

Metro Chicago *EWIND*

Seeking Justice • Loving Mercy • Walking Humbly

A weekly electronic newsletter from and for the American Baptists of the Windy City and its environs, covering matters as diverse as our region.

New Paths for a New Day

"I will lead them . . . by paths they have not known." – Isaiah 42:16



At the Family Council meeting on Saturday, February 18, we announced a major initiative planned in collaboration with the Cabinet. That initiative is a self-study and strategic planning process. We are calling this process **New Paths for a New Day**.

It will begin with a widely inclusive survey after Easter. The project will conclude at the Annual Meeting in May 2018. The end result will be a plan of action to guide the Region in its search for and work with a new Executive Minister.

WHY? Scripture tells us of a time when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians, and many of the Israelites were deported to Babylon to live as exiles. God's people lived as strangers in a strange land. In spite of the pain of dislocation, the decades of the Exile were a fertile time of theological reflection. God's people wrestled with questions like: "Where is God?" "Who are we now?" and "How do we live faithfully in this new reality?" The prophet Isaiah gave voice to God's promise that they were not forsaken in the midst of their struggle:

*"I will lead the blind by a road they do not know
by paths they have not known I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I will do, and I will not forsake them."*

– Isaiah 42:16

When we look around, we see that decades of constant change have transformed our communities. As Christians today, we also often feel like strangers in a strange land. Our churches and our Region itself are asking questions not unlike the questions asked by the ancient Exiles: "Where is God?" "Who are we now?" and "How do we live faithfully in this new reality?"

WHAT? The Region's leaders recognize our time of leadership transition as a crucial opportunity to explore these questions in a focused way. From the start of this Interim period they have set as a highest priority engaging in a process to: clarify the identity of the Region as understood by the churches, learn what the churches need from the Region, and identify a set of next steps (Plan of Action) to guide the work of the newly called Executive Minister. This is what **New Paths for a New Day** is all about. We trust that God's promise to the Exiles long ago holds true for us as well: *"I will lead them . . . by paths they have not known."*

WHO? Undertaking a process such as this was a key priority given to us, your Interim Executive Ministers, at the time of our call. We will guide and direct this work from beginning to end. But to carry out this mandate effectively, we need tools and expertise beyond our own. The Cabinet has agreed to contract with the Samaritan Center for Congregations, based in Naperville, to assist us in this project. The Samaritan Center has extensive experience working with congregations and denominational bodies in doing this kind of reflection and direction seeking. The Samaritan Center will provide for us evidence-based information (data), organizational intelligence (self-understanding), and a focus on outcomes (a set of clear goals to implement).

The leaders from the Samaritan Center with whom we will work are Nancy Sayer, PCC, LCPC, Director of Consulting and Susan Czolgosz, Consultant.

WHAT'S NEXT? **New Paths for a New Day** will unfold in a series of clear steps. During March and early April leaders of the Region will work with the consultants to customize the survey tool we will be using to fit our specific situation. The survey will be available online (and in print where necessary) from April 23 to May 17. Pastors, ordained ministers, Region leaders, Council Representatives, and some lay leaders of churches will be invited (encouraged!) to fill out the survey.

(Continued on page 2)

New Paths for a New Day

(Continued from page 1)

Watch EWIND and our Website for more information about **New Paths for a New Day**. Each step of the process will be fully publicized. [Download](#) the complete report and timeline as it was presented to the Family Council.

We are excited about walking with all of you through this process in the company of the Holy Spirit. We trust **God's promise: "I will lead them . . . by paths they have not known."** **Isaiah 42:16**

Your partners in ministry,

Reverend Douglas Harris

Reverend Carol McVetty

With questions about pastoral searches or Camp Grow – contact: Douglas Harris | revharris@abcmc.org | 773.634.1495, ext. 1

With questions about ordination or submissions for EWIND – contact: Carol McVetty | revmcvetty@abcmc.org | 773.634.1495, ext. 8

March Is America For Christ Offering Month



Make your church's America for Christ 2017 effort a success by accessing a plethora of helpful resources online. From a goal chart to an inspiring video, it's all available at www.abhms.org.

2017 Biennial Mission Summit: Register your church as a Sponsor today!



The Biennial Mission Summit is just over six months away! For the June 30-July 2, 2017 event in Portland, Oregon, we are again inviting churches to register as Sponsors. When a church is registered as a Sponsor, individuals from the church

are able to attend at a discounted rate, saving at least \$100 off the regular rate to register for the Biennial Mission Summit. The church will also be listed on the event website at www.americanbaptists2017.com and in the event program book. Sponsoring churches will help to support the Biennial Mission Summit and make it a success.

More information, including pricing and savings, can be found [here](#). Don't miss the deadline for Church Sponsorship: March 15, 2017!

*Members of sponsoring churches can individually register at a discounted rate. If a church is not a Sponsor, church members will pay a higher individual registration fee for the event. Individual registration opened in January 2017.

Church Sponsorship for the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit will be based on average worship attendance for each church, as follows: Less than 100 members - \$250
101-200 members - \$415
201-500 members - \$580
More than 500 - \$745

[Click here](#) to learn more and to register as a Church Sponsor today!

With Sympathy . . .

we share the news of the death on January 31, 2017 of

REV. DR. EMMA JUSTES

ABC ordained minister, scholar, teacher, and champion of social justice.

Dr. Justes is remembered by many in ABCMC as a professor of Pastoral Theology at Garrett Evangelical and Northern Baptist Theological schools.

Funeral services were held on February 25 in Aurora, IL. Full obituary and online guest book may be found at <http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/>

Please hold the family of Rev. Dr. Justes in prayer.

ABC METRO CHICAGO

Reverend Carol McVetty
Reverend Douglas Harris
Interim Executive Ministers

182nd Annual Meeting

American Baptist Churches

of Metro Chicago



Healing Communities At Work

“Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly.” – Isaiah 58:8a

Saturday, May 20, 2017 | 9:00 am
 Third Baptist Church
 1551 West 95th Street | Chicago, IL

Meeting Agenda

The Annual Meeting begins at 9 am with registration and a Sisters in Service Prayer Gathering, followed by a Dynamic Workshop led by Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, a Regional Business Meeting, and a Festival Worship Service with music from across the region and Keynote Preacher, Dr. Haggray. Throughout the conference, there will be ample time to visit Ministry Vendors and Displays from Local Churches. The night will end in celebrating our Annual Disciples’ Banquet with a reception, live music, and Discipleship Awards.

Registration Information

Register by April 1

Conference and Banquet – \$80.00
 (Includes Breakfast, Lunch, and Banquet)

Conference Only – \$55.00
 (Includes Breakfast and Lunch)

Banquet Only – \$40.00
 (Table of 8 for Banquet – \$300.00)

Register after April 1

Conference and Banquet – \$90.00
 (Includes Breakfast, Lunch, and Banquet)

Conference Only – \$65.00
 (Includes Breakfast and Lunch)

Banquet Only – \$45.00
 (Table of 8 for Banquet – \$325.00)

Please Note: The Business Meeting at 1:00 pm and the Worship Service at 3:00 pm are free of charge and open to all to attend.

Register online at **Eventbrite**

<https://abcmannualmeeting2017.eventbrite.com>

The complete registration booklet is available on the ABC Metro Chicago website. [Click here](#) to download.

LENTEN SERVICES

BEGINNING ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 1

SERVICE EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 12PM TO 1PM

POWER HOUR OF PRAISE PREACHING AND PRAYER

BAG LUNCH AND DISCUSSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING



REV. DR. STACEY EDWARDS-DUNN



REV. DR. ZINA JACQUE

LOCATION
BETH EDEN
BAPTIST CHURCH
1121 S. LOOMIS ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60643
OMMATIDIUM OF THE
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
METRO CHICAGO



REV. CAROL JAMIESON BROWN



REV. DR. JESSE M. BROWN



REV. JOSEPH M. CONEY



REV. DR. JAMES E. DUNN



REV. DR. CRAIG M. JENKINS



REV. DR. ALAN V. RAGLAND



DR. BARBARA RAGLAND



REV. DAVID W. WATKINS

"Hear my prayer, O Lord, listen to my cry for mercy"
Psalms 86:6

Clergy Council of Chicago CCC



Invites you all to join our COMMUNITY PRAYER VIGIL to pray for the Intimidations, harassment and the persecution in India and the other parts of the world on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

**Venue : Antioch Telugu Baptist Church,
2788 Wolf Road, North lake, IL 60164.
Time : 6:00pm - 8:00pm**

Contact : Rev. Dr. David V. Sagar, President
(847)602-2750
Archbishop Dr. Jacob J. Agepog, Secretary
(773)510-5500
Rev. Rajamani Gonu, Vice president
(847)215-5498

CAMP GROW



It's that time of year again . . . time to encourage the children and youth of your church to spend a week at Camp Grow this summer.

Camp sessions are available for kids in grades 3 through 12 at our camp on Green Lake in Wisconsin. [Click here](#) for registration materials

from the Camp Grow website. (Watch future issues of EWIND for information about camp scholarships available from ABCMC.)



I have set before you life and death . . . Choose life so that you and your descendants may live. -Deut 30:19

Our society sees church as irrelevant but pastors know that church can be the foundation that nurtures, inspires, and transforms. Empowering Communication is key to developing healthy relationships and healthy churches.

This workshop will give progressive pastors a roadmap for moving Jesus' life and teaching out of the Bible and into the Church. In this retreat you will gain skills that deepen connection with yourself, the divine, and others.

While our habitual communication can disconnect us from each other, Empowering Communication:

- Enriches every relationship by making the most mundane conversation a pastoral conversation.
- Moves from a focus on problems to a focus on relationships.
- Guides you to choose words and actions that are honest and heart connected even in difficult circumstances.
- Creates dialogue and understanding where there are simmering tensions and conflict.
- Supports self-care.
- Is a framework to teach to your hospitality team so they may engage visitors and members and increase a sense of belonging.

Making the Irrelevant Church Relevant: Attracting and Retaining Parishioners by Deepening Every Relationship

March 10, 2017

9 am - 4 pm

St. Pauls Church, UCC, 2335 N. Orchard, Chicago, IL

"Empowering Communication has helped me clarify what has been going on in sometimes complex and emotional interactions. By identifying how I am caught in the situation, how I may be judging the other and myself, and what I need, I have been able to de-escalate and move to resolutions that affirm both parties."

- Rev. Sally Iberg, Senior Pastor, Pilgrim Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Oak Park, IL

Workshop Fees

Early Bird by March 1: \$70/person | March 2 - 10: \$75/person
Seminarists: \$35

Includes sessions, materials, and snacks.

Lunch

Bring a sack lunch or enjoy the variety of restaurants in the area.

The workshop will include instruction, individual, pair and small group exercises, and role play.

Register: www.empoweringcommunicationinc.net/workshops/

Pay with PayPal: www.paypal.me/lkrjgarden

Pay with a check and/or inquiries: lkrjgarden@gmail.com



About the Facilitator

Rev. Leslie Ritter-Jenkins has served in the United Church of Christ for 25 years in positions of associate and lead pastor, in two settled and two interim positions. Leslie is a certified trainer with the international Center for Nonviolent Communication, (CNVC.org), the only clergy in the Midwest with that certification. Leslie is eager to share Empowering Communication because it is a spiritual practice that brings the gospel to life.

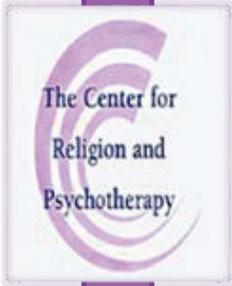


ADVANCED CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN **SELF PSYCHOLOGY AND RELIGION**

OPEN HOUSE 2017

Friday, March 10 | 9am-3:30pm
www.crpc-edu.com

REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE



- Discover CRPC's *Advanced Certificate Program* to enhance your pastoral, vocational, or educational goals.
- **9am-1pm:** Visit classes & meet distinguished faculty.
- **1pm-2:30pm:** Come for a complementary lunch & informal discussion with *Connie Goldberg, LCSW* on learning from & working with *Heinz Kohut*, founder of Self Psychology.

**2017 TUITION
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

*** Visit ***
www.crpc-edu.com
to learn more and register to participate!

THE CENTER FOR RELIGION AND PSYCHOTHERAPY OF CHICAGO