

Together in Ministry



September 2026 Newsletter



ONE BODY. MANY GIFTS.
Equipped for the Work of Ministry

From the President

Dear Friends,

We are excited to invite you to join us for our Fall Retreat and Biennial Business Meeting which will be held from November 9-12, 2026, at the Seabeck Conference Center in Seabeck, Washington.

As we prepare for our biennial business meeting, we invite you to participate in our nomination process for new officers for the upcoming term. This upcoming two-year term (2027-2028) we are nominating for a Vice President (who will serve as president in 2029-2030) and a Treasurer. We ask that you prayerfully consider the gifts, experience, wisdom, and servant leadership that are needed for these roles. Perhaps you may know someone whose gifts would bless the Ministers Council, or you may sense God calling you to offer your own gifts in one of these roles. You can find a detailed description of the two open positions, as well as a form to submit nominations, [here](#). The nomination deadline is Sunday, September 20. Our nominees will be voted into office during the business meeting.



This gathering is more than just a time to conduct business—it is an opportunity to worship, reconnect, listen for God's leading, and be renewed in our shared calling to serve Christ and one another.

Ephesians 4, our focus scripture for this year, reminds us that God equips God's people so that the whole body may grow and participate in the work of the ministry. Each of us has unique gifts and abilities to help in the work of building the beloved community. As we grow together in unity, and commit ourselves to the building up of love, we also acknowledge the things that help us sustain our ministry. This Fall our retreat will give us space to consider how God is equipping us for the work ahead, how we can

faithfully serve together in ministry, and how we can sustain that ministry. We are so grateful to share that we will be led in this reflection and exploration by our retreat leader Rev. Margaret Marcusson and her new book *Sustainable Ministry: How to Lead (and When to Nap)*.

Come ready to be encouraged, equipped, and sustained. Together, we will seek God's direction, strengthen one another, and continue building up the body of Christ for the work of ministry in today's world. All members and friends of the ABC Ministers Council are encouraged to attend! You can find the registration form and details on our website [here](#).

May God's blessing and God's delight in you rest in your heart,
Rebecca

National Updates



The Ministers Council Nominations Committee met August 19 to curate material for this year's nomination season.

This season we'll be accepting nominations for Vice President and Treasurer. The descriptions of the offices are:

Section 3.a. of the Bylaws states: The President shall:

1. Preside at all meetings of the Ministers Council and the Leadership Team
2. Represent this body on the Mission Table and the Joint Review Committee on Nominations of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. or their successor
3. Serve on the Personnel Committee and the Nominating Committee
4. Oversee national staff positions
5. Guarantee that contracts, arrangements and legal requirements for the organization and its national office are maintained in proper order. The President and Vice President shall be elected to one two-year term, with the Vice President being nominated to the Presidency for the two-year term following his/her Vice Presidency, and a new Vice President being elected.

Section 3.b. of the Bylaws states The Vice President shall:

1. Work closely with the President on management of the national office and staff
2. Fulfill the President's duties when the President is unavailable
3. In consultation with the President, oversee the recruitment, appointment and assignments of all those representing the Ministers Council at national or regional gatherings.

Section 3.d. of the Bylaws states the Treasurer shall:

1. Oversee all areas of finance and accounting
2. Maintain records of all income and expenses
3. Set up and oversee bank accounts and credit cards, as approved by the Leadership Team
4. Review, propose revisions to, and follow approved guidelines for finances
5. Submit to the Leadership regular budget reports comparing actual revenues and expenses against the budget
6. Develop annual budgets to present to the Leadership Team and Local Chapter Representatives
7. Submit financial records for an annual audit

- 8. Receive and review all reports on income and expenses from the designated officer of the Office of the General Secretary, when contracted, consistent with Article IV, Section 2
- 9. With the Leadership Team, define the duties of and recruit a Financial Advisory Team, if needed
- 10. Sit on, advise and report to the Leadership Team for any Financial Advisory, Development or Fundraising Committees appointed by the Board

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScBpylYUz_aIJY4ZL74xgBxoESTOHWTzWgJY0IqRiWT-ReW8g/viewform

Renew Your Ministers Council Membership

Your ministry matters. So does having a community that supports you. The Ministers Council connects ministry leaders with continuing education, meaningful collegial relationships, and resources that nurture and strengthen your calling.

If you haven’t already renewed your membership, now is a great time to do so. And if you’re not yet a member, we invite you to join this community of colleagues committed to supporting one another in ministry.

Join or Renew Today

Questions? Contact Rev. Lachelle Dixon-Harris at ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org.



2026 Ministers Council Retreat & Biennial Meeting

November 9–12, 2026 | Seabeck, Washington

Make plans to join the Ministers Council ABCUSA for our 2026 Retreat and Biennial Meeting at the beautiful Seabeck Conference Center in Seabeck, Washington.

Our time together begins with dinner on Monday evening, November 9, and concludes with breakfast on Thursday morning, November 12.

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Margaret Marcuson, preacher, author, and longtime ministry leadership consultant, who will guide us through a meaningful time of renewal, reflection, fellowship, and connection.

Come away for a few days to breathe, reconnect with colleagues, tend to your own spirit, and be renewed for the ministry to which you are called. Registration is now open!

[Register for the 2026 Biennial Retreat](#)

Chapter News

The American Baptist Ministers Council of Northern California will gather on Thursday, October 1, at 10:00 a.m. in Walnut Creek for conversation and collegial

support around preaching, teaching, thinking, and leading during the current election season.

The chapter is also looking ahead to its 2027 ABMCNC Retreat, January 11–12. Save the date!

Events and Webinars



Special Guest Margaret Marcuson
September 17, 2026
5pm Pacific/ 7pm Central/ 8pm Eastern

Connect to MC LIVE

MC LIVE is held monthly on the third Thursday
All Ministers Council members are invited to join the conversation.

[Join the Zoom Meeting](#)

Passcode: 896413

Add to Your Calendar:

[Download the calendar file and import it into your calendar system](#)

How Do We Hold the “We” in Ministry as Pastors’ Spouses?



**Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil,
Facilitator**

Pastor's spouses often find themselves holding more than they had signed up for, as a pastor's spouse. The roles differ based on the make-up of the congregation. The assigned pews vary and the prayer closets can at times feel silent. The selected shoes may raise eyebrows. Questions and situations surface and yet assumptions never stop building. How might pastor's spouses stand in these crossroads and feel less alone?

Here is an invitation for YOU, pastor's spouses to come and be seen, heard and prayed over in this zoom session where a seat is waiting for you.

Event Details:



October 2nd from
1pm till 2pm(EST)

AND/OR

October 3rd from
9am till 10am(EST)

Via Zoom



Register for one or
both sessions by
9/28/26 with Erin at
admin@ccdmin.org



Prayers and Milestones

We celebrate with **Rev. Rebecca Driscoll Mygatt**, President of the Ministers Council, who will be formally installed as Pastor of The Baptist Church in the Great Valley in Devon, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, September 13. Rebecca began serving the congregation in April 2025, and the installation will celebrate and affirm the covenant of shared ministry between pastor and congregation.



Covenant-making God, bless Rev. Rebecca Driscoll Mygatt and The Baptist Church in the Great Valley as they celebrate their shared ministry and begin this new chapter together.



We give thanks for **Vincent Dent**, Chief Development Officer for American Baptist Home Mission Societies, who retired on August 31 after eight years of service with ABHMS. During his tenure, Vincent helped strengthen the relationships and resources that support the ministries of ABHMS and the wider American Baptist family.

Generous God, we give thanks for Vincent and his years of faithful service, and we ask your blessing upon him as he enters this new season of life.

We celebrate with **Rev. Dr. Willard Ashley**, who will receive the Spirit of the Hill Award, Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School's highest alumni honor, on October 6. The recognition holds special significance for Dr. Ashley, who credits Andover Newton with helping shape his journey as a minister, teacher, scholar, and servant of the Church.



Gracious God, we give thanks for Rev. Dr. Willard Ashley's faithful ministry, teaching, and service, and celebrate this well-deserved recognition of a life devoted to serving the Church and its people.

Gracious God, bless those beginning new calls, ministries, and seasons of life with courage, wisdom, and joy.

Faithful God, accompany all who are navigating times of transition, and grant them peace and trust for the journey ahead.

Healing God, hold close those who are ill, recovering, or awaiting answers, and strengthen all who care for them.

ABC Announcements

AN HOUR OF

September 25th

12-1pm EST

Via Zoom

Soul Cave

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 September 22nd





SJT Guest Preachers



American Baptist Women's Ministries - Rudd Empowerment Center
"Sojourner Truth Women's Ministry Pre-Conference & Conference,"
9/24-9/26 2026
www.abwomensministries.org

Rev. Dr. LaVerne C. Hall

Author, Preacher, Creator,
"Sojourner Truth Traveling Stole Project"
Thursday, Pre-Conference Preacher
9/24/2026



Pastor Michele Humphrey

Senior Pastor, Imani United
Church of Christ
Friday Night Guest Preacher
9/25/2026



Minister Joy Andrews

Evangelist, Licensed Minister, Founder
of Heart of a Servant Ministries
Saturday Guest Preacher
9/26/2026



SJT Workshop Leaders

American Baptist Women's Ministries - Rudd Empowerment Center
"Sojourner Truth Women's Ministry Conference," 9/25-9/26 2026



Ms. Janus Small
Founder and President
Janus Small Associates



Rev. Lisa Goods, Ph.D.
Senior Pastor
Shiloh Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH



Rev. Dr. Alicia Malone
Founder, CEO,
Bondage Breakers, Inc.



Ms. Gina Haas
Director of Investments
American Baptist Home Mission
Societies



American Baptist
Women's

Share Your News with the Ministers Council!

Do you have an upcoming event, program, gathering, or opportunity you would like to share with Ministers Council colleagues?

We welcome announcements from current Ministers Council members for inclusion in our monthly newsletter. **Please submit your announcement by the 25th of the month** for consideration in the following month's issue.

Help us keep the Ministers Council connected by sharing what is happening in your ministry and community!

Ecumenical Resources

2026 Annual Environment & Spirituality Summit

September 28–29 | Online

Faith in Place invites people of diverse faiths and spiritualities to the 2026 Annual Environment & Spirituality Summit, exploring the theme "Grounded Resistance." Four



online sessions will consider how people of faith can engage the world from a place of deep grounding, collective support, and sustained resistance.

This year’s speakers include Dr. Matthias Beier, Valarie Kaur, Mary Evelyn Tucker, and keynote speaker Bill McKibben, who will address climate, courage, and collective action. All four sessions will be available via Zoom, with in-person watch parties also planned for the September 29 keynote.

[Learn More & Register](#)



Expand Your Leadership Skills

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) is offering a new series of Practical Leadership Training modules designed to equip pastors and other ministry leaders with practical tools for the challenges of ministry and leadership. Participants do not need to be enrolled at AMBS, and Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for completed modules.

Upcoming online offerings include Beyond the Budget: Funding What Matters Most; Giving and Receiving Feedback; Leading Engaging Weddings and Funerals; Pastoral Care for Survivors of Child Abuse; Discernment in the Face of Big Tech; and Leadership Practices for Spiritual Vitality. Courses run from September through December, with costs ranging from \$25 to \$300.

[Learn More & 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 October issue, send these to ministerscouncil@abc-usa.org by September 25.



How to reach us:

- Phone: 215-469-1859



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- Join us on **Facebook**

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