



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

December 2007

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are... Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.” (I John 3:1-2, NRSV)

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for Reaves Nahwooks, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer and is not doing well. Reaves and his wife Clydia both have served as Ministers Council Senators.

NEW BAPTIST COVENANT GATHERING, JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 1



~Seats have been added to the American Baptist Breakfast, Saturday, Feb 2, 8 to 10 a.m. at the Atlanta Sheraton, following the New Baptist Covenant gathering. Some 250 American Baptists have already registered to hear the new General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, the Rev. Dr. Neville Callum, speak at the breakfast. The Ministers Council has donated funds to extend the hospitality to any additional American Baptists who are able to attend. Registration is essential:

<https://www.bimwebport.org/etrakwebapp/meetings.aspx?DirectLink=ATLBKFT>.

~Complete Gathering Details:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/NewBaptistCovenant108.aspx>

~Schedule and Speakers:

http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=57&Itemid=77



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

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/documents/DaughtersoftheFlameConferenceSchedule-Leadership.doc>

GENERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WORK ON ABC RESTRUCTURE

The General Executive Council (GEC) of the American Baptist Churches USA met for two days, December 2-4, in Kansas City to advance its deliberations on a proposed ABC structure and its representative process. The group advanced work on its concept of the Mission Table, the work of the National Staff Leadership Council, and the structure and role of the Board of General Ministries. Critical to the discussions was a commitment to the spiritual vitality and health of the local church and to the reduction of costs as compared to the current structure. This work will now go back to the Writing Team for drafting.

To read more:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/news/2007/20071206a.htm>

SABBATICAL GRANTS

The Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program provides sabbatical grants up to \$45,000 “to strengthen Christian congregations by providing opportunities for the pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection.” This year’s selection process has awarded grants to 132 pastors. We congratulate American Baptist colleagues Naomi Kirstein, Wellspring Community Church, Des Moines, IA; Heather Entekin, Prairie Baptist Church, Prairie Village, KS; James Evans, St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church, Rochester, NY; and Donna Britt, Calvary Baptist Church, Roanoke, VA. The next application due date is May 14, 2008. If you are interested in applying check the website and begin the process soon: <http://www.lillyendowment.org/religion.html>.

RESEARCH FINDINGS ON PASTORAL LEADERS



Jackson Carroll, project director of Pulpit & Pew, the most representative survey ever of pastoral leaders in the United States, spoke recently about the findings:

87% are very satisfied with the vocation
67% are very happy (highest happiness level of all occupational groups)

36% are very satisfied with effectiveness in the congregation

42% are very satisfied with own spiritual life

The research indicates that spiritual practices are key to effectiveness since authenticity is essential for effectiveness. As one layperson put it, "Have a spiritual life and be able to articulate it."

Research reports: <http://www.pulpitandpew.duke.edu/>

TOGETHER IN MINISTRY

Jackson Carroll also spoke of the encouragement and correction that are essential for culture of health and wellness, found in holy friendships that are grounded in relationship with God. That is the primary presupposition of Together in Ministry grant funding opportunity to form collegial covenant groups.

For information look here: <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/default.aspx>

POSITION OPENINGS

1. The American Baptist Churches USA Office of Human Resource Development is announcing job openings for two Field Representatives for the American Baptist Foundation in the Mid-West and New England areas. Attached is a detailed description of these opportunities.

<file://\ABCDSS1\EVERYONE\Job Postings\ABFRep I11 07.doc>

2. Progressive, growth-oriented church seeks Associate Pastor. Key areas of ministry will include development and implementation of Small Group Ministries and Pastoral Leadership (outreach to seekers, worship leadership, pastoral care, administration). We are located in the heart of the Willamette Valley in McMinnville, Oregon, home of Linfield College, near the Oregon coast and Cascade Mountains. For information see the "Associate Pastor Job Search" link on the website at www.fbcmac.org.

A WORD FROM JUDSON PRESS

Judson Press would like to remind you that with over 400 titles in stock, they have something for everyone on your Christmas list! Also, they've just made [gift certificates](#) available online, making it easy to give a great gift without the guessing. For every certificate ordered **they will add \$5.00 FREE to your gift**. Spend \$10.00, receive a \$15.00 gift certificate; spend \$15.00, receive \$20; spend \$20.00, receive \$25.00. Support our denomination's publishing ministry by doing a portion of your holiday shopping online with Judson Press:
<http://www.judsonpress.com/>

PASTORAL RESOURCE

Resource for Clergy and Pastoral Caregivers dealing with families with addictions:

Chris Bowers, 804-677-4103

<http://www.counselorandclergy.com/index.php>

FUNDRAISING INSIGHTS

GuideStar alerts us to common fundraising mistakes and how to avoid them.

Part I <http://www.guidestar.org/DisplayArticle.do?articleId=1164>

Part II <http://www.guidestar.org/DisplayArticle.do?articleId=1168>