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AMERICAN BAPTIST
CHURCHES USA

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3

American Baptist Women in Ministry is a ministry within the Office of the General Secretary of ABCUSA where we recognize and advocate for the full partnership of women and men in ministry in which both women and men are able to fully utilize their God-given gifts to fully live out their God-given calls.



American Baptist
Women in Ministry

ABWIM NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3



THE GENEROUSITY PROJECT



For information on the Generosity Project
Contact Rev. Dr. Jeff Woods at
jeff.woods@abc-usa.org or call (610) 768-2212





AMERICAN BAPTIST
WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

TRANSITION MINISTRIES (TM)
Level II Training
abc-usa.org/transitionministries

June 3-4, 2026
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (ET)
Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (ET)

Instructor: Rev. Dr. James Wolfe

GOD'S GRACE
EVERYDAY ABC
CONVERSATIONS 2026

THE HOSTS: JUNE 18, 2026
AT 3:00 PM (ESTERN) 12:00 P.M. PACIFIC
WITH HOSTS REV. STEVE BILS AND
REV. DR. EUGENE DOWNING

ABC-USA.ORG

The Power of Sisterhood. ABCUSA Women in Ministry Brunch

- Welcome from Wisconsin Region
- Welcome from Office of the General Secretary
- Welcome from Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church
- Opening Prayer
- Ministers Council Update
- Blessing of the Meal

Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell
Region Executive Minister ABCWI
Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain
General Secretary of ABCUSA
Rev. Dr. Demetria C. McCroskey
Senior Pastor
Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Carolyn Dugan
Associate Regional Minister ABCWI
Rev. Dr. Naomi Mitchell
President of ABCMC
Sister Amanda Huff

Our Speaker
Dr. Pamela R. Davis
President of Central Seminary

Scholarships Available
For more information please visit abc-usa.org/events

Saturday, August 15, 2026
10AM - 12PM

TRANSITION MINISTRIES (TM)
Level I In-Person Training
abc-usa.org/transitionministries

September 18-19, 2026
Friday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (ET)
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (ET)

Instructors: Rev. Nikita McCalister
Rev. Dr. James Wolfe

**RENEW AND LEAD:
A WORKSHOP FOR MINISTRY
WELLNESS**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Drummond
Founding Dean of Andover Newton Seminary
and Professor in the Practice at
Yale Divinity School

Saturday, September 26, 2026
8:30 AM–3:00 PM

Office of the General Secretary
1015 W. 9th Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

abc-usa.org

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**ABCUSA ABWIM
OCTOBER WELLNESS
WEBINAR
Series**

Tuesday, October 6, 2026 | 8:00 PM (ET)
Tuesday, October 20, 2026 | 8:00 PM (ET)

abc-usa.org/events

**COURAGEOUS
UNITY**
ROOTED IN FREEDOM, GROWING IN FAITH, FORWARD IN HOPE

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA
BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT**
JUNE 10-13, 2027 | ROCHESTER, NEW YORK



For more information and to register for these events visit www.abc-usa.org/events



The Blessing of Trust

Written by:

Rev. Janna Louie

Chief of Staff, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC)



More often than not, I am surprised by the trust afforded to me when different communities invite me to share my voice, leadership, and partnership. On a recent trip, I found myself reflecting on the honor of these invitations and the wonder that my God-given story and experiences might offer something meaningful to a particular community.

The reality is that my leadership is a confluence of deep friendships and abundant laughter. What people may not always realize is that many of the major decisions I make are shaped through ongoing conversations with trusted circles of friends. Even the smaller decisions reflect these relationships; over time, they have simply become muscle memory.

I am sustained by friendships in which I cannot hide from myself. These are companions who have journeyed with me at my lowest points and who ground me when the weight of leadership surfaces wounds that have not yet fully healed. Laughter—marked by wit and a touch of sarcasm—keeps me from taking myself, or others, too seriously in the midst of work that can feel both endless and heavy.

Deep friendships and honest joy remind us of our shared humanity and deepen our trust in God, who loves those we are called to serve.



Written by:

**Rev. Dr. Phaedra D. Blocker Founder and President,
Center for Clergy & Congregational Wellness**

“This joy that I have...the world didn’t give it, and the world can’t take it away.” I love this old song—but let’s be honest: there are days when it feels like the world is tugging so hard on your joy that you’re about to be pulled off your feet. So, what’s a woman to do?

Well, dark chocolate and a pint of ice cream may help in the moment, but they are not a sustainable long-term solution (trust me, I’ve tried!). Instead, I’ve learned to lean into gratitude and what I call “glimpses of grace.”

In the midst of navigating daily challenges and the chaos of the world, taking a moment to name what I am grateful for has a way of grounding me and refocusing my attention on what truly matters. Similarly, “glimpses of grace” are those sacred, often subtle moments when God makes God’s presence known in ways that reconnect me to joy. It may be the way sunlight streams through a window, or a kind exchange with a stranger in a store—small, sacred reminders that whisper, “I’m still here. All is well.”

There are days when our joy may feel diminished, and that’s okay. Even then, we can trust that God’s supply is inexhaustible.



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**AMERICAN BAPTIST
WOMEN IN MINISTRY**



Meet Rev. Dr. Jill Bradway
Associate Executive Minister of
Philadelphia Baptist Association



She Bears the Image: Women, Worth, and the Call to Lead

Women in ministry carry something ancient and unshakable within them: the imago Dei—the image of God—stamped upon their very being before the world could tell them otherwise.

Scripture reminds us that God created humankind, male and female, in the divine image (Genesis 1:27). This is not a metaphor; it is a mandate. Every woman who steps into a pulpit, chairs a deacon board, plants a church, or mentors a congregation does so bearing the face of God to a watching world.

Yet many women in leadership have endured voices—both internal and external—that whisper, you are too much or not enough. Fannie Lou Hamer was told to sit down; she stood anyway. Jarena Lee was denied ordination; she preached anyway. Their stories echo in every woman who persists despite resistance.

Self-esteem rooted in the imago Dei is not arrogance; it is theological accuracy. You are not leading despite who you are—you are leading because of who God created you to be.

May every woman in ministry stand taller in this truth: God's image in you was never an accident—it has always been the assignment.



www.abc-usa.org/women-in-ministry

For more information contact Dr. Chanta Barrett at Chanta.Barrett@abc-usa.org.