



Chapter
Ministers Council
American Baptist Churches, USA

Sarah Fogg, President

C&PC Chapter News

The President’s Corner

Thanks so much to all of you who showed up and participated in our March 9th webinar, “How Goes Your Soul?” Even as we shared much sorrow and disappointment looking back over the past year of pandemic, it was comforting and even inspiring to be together.

I am looking forward to see even more of you in attendance at our pre-Mission Summit virtual meeting the evening of June 22nd. Our own Gordon Grose will lead us. Gordon has a PhD in pastoral counseling, an MDiv, and is a retired ACPE supervisor. His book on Job, Tragedy Transformed, was published in 2015 and is available from Amazon. In a brief presentation, Gordon will describe the attributes of transformation, gleaned from his work on Job, and lead us in a discussion of where we might now see ourselves as the country and we begin to come out of the pandemic.

If you haven’t already signed up for the Mission Summit, please do. That will let you join us on the 22nd and attend other sessions of interest throughout the week. Everything will be virtual, of course, but the advantage is a registration fee of just \$125 which will give you entry into all events. For those you miss, you can see them anytime later for 90 days after the close of the biennial.

And please don’t forget to sign up for membership if you haven’t already done so. Only members will be able to vote on matters of interest at our short business meeting immediately following Gordon’s presentation. We want to go beyond last year’s membership total of 57. Right now, we’re up to 38. Please help us top that. You’ll find a membership application on page 8 of this newsletter.

See you at Mission Summit!

Sarah

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Special points of interest

- Chapter Meeting at Biennial
- Stories from the front



Officer Changes

At our April meeting, the executive committee accepted the resignation of member-at-large, Rev. Greta Wagner, with sadness and appreciation for her good work this past year. We shall miss her at our monthly executive committee meetings but look forward to connecting with her at chapter webinars and other events. Thanks so much for your many contributions, Greta, especially for your input on our by-laws framework of eight goals and for your personal outreach for our March webinar, "How Goes Your Soul?"

Our chapter will have the opportunity to elect a new member-at-large at our June Biennial at Mission Summit, on June 22, at our business meeting, at

8:30 PM, immediately following the 7:30 presentation on "Transformation: Are we there Yet?" Rev. Nathaniel Milton has agreed to stand for election. Nat is a pastoral counselor at the Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center in Newport News, VA. He was a Navy chaplain for over 24 years, is married with two children and three grandchildren. He has been a campus minister, a bereavement coordinator, and is ordained by ABCUSA and National Baptists. Additional nominations may be made "from the floor" at our June 22nd business meeting.

"A Chaplain's biggest gift is to be present and just listen."
Diane Johnson



Updating the Learning Guide for the Ethics Code/Covenant

Rev. Dr. Bonny Dillon to Provide Guidance to the Ethics Code

In the November 2020 annual business meeting the national Ministers Council voted to approve revisions to the Covenant and Code of Ethics all American Baptist ministers sign at ordination. Our chapter of Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors voted in March 2021 to approve it as well, with a unanimous "yes" for all voting members.

Now, the Learning Guide for the Covenant and Code of Ethics must be updated, not only to include the recent revisions, but to take a fresh look at the entire document to provide clergy the best opportunity to fully engage the ethical and covenantal implications of our ministries. We are fortunate to have Bonny Dillon representing our chapter and the interests and needs of chaplains and pastoral counselors on the new Learning Guide committee. The Rev. Dr. Dillon is the former chair of the Human Services Department at Bluefield State College and has a great deal of experience in ethics. Bonny has graduate study and certification in bio-ethics with specialization in clinical ethics. She has taught bio-ethics in a number of institutions, and was an associate professor of professional ethics at LCC International University in Lithuania.



June 24 –26, 2021

Join the Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors at the Biennial Mission Summit

The Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Chapter of the Ministers Council

Cordially Invites

Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors

To a time of Fellowship, Inspiration & Matters of the Chapter
Tuesday Evening -June 22, 2021—7:30—9:30 pm Eastern Time

Agenda

7:30 pm—8:30 Pm

Greetings

Presentation by Pastoral Counselor Gordon Grose

The first hour will include a short presentation by Pastoral Counselor Gordon Grose, drawn from his book, Tragedy Transformed. At our March webinar, “*How Goes Your Soul?*” we took stock of where we were emotionally, spiritually, and physically on the one year anniversary of COVID. Now, as churches, businesses, and our home reopen, where are we? How close... or how far are away...are we from the transformation that God can provide in difficult times? Gordon Grose will offer his insights on how he and others have moved from despair to new life after tragedy entered their lives. Join us Tuesday evening as we compare notes and share stories of where we are now.

8:30 pm

Chapter Business Meeting

President’s Report

Treasurer’s 2020 Financial Report

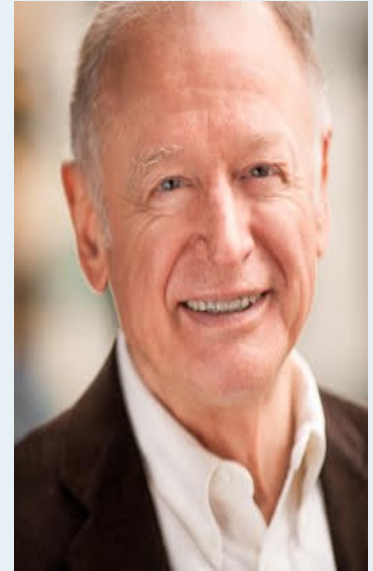
Election of New Member at Large

Membership Update and other Items of Interest

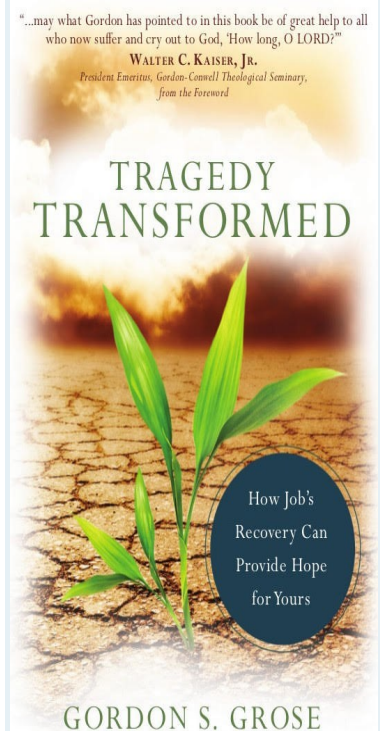
Benediction

The Link for your Participation will be Posted at a later Date

Please Register at cpcmincouncil@gmail.com



Gordon S. Grose



An Invitation to Brave Space

Together we will create brave space. Because there is no such thing as a “safe space” — We exist in the real world. We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds. In this space, we seek to turn down the volume of the outside world. We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere. We call each other to more truth and love. We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow. We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know. We will not be perfect. This space will not be perfect. It will not always be what we wish it to be. But It will be our brave space together, and we will work on it side by side.

by Micky ScottBey
Jones

ChaplaincyInnovation.org

Sacred Rites at Sea

In the picture below is I am officiating at a *burial at sea* onboard the aircraft carrier USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76). Officiating at a Burial At Sea Ceremony is a very humbling honor. The military as a whole, and the Navy specifically, honor their shipmate with the burial. The ship comes to a full stop, all hands cease work (as best they can to maintain safety of the ship), to render honors to the dead. The ashes are buried at sea during the funeral service with scripture, prayer and a sermon. The Ship's Commanding Officer speaks on behalf of the Navy and all shipmates. Often the entire ship is involved in the structure of the funeral service. The Operations Department gives guidance on wind and ship direc-



tion, the Engineering Department creates a memorial burial structure (as seen in the picture above), and the Deck Department readies the funeral service area on the ship's deck. The silhouetted picture of the Chaplain above symbolic. All Navy Chaplains are called to serve our Sea Service Personnel through this sacred rite.

The second picture, shows me on the ship's microphone is during evening prayer at sea which is a longstanding tradition for our military ships. At 2255 hours, or

10:55 p.m. for our civilian brothers and sisters, there is evening prayer. This is the time right before "Taps" is played over the ship's intercom system signifying the day is over. However, the



ship is a 24-hour operation so what may be the end of the day for some, the day is just beginning for others. The prayer is given to offer the message of God's hope, inspire spiritual resiliency and ensure all faith backgrounds are able to connect with the prayer. In past prayers I have recited scripture, shared personal stories and quoted good ol' Snoopy from Charles Schultz to connect the events of the day with God's word for the crew. This is a very intentional prayer as the entire ship's intercom systems transmit the prayer from the deepest engineering spaces to the highest watch standers on the top decks.

Chaplain Lee Axtell
Command Chaplain





VISIT THE VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL

Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Chapter invites you to the Virtual Exhibit Hall.

Fellowship with you and provide spiritual support,

Update you regarding plans for the coming year,

Answer questions regarding the chapter,

Seek your input regarding ways to engage the mem-

bers and be present to our Denomination,

&

Seek your gifts of service for the work of the chapter.

SEE YOU IN CYBER SPACE!!



I begin this with a bit of personal reflection. It seems like the best way to help you get to know me and who I am when I step into my work as a chaplain. In August I will not only celebrate my 45th Birthday, but I will also celebrate my 20th year of being in chaplaincy. I have spent my adult years growing up as a chaplain. Reflecting on that, I have realized that who I am personally has become intimately intertwined with who I am professionally. It is not uncommon to find me talking with staff about the latest Marvel movie or sharing stories of our favorite Dungeons and Dragons (yes, I play regularly) characters. I can be found commiserating on the joys and pains of raising a teenager or sharing pictures of our newest family member, our dog Charlie. These conversations have led staff to trust me with some deeply holy moments, inviting me intimately into their lives when they are in need of support. But it is not just with staff that I have found this particular sacred ground. When I am willing to take all of me - wife, daughter, mother, Dungeons and Dragons player, Tai Chi practitioner— into the room, I move ever closer to the fullness of what God has created in me, to God's call of me to chaplaincy. Take, for example, one of my treasured pandemic chaplaincy moments.

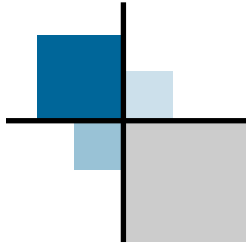
Shortly after our hospital finally started allowing visitors in, I found myself in the room of a young lady just out of high school, her

Bringing All of Me

mom at the bedside. The Mom has asked me to come and help support her daughter cope with many health challenges that had changed her plans and dreams for the future. As we three talked, the mom began to open up, with her daughter's encouragement. I can't remember the whole conversation, but I do remember the room became a sacred space of mutual caring, vulnerability and ultimately healing. As a chaplain I knew how to listen deeply and ask the right questions, but it was my momma's heart that made the deeper connections hearing things in ways only I could, because I took all of me into that room. At the end of the visit, they asked me to pray with them. I did the unthinkable at the time and took the offered hand and prayed, keeping my eyes open. As I prayed, I witnessed this mom become almost giddy with joy. At the end of the prayer she asked, "can you feel it - the warmth?" She shared that muscles that had been sore finally felt relaxed; she felt hungry, something she had not felt for a while. She felt hope. She said, "she had not felt this relaxed and at peace for over a year" The patient in the bed, with tears of joy saw her mom accept and receive soul care and healing. She said, that she was sure I was supposed to be there not for her, but for her mother. It was a beautiful God moment in the midst of the uncertainty and fear of the middle of the pandemic.

Rev. Joy M. Freeman, BCC

North Kansas City Hospital



Scholarship Monies available for attendance at the Biennial! The ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary announces scholarship opportunities for attendees of the 2021 Biennial Mission Summit – An Online Experience. Scholarships for the 2021 Biennial Mission Summit—An Online Experience will be awarded based on expressed need and are offered on a limited basis. Only one application per family will be considered.

The application deadline is May 30.

<https://www.abcusa.org/2021/05/2021-biennial-mission-summit-scholarships-announced/>

Passages-Celebration, Rejoicings, and Burdens of the Heart

In The News

Christian Ricker was featured in “Chaplaincy during COVID TIMES at Gundersen Health System in La Crosse, WI”

Access it at: (<https://wxow.com/2020/11/17/gundersen-health-systems-chaplain-said-the-pandemic-is-causing-trauma-for-families/>)

He was quoted in. My story is at the end of the article: (https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/taking-a-toll-local-health-workers-offer-personal-perspectives-on-the-coronavirus-pandemic/article_7cc15861-564b-5b3d-b4a1-a14eff0c0eda.html)

Celebrations

Rev. Ineda P Adesanya to Receive Luke Mowbray Ecumenical Award

Retirement

Rev. Alice Graham, Ph.D.
Executive Director of the Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Mississippi
December 2020

Condolences

Bruce Chaplin on the loss of his grandson, Christopher.

Dale Pracht on the loss of his brother, Eugene.

Christian Ricker on the loss of his father, Richard.



Explore the Benefits of Your Membership!!

Explore the benefits of your membership!

I have a big confession to make. When I became a member of the Minister’s council as a chaplain, a great deal of that had to do with putting a checkmark beside the question “Are you a member of the Minister’s Council?” But as I have become more involved in the chapter, I realize that I have the opportunity to make it much more than a hoop jump. And especially now as one of your at large members, I hope to add to the value of your experience as well.

One thing I’d like to focus on is the Minister’s Council website. There is information on Together in Ministry, Excellence in Ministry, and a mention of the book about Walter Rauschenbusch which is used as a basis for a study. There are Lenten devotionals now, which will change out after Easter for an appropriate devotional theme. And there is much more.

The entire purpose of the Minister’s Council is to support and uplift the practice of professional ministry and its practitioners. The website reflects that. I hope that as you explore with website and it whets the appetite for more that you will contact our chapter with a question like “Why don’t we do Together in Ministry group with this or that interest?”. Or “Why don’t we do a book study?” Why not indeed! I know how easy it is to become stale, and I pray that as we explore together that we me become refreshed.

Blessings as we reflect upon the sacrifice and celebrate the resurrection of our Savior!

Rick Barnes, Member at Large



**Membership Application for Chaplains and Pastoral
Counselors Ministers Council**

Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

Preferred Email Address: _____

Phone Number: HOME: _____ CELL: _____

Year of Endorsements _____

Place of Ministry: _____

Job Title: _____

Areas of Expertise: (lecture, workshop, etc.) _____

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) Ministers Council chapter Dues \$ ___25.00

(Chaplains & Pastoral Counselors)

3) Total Dues to be Submitted: Make Checks Payable to Ministers Council \$ _____ .00

Send Dues and Membership Application to
Lee Axtell
C&CP Ministers Council
104 Pharlap Drive
Sneads Ferry, NY 28460

Have Questions?
Phone: 808-679-7603
Email: lee.axtell@gmail.com

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.



Chaplain James Harrison
Heffner Salisbury VA Medical
Center

A Word about God at Easter

It is so appropriate that it is Easter today.
Because so many of us have lost our way.
But God is sitting and waiting on us as a Teaser.
And we taste and experience God every day as a Pleaser.
We cry and waddle in anguish everyday as a child.
Not knowing that it is God who makes it mild.
Our grief consumes us and turns our anguish to depression.
And this country we live in is full of oppression.
We forget in the process that God is waiting on us.
For his passion have set us free from all of the worldly fuss.
This is the same passion which compelled Jesus to go to the cross.
So that sin would not cause us to be a loss.
He endured the pain, suffering and reproach for the will of the Father.
Just so the Devil, the Adversary, and the Evil One cannot bother.

He rose from the dead as no one else would.
Just to reconcile us back to the Father as no one else could.
AMEN!!! AMEN!!! AMEN!!!

Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Ministers Council

Executive Committee
Sarah Fogg –President
Lee Axtell-Sec/Treasurer
Rick Barnes—At Large
Karen Pickler-Past President

Contact the President for
Questions, News & Matters of
Celebration and Sorrow

Email:
cpcmincouncil@gmail.com



Join

Become a Member!

The Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Ministers Council welcomes you to the fellowship and support of your Fellow Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors. Plans are in the works for webinars, ongoing support, and fellowship. Perhaps you can gift the Chapter with your knowledge and story?

- Advocacy
- Support
- Connection
- Ongoing continuing education
- A Place to Celebrate Your Ministry



Contact us with questions and let us know how we can connect!

Visit us at the Virtual Booth at the Mission Summit!

Chaplains and Pastoral
Counselors Ministers
Council Chapter

cpcmincouncil@gmail.com



Details to follow!