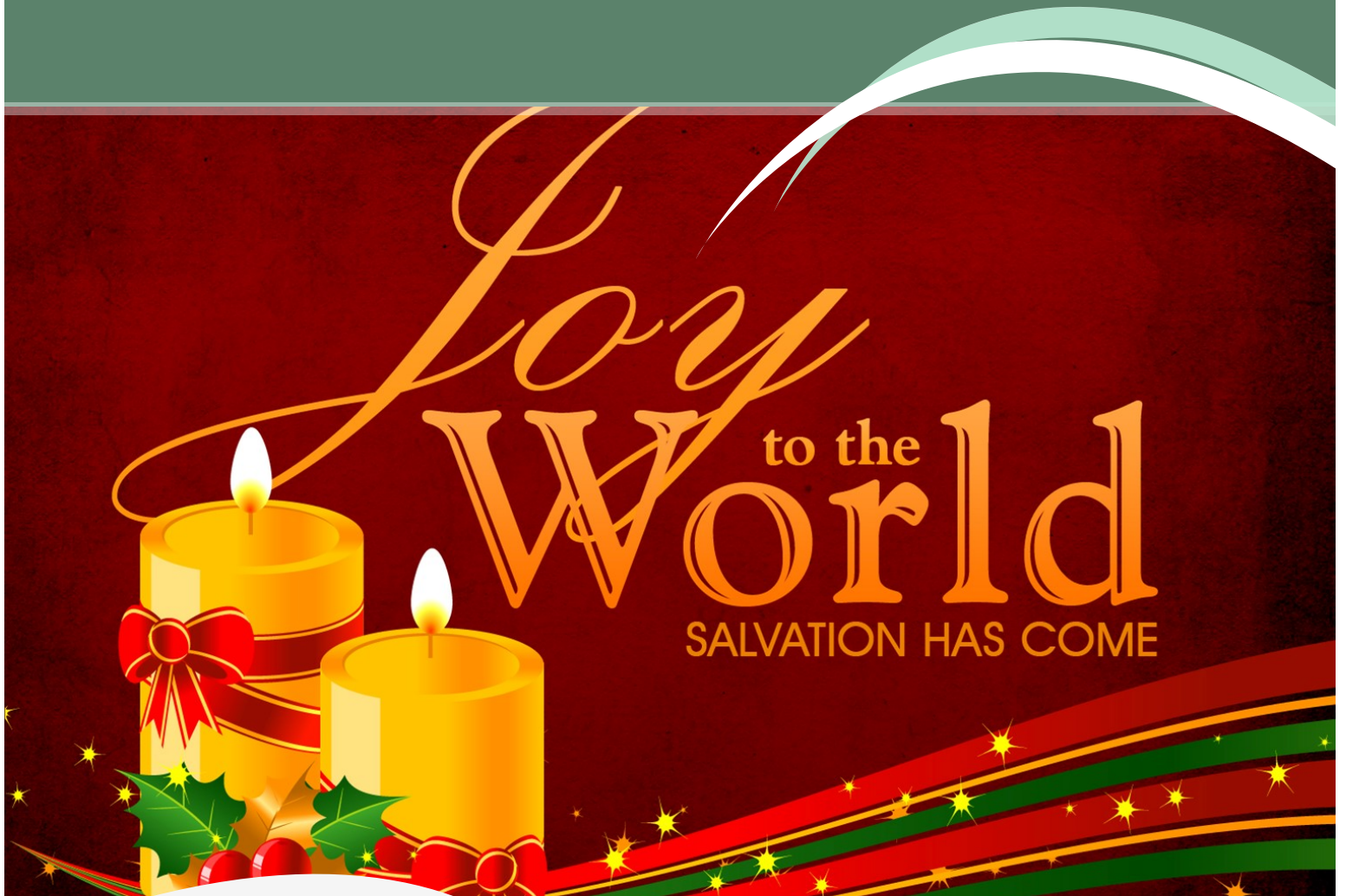


Chapter News

Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Ministers Council



Holiday Issue
Ministers Council
American Baptist Churches, USA

Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors

The President's Greeting— Sarah Fogg



Advent is the sign of great things to come. We celebrate it as the start of the new Christian year. Our Savior came down to us on that first Christmas Day and we ready ourselves to celebrate it anew in Advent. No doubt, you are deeply involved at work, at home, with family, or with friends in so many of the preparations that make this season like no other.

Your executive team is preparing to greet the new year in January with plans to serve our chapter members' needs in both new and old ways. The Newsletters will continue to arrive in your email box, you'll get announcements of events we hear about in the denomination that may interest and inform you, and we'll be here to help and support you whenever you call. You've already received our special edition of "Grieving during the Holidays" which we offer as a resource for your ministry and a personal support, if this is a time of loss in your life.

This past year, we've focused on three of the eight purposes of our chapter by-laws: ethical accountability, support and advocacy for our members, and better connection with the denomination. In the new year, we hope to advocate more intentionally for our pastoral counselors. You'll soon have a fact sheet lifting up this special field of ministry, which we'll disseminate through the denomination. Early in the new year, we'll highlight the work of one pastoral counselor who ministers to one of the most challenging and difficult groups of people who need—and often don't get—the care and support they deserve as children of God. Watch for more about that in our next newsletter. Later in the year, we hope to focus on yet another purpose area, the recruitment and nurture of candidates interested in chaplaincy and pastoral counseling. We'll be calling on you to help us with that in the spring of the year.

Meanwhile, we send you our warmest greetings at this most special time of the year and this prayer for Christmastime.

God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;
The warmth of Christmas, which is love;
The radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
The righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
The belief in Christmas, which is truth;
The all of Christmas, which is Christ.

Wilda English in Guideposts: The Joy of Christmas

End-of-year Annual Reports

Don't forget to complete and send in your Annual Report to the Endorser, Dr. Patricia Murphy, at ABHMS' Office of Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries. You can download it from the ABHMS website at ABHMS.org. It's longer this year and requires more time to complete, so plan ahead. It's due at the end of the year, but no later than January 31, 2022, and keeps your endorsement status in good standing.

https://abhmemissions.formstack.com/forms/abhms_cpcm_annualreport_2021

Greetings of the Holy Season

- Meditations for Advent and Christmas
- Letter of Invitation and Application to Join the Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Chapter of Ministers Council



Petra Van De Water presents

"Words of Comfort for the Holiday Season"

<https://abhms.org/ministries/developing-leaders/chaplaincy/>



"Just as one candle lights another and can light thousands of other candles, so one heart illuminates another heart and can illuminate thousands of other hearts."

(Leo Tolstoy)



Meditations for Advent and Christmas

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love & Faith

The Treasures of Darkness A Poem For Advent

by Ken Sehested

It has been said: You shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free; but first it will make you miserable. The pilgrimage to mercy necessarily passes through valleys of misery, for the far Horizon of hope's disclosure can only be seen with tear-smeared eyes.

Forlornly, days endure, yet do not define the minds or shrivel the hearts of those grasped by the beatific vision of the Promise ahead, to which we are guided by belligerent light against the dark's deep sweep. Carpe noctem, y'all. Seize the night. Be like the dark- buried seed burrowed beyond every sunny disposition's reach, a twilight "richer than the light and more blessed, provided we stay brave enough to keep going in."*

Despite the night shivers and the apparent reign of treachery and ruin, seek "the treasures of darkness . . . hidden in secret places" by the Beloved who knows you by name.** Fear not, child, though the shadows o'ertake and ominous voices emerge from the murk. The eclipse, too, has its revelatory power, and angelic heralds whose advent password is "Fear not."

Holy God, during this busy season of Advent,
We pray for our World.
We seek your light in the midst of darkness,
Your peace in the midst of violence,
Your love in the midst of discord,
Your courage in the face of fear, and your wisdom to guide us.
Help us to be messengers spreading your light, sharing your peace,
and living your love with courage and wisdom. Amen.

Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, USA



God of mystery and miracles,
Your Word brings light into the dark places of our lives;
Your presence gives us strength to endure
when we are pushed beyond our own strength.

You find us in our lostness and,
with love beyond our imagining,
you lead us home.

All this you offer in and through Jesus Christ.
Yet, we resist you.
We resist loosening our tight grip on our lives.
We hesitate to trust you
for you may lead us where we do not want to go.

You know the places in our hearts
and in our minds where we are well-defended
against your intrusions.

In this season of longing,
grant us grace to bring all that we are to you, O Christ
— all the broken places
— all the lost wanderings
— all the weariness from trying to live lives that are pleasing to you.

Hold them all in the fullness of your love.
Then, be born in us, that we may find our home,
our life, our joy in You, Lord of light and love.

~ posted on Christine Jerrett. <https://christinejerrett.wordpress.com/>

"What good is it for me if Mary gave birth to the Son of God 1400 years ago and I don't give birth to God's son in my person and my culture and my times?" Meister Eckart



Christmas Benediction

Let the love that shaped earth and
heaven dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that created humanity
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that overcomes suffering and
hatred dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that causes us to rejoice with
loved ones dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that forgives and renews
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that brings reconciliation after
separation dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that brings the blessing of
peace dwell within us this Christmas.

And may we share that peace
with all people near and far. Amen.

~ in Prayers for Christmas, posted on the
Christian Aid website. [http://
www.christianaid.org.uk/](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/)

Christmas Affirmation

I BELIEVE that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments;
it is a time for remembering Christ and the incarnation of God's love in
human flesh.

I BELIEVE there are gifts more important than the ones under the Christ-
mas tree, the things we teach our children, the way we share ourselves
with friends, and the industry with which we set about reshaping the world
in our time.

I BELIEVE that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest voices;
from hearts made warm by the wonder of the season.

I BELIEVE in the angel's message that we should not be afraid—that the
Child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all anxieties and insecurities.

I BELIEVE in prayer and quietness as a way of appropriating Christmas—
that if I wait in silence I will experience the presence of the one born in
the manger, for he lives today as surely as he lived then. Anonymous

I BELIEVE in going away from Christmas as the wise men went: "another
way." I want to be different when these days are past—more centered,
more thoughtful, more caring.

A Dawn of New Beginnings

O God,

We thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed
sun, for the ocean and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering
wind, for the trees and green grass.

We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see
the splendor of fields of golden wheat, and taste autumn's fruit, rejoice in
the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers.

Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty; and save us from being so
blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thornbush is aflame
with your glory.

For each new dawn is filled with infinite possibilities for new beginnings
and new discoveries. Life is constantly changing and renewing itself. In
this new day of new beginnings with God, all things are possible. We are
restored and renewed in a joyous awakening to the wonder that our lives
are and, yet, can be. Anonymous

Ways to Join the Chapter

You may pay your dues in either of two ways .

1.

Complete the application form ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE and enclose a check for both the National Ministers Council and our chapter DUES. Please complete all three sections of the dues section.

Don't forget to note the sliding scale for national membership dues. Please also note that dues are paid to each Ministers Council chapter separately. If you join another chapter, please remember that you pay the National Dues ONLY ONCE! For example:

A minister from Upstate NY joins the regional chapter and the Chaplains & also Pastoral Counselor's Chapter. Their fees would be:

*Nat. Minister Council Dues –Sliding Scale
ABC –NY Regional Dues =25.00
Chaplains & Pastoral Counselor Dues =25.00*

2.

PAY through the National Ministers Council website, which allows you to pay them and us.

Either way, please fill out and return the attached membership application, including your areas of expertise, so that we may know you better and be more aware of the depth of talent and gifts otherwise hidden in our chapter membership.



Join the Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Chapter of Ministers Council for 2022!

The Community for ABC-USA endorsed Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors

The Privilege of Membership is Community

We cordially invite you to join the Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Chapter of the ABCUSA Ministers Council for the year 2022. Our ongoing purpose is to “build up the Church of Jesus Christ by sustaining and improving the professional church leadership of the American Baptist Churches USA in general, and chaplains and pastoral counselors in particular.” Recently, we have been focused on member support and raising our profile within the wider denomination.

Since our formation in 1991 at the ABC Biennial in Charleston, West Virginia, all endorsed American Baptist chaplains and pastoral counselors have been invited to join our chapter of the ABC Ministers Council. This larger, national body gives us many opportunities to connect with and find support from fellow ABC clergy, something many of us, working in non-congregational settings, often find difficult to do. We also recognize that our training, plus our experiences in varied secular environments, gifts us with much to offer back to our denomination and colleagues.

2021 was a banner year. We celebrated the 30th Anniversary of our Chapter, 1991-2021, at the June ABCUSA Biennial on Zoom. It was a great time to reconnect with colleagues and to reflect on transformation with Pastoral Counselor Gordon Grose. We marked the occasion by sending all attendees and current members a very special Challenge Coin symbolizing our Chapter and our relationship with the Ministers Council. The coin will be mailed to you with your 2022 dues if you have not yet received one. Several webinars kept our members and friends connected and informed. Most recently, in October and in honor of Spiritual Care Week. Chaplain Karen Pickler led a fantastic MC Live webinar, entitled, “What Brings You to this Day? A Look at Traumatic Healing and Recovery.” We also hope you enjoy receiving our regular newsletters with updates on chapter events, announcements from the Ecclesiastical Endorser, the National Ministers Council, the ABCUSA, MinistrElife, and others.

Meanwhile, we encourage you to sign up on the ABC platform, MinistrElife, (see MC video archives for more information) which has replaced the ABPS Profile Services and offers more ways to connect and keep current. Please also join us on the Ministers Council Facebook page. Participants are finding both helpful ways to connect, voice concerns, and stay abreast on what is going on in the denomination that affects us.

May God continue to bless you in your ministries.

Membership Application for Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Ministers Council

Name: _____ Title: _____

Date: _____ ABHMS Endorsement Year: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

Preferred Email Address: _____

Phone Number: HOME: _____ CELL: _____

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) Chaplains and Pastoral Counselor Chapter Dues \$ _____ 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

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.

Have Questions?
Lee Axtell— Phone: 808-679-7603
Email: Cpcmctreasurer@gmail.com



The Fellowship for Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors

Celebrating -Supporting —Connecting-Resourcing--Fellowshipping

Join the Fellowship

Contact

cpcmincouncil@gmail.com

Celebrating 30 Years of Fellowship and Support

Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors
Chapter

cpcmincouncil@gmail.com

Sarah Fogg –President

Lee Axtell-Sec/Treasurer

Nathaniel Milton—Member at Large

Petra Van De Water-Member at Large

Rick Barnes– Member at Large

Karen Pickler-Past President and Publicity



©LPI