

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ministers Council Senate Celebrates as a Covenanting Community

The 2009 meeting of the American Baptist Ministers Council Senate was held at the American Baptist Assembly in Green Lake, Wisconsin August 15-18. The mission of the Ministers Council as an organization of Christian leaders within the ABCUSA who advocate for and covenant with one another to deepen their spiritual journey and their professional effectiveness was rehearsed and celebrated. Recognizing the nature of this community, the senate discussed applying the principles of the Community of Practice model advanced by Etienne Wenger to the networks of ministers represented in the Council. The Rev. Dr. Joe Kutter, the Acting Executive Director of the Ministers Council, reported that he has and will continue to meet with local councils throughout the country to provide training in this model.

Pointing to its historic support for colleagues without regard to gender, the senate voted to establish a taskforce to continue its advocacy for women in ministry.

In other business, the Rev. Dr. Jeff Savage of Springfield, Oregon was elected to a four-year term as President. The Revs. Margaret Marcuson of Portland, Oregon, Shakespeare Osorio of Chicago, Illinois, and Dr. Thomas Gilmore of Cleveland, Ohio were elected Vice Presidents of Spiritual & Personal Wholeness, Membership & Constituency, and Denominational Relationships respectively. The Rev. Dr. Michael Saylor of Colorado Springs, Colorado was appointed to serve as the editor of Minister Magazine.

The Ralph Garfield Schell Award, presented annually to the clergyperson who best exemplifies the values of the Ministers Council, was received this year by the Rev. Rick Harris of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Harris was nominated by the Rev. Jamie Munro, Executive Director of Interim Ministries for ABCUSA. Harris is retiring at the end of September after serving twenty-six years in the pastorate and thirteen years as the Director of the American Baptist Personnel Services of National Ministries.