This event is an extension of our leadership
wellness workshop series



Rev. Dr. Patricia Murphy, BCC, GRMS
Board Certified Chaplain,
Director of Spiritual Caregivers, Ecclesiastical
Endorser for American Baptist Home Mission
Societies (ABHMS)

ABCUS
1015 W. 9TH AV
King of Prussia, PA 1940
Saturday, September 13, 2021
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

To register visit: www.abc-usa.org/events
<https://cvent.me/4aZR3P>

Ecumenical Resources

We are **BRICKS & Mortals**

Bricks & Mortals helps you make
informed, mission-aligned choices that
support your congregation's future.



Caring for Sacred Space as an Act of Faith

What does faithful stewardship look like in a changing world?

The Sustainable Solutions for Sacred Sites (S4) Seminary Curriculum from Bricks and Mortals invites church leaders, seminarians, and congregations to explore the theology of hospitality, property, and sustainability as expressions of ministry and mission.

Drawing on Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Indigenous perspectives, this innovative resource helps leaders connect theological reflection with practical decisions about buildings, land, and community engagement. The curriculum includes a Doctor of Ministry track, a continuing education course, and a comprehensive syllabus focused on sacred space and stewardship.

Whether your congregation is discerning the future of its property or seeking new ways to align mission and ministry, these resources offer thoughtful guidance grounded in faith and real-world experience.

Learn more: <https://www.bricksandmortals.org/seminary-curriculum/>

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 26.



How to reach us:

- Phone: 215-469-1859



Stay connected

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

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