



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

Joe Kutter, Acting Executive Director

May 2010

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

~STUDY OUTLINES IMPACT OF “TOGETHER IN MINISTRY” AND OTHER COLLEGIAL COVENANT GROUPS

The Ministers Council was one of 63 groups, funded by The Lilly Endowment, that utilize the principles of covenantal collegial clergy groups. We call them “Together in Ministry” (TIM) groups. In April, 2010, Austin Presbyterian Seminary’s College of Pastoral Leaders published a study entitled, [A Study of the Effects of Participation in SPE Pastoral Leader Peer Groups](#). The study measures the impact of these groups on the ministry of participants. Two surveys were used. One a survey of group members who have received Lilly grants and, secondly, the Faith Communities Today (FACT) survey. What difference does participation in a collegial covenant group make in the ministry of those who participate?

Those who participate are more likely to:

- Create a culture of involvement within their congregations including
 - Expected participation in new member’s classes
 - Lay participation in worship
 - Lay participation in communion
 - Participation in service to the church
 - The rotation of lay person in leadership roles
- Have an organized presence and involvement of youth including
 - A youth minister on staff
 - A youth program including conferences and camps
 - Congregational events planned and led by youth
 - Youth serving on congregational committees and boards
- More intentional involvement in the community including
 - A vision of the congregation as a change agent within the community
 - A strong emphasis on community service within the congregation
 - An expectation that the pastor will represent the congregation in the community
- Enjoy congregational support for continuing education including
 - Financial support for continuing education
 - Congregational requirements for continuing education
- Experience congregational growth when the ministerial leader has a sustained participation of more than 2 years with ministerial leaders who participate in the groups for more than 4 years having even a greater chance of experiencing congregational growth. (For the full report, www.austinseminary.edu/cpl)

~FAMILY CONVERSATION ON IMMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION REFORM RESOURCES

Your Acting Executive Director participated in the May 6 “Family Conversation” on Immigration Reform and signed the resulting letter. The letter and the Immigration Reform Resource list are posted. To read these documents please click on the links listed below.

English - http://www.ministerscouncil.com/OnLineManual/documents/ImmigrationLetter51410_2_.pdf

Spanish - <http://www.abc-usa.org/WhoWeAre/Missions/ImmigrationLetterEspanol/tabid/485/Default.aspx>

Immigration Resources -

http://www.ministerscouncil.com/OnLineManual/documents/ImmigrationreformResources2010_3_2_.pdf

~WOMEN TOGETHER: LIFTING AND ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER

It's not too late to register for *Women Together: Lifting and Encouraging One Another; A Conference for Female Clergy*. The dates are August 19-20, 2010. The place is New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan. Rev. Dr. Wilma Johnson will be the host pastor. Contact Rev. Yvonne Carter at American Baptist Home Mission Societies for more information: yvonne.carter@abc-usa.org or call 800.222.3872 ext.2257. To register for the conference click on the link below.

http://www.nationalministries.org/women_together.cfm

~WOMEN IN MINISTRY RESOURCES

Be sure to check out the latest issue of WomenWord, online and available through this link <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/WIM%20Resources/documents/NewWomenWordSpring2010.pdf>.

Rev. Chris Smith has started a blog intended to lift up and encourage women in ministry. Check it out and pass the link along to those who would like to engage with Chris. She is interested in your thoughts. Click on <http://shepastor.blogspot.com>.

~THE EXCHANGE: A YOUTH MINISTRY RETREAT

The Exchange is an exciting new program for adults interested in youth ministry. Sponsored by the faculty of the Christian Youth Conference at Ocean Park, this week-long (August 8-14, 2010) retreat offers special opportunities for honing ministry skills and networking with other youth pastors and leaders, all in a beautiful setting on the Maine coast. Topics to be covered will include discipling youth, ministering to teens in crisis and youth missions, among others. We will view dynamic youth ministry in action as we attend Chapel and some evening programs with the teens at the Christian Youth Conference. There will be opportunities for spiritual refreshment and time set aside for recreation. 1.5 CEUs will be offered to all participants. More details, including registration information can be found at www.cycop.org/theexchange.

~THE BIENNIAL 2011 • JUNE 24-26 • SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Celebrate! Reunite and fellowship with family and friends; Be inspired by preachers, speakers, missionaries; Witness transforming ministries across ABC and our partners; Share in the forming of the future of our denomination; Experience God's movement with our ABC/Puerto Rico family; Renew yourselves and revive your ministries. Check www.abc-usa.org periodically for updates.

Ministers Council and ABC partners will be sponsoring a pre-Biennial event on Thursday afternoon, June 23 and Friday morning, June 24 from 9:00 a.m. till Noon. Details of the event will be announced at a later date. Check out our website www.ministerscouncil.org for updates.

~AMERICAN BAPTIST QUARTERLY IS NOW AVAILABLE

Inside you'll find articles discussing:

- Ways Baptists have been agents of theological, social, and political transformation

- Why “ordinary readers” made Walter Rauschenbusch’s *Christianity and the Social Crisis* an instant best-seller
- Supreme Court Justice Charles E. Hughes’s Baptist faith and church-state decisions
- How Krishna Pal’s hymns from India influenced western Baptists in the 19th century
- Child dedication and ways it has often been understood by Baptists
- And more!

If you have not received your copy, or you would like one, please contact Kay Eland at 610/768-2269 or Kay.Eland@abc-usa.org.

And if you’d like to discuss these or other Baptist history topics, join the ABHS History Matters Network, hosted by President Trinette McCray at <http://historymatters.ning.com/>

~NATIONAL MINISTRIES RECLAIMS NAME AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

In a day devoted to worship and celebration of mission and ministry carried out in the name of Jesus Christ by devoted disciples spanning three centuries, Executive Director Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III announced on April 27, 2010, that National Ministries, reclaiming its historic names, will now carry out ministry as American Baptist Home Mission Societies.

<http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/152/National-Ministries-Reclaims-Name-American-Baptist-Home-Mission-Societies.aspx>

~REGISTER FOR A FREE WEBINAR ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In June, Paula Silva and Brenda Branson, authors of the Judson Press book [Violence among Us: Ministry to Families in Crisis](#), will present a two-part webinar on domestic violence. On June 15 at 2:00 p.m. (E.S.T.), Silva will introduce the topic by offering:

- * A definition
- * Statistics
- * Types of domestic violence and examples
- * An understanding of the cycle of abuse
- * Recommendations for a safety plan

On June 22 at 2:00 p.m. (EST), Branson will cover:

- * Identifying the Abuser and Victim
- * Dos and Don'ts of Counseling
- * Options for victims

Register here for Part I of this free presentation:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/692255265>

~EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ABEC is seeking to employ an **Account Processor**. The necessary information may be found by clicking on the link below. Please share this with members of your networks and anyone you believe may be qualified and interested in this exciting new opportunity.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is seeking to employ an **IT Associate**. This person will provide IT technical support to the staff, services and ministries of ABHMS on a day-to-day basis. The IT Associate will also assist and support the Research and Information Services Officer (RIS) as needed in the oversight of the organization’s strategic use of information technology. The position, which reports to the RIS Officer, is open immediately and is based in King of Prussia, PA.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is seeking to employ a **Communications Associate**. This person will promote the identity of American Baptist Home Mission Societies through development of communications tools. We are looking for an excellent writer and editor who also has skills in Website content management. Also, the Communications Associate will support American Baptist Home Mission Societies' development of ministry resources that empower local church ministry. The position, which reports to the Communications Director, is open immediately and is based in King of Prussia, PA.

To read more on these opportunities please click on the link below.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/JobOpportunities.aspx>

~INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR RANDY PEARSON

Randy Pearson President of the Oregon Ministers Council was installed as the new pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Portland, OR on Sunday, May 23. Rev. Steve Bils, Executive Minister of American Baptist Churches of Oregon and Vice President of the Ministers Council Communications Committee officiated.

~FAITH TRUST INSTITUTE

Faith Trust Institute provides top notch materials for clergy ethics, domestic violence awareness and other sensitive training and have recently launched online webinars. To read more click on the link.

<http://www.faihttrustinstitute.org/>

~OPPORTUNITY FOR SELF DIRECTED STUDY LEAVE ON THE CAMPUS OF DUKE

Study Leave for Ministry Professionals is for Christian institutional leaders and pastors of all traditions who want to spend a week immersed in learning and renewal through self-directed study, worship and prayer on the Duke University campus. To read more about this opportunity click on the link.

<http://www.faihtandleadership.com/programs-training/for-organizational-leaders/study-leave-for-ministry-professionals>

~OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG ADULT ECUMENICAL FORMATION AND LEADER DEVELOPMENT

The next meeting of the General Assembly of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) and Church World Service (CWS) will be held Tuesday, November 9, through Thursday, November 11, 2010, at the New Orleans Marriott at the Convention Center in New Orleans, LA.

The General Assembly is the biennial gathering of more than 250 delegates from the thirty-six member communions for legislation, worship, fellowship, and ecumenical sharing. This year there will be a special Centennial Gathering.

YOU could be one of a group of young adults from across the country participating in the Assembly as stewards.

For more information check out these websites:

www.nccusa.org and www.churchworldservice.org

~GENEROSITY, AN E-RESOURCE FOR PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS

Generosity, an e-resource for pastors and church leaders on topics related to financial stewardship and faithful discipleship was recently launched by Soozie Whitten Ford, Stewardship Facilitator, Mission Resource Development. For information on this resource and how to subscribe please click on the link.

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs042/1103306200178/archive/1103403999795.html>

~NEW FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Ministers Council has received several helpful links regarding tax exempt status and filing requirements for non-profit organizations. To read more about these requirements please click on the links listed below.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=126745771&sc=nl&cc=es-20100516>

IRS Publication 1828 dated November 2009 [Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations](#) is a great resource for both pastors and church leaders. <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p1828.pdf>

Tax Information for Charities and Other Non-Profits - <http://www.irs.gov/charities/index.html>

~HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT MONEY?

One pastor remembers hearing his mother say, every time they saw someone driving a nice car, "But are they happy?" We internalize any number of lines, from "money doesn't grow on trees" to "You can't take it with you." These messages about money affect how we lead in church life. Whatever the message, some grow up and follow the same way of dealing with money; others react and do the opposite. The daughter of a free-spending mother may still have her first dime, and carefully watch the church expenditures as well as her own. To read more click on the link - <http://margaretmarcuson.com/blog/>

To subscribe to the newsletter go to Marcuson Leadership Circle - leaders practicing an easier, more effective way to lead – and sign up.

Company Website: <http://www.margaretmarcuson.com/>

~PRAYER FOR THE GULF COAST

Creator God,

Jesus told us that you love us so much that you even know the hairs of our head. And the Apostle Paul told us that even nature cries out for a lost good. We pray for your intervention in the Gulf of Mexico.

We cannot help but consider the mixing of technological genius (the capacity to drill the well) with sheer human ineptitude (the failure to change the batteries) that caused this open wound in Mother Earth's skin from which flows the black bile that threatens the lives of all who dwell in, on and near the Gulf waters. We are aware of the creatures of water, air, and earth whose lives are being taken or threatened by this disaster and we pray that you will spread grace upon all. Especially, we pray for your people whose homes and livelihood are being subjected to such high risk.

We pray for all who are charged with the responsibility for plugging the hole and ask that they will be quickly led to solutions. Or, if you should choose, put your own finger in that deep down hole and seal it up. We've heard about the parting of the seas and the calming of the storm so we dare to ask, plug this hole.

Lord God, we submit ourselves to your grace and wisdom as we pray in the name of Jesus,

Amen.

~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.