



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

July 2008

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### **~MINISTERS COUNCIL ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

It is a great privilege and pleasure to announce Joe Kutter as the person chosen by unanimous vote of the Ministers Council Executive Committee to serve as Acting Executive Director, beginning on September 1. The Executive Committee was authorized by Senate 2007 to finalize the selection on behalf of the constituency. Since last summer the Personnel Committee has received and reviewed names of potential candidates and recommended Joe Kutter.

You may view the revised position description:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Senate%202008/documents/JobDescriptionRevisionExecutiveDirectordraftupdate.pdf>

Joe Kutter's ministry is well known to us as members of the Ministers Council: 39 years of pastoral ministry during which he served five congregations. He has also served as a seminary trustee, President of the Ministers Council, as chaplain to the General Board and General Board Executive Committee, and in a variety of regional and community leadership roles.

Joe's numerous leadership capacities with the organization, as well as his work on the Together in Ministry Steering Committee, equip him superbly for the role. The next stage of the Ministers Council strategy is a Lilly-funded project for organizational capacity building through resourcing and strengthening constituent Council leadership. His gifts make him the ideal leader for that phase of the work.

Joe will serve the Ministers Council for two or three years as the American Baptist Churches USA pursues a process of restructuring.

### **~MINISTER 2008 FOCUSES ON THEME OF TRANSITION**

This entire issue of Minister 2008 focuses on the theme of transition. The eloquent articles bear testimony to the changes in lives and ministries of beloved colleagues who are companions with us on the journey. "Companion" literally means "with bread." Colleagues who companion us on the way are a significant means of God's provisioning us with abundance every step of the journey. Their stories strengthen and sustain us as we travel through our own times of transition.

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/documents/summer08minmag.pdf>

### **~SENATE 2008 AGENDA (August 16-20)**

The Senate of the Ministers Council meets annually to worship, fellowship, and carry out its purpose, "to build up the Church of Jesus Christ by sustaining and improving ministerial leadership of the American

Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.” The theme of Senate 2008 is **Re-Membering Your Future**. The focus of this session is transition and the first and second parts of the three-part long-term strategy.

**Three-part Ministers Council strategy** (scope and frequency variables)

- o Face-to-face collegial covenant groups that meet monthly
- o Strong constituent Councils with exciting programs
- o Pattern of national conferences

The agenda for the meeting may be viewed on the website:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Senate%202008/documents/SenateAgenda2008.pdf>

## **~POSITION OPENING WITH NATIONAL MINISTRIES**

National Ministries is seeking a National Coordinator for Intercultural Ministries/Hispanic and Portuguese-speaking Churches Strategist. Please note the deadline for applying is August 31, 2008.

<http://www.nationalministries.org/employment.cfm>

## **~APPEAL AND POSITION OPENINGS WITH INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES**

Support and pray for the Typhoon Relief in the Philippines. Typhoon Frank (International codename: Fengshen) triggered the occurrence of floodings, landslides, maritime incidents and power interruptions in most of the provinces of the 13 Regions in the Philippines...

Click to read more:

[http://www.eacinet.org/cpbc\\_typhoon.php](http://www.eacinet.org/cpbc_typhoon.php)

Support and pray for the earthquake relief in China, go to

[http://www.internationalministries.org/read/news/international\\_ministries\\_responds\\_to\\_chinese\\_earthquake\\_with\\_\\$5,000\\_relief\\_grant](http://www.internationalministries.org/read/news/international_ministries_responds_to_chinese_earthquake_with_$5,000_relief_grant)

and [http://www.eacinet.org/China\\_Earthquake\\_Relief.php](http://www.eacinet.org/China_Earthquake_Relief.php)

Personnel openings in China/ Hong Kong, India, Nepal and Philippines, go to

<http://www.eacinet.org/mp.php> and

[http://www.internationalministries.org/read/become\\_a\\_long\\_term\\_missionary](http://www.internationalministries.org/read/become_a_long_term_missionary)

## **~LILLY ENDOWMENT INC. INFORMATION**

Resources for American Christianity provides information and reflection on projects funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc. <http://www.resourcingchristianity.org>. The upper right of the home page provides the opportunity to register for email notification of new items posted.

In RESEARCH ARTICLES there are numerous interesting reports on religious bodies and their work.

<http://www.resourcingchristianity.org/essays.aspx>

## **~SABBATICAL GRANT RESOURCE**

The Louisville Institute Pastoral Sabbatical Grant's next grant application due date is for the Sabbatical Grants for Pastoral Leaders (SGPL) program, with applications due September 15. To check information for a sabbatical grant visit their website: [www.louisville-institute.org](http://www.louisville-institute.org)

**THE MINISTERS COUNCIL OWNS THE DOMAINS [WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.ORG) AND [WWW.MINISTERSCOUNCIL.COM](http://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**

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**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."