



MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS YOU CAN USE – PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR NETWORKS

October 2008

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~WHY A MINISTERS COUNCIL?

The Ministers Council is an autonomous, self governing association of ministerial leaders and clergy that stands alongside other denominational members. It is fully supportive of the mission of the ABC-USA and seeks to work together in ministry with each of its denominational partners.

The Ministers Council provides a community for its members:

- To assume responsibility for the faithful practice of the ministerial calling
- To develop and promote ethical standards that both guide and shape the way in which the vocation of ministry is performed
- To assume personal responsibility for and to encourage physical and emotional well-being in the practice of ministry
- To inform, support and encourage one another in the deepening of personal and communal spiritual life
- To work together to develop the skills necessary to become effective servants of Christ's church
- To encourage growing friendships that encourage, inform and correct the leader as she or he seeks to faithfully respond to the call of God in Christ Jesus

The Ministers Council is that unique place within the national structure of the ABC-USA which

- Offers leaders opportunities to articulate a distinct ministerial viewpoint, among the many denominational perspectives that need to be voiced and heard, as we work together for the growth of Christ's kingdom.
- Serves as an advocate for its members in times of difficulty and conflict
- Is solely focused on the well-being of clergy as they engage in the ministerial calling in all of its dimensions

**~PRE-BIENNIAL PASADENA CA
June 25 and 26, 2009
With Dr. Leonard Sweet**



The Ministers Council in partnership with Interim Ministries, Women In Ministry, and the Area Ministers Group will host Dr. Leonard Sweet at two pre-biennial events.

Thursday afternoon, June 25, Dr. Sweet will speak to the topic "What's A Guttenberg Groupie in a Google World Going to Do?". All Members of the Ministers Council, ministers in Interim Ministries, Members of the Area Ministers Group, and those participating in the Women in Ministry group are invited to participate. The cost will be \$30.00 per person.

Friday morning, June 26, Dr. Sweet will address all who wish to attend at the Ministers Council meeting. His title is "The Metaphors of the 21st Century: Seven Metaphors that Can Transform the World". This event is made possible by the dues paying members of The Ministers Council.

To learn more about Dr. Sweet, go to his home page, www.leonardsweet.com or if you wish to go directly to a biographical sketch, go to www.leonardsweet.com/biocv.asp. He is a leading interpreter of the present age to the church and a teacher of the gospel to the present age.

**~REJOICE IN THE LORD MINISTERS' CONFERENCE
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
JANUARY 4-7, 2010**

The hotel and dates have been secured. The planning committee has agreed to serve. Brad Berglund has agreed to serve as our coordinator and preparations are under way. Mark your calendar and plan to join us in Orlando.

In 2010, the Ministers Conference will meet in parallel with the Orientation to Baptist Life Conference". Though the details are to be worked out, the intention is for pastors new to the ABC and seminarians to attend workshops that will help them as they become oriented to ministry within the ABC family. Those attending the Ministers' Conference will have workshops and events designed especially for them. And for some plenary sessions, particularly worship, the groups will join together for a time of shared experience. Our expectation is that in providing an environment within which seasoned leaders can meet those just beginning their ministries, all will be enriched in our journey together.

~TOGETHER IN MINISTRY

Reminder that all Together in Ministry applications are due in the Ministers Council office by October 31, 2008. If your group received funding in 2008, you must fill out the evaluation forms in order for the group to be refunded.

http://www.ministerscouncil.org/TogetherInMinistry/documents/FacilitatorSurvey2008rev_000.pdf

<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/TogetherInMinistry/documents/Memberegroupsurvey08rev.pdf>

~MESSAGE FROM THE SPIRITUAL AND PERSONAL WHOLENESS COMMITTEE...

The Spiritual and Personal Wholeness Committee needs your assistance. We are building a list of Respite Sites as well as a list of Spiritual Directors to be placed on the Ministers Council web site for the benefit of all ministers. Can you recommend Respite Sites, Spiritual Directors, and/or Centers for Spiritual Direction? If so, please provide the name of the facility or the name of the director, the location, a brief description if available, web site information, phone number, or any other pertinent data to Rev. Barbara Hulsing (bhulsing@timeposition.com). If you do not have all the pertinent information, the name and phone number or web site would be sufficient, and we will take it from there. Thank you for your cooperation.

~PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

In his web site welcome, (www.abc-usa.org) Roy Medley reminds us that for many, October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Click on "more" following his welcome and that will take you to my thoughts on the subject.

Several years ago, the Commission on Ministry wrote an excellent piece about pastoral appreciation. You can find it at: www.ministerscouncil.org/documents/appreciationmlc08.pdf.

JK

~ADVENT RESOURCES

David Laubach (National Ministries) recommends David Coffey's new Advent book [Joy to the World](#), as seen on the Baptist World Alliance web page, www.bwanet.org. Dr. Coffey, a pastor in Great Britain, is the current president of the Baptist World Alliance. The book can be purchased from David C. Cook.

Alan Bearman, professor of history at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, recommends [The Battle for Christmas](#) by Stephen Nissenbaum (Vintage, 1997). Our American 21st century practice of Christmas is a very recent invention and knowing the history will give context for counseling and preaching in a contracting economy.

Rhonda Cushman, Interim Endorsing Executive for Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Services, recommends resources at www.textweek.com and www.kerygma.com.

Betty Johnson likes the sermon outlines at <http://www2.wesleyan.org/sf/advent/start.html#Media>.

~JUDSON PRESS

Looking for inspiration or help thinking about stewardship? Judson's What the Bible Says about Stewardship, by A.Q. Van Benschoten, Jr. (\$10), or Bring the Full Tithe, by William D. Watley (\$13) may be just what you need! Benschoten's book includes daily Bible readings, leader's guide for group study and church self-study guide. The Watley book includes biblically-based sermons on the "grace of giving." For a SPECIAL 30 PERCENT DISCOUNT on either book or both books from October 27 to November 27, 2008, order by calling Judson Press at 800-458-3766. (Be sure to mention code: STEW to get this special "Ministers Council only" discount!). Or order online at www.judsonpress.com for an additional 10 percent off the already reduced web price. (Remember, the codeword is STEW)!

~BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR ON THE SABBATH

An excerpt from Leaving Church

In her marvelous memoir, Leaving Church, Barbara Brown Taylor describes the process that led her out of parish ministry. Trying to be all good things to all people (perhaps good and bad), she fell into a season of fatigue, perhaps depression, perhaps even “burn-out”. It would be wrong to assume a single source or cause for this painful experience but among the possibilities she writes about Sabbath.

“How long had it been since I had remembered the Sabbath? I was certainly aware of the concept. I had even declared Friday my Sabbath instead of my day off, but on that day, as on every other day of the week, I stayed very busy. I worked on my sermon, shifting loads of laundry from the washer to the clothesline during my frequent breaks, and when that was done I cleaned litter boxes, fed the animals and thought about what to cook for supper....

“Like every other clergyperson I knew, I believed I had no alternative. Taking a full day off was so inconceivable that I made up reasons why it was not possible. If I stopped for a whole day, there would be no more weekend wedding at Grace-Calvary, or someone else would have to do them. Sick people would languish in the hospital and begin to question their faith. Parishioners would start a rumor.... If I stopped for a whole day, God would be sorely disappointed in me.

“Remember the Sabbath, the rabbis say, and you fulfill all of Torah. Stop for one day every week and you will remember what it means to be created in the image of God, who rested on the seventh day not from weariness but from complete freedom. The clear promise is that those who rest like God find themselves free like God, no longer slaves to the thousand compulsions that send others rushing toward their graves.”

Barbara Brown Taylor, Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith, pages 135-136

~REMEMBER US!

When planning your estate, please remember The Ministers Council.

~INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES



Announcing three locations in 2009!

Feb. 20 – 22 **Sun City, Arizona**
June 26 – 28 **at the Biennial in Pasadena, CA**
Oct. 2 – 4 **Manchester, New Hampshire**

Registration for the **2009 World Mission Conference** opens in November.
Register online and save!

Announcing a new video – the **World Mission Conference** in 60 seconds!
www.worldmissionconference.org

THE MINISTERS COUNCIL OWNS THE DOMAINS WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.ORG AND WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.COM. IF YOUR BROWSER ENCOUNTERS DIFFICULTY IN OPENING ANY OF THE LINKS IN THIS NEWSLETTER, GO DIRECTLY TO THE WEBSITE AND/OR FEEL FREE TO CALL THE OFFICE FOR SPECIFIC NAVIGATION DIRECTIONS TO LOCATE THAT LANDING PAGE ON THE SITE.

~SIGN UP FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM THE MINISTERS COUNCIL

Sign up for future issues of the monthly Ministers Council newsletter by replying to this message from the email address to which you wish issues to be sent. Add the newsletter email address to your address book so that future newsletters will not go into your spam filter.

If you have news, ideas, events or websites from your Ministers Council to share with colleagues, please email to joe.kutter@abc-usa.org. The more we share with one another what works, the stronger we will all be.

~MINISTERS COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

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Join the Ministers Council through your local constituent council. Contact information is posted on www.ministerscouncil.org under the WHO WE ARE link.

II Timothy 1:6-7

"For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."