



**SUSTAINING  
EFFECTIVE MINISTRY  
IN  
CHALLENGING TIMES**



## **Things have changed**

**What does the church need for ministry today?**

**Ministerial Leaders who are continually growing both in their spiritual journeys and in their leadership abilities.**



## **The American Baptist Ministers Council knows how to sustain effective ministry**

- **Challenging times**
- **Effectiveness demonstrated**

**Additional financial resources are needed**



## **DEMONSTRATED EFFECTIVENESS**

- **2002 Lily Endowment Grant**
- **Together in Ministry Groups**
- **End of 2009 over 2300  
Ministerial Leaders in 225  
groups**



## *Austin Seminary study revealed*

*Clergy who participate in Together In Ministry Groups are more likely to:*

- **Encourage greater lay involvement**
- **Have a comprehensive youth program**
- **Be involved in the community**



***Clergy who participate in Together In Ministry Groups are more likely to:***

- **Enjoy congregational support for continuing education**
- **Experience congregational growth after two plus years in a group**



## First goal of groups ...

To overcome the sense of isolation  
and loneliness

Participants received encouragement  
to improve skills, improved personal  
health, stress reduced, connections  
made with other pastors and  
congregations.



## **WHY DOES IT WORK?**

Clergy who are connected with other clergy are significantly more likely to be effective than those who are vocationally isolated



## **Within these covenantal clergy communities**

- Issues and practices of ministry are explored, examined, tested, and often resolved.
- Skills are enhanced, encouragement to try something new is experienced and spiritual lives are deepened



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

A group of 6–12 Ministerial Leaders is formed

- Creates its own curricula and focus
- Writes its own covenant
- Applies for financial support for the Ministers Council



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

If Approved –

- Each ABC Ministers Council member of the group receives \$100 to help cover expenses
- An additional \$2000 is made available for compensation to a facilitator



## **WILL THE PROCESS WORK WITHOUT THE SUBSIDY?**

Some TIM groups do quite well  
without external funding

**BUT – Using a qualified facilitator  
increases the value of the experience**

Most groups find the cost of a  
facilitator prohibitive



## **WHAT IS NEEDED?**

### **Sustaining the TIM program requires three things:**

1. Continued subsidy of the TIM groups, a key unit in sustaining effective ministry in these challenging times.



2. A continuous process to teach members of the Regional Ministers Councils the value and the skills necessary to have strong TIM groups.
  
3. A strong national conference for Ministerial Leaders to both celebrate ministry and to encourage participation in local TIM groups.



## FUNDING

**The Ministers Council received grants  
from the Lilly Endowment  
for Together in Ministry:**

2002 – Initial grant \$1,900,000

2007 – Sustainability grant \$850,000

*Significant contributions made in the lives  
of ministerial leaders.*



## FUNDING

The Lilly Endowment grants end in 2012.

The grants made it possible to develop a ministry to ministers that really works.

**Now the Ministers Council must partner together with others to sustain this ministry.**



## **FUNDING**

**If the Ministers Council can increase endowment funds by \$2.5 million . . . the budget would provide continual support for:**

**Sponsoring local collegial covenant groups;**

**Investing in training local councils;**

**Providing national meetings and conferences.**



## **OPPORTUNITY**

**Now the Ministers Council  
must partner together with you  
to sustain this ministry**



# OPPORTUNITY

- YOU love the church of Jesus Christ
- YOU know the value of ministers who grow in the depth of their spirituality and in the quality of their leadership abilities



# OPPORTUNITY

- YOU want your church to be led by an effective pastor who can lead through this era of rapid change.
- YOU want to be an effective pastor



## **OPPORTUNITY**

The Ministers Council knows how to sustain effective ministerial leaders through challenging times.

It happens best when ministers participate in Together in Ministry Groups.



## **OPPORTUNITY**

Your personal gift to sustain this ministry can make the difference for ministers and the congregations with whom they serve.



## **GIVE**

**Give, and it will be given to you.  
A good measure, pressed down,  
shaken together, running over,  
will be put into your lap;  
for the measure you give  
will be the measure you get back**

Luke 6.38