



The News

Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Ministers Council
Ministers Council
American Baptist Churches, USA

Winter 2021

Chaplains & Pastoral Counselors are invited
to a
Time of Reflection and Connection

How Goes Your Soul?

CPC Chapter Check In

**Tuesday Evening Gathering
Of**

Chaplains & Pastoral Counselors

March 9, 2021

7:30 pm est.

Reflection & Ministry of Presence
Updates to the Chapter

Please Register: cpcmincouncil@gmail.com

ZOOM access: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82294562109?pwd=ZDNKekU4N1RvNWxVM2dWeitiWDNIUT09>

Meeting ID: 822 9456 2109

Passcode: 894237

Dial by your Location:

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

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Celebrations, Transitions and Concerns*

Celebrations

Birthdays: Gordon Grose - Feb 7th, Greta Wagner - Feb. 19th
Ordination: Greta Wagner - March 10th -30th anniversary of Ordination
Graduation: Sarah Mather -Air Force Chaplain Corps
Promotion: Rev. William Foster was Named as VP of Spiritual Care at Trinity Health in July 2020

Transitions

Concerns

Compassion and Competence Fatigue
Dale Pracht's Wife, Alice
Myanmar (Burma)
Our Country

*Please send in your news to cpcmincouncil@gmail.com

A Word from the President



The year 2020 was a turning point for our Chapter of Ministers Council Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors. Over its 12 months, you received six Newsletters inviting you to participate in our chapter's re-organization and re-vitalization. And you did! Fifty-seven of you filled out membership forms and sent in your dues. You voted YES to change our by-laws for a more nimble, and responsive Executive Committee. When the nominating committee set forth a slate of new officers willing to serve, you said YES again. Many of you attended the September and November chapter webinars to meet an ABC Executive Ministers and to hear from Ministers Council representatives explain and take your questions about the proposed Ethics Covenant Code.

In the opening days of 2021, your Executive Committee has been thinking through the eight goals of our chapter contained in our newly-revised by-laws. In all that we do to serve you, we want to be guided by these eight goals. Our webinar and newsletter articles around the changes to the Ministers Council Covenant and Code of Ethics were in support of the first goal—"to maintain professional and ethical standards of the Christian ministry." We will be asking you to vote on these Ministers Council changes in March. Our webinar with New York Metro Area Executive Minister, Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley, supported our third goal—"to interpret the appropriate roles of chaplains and pastoral counselors to the constituent parts of our denomination..." As we continue to discuss how we may best serve your needs as ABC chaplains and pastoral counselors, we look for your input. As you complete membership applications and tell us where you serve, what your talents and interests are, that helps us reach out to you. As you send in your photos and milestones, and concerns, that helps us focus more clearly, as do your attendance and participation in chapter events.

Please come to the March 9th chapter gathering on "How Goes Your Soul?" a year after COVID began. And don't forget to send in your membership information and dues for 2021. Just under 30 are already aboard. Join us for a wonderful year of growth and continued renewal!

Sarah Fogg
President
Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Ministers Council



- ⇒ Institution
- ⇒ Professional Organizations
- ⇒ Education & Training
- ⇒ Denomination & Endorser
- ⇒ Local Church & Regional Execs.

Make the Connection with your Region

Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors have extensive obligations with their institutions professional organizations and the maintenance of their credentials. Demands upon our time may neglect one of the most important connections for your ministry, the Regional Executive Minister of your region. Introduce yourself to your Executive Minister. Take the time to report on your ministry and create a relationship with the ministers in your region. Find ways to be involved in the life of the Region. Your community of Faith is very important to provide support and care in your ministry. You have gifts of service that may benefit the local churches. The nature of our work may isolate us from opportunities to be active in our local church and receive the blessing of that fellowship.

Report from Our Ministers Council Representative -Rick Barnes

www.ministerscouncil.com

1. Lenten Prayer Series –Begins the week of February 21st. (Check Website)

2. New Board Members Elected for the Leadership Team

-Rev. Dr. Sara Day –Treasurer/Finance

-Pastor Lin Story-Bunce –Coordinator of TIM (Together in Ministry) Groups

-Rev. Jerry Bertleson-Coordinator of Membership and Chapter Development & Chapter Revitalization Support

3. TIM Grants Available-Have you started or are you thinking of starting a new covenant group? There are monies available from the "Together in Ministry Capital Campaign Fund" to support new collegial groups. Application on Website.

4. Excellence in Ministry Grants for Chapters -Beginning 2020, local chapters of the Ministers Council ABCUSA may apply for grants of up to \$1,000 annually for chapter sponsored events such as retreats, workshops, or seminars. Application on Website.

5. Volunteers are needed for the process of revising the Learning Guide for Code of Ethics, beginning in mid-March. All MC chapters are asked to hold discernment sessions and vote on the revised Code of Ethics approved at the November 2020 Bi-annual meeting.

6. The Ministers Council is thrilled that there are 90+ people journeying together with the book To Live in God (Dennis Johnson's collections of prayers and insights by Walter Rauschenbush)

7. All MC Chapters are encouraged to have their members pay their dues for 2021.



Do you receive the Ministers Council Newsletter?

Email

info@ministerscouncil.com

Or subscribe on the home page of the website:

Getting to know Your Fellow Endorsees

Please send in your picture and a short description of your ministry and be part of the Gallery!



Gordon Grose— Pastoral Counselor
Good Samaritan Ministries— Oregon



William Foster— Chaplain
Trinity Health-Michigan



Bernard Smith-Chaplain
New England Hospice -Massachusetts



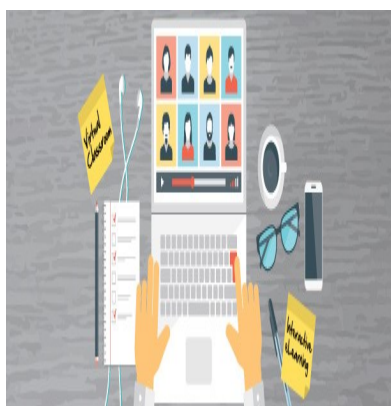
Elizabeth Ritzman- Pastoral Counselor
Dominion Union Counseling Center-Illinois



Nathaniel Milton— Pastoral Counselor Pen-
insula Counseling Center— Virginia



Christian Ricker-Chaplain
Gundersen Health Care System = Wisconsin



Connections, Connections, Connections!!

Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors are invited to participate and connect with one another. Until the threat of the COVID Pandemic has been tamed it will be difficult to have face to face meetings within the denomination or in our cognate groups. Fortunately, the Virtual World makes it possible to get to know one another and connect.

Email address: cpcmincouncil@gmail.com

Facebook: (these groups are private and for members only)

American Baptist Ministers Council

Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors:

Ministers Council: ministerscouncil.com



Joy Morony Freeman
Chaplain
North Kansas City Hospital

Reflection from Christmas Eve on the COVID Units

A reflection after my Christmas Eve dayshift much of which was spent on our COVID units. I find my Christmas Eve shift to be such sacred space. Joy Morony Freeman

Silent Night, Holy Night
Halls are quiet Not a visitor in sight
Nurses don protective gear
All to comfort those in their care
One more shift survived.
One more shift survived.

Silent Night, Holy Night
Chaplain rounds Sighs around
Check ins done with sincere concern,
Listening deep to feelings shared.
One more shift survived.
One more shift survived.

Silent Night, Holy Night
Gathered round Sacred ground.
Stories shared remembering those,
lives we touched to never forget.
Healing coming to be Healing coming to be.

Silent Night, Holy Night
Shift is done. Heart is full.
Sacred work of Holy presence,
Given freely, shared from the heart.
Healing coming to be.
Healing coming to be.



Serving during COVID Times— “I am Game” -Rick Barnes

COVID-19 has affected all Chaplains. The “normal” ways of providing care have required modifications, and innovations. Some of the “normal ways” were halted to maintain the safety of the staff and the patients. Letting go of “normal” has been one of the many griefs we have had to bear in this time. Creating a personal, comforting and sustaining presence with our patients is challenging.

A hallmark of Chaplain practice is the ministry of presence. Now, the best we can offer is a friendly face over a screen or tablet. Prior to the pandemic, I served as a PRN chaplain at the Yuma Regional Medical Center, Yuma AZ. The Pastoral Care Department sent an email to the staff to determine our continued availability to serve. Despite my willingness to serve, I chose not to continue because I did not want to put another vulnerable population at risk. Many of you know I serve as chaplain at an immigration detention center as my day (and now only) job. I had more than sixty volunteers before March of last year to help with the spiritual care of various faith groups. Volunteers have not been allowed in since March, so my impact in serving a remarkably diverse population is limited to myself alone.

Spiritual care needs continue, and I remain alert to ways I can serve even with limitations. A unique opportunity arose presented itself when I was contacted by our local hospital about a trial for a vaccine. I thought, “I really want to see the pandemic over with! I am game.” I was signed up for the Astra Zeneca/ Oxford trial. I eventually got two shots, which turned out to be the placebo. Because of the slow rollout, I was encouraged by the ones administering the test to get any of the vaccines, and to continue to participate in a subgroup of the study.

I am not tooting my horn, but rather claiming my space. I had an opportunity to help, even if it turned out to be more limited than I would have liked. Many of you have done extraordinary things in this time. I wanted to do what I could to help end this tragedy so that we could get back to a better normal. I pray God’s strength for us all as we forge ahead.

Upcoming Events, Deadlines, and Reminders



January 31	Endorser's Annual Report– All Endorsees are required to submit an annual report to the Endorser's Office
January 31	Submit Continuing Ed report to your professional organization
Feb 17	Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent Many options for your Lenten Devotional
June 24-26 2021	Imagine—American Baptist Churches USA Biennial Mission Summit Online Event Biennial Mission Summit—An Online Experience www.AmericanBaptists2021.com

Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Ministers
Council

Executive Committee

Sarah Fogg –President

Lee Axtell– Secretary Treasurer

Rick Barnes-At Large

Greta Wagner –At Large

Karen Pickler– Past President

Contact Email: cpcmincouncil@gmail.com

Join the Cyber community of Chaplains and
Pastoral Counselors

Join Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
cpcministerscouncil](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cpcministerscouncil)

Join MinistrElife Community of Chaplain and
Pastoral Counselors

*Did you get this newsletter from a friend and wish to be on a mailing list for Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors information and gatherings? Send an email to cpcmincouncil@gmail.com. If you are an endorsee, please consider joining our chapter of the Ministers Council.

Inspired by Psalm 19

Eternal God, whose signature we see, if we dare to look, in the creation of the universe,
help us this hour to look and to listen for Your handwriting and
Your voice in this place,
among these people.

Connect our temporary praise to Your timeless rhythms,
Your ageless melodies,
Your everlasting joyful noise.

Guide us now to focus upon You, knowing that in You,
our distractions become new possibilities for action.

Breathe life into our singing, our praying,
our speaking, our listening, our touching,
that all these activities might become more than they are.
In our worship we reach out to You, O God,
knowing that You have already enfolded us in Your arms.
In Jesus, we pray. Amen.

~ posted on My Redeemer Lives website. [http://
www.myredeemerlives.com/prayers.html](http://www.myredeemerlives.com/prayers.html)



Below is the Revised Ministers Council Covenant and Code of Ethics that was approved at the November 2020 Annual Meeting of the Ministers Council. Each Chapter will have the opportunity to approve the revision with a Yes or No Vote. A Survey Monkey will be sent to members of the Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors. March 31st is the deadline for voting on the revision.



Ministers Council Covenant and Code of Ethics

Having accepted God's call to leadership in Christ's Church, I covenant with God to serve Christ and Commandments: to love the Lord our God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love my neighbor as myself.

In affirmation of this commitment, I will abide by the Code of Ethics of the Ministers Council of the American Baptist Churches and I will faithfully support its purposes and ideals. When needed, I will seek out best practices from others and share my guidance when it might edify and empower wise choices for others. As further affirmation of my commitment, I covenant with my colleagues in ministry that we will hold one another accountable for fulfillment of all the public actions set forth below in this Code of Ethics.

CENTEREDNESS

1. I will grow in and show my personal love for God as revealed in Jesus Christ in my life and ministry, as I strive together with my colleagues to preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline and promote the integrity of the vocation to which we have been called.
2. I will strive for a disciplined ministry in such ways as self care, keeping hours of prayers, devotion and rest, endeavoring to maintain wholesome family relationships, sexual integrity, financial responsibility, constructive use of social media, and regularly engaging in educational and leisure activities for ministerial and personal development.
3. I will strive for balance and will work toward being fully present in my obligation to the church or employing group to which I have been called.
4. I will not seek personal favors or discounts on the basis of my ministerial status.

COMPETENCE

1. I will not use my ministerial status, position or authority knowingly to abuse, misguide, negatively influence, manipulate, or take advantage of anyone, especially children. I will be constantly mindful of my ministerial status, position, and authority, and will use them to advocate for those in need.
2. I will not plagiarize; I will be truthful in all my communication and give due credit to others' words.
3. I will report all instances of abuse as required by law to the appropriate agency. In any case involving persons working in ABC ministry, I will also report the circumstances to the appropriate regional and/or national denominational representative.
4. I will hold in confidence and treat as confidential communication any information provided to me with the expectation of privacy. I will not disclose such information in private or public except when, in my practice of ministry, I am convinced that the sanctity of confidentiality is outweighed by my well-founded belief that life-threatening or substantial harm will be caused.
5. I will not proselytize from other Christian churches.

COLLEGIALITY

1. I will respect and recognize the variety of calls to ministry among my American Baptist colleagues, and other Christians.
2. I will seek to support all colleagues in ministry by building constructive relationships wherever I serve, both with the staff where I work and with colleagues in neighboring churches.
3. I will work to gain greater awareness and sensitivity to colleagues of differing backgrounds in order to personally and publicly support my colleagues who experience discrimination on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, age, marital status, national origin, physical impairment or disability.
4. I will, upon my resignation or retirement discontinue my ministerial leadership roles with my former constituents, and will not make ministerial contacts in the field of another ministerial leader without request and/or consent.
5. I will advocate adequate compensation for my profession. I will help lay persons and colleagues to understand that ministerial leaders should not expect or require fees for pastoral services from constituents they serve, when these constituents are helping pay their salaries.
6. I will hold in trust the traditions and practices of our American Baptist Churches; I will not accept a position in the American Baptist family unless I am in accord with those traditions and practices; nor will I use my influence to alienate my congregation/constituents or any part thereof from its relationship and support of the denomination. If my convictions change, I will resign my position.

Signed _____ Date _____



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 Pharlapp 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.