



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

Joe Kutter, Acting Executive Director

September 2009

Click here to view this message as a webpage: <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Periodicals/Publications.aspx>

~REGISTER NOW FOR TOGETHER IN THE LORD

To all who register for TITL in the next two weeks, Judson Press and National Ministries will give a free copy of one of the following books. You will be able to pick your book up at the conference in Orlando.

Rest in the Storm by Kirk Byron Jones

Tempted to the Leave the Cross (English or Spanish) by Ernest Flores

12 Steps to Congregational Transformation by David Laubach

Those Preaching Women: A Multicultural Collection, edited by Ella P. Mitchell and Valerie B. Davis

Recent research also indicates that airfares are particularly good at this time. Southwest had some particularly good fares. Another careful researcher found that Disney prices are at their lowest at this time of year. The speakers and the workshops are world class. The location is ideal. The fellowship will be enriching. A change of pace following Advent and Christmas will be renewing. Register now for Together in the Lord. <http://www.ministerscouncil.org/Together%20in%20the%20Lord/TITLinfo.aspx>

Scholarship money will be available. For more information click on the link and follow instructions listed below - <http://www.nationalministries.org/>

On left side bar point to Education - Click on Scholarship and Grants - Scroll down to bottom of page and click on "Tell me more about aid for Ministerial Leaders" and click on "Cultivating New Life Grant Application" then follow instructions given there.

~ARE YOU THINKING OF A CHANGE IN MINISTRY?

Interim ministry is a way to continue to exercise your gifts, follow your calling, and use your accumulated wisdom and experience. Interim Ministries-ABC can provide a day of introduction to interim ministry on January 8, following Together in the Lord in Orlando, January 4-7, 2010. The cost is \$60, which would include a box lunch and CEU credit. Your lodging costs would need to be extended by one day. If you would be interested in staying over one day to learn about interim ministry, please email Jamie Munro at James.Munro@abc-usa.org.

~WOMEN IN MINISTRY TASK FORCE

Rev. Holly Bean has agreed to serve as the Chairperson of the Ministers Council task force in support of Women in Ministry. Invitations are being sent to potential task force members and our intention is to have the first conference call by the end of November.

Somebody will, or should, ask, how does this task force relate to the task force being led by Dr. Mary Hulst? Our answer is we plan to relate very well. Our President, Alice Greene, and the chair of Ministers Council Task Force, Holly Bean, have been invited to serve on Mary's task force which should allow us to work collaboratively. Given the historical commitment of the Ministers Council to advocate for Women in Ministry, we want to stand ready to be supportive of Dr. Hulst's group in every way. At the same time, we want to offer our own distinctive voice to the cause.

The Ministers Council Task Force will serve a two-year term and focus on understanding the current landscape for American Baptist Women in Ministry, gathering together biblical and theological resources pertaining to Women in Ministry, and shaping strategies for advocacy.

~TOGETHER IN MINISTRY APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING

All applications for 2010 covenant group grants are due in the national Ministers Council office by October 31, 2009. If you have not yet submitted your applications to your constituent Ministers Council officers please do so TODAY! Applications to the national office must come from constituent Councils and be postmarked by October 31, 2009. Application forms may be found on www.ministerscouncil.org under the Together in Ministry link. In order to be considered, please complete the form online and print it out. Applications must be received by mail and NOT by email or FAX. For applications click on the link below.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/TIMApplication.aspx>

~A BETTER WAY - A COMMUNITY OF MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP - EXPERIENCE IT AT A MINISTERS COUNCIL COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE WORKSHOP

Dr. Joe Kutter is offering workshops for ministerial leaders that are designed to increase the effectiveness of local constituent councils as they work to enrich the ministries of their constituencies. For more information or to schedule a workshop in your region contact Dr. Kutter at joe.kutter@abc-usa.org

SPONSORS: The American Baptist Ministers Council and one or more local Constituent Councils.

WHAT: A workshop designed specifically to enhance both the effectiveness of constituent Ministers Councils and the ministerial leaders they serve. To do this, we will use the insights of "Communities of Practice" leaders and literature.

WHY: We, who are called to ministerial leadership in the church of Jesus Christ, want to be both faithful and fruitful. To paraphrase the Ministers Council mission statement, we covenant together both to deepen our spirituality and to increase our effectiveness as leaders in Christ's Church.

WHO: Ministerial Leaders who are willing to participate in a community of learning, share their ministerial experiences, and learn from others.

WHEN: This process works best with an over-night retreat. Contact Dr. Joe Kutter at the American Baptist Ministers Council, Joe.Kutter@abc-usa.org, to schedule the retreat.

~OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

It can be really awkward for pastors to advocate Pastor Appreciation Month. So this paragraph is directed to the rest of us. I want to encourage, even urge, national and regional staff persons to help congregations to do those things that indicate the appreciation that they have for their pastors. Several years ago, the Ministerial Leadership Commission published a brief but excellent paper that offered concrete suggestions for demonstrating appreciation for pastoral leaders. The paper can be found at <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/documents/appreciationmlc08.pdf>

~WOMEN WORD – RESOURCE FOR WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Karen Pickler has created an excellent resource for women in ministry. We commend it to you. Click on the link to view it.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/WIM%20Resources/documents/FALLEDITIONWOMENWORD09.pdf>

~TOGETHER IN MINISTRY SECOND CHAIR GROUP NEWSLETTER

Alex Pickens III facilitator of the “Second Chair Group” from Michigan was funded through the Ministers Council Lilly Endowment for 2009. This is his first experience with a TIM group and he would like to share their newsletter they have created. Please click on the link to read more about this group - <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/documents/SecondChairGroupNewsletter09-2009.pdf>

~BE TRANSFORMED FROM UNCHRISTIAN TO *NUCHRISTIAN*

Judson Press has released *nuChristian: Finding Faith in a New Generation* by pastor Russell E. D. Rathbun. In this response to the popular Barna Research book *unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity... and Why It Matters*, Rathbun offers practical ideas for church leaders who seek to reach today’s young adults with a Christlike community that is transparent, holistic, loving, engaged, just, and humble. He invites us to move beyond statistics and defensiveness to hear a new generation’s critique and to be authentic about whom we are as flawed human beings saved by a gracious God. Shane Claiborne provided the book’s foreword. Makes a great source for a sermon series or small group discussion. Order your copy today!

http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=13514

~AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS HIGH AND DRY!

As you are probably aware, we’ve had a bit of excitement here in Atlanta the past couple days! Yes, the American Baptist Historical Society and the collections are perfectly fine.

Flash flooding in the Atlanta metropolitan area (a LARGE area) is actually limited to low-lying areas (at the bottom of hills) or near creeks and rivers (Chattahoochee is on the west side of the city, Yellow River is SE of the city) that overflowed banks. Douglas and Paulding counties, also in the news, are about 30 miles W & NW of the city center). ABHS and Mercer University are located in the NE corner of the city, just inside the 285 perimeter.

On September 24, the Board of Managers met for their annual Meeting. The Rev. Dr. Trinetta McCray serves as president.

ABHS is now on Facebook! We’ve got a small photo gallery up of the kinds of items we hold in our collections. You can find our page and become a fan at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/American-Baptist-Historical-Society/134285254982>

~REMEMBER US!

When planning your estate, please remember The Ministers Council.

~HELP US KEEP YOU INFORMED

The hard reality about this newsletter is this: Our email mailing list is not as complete as we would wish. But you can help and your help we ask. Please forward this to your constituencies and friends. Most months, there is something helpful and when there is not, the delete button is only about an inch away and there will be little imposition impressed upon your friends. We appreciate your help. *Joe Kutter*

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

Web: www.ministerscouncil.org
Mail: The Ministers Council
PO Box 851
Valley Forge PA 19482-0851
Phone: 1-800-222-3872, extension 2333, 2334
FAX: 610/768-2066

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