



# minister

## MAGAZINE

A Journal of the American Baptist Ministers Council • Speaking to the Practice of Ministry

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## Our Sense of Call

### Our Calling

Michael Sayler, Editor



The Ministers Council Communications Committee envisioned this issue of Ministers Magazine as a forum for addressing the calling of God that each of us experiences. Certainly the foundation of our mutual call rests in our initial allegiance to Jesus Christ as Lord. But for most of us who are in “professional ministry,” be it the pastorate, the chaplaincy, regional leadership, the mission field or Christian Education, something else has transpired to summon us to a particular niche of service to God.

It isn’t easy to decipher. Our sense of call is a thing to be struggled with, be confused by, be enamored with, be astounded by. It may be constant over our time of ministry, or it may change from year to year.

Our intent in this issue, then, is to let you hear the voices of some individuals who have experienced, and struggled with, God’s call on their lives. Dennis Johnson speaks to the resources needed to persevere “over the long haul” of ministerial calling. Margaret Marcuson examines university chaplaincy through the eyes of Rev. Peter Gomes at Harvard and Rev. Paul Raushenbush at Princeton. Ketly Pierre traces her calling to missionary work from Haiti to Nicaragua. Jan McCormack looks at the personal issues involved in responding to military chaplaincy and teaching. Alex Pickens finds meaning and focus in the example of a bus ride through the hills of Haiti. Heather Entrekin examines the challenges she has faced as a woman in response to God’s call to ministry. And finally, Trinette McCray looks at the “culture of call” from a denominational perspective.

Each contributor has a story to share. Their stories, and yours, are all part of the larger story God is telling through American Baptist ministries. Thank you for being a part of it!



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Published periodically as a forum for issues and events that pertain to ministry as observed and practiced by ministerial leaders of the American Baptist Churches USA

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# ministers council membership

You are eligible for membership if you are either

- ordained
- commissioned • a lay professional or
- a student in seminary
- eligible for inclusion in the

Directory of Professional Church Leaders of the American Baptist Churches USA and serving an American Baptist Church or auxilliary organization

- paying dues through a constituent council or to the National Office of the Ministers Council

Join the Ministers Council through your local constituent council. Contact information is posted on the web at [www.ministerscouncil.org](http://www.ministerscouncil.org) under the "Who We Are" link.

## mission

The Ministers Council is the professional association of ministerial leaders within the American Baptist Churches USA. We are working together to:

- Connect colleagues through Together in Ministry groups and Communities of Practice
- Establish and maintain professional and ethical standards of the Christian ministry
- Give support to the members of this body and be an advocate for them in their professional relations
- Resource ministry through our web site at [www.ministerscouncil.org](http://www.ministerscouncil.org)
- Interpret the appropriate roles of professional ministerial leadership to the constituent parts of our denomination, and to our local American Baptist Churches
- Encourage the recruitment and nurture of candidates for the various church vocations
- Provide a means of expression and debate by members of this body on issues that affect the professional ministerial leadership of the American Baptist Churches USA
- Cooperate with the appropriate units of the American Baptist Churches USA in matters of mutual interest and concern, including recruitment, placement, compensation, continuing education, and counseling

