



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

March 2008

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### ~MINISTERS COUNCIL SENATE 2008

The Ministers Council Executive Committee has chosen the theme for Senate 2008: **Re-Member the Body**. As we enter into a season of transition, we will envision our future by looking back through our history to recall what our mission on behalf of American Baptist pastoral leaders has always been and how we have lived it out, and simultaneously will RE-MEMBER the Ministers Council through focus on constituent Council leadership development and resourcing.

For information on the history of the Minister's Council:  
<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/WhoWeAre/historyupdate.aspx>  
<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/WhoWeAre/markers2004update.aspx>  
[http://www.ministerscouncil.com/WhoWeAre/ministers\\_council\\_presidentslist.aspx](http://www.ministerscouncil.com/WhoWeAre/ministers_council_presidentslist.aspx)

An index on various aspect of identity may be found here:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/WhoWeAre/default.aspx>

The Senate will meet August 16-20 at the Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI. Because the registration for the meeting and for lodging is done online through the Ministers Council website it is not necessary to contact Green Lake.

Senators are requested to register immediately in order to guarantee as room at Green Lake:  
<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Registrations/SenateRegistrationForm.aspx>

### ~ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In June the Ministers Council Personnel Committee will present to the Executive Committee for their vote the nominee for Acting Executive Director. After that vote a press release will announce the name of the candidate. Following a review of six candidates the Personnel Committee has selected the person to serve for two to three years as Acting Executive Director during the constituent Council leadership development phase of Together in Ministry and the American Baptist Churches USA restructuring process. Principal duties for the Acting Executive Director will include constituent Council leadership development and resourcing, leading the Lilly-funded Together in Ministry project, planning for a January 2010 Ministers' Conference, and seeking gifts and bequests to enhance the Ministers Council endowment.

### ~DAUGHTERS OF THE FLAME WOMEN IN MINISTRY CONFERENCE

April 16 – 19, 2008, Hilton, St. Louis International Airport

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/2008%20Conferences/WIM08Conference.aspx>

A \$300 continuing education grant is available for persons listed in the ABCUSA Professional Registry. You may apply for that grant on the same form as the registration and may also contact your region to see if yours is one of the regions offering scholarships for the event.

#### **~FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT REMINDER**

If you have any funds left in a 2007 FSA, the deadline for expenditure is March 15, 2008, and the deadline for reimbursement claims is April 15, 2008. For information about how your employer can set up a Flexible Spending Account for your health care or dependent care:

[http://www.mmbb.org/benefits\\_fsa.cfm](http://www.mmbb.org/benefits_fsa.cfm)

#### **~MINISTERS COUNCIL WRITERS FOR ABCUSA WEB HOMEPAGE**

Read the writings of colleagues during Lent on the ABCUSA web homepage: Joe Gratzel, President of the Ministers Council of ABC New Jersey; Susan Panek Polizzi, President of the Ministers Council of ABC New York; and Thomas W. Gilmore, President of the Ministers Council of ABC Cleveland.

<http://www.abc-usa.org/documents/WelcomeMessages/Lent2.pdf>

<http://www.abc-usa.org/documents/WelcomeMessages/Lent4.pdf>

#### **~TOGETHER IN MINISTRY LEARNINGS**

The Together in Ministry project has abundantly confirmed that pastoral excellence is most effectively sustained through participation in collegial covenant groups. For report, click here:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/documents/TogetherinMinistryLearnings208.doc>

#### **~NEW BAPTIST COVENANT**

Message from Jimmy Carter about the gathering: "The New Baptist Covenant Celebration in Atlanta was an overwhelming success, as evidenced by universally positive feedback we have received over the past two weeks. There is a collective yearning to build on the momentum that we have engendered. We will continue to strive for unity, forego any criticism of other Christians, and dedicate ourselves to fulfilling the commitment that Christ made in Luke 4:18-19.

As you know, we do not intend to organize a new convention or official organization that would compete with existing Baptist groups. We are determined, however, in the words of Dr. Jimmy Allen, to have "a movement, not a moment." We will seek opportunities to supplement the work of others and to address some of the problems and opportunities that were discussed during the Atlanta Celebration.

On March 12, leaders of various partner organizations will convene at the Carter Center and begin the process of making decisions about where we go from here. We will keep you updated through the web site - [www.newbaptistcovenant.org](http://www.newbaptistcovenant.org) - and through periodic e-mails."

A new feature has been added to the New Baptist Covenant web site to allow participants to post public comments about their experiences at the New Baptist Covenant Celebration and to share ways they have taken what was learned at the Celebration back to their congregations and communities. To post your thoughts, plans and ideas and read what others have said, visit here:

[http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org/index.php?option=com\\_easybook&Itemid=99](http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org/index.php?option=com_easybook&Itemid=99)

## **~2009 BIENNIAL IN PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, JUNE 26-28, 2009**

Great Fellowship, Worship, Learning and Family Fun

Preview:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/biennial/2009pasadena/biennial2009.htm>

The Ministers Council will partner with various other American Baptist groups to sponsor a pre-Biennial gathering in Pasadena on Friday, June 26, 2009, from 9 am until noon.

<http://www.abc-usa.org/biennial/2009pasadena/Links.htm>

Leonard Sweet will speak on reaching persons for Christ in this postmodern culture (or cultures, since one insight of postmodernity is that we are hardly monolithic). For more information on Dr. Sweet:

<http://www.leonardsweet.com/biocv.asp>

## **~PROGRAM POSSIBILITY**

The New York State Ministers Council just held a retreat on "Vital Ministries: Exploding Presumptions; Exploring Possibilities," with presenter C. Jeff Woods, Ph.D., Associate General Secretary for Regional Ministries, ABCUSA. You may find information about his presentation here:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/OnLineManual/ProgramPossibilitiesJeffWoods08.aspx>

According to one participant, "Jeff's presentations were solid and I came out of there with some good ideas. He's very personable and does an excellent job of framing things with/in Scripture. Generally speaking, most of the pastors are really struggling with being over committed, under-resourced (in more than just financial ways), and in need of some encouraging words. Jeff provided the last piece in abundance, as well as practical suggestions for the first two."

## **~CONGRATULATIONS!**

~Miriam Chacon-Peralta has been called to the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board. She will serve as a Regional Member Service Representative, and developing a strategic Latino plan so that MMBB may serve Latino members that serve.

~Margaret Marcuson has been offered a book contract by Church Publishing for my book Leaders Who Last: Sustaining Yourself and Your Ministry. She says, "It's pretty exciting. Of course, now I have to finish the book!"

You may sign up for her free newsletter on the home page of her valuable website. Marcuson Leadership Circle may be found on the Ministers Council links page or here:

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

## **~JUDSON PRESS**

### **What can be learned about leadership from a man who ends up losing his head?**

A great deal, according to Joseph Robinson, Jr., author of **7 Leadership Imperatives from a Wild Man**. Judson Press's newest release "seeks to examine the characteristics of a person who lived a life that was exemplary yet enigmatic; productive yet puzzling; a charismatic and a curiosity..." Drawing from the life and character of the biblical "wild man," John the Baptist, author Joseph Robinson establishes seven imperatives in this concise and practical leadership resource.

In his foreword for the book, Cleophus J. LaRue, Professor of Preaching and Worship at Princeton Theological Seminary wrote: "Through a resource that is part instruction, part practical guide, and part sermon, Robinson is clearly in command and has his eye on the leadership target throughout. I highly recommend this book for all who are interested in developing leadership in their church and in their personal journeys." Dr. Theodore H. Poister, Professor of Public Policy at Georgia State University praised **7 Leadership Imperatives from a Wild Man**, noting its applicability to leadership in any setting: "This engagingly written short book offers inspiration along with sound advice for leaders in the making in any walk of life."

**7 Leadership Imperatives from a Wild Man** retails for \$13.00. To order, call 800-458-3766 or visit [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com). Save 20% when you order online.

## **~CONGREGATIONAL GRANTS TO PROMOTE CULTURE OF CALL**

The Fund for Theological Education provides grants for congregations to cultivate a sense of Christian vocation and call to ministry among youth. Grants are made in amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$12,000 and are dependent upon the quality and quantity of requests submitted during the application period. Grantees should expend their funds during the eighteen months following the award.

[http://www.thefund.org/programs/congregations\\_grants.phtml](http://www.thefund.org/programs/congregations_grants.phtml)

**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 [kate.harvey@abc-usa.org](mailto:kate.harvey@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](http://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](http://www.ministerscouncil.org) under the WHO WE ARE link.**

II Timothy 1:6-7

"For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."