



November–December 2020

Ministers Council—American Baptist Churches, USA

# Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors

## The President's Corner

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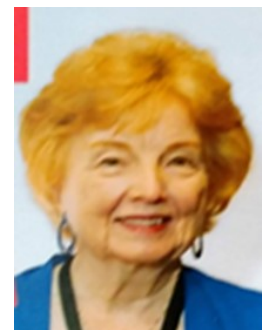
Heartfelt thanks to all who showed up at our kick-off Fall zoom meeting! The Conversation with the Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley, ABC New York Metro Regional Executive, was intimate, informative, and inspiring. COVID hit New York hard, and she related how hard, personally. But, like so many of us have discovered in our own lives, she told us how God was at work in surprising, unexpected ways. Who knew the pandemic would bring all ABC regional ministers together weekly, to pray, share, strategize, and lean on each other as never before? Soon, we hope to have her conversation with us archived on our page at the MC website. Check it out if you missed the in-person event on October 28th.

Her advice and invitation to us? Reach out to your regional executive minister. Don't wait to be called. Let him/her know where you are, what you do, and that you're willing to be called on to help wherever needed. It's a way to connect, to serve, and be served.

Thanks also for the prayers and

support you sent my way as I offered a reflection at the Virtual Renewal Gathering hosted by the Ministers Council on October 29th. It was a first for Ministers Council, and a blessing. Clergy coming together for prayer, music, scripture, and worshipping God together "at such a time as this" delivered, for me, unexpected benefits. Here in my "neck of the woods" in Virginia, we haven't gone back to even socially distanced church services. My husband and I are still going to zoom Sunday services, just the two of us. I hadn't realized how much I missed "being in church" and how much it meant, how comforting it was, to be with sister and brother clergy in prayer and praise. If you missed this one, the second Gathering is on November 5th at 7:30 Eastern.

Don't forget our special evening with members of the subcommittee instrumental in getting the revisions completed for a vote on the ABC Ethics Code/Covenant. They'll be with us Wednesday, November 18th, at 7:30 eastern, ready to discuss and answer your concerns on all the proposed



changes. Try not to miss it. This seminal document rarely is revised. Make sure you know why it's necessary now.

And finally, the year is drawing to a close. I'm so glad you have been with us in 2020. Come with us in 2021, and bring another chaplain or pastoral counselor with you. Say "yes!" to new Treasurer, Lee Axtell, when he sends you next year's invitation to join us again.

Sarah

## Report from Ministers Council (ABCUSA)

Rick Barnes, Chaplain  
**Representative at Large**  
C&CP Representative to the  
Minister's Council/ABCUSA

The chapter representatives of the Ministers Council/ABCUSA met on October 15th. There were approximately a dozen chapters represented. There was much reaction to meeting over Zoom, with some expressing gratitude for a new method of

communication, and others mentioning Zoom fatigue. Of course, one element of discussion is how each of the chapters and its constituents is faring in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main topic of discussion was the proposed slate of changes to the Code of Ethics. Our national Ministers Council is responsible for having generated the original

document. There is a desire to have it mean much more than a document we sign as a hoop-jump in the ordination process. But, being the Baptists we are, there is a great divergence of opinion on the use of the document, the powers that are vested in the document, and what the document should and should not contain. If you've gotten the impression that the proposed changes are a done deal, let

me dissuade you of that. That's why it is so important for you to be there to give your input as we converse with Jackie Belile in her presentation.

Please register for the Zoom Meeting which will be held on November 18th at 7:30 pm eastern. I will be representing our Chapter on Nov. 19th in Bi-Annual Meeting Voting. I want to know your opinions so that I can represent you well. Details below.

### Learn more about the Proposed Ethics Code/Covenant Changes

One more chance to learn about the proposed changes is the webinar scheduled for our chapter members on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:30 Eastern. Jacki Belile, Vice-president of the Ministers Council, is making herself available to us for as much discussion, comments, and questions as we like.

**Pre-registration is encouraged. Send an email to: [epemincouncil@gmail.com](mailto:epemincouncil@gmail.com)**

Please be sure to include your name as it appears on Zoom Video or the telephone number you will use to dial in. This information will help us insure your safety as we meet together.

A confirmation email will be sent to you.

**Topic: Learning more about the Proposed Ethics Code/Covenant changes with Ministers Council VP Jacki Belile**

**Time:** Nov 18, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81558310867?pwd=ZlZpL0tMQ3lKcFVmcG9pL3RYVjZkQT09>

**Meeting ID: 815 5831 0867    Passcode: 653363**

#### Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)	+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)	+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)	+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)



## An Evening with The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley



The ABC Ministers Council Chaplain and Pastoral Counselors Chapter celebrated our 2020 Spiritual Care Week theme, Collaborative Health Care: Chaplains Complete the Picture, hosting an evening webinar on October 28th. Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley, Executive Minister of the Metro New York Region, engaged in rich dialogue with our President Rev. Dr. Sarah Fogg. Dr. Dudley shared her background, administrative approach, visionary devotions, and empathic MNY presence in this pandemic year. Her passion was inspiring.

The daughter of an ABC Home Missionary, Dr. Dudley's inclusive collaboration is impacted by racial discrimination beginning in her childhood. Her mother's goodness as "a mom to everyone of lighter hues" inspired her daughter to reach

out to all at college and Princeton Seminary. When she returned home, First Baptist Phoenix ordained her, their first clergy woman.

Building on the Spiritual Care Week's theme, Collaboration, Dr. Dudley stressed American Baptist covenantal autonomy. In her theologically diverse Region, Metro NYC decided in 2020 "to be together in fellowship." She meets weekly with MNY ministers and with ABC regional ministers to explore tough topics. In addition, she serves as regional secretary for our denomination's 34 regions.

Dr. Dudley responded to COVID's devastating impact on NYC by publishing daily reflections since March 8, 2020. With deep pathos, she shared NYC hardships: lack of COVID resources, illness and deaths of New Yorkers and colleagues, and essential workers who paid the price to meet the needs of others. "We

thought we knew ministry. We were not prepared. We had to be transparent with God. It was do or die." COVID broke open the reality of our faith and tested us. Were we wheat or chaff? Were we in it to the end? There was no hiding from COVID.

Webinar participants asked, "how can we be more active in our region?" Dr. Dudley affirmed the MNY chaplains and pastoral counselors who identified themselves and now sit on her advisory board. Recommending self-initiative, she encouraged us to make ourselves known to our Regions. Dr. Dudley inspired us to ask, "How do I give the Spirit permission to work in new ways in me?" In a time such as this, may it be so for each of us.

Greta Wagner, Member at Large

*"How do I give the Spirit permission to work in new ways in me?"*

Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley

### "The Lord, the Stronghold of our Life" (Psalm 27 Paraphrase)

The Lord, the stronghold of our life, removes our cause for fear.  
 God shelters us in troubled times and saves when strife is near.  
 When light is dim and hope is thin we listen for God's Word. Our trust is found,  
 God's grace is sound, we sing and praise the Lord!

One thing I ask, to seek your home and dwell forevermore.  
 There beauty lives and comfort gives; your temple I adore.  
 Upon this place you show your face and fill my heart with mirth.  
 This song I'll sing as my God brings each day a new rebirth.

The reason for my strong desire to have you make me whole  
 Is all around me evil things that test this wearied soul.  
 The armies shout, their taunts cry out, their threats against me stand,  
 But by your word, my prayer you've heard, they fall at your command.

Be strong, take heart, for God is good and goodness shall prevail.  
 Our hope is in the Lord, our Light, and God will never fail.  
 God's love is pure, our faith is sure, with courage we live on  
 For we will stand on living land with God, our hopeful song.



Text: Stephen M. Fearing Tune: ELLACOMBE 8.6.8.6 D ("I Sing the Mighty Power of God")

## Introducing Lee Axtell— Secretary/Treasurer

Embedded with the U.S Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune, NC, Lee Axtell is an ABC endorsed U.S. Navy Chaplain. God called him to professional ministry in high school when he was actively involved in Baptist Youth Fellowship in his home church, Ocean View Baptist in San Pedro, CA. In the 1980s, Long Beach Naval Station was in full swing, and many naval personnel and families attended Ocean View Baptist and served as youth leaders. These formative years planted the first seeds for ministry.

In counsel and prayer with his pastor, Lee answered the call and attended Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, graduating in 1989. The breadth of opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with Sailors and Marines drew him to serve in the military. Duty stations can include service with the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines.

The four goals of the Chaplain Strategic Ministry Plan shape Lee’s leadership style:

1. Operationalize ministry. Get out to where the people are. Lee’s operational mindset, to those he supervises is characterized by mission focus, agility and preparedness to adapt to changing circumstances. These parameters are essential in today’s COVID environment.
2. Sharpen capabilities. Chaplaincy exists to support the free exercise of religion in the unique environment of the military and is done by providing, facilitating, caring and advising. Staff must continuously sharpen their pastoral skills through study, use, self and peer assessment and cooperative ministry.
3. Develop leaders with intentionality. Effective ministry requires competent staff of good moral character. As staff gain greater responsibility, they must be trained to handle their own increasing

levels of complex leadership.

4. Champion spiritual resilience and readiness. Faith and religious practice serve as sources of strength and stability, and are indispensable to readiness which military life demands. Chaplaincy staff have the responsibility and the privilege of promoting religious freedoms, and assisting Service Members in making the most powerful spiritual connection possible in the practice of their faith.

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*Lee is serving as the Secretary/Treasurer for the Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Ministers Council Chapter. Paula hopes to provide spiritual support to spouses of the Military Chaplains.*



Captain Lee Axtell  
US Navy Chaplain



Lee and Paula Axtell  
Chaplains Pastoral Counselors Dinner  
at the Summit by the Sea in Virginia  
Beach



God of peace, we pray for those who have served our nation and have laid down their lives to protect and defend our freedom.  
 We pray for those who have fought, whose spirits and bodies are scarred by war, whose nights are haunted by memories too painful for the light of day.  
 We pray for those who serve us now, especially for those in harm's way. Shield them from danger and bring them home  
 Turn the hearts and minds of our leaders and our enemies to the work of justice and a harvest of peace, Spare the poor, Lord, spare the poor.  
 May the peace you left us, the peace you gave us, be the peace that sustains, the peace that saves us. Christ Jesus, hear us! Lord Jesus, hear our prayer,

AMEN  
Concord Pastor



Join your ABC ministry colleagues in these two sessions, time set aside for renewing reflection, music and prayer. Each 1-hour session will be followed by optional small group fellowship. These sessions precede the November business meeting at same time on November 19 (open to all) and the optional "Q and A" business prep session on November 12th.

Be sure to check your email for any changes to the Zoom Code prior to the meeting!

## For Such a Time as This—Virtual Renewal Gatherings

Our national Ministers Council is holding two sessions of prayer, reflection, and connective discussions on two dates preceding the annual meeting on November 19th. They also fall just before and after our country's national elections. Using the story of Esther, we are being asked to consider our roles as clergy. How are you and I called for "such a time as this?" Do our strongly held political biases make us a little too sure of what God wants from us? What do those around us see and hear as we speak, or remain silent? As we prepare to vote and participate at the Ministers Council annual meeting, in what ways do we see ourselves part of the whole body of Christ?

The first session, held on October 29th, presented three clergy offering meditations on the scriptures of Esther, with time for self-examination, reflection, and connection. Our President, Sarah Fogg, gave one of these meditations. The second gathering will be on Wednesday, November 5. Time will be made available for small group discussion after two clergy meditations, music, and art offerings. Try to make it, especially if you missed the first one. You won't be disappointed.

### *Naming the Burden, Receiving the Blessing*

**Topic:** Virtual Renewal Gathering

**Date/Time:** Nov 5, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81322851536?pwd=VCttN0U1am80cFNqYzJENGRtNmNsZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 813 2285 1536 **Passcode:** 701131

### *Preparing for the Bi-Annual Meeting*

**Topic:** Business Meeting Preparation

**Date/Time:** Nov 12, 2020, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82108578360?pwd=SmdPT1crMGxFNERoRlJtZjJzeFRYQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 821 0857 8360 **Passcode:** 258873

### *Bi-Annual Meeting of the Ministers Council*

**Topic:** Business Meeting— Key Items of Interest –Voting on Officers, Budget and the Revised Code of Ethics.

**Date/Time:** Nov 19, 2020, 7:00 pm Eastern

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89625424052?pwd=WmlJOC9vTmlkc0ViZlpiN1pSVGpIdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 896 2542 4052 **Passcode:** 484561

**One tap mobile** +13126266799,,89625424052#,,,,,0#,,484561# US (Chicago)

+19294362866,,89625424052#,,,,,0#,,484561# US (New York)

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcDG2tV4L>

**Executive Committee**

Sarah Fogg-President  
 Lee Axtell-Secretary /Treasurer  
 Rick Barnes-At Large Member  
 Greta Wagner-At Large Member  
 Karen Pickler-Past President &  
 Newsletter Editor



**Contact Us:**  
[cpcmincouncil@gmail.com](mailto:cpcmincouncil@gmail.com)

*Send your questions,  
 Prayer Requests,  
 Celebrations,  
 Transitions and  
 Concerns.*

**DON'T FORGET!**  
 Send in your  
 Annual Reports  
 to the Endorser  
 and your  
 Certifying  
 Agencies

## Upcoming Events, Meetings, Trainings and Times of Inspiration

<b>October 29 and November 5</b>	<b>For Such a Time as This (See Page 4)</b> Join us for devotional time, music, prayer, and fellowship at our virtual renewal gatherings. Thursdays, October 29 & November 5 4pm Pacific/6pm Central/7pm Eastern
<b>November 1</b>	<b>All Saints Day</b>
<b>November 5</b>	<b>American Baptist Women –Webinar Series Continues</b> The 4th webinar in this series on Addiction will be on Thursday, November 5th, at 9 pm (EST). The speaker is Dr. Onaje Salim, Board-Certified Counselor, and Licensed Clinician. Below is a description. Register today at <a href="http://www.abwomensministries.org/webinars">www.abwomensministries.org/webinars</a> .
<b>November 9</b>	<b>American Baptist Women Ministries –Prayer Call</b> On Monday, November 9 at 8:00 Pm EST, ABWM will host a prayer call, Sisters in Prayer: Thanksgiving & Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer
<b>November 11</b>	<b>Veterans Day</b>
November 12	Preparation for the Annual Meeting of the Ministers Council (See Page 4)
November 18	Conversation with Jackie Belile regarding the Ministers Code of Ethics (See Page 2)
November 19	Annual Meeting of the Ministers Council (See Page 4)
November 26	Thanksgiving
November 29 December 20	Advent Begins November 29th and Continues until December 20th
December 2020	Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering Hope for Today Hope for Tomorrow 
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas
December 31	New Year’s Eve



# Membership Application

## Membership Dues for 2021

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ABHMS Endorsement Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Expertise: (lecture, workshop, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1) National Ministers Council Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00

Annual Income of	National Dues
>\$60,000.00	\$100.00
\$25,000 - \$59,999	50.00
\$10,000 - \$24, 999	25.00
<\$10,000.00	10.00

2) C&PC Chapter Dues \$ 25.00

3) Total Dues to be Submitted: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00

**Mail your check and this completed form to: (Check Payable to Ministers Council)**

**Rev. Lee Axtell, Sec/ Treasurer  
ABCMC Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors  
104 Pharlap Drive  
Sneads Ferry, NC 28460**

Once your check and information is processed, you will receive a membership card and/or this year's sticker for your permanent membership card from the national office.