

Chapter News—Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Ministers Council



Summer 2021 Issue
Ministers Council
American Baptist Churches, USA

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Chapter!

President's Corner: Sarah Fogg

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D.MIN Pastoral Counselor
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Chapter Membership:
42 Members!

Wish you had joined during the
chapter's 30th Anniversary year?
If so, there are just a few months
left.

See page 7 for the application.

Or, if you prefer, join us for year
2022. Watch for your invitation
coming in November.

Looking back over my past newsletter comments, I see my unwitting imitation of the Apostle Paul, always beginning with thankfulness for you. This time, it's gratitude for chapter members and friends who attended the chapter's virtual ABC Mission Summit biennial event on Tuesday evening, June 22. Most of you were there the whole two hours, for Gordon Grose's presentation on "Transformation Though Tragedy," and our business meeting and fellowship time.

Expanding the biennial's theme, "Imagine," the entire evening focused on "Imagining transformation for such a time as this." Gordon invited us to think about transformation in his comments on Job. Then each chapter officer shared reviews of the past year's achievements and hopes for the future. Early in 2020, by-laws changes made possible streamlining leadership offices and holding elections and business meetings online. The leadership team met monthly—and sometimes more—to bring you webinars, newsletters, a presence on Facebook and ministrElife, and news of still other ways to connect with ABC colleagues. Guiding all our decisions were the eight purposes of chapter by-laws, especially the first three: ethical accountability, support and advocacy for our members, and better connection with the denomination. Our efforts laid the groundwork for chapter transformation.

Transformation begins with each of us.

It won't happen without you. Plan to join every year. Read the newsletters, come to the webinars and meetings. Offer your presence, your ideas and suggestions. Encourage your chaplain and pastoral counselor colleagues to come too. Experience what it feels like to be among ABC-endorsed colleagues with similar goals and challenges in a surprising diversity of ministry settings. Respond to offers through the Newsletters and emails to take on short and long-term projects that can help you and our chapter grow, not just in numbers but in closer community. Our aim is deeper knowledge of our many talents through fellowship and shared projects. That will strengthen us and begin to reveal how God wants us to use what he has given to make much-needed contributions to our denomination and to one another as we serve in His name.



At the Biennial, we celebrated our 30th year as a Ministers Council chapter, no small feat in our time of institutional fragility. We couldn't record at the Biennial, but if you missed it and would like to see Karen Pickler's text and picture record of the evening, go to ministerscouncil.com, click on archives and our chapter's newsletter section to view her fabulous PowerPoint Presentation slides.

Just Listen

The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen. Just listen.

Perhaps the most important thing we ever give to each other is our attention... a loving silence often has far more power to heal and to connect than the most well-intentioned words. Rachel Naomi Remen



Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprove to a listening ear.
Proverbs 25:12 ESV

Love begins with listening.
Fred Rogers



Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Chapter

Members of our chapter should have received the challenge coin in celebration of our 30th Anniversary. "Challenge coin; what is that?" you might ask. The origins of the challenge coin come from several sources with many accounts having an association with a military unit and a bar. One account is of a soldier doing something extraordinary, and his superior officer giving him a coin sufficient to buy a drink. Another is that those from a unit were to keep their coin on them at all times. If someone challenged them to produce the coin on the spot and they were able to, the challenger was obliged to buy a drink for the challenged. If not, vice versa. Wikipedia has more detail in their Challenge Coin article (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Challenge_coin).

Whatever the origin, the challenge coin has taken on great significance in many organizations. The coin is meant to symbolize to whom the holder belongs and what they do. They are sometimes presented to new people becoming part of a unit. Sometimes they are exchanged for another coin as a gesture or token of friendship or comradery.

As the Minister's Council's Chaplain and Pastoral Counselors Chapter Executive Committee, we wanted something solid and tactile to demonstrate we are proudly part of the Minister's Council, the group within our American Baptist Churches USA circles representing and advocating for all ABC Clergy and ministry leaders. The MC logo is on one side of the challenge coin and on the other side is our chapter logo. It represents our ministry with people, often in the darkest time of their lives. This ministry can happen in a hospital room, prison cell, aboard a ship, in a counseling room, or a helicopter pad. The locations of our ministry vary, but our goal is to be the presence of Christ in what we do. In this spirit, we offer the challenge coin. We hope it reminds you of the importance of what you do and how you are cherished and appreciated as you do it.

Rick Barnes, Member at Large

Transitions/Celebrations/ Milestones

Congratulations Members elected to APC Board of Directors!



President-Elect
Rev. Dr. Jeffery T. Garland DMin EdS
BCC-PCHAC
Executive Committee Member



Treasurer
Rev. John Simon MDiv MTS BCC
Executive Committee Member

Retirement



Rev. Karen Pickler-Chaplain
Retirement
Northport VA Medical Center,
Northport, NY

The Ministry and Calling of Pastoral Counselors

What do we know about pastoral counselors? That's a great question. There are others that could be asked. What does a pastoral counselor do? What training/licensing/certification does a pastoral counselor need? What type of work does a pastoral counselor do? How does a pastoral counselor get paid? How can a pastoral counselor be helpful? Finally, you may ask, how can people locate a pastoral counselor in their area? These are terrific questions. A "fact sheet" is being developed to answer them. When it is finished, we will send it throughout the denomination, so that ABC leaders, pastors, and local congregations who may need these valuable services will know where to find them.

To our pastoral counselor members and friends who want to spread word of the talents and experience with which God has blessed you: Are you willing to participate in providing the information needed for this short-term project? If so, please contact Nat Milton at orioles_100@hotmail.com or Sarah Fogg at sarahfogg4@gmail.com to get on board. We're waiting for you!

Meet Scott P. Kavanagh, D.Min Pastoral Counselor

Scott, originally from Lynn, Massachusetts, is an ordained American Baptist Minister of over 40 years who served as Minister of three ABC congregations. He retired from full-time pastoral work in the fall of 2013 after serving as Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Syracuse, NY, for 26 years. He and his wife, Jane, moved to Kennebunk, Maine, in June 2017.



And something most folks don't know- Scott and Jane quietly celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the midst of the pandemic on May 16th, 2020.

Scott is licensed in Maine as a Clinical Professional Counselor, and as a Pastoral Counselor and Mental Health Counselor in NYS. He has a private counseling practice in Kennebunk called Lower Village Counseling. He has over forty years' experience as a counselor and continues to work with the ABC Region as a support person. And, as the pandemic struck, Scott was privileged to serve as the temporary Interim at the Kennebunkport South Congregational Church UCC, for five months.

Scott's academic experience includes a DMin '98, specializing in responding to the needs of people in life-changing circumstances at The Graduate Theological Foundation. He received an MDiv '74 at Andover Newton Theological Seminary and a BA '69 from Alderson Broaddus University. Awards include Ronald Reagan Presidential Recognition Award and Outstanding Pastoral Counselor of Excellence from the American Baptist Churches USA. Scott maintains professional membership as a Psychotherapist with ACPE.

Don't Miss the Joy

God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry.”

Jonah 3:10-4:1 NRSV

In my time with the Christian immigration detainees, I like to put in a more fun book of the Bible from time to time. A favorite of mine is the book of Jonah. Jonah had a near-death experience, a “come to Jehovah” moment, a supernatural rescue and sending, and a fantastic response to his message. For all of this, Jonah was miserable, largely because God did not work as Jonah expected. As a former Foreign Society (IM) missionary, I am both envious of the result and saddened for Jonah. Jonah completely missed the joy.

As we are seeking to be the representative presence of the Transcendent, we have a privileged task. But how many times are we weighed down by daily minutia to the point where we forget to look for God working in the midst of what we do? My invitation to us all is to intentionally look for God's presence and work in the midst of the everyday things. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25 that something as simple as a cup of water is ministering as unto Him. It's a challenge for me, but when I remember that even in the midst of the necessary, we are enabling and documenting ministry to the least. And when I remember the significance of that, it gives me joy. May you find joy in each day.
Rick Barnes, Member at Large



Job and Jonah: Two Sides of a Biblical Challenge Coin

We all know the story of Job. In our various ministries, as we tend to ourselves or others going through deep loss and devastation, we often turn to Job's story. A treasure trove of words, it describes almost inexpressible misery. Thirty-five of 42 chapters describe endless lament, complaint, sorrow, anger, abandonment, and unrequested, worthless advice from friends. In myriad ways, Job asks, again and again, “Why me, O Lord? What have I done to deserve this?”

At last, Almighty God answers Job's summons, and appears, charging him with numerous, relentless questions of His own. Job can answer none of them. His accusing questions are undone in the presence of the Great Inquisitor who stands before him. Transformation begins. Job can say only, “I had heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees thee; therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”

For Job, as for Jonah, God did not work as he expected. But unlike Jonah, when Job saw God and His works, he was changed. Job lived many more years to see God answer him, doing far more abundantly for Job than all that he could ask or think.

In these last many months, much has happened. After March 2020, nothing went as expected. At our March 2021 webinar, we pondered together “How goes your Soul?” At our June biennial chapter meeting, came the next question: are we seeing the seeds of “transformation for such a time as this?”

Look again at your challenge coin. Let your eyes see it, reflect on its challenge and its message. Remember the stories of Job and Jonah. Let yourself be questioned. And, when you can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, respond.
Sarah Fogg, President



Membership Application for Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Ministers Council 2021

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 (Chaplains & Pastoral Counselors) \$ _____ 25.00

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.



To speak a healing word to a broken heart.

To extend a hand to one who has fallen.

To give a smile to those whose laughter has been lost.

To share the painful solitude of one who is alone.

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Chaplains & Pastoral Counselors Ministers Council

Sarah Fogg—President
Lee Axtell—Sec/Treasurer
Rick Barnes--Member at large
Nat Milton—Member at Large
Karen Pickler—Past President/Publicity

Contact:

cpcmincouncil@gmail.com