



minister MAGAZINE

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

Volume XXXIII, No. 1

Published Periodically at Valley Forge, PA

Spring, 2010



Photo Credit: Jennifer Whitmore

Supporting Women in Ministry

In This Issue

The Heart of the Matter	
Alice Burnette Greene.....	2
Sustainable Ministry	
Margaret Marcuson.....	5
Denominational Support	
Mary Armacost Hulst.....	6
“Tsk-Tsk” Is Not Enough	
Cheryl Dudley	8
Advocating for Women	
Susan Crane	11
Come with Me	
Linda Hart Green.....	13
Book Review - Leaders Who Last	
Clint Walker	15
A Journey in Ministry	
Soozi Whitten Ford.....	16
Connecting	
Lisa Drysdale	17
Not Ready for Women?	
Miriam Mendez	18
Plenty Good Room	
Joan Burnett	19

An Ethical Issue

Michael Saylor, Editor



This issue of Minister Magazine centers on support for women in ministry. The expressed need for such a focus grows out of continued discussions among members of the Ministers Council Senate and other groups within the ABCUSA denominational family, all of which have voiced concern for the disparity that often exists between the actions of some church leaders and the Ministers Council Covenant and Code of Ethics (see page 21). It specifically expresses the commitment to support professional colleagues regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, age, marital status, national origin, physical impairment or disability. While the Code is frequently applauded publicly, adherence to it isn't always the reality. Many of our colleagues, particularly women, find themselves called by God and yet passed over for placement.

This is partly the result of Biblical interpretation by some professional leaders and lay people. There are passages in Scripture which, when viewed in isolation, mitigate against women in pastoral leadership. The theological issues raised by these passages are matters some of our contributors address.

Limitation of placement is also a cultural issue. Many churches inhabit a world that looks askance at women in leadership roles, both secular and sacred. When that is the case, we are encouraged to examine the values we hold and ask whether our behavior truly reflects what we believe to be “the biblical thing to do.”

As many of our constituent groups increasingly focus on Communities of Practice in the months to come, it is essential that we recognize the giftedness of all participants. Those who find themselves on the margins of ministry, regardless of the reason, deserve to be embraced in the processes of ministerial practice, not just for their own sake, but for the sake of the Kingdom. A special thanks to all who have contributed to this issue!

Comments, suggestions, and letters to Minister Magazine are welcome. Please include your name, email, and a contact phone number.

Send to: pastor@firstbaptist-cs.org



minister MAGAZINE

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

Editor: Michael Saylor

Associate Editor: Sue Sechrist

Publisher: Joe Kutter and the

Ministers Council Communications Committee

Contact:

The Ministers Council

PO Box 851

Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

Phone: 1 • 800 • 222-3872 ext 2333, 2334

Fax: 610 • 768-2066

Signed letters and comments are welcome, and may be used for publication. Send to www.pastor@firstbaptist-cs.org. Please include your return and email addresses in any correspondence.

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
- 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

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 under the "Who We Are" link.



Photo Credit: Michael Saylor