



# PARAGRAPHS FOR PARTNERS

2022 – Issue #2



From the Executive Minister  
Rev. Dr. James Kelsey

## WORKING WITH YOUR NON-DOMINANT HAND

### It Has Been a Bit Frantic Lately

In Mark's Gospel, beginning at 1:9, Jesus is baptized, collects his initial group of disciples and heals a man in the synagogue. Then "as soon as they left the synagogue" (1:29), Jesus goes to the house of Simon and Andrew and heals Simon's mother in law. That same evening at sunset they brought all who were sick and possessed with demons, we are told.

The next morning, while it was still very dark (1:35), Jesus gets up and slips out to a deserted place to pray. It didn't work. His disciples go looking for him, and when they find him they complain: "Everyone is searching for you" (1:27). So they all hit the road for the surrounding towns. And so goes Mark's Gospel. Jesus seems to be breathlessly racing through his ministry with a sense of fevered urgency.

At another point Jesus goes off to pray but then must rescue his disciples from a stormy sea (6:45-52). Jesus must at times wondered "what next?"

We all have felt this way in the last several years, racing from need to need, person to person, from one new challenge to the next new challenge. We all must find new and sometimes awkward ways to do what needs to be done. Our learning curve has been rather steep lately.

In our churches this has been particularly true. We had traditions and patterns of behavior that are decades old. Suddenly we had to change, and now we are adapting to the new traditions and behaviors those changes have wrought among us—in our churches, in our families, and in our communities.

Life is more work than it used to be.

### Working with the Other Hand

When Debbie and I went through missionary orientation, our leader made us write with our non-dominant hand for several weeks. He said this is what it is like to work and live in a new culture. To go to the store to buy groceries, to talk with your child's teacher, or to lead a meeting is like writing with your non-dominant hand.

When things were challenging on the mission field, Debbie and I would say to one other: "Hey, I'm working with left hand here." It was a way of saying cut me some slack here; I'm doing the best I can.

We have all been working with our non-dominant hand these last years. When we think about it, this is not the first time this has happened. Nor shall it be the last time. Life has always had a way of catching us by surprise unprepared, giving us a nudge when we are already a bit off balance, or confronting us with

unprecedented challenges. Life is probably less a program to be followed than a puzzle to be figured out, particularly relationships with others.

### Cutting One Another Break

I think the Apostle Paul had this in mind when he wrote:

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony (Col 3:12-14).

Essentially Paul is saying we should cut one another a break; all of us at one time or another are working with our non-dominant hand.

If there is any place on earth where people should be cut a break, it is in the church. In another place, Paul wrote: But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). Gods cut us the biggest break of all. It is incumbent on us all to pass the favor on.

Blessings,  
Jim Kelsey

**CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS: Utica Karen Baptist Church** held a dedication service for their new building on 3/13/22 \* **Rev. Shaun Ellison Jones's** (Star of Bethlehem BC Ossining, Mid-Hudson/Union Association) brother Bishop Courtney Allan Jones died 2/19/22 \* **Rev. Dolores Cottet** (Retired, Madison Association) died 2/24/22 \* **Rev. Walter "Wally" Habel** (Retired, Capital Area) died 3/26/22 \* **Rev. Clifford Gilson** (Retired) died 4/4/22



**ABCNYS reminds member churches to pray for one another**, especially in times of pastoral transition. If your congregation wishes to invite ABCNYS to provide support to your church's search committee needs, please contact Rev. Jerrod Huguenot, Associate Executive Minister, at 518/380-4510 or [jhuguenot@abc-nys.org](mailto:jhuguenot@abc-nys.org).



### **LEADERSHIP CHANGES**

John Jablonski to Pastor, FBC Earlville 3/1/22  
Timothy Bucknam to Pastor, Pike Comm Ch 3/1/22  
Lucy Harris from Kingsbury BC 2/13/22  
Sabrina Smith from Pine City BC 2/28/22  
Anita (Carol) Patterson to Interim Pastor, Pine City BC 3/20/22  
Charles Williams from Hartsville Community BC  
John Zhang.to Pastor, Chinese Christian Ch Albany 2/1/22  
James Perry to Pastor, Mt. Olivet BC Peekskill  
Bill Robinson to Pastor, Reed Corners Fed Ch 3/1/22

**Organ Available:** A member of First Baptist Church, Hudson Falls would like to donate a Yamaha electronic organ to anyone (church or individual) who would put it to good use. There is no cost involved other than picking it up at the church. Contact: Barbara Trombley (518) 747-5927.

## Changes to New York Baptist Annual 2022

- Page 16 **Calvary Baptist Church:** Add email: [cbcithaca@gmail.com](mailto:cbcithaca@gmail.com)
- Page 20 **First Baptist Church, Trumansburg:** Change email: [tburgbaptist@ottcmail.com](mailto:tburgbaptist@ottcmail.com)
- Page 25 **Utica Karen Baptist Church:** New address & phone: 140 Clinton Rd., New Hartford 13413, 315.723.9988



**2022 REGION OFFERING**  
**"SERVING & THRIVING TOGETHER"**  
<https://www.abc-nys.org/region-offering.html>

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:9-10*

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**CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR OTHERS**  
**JUNE 3&4, 2022 – GOOD NEWS CENTER, UTICA**  
<https://www.abc-nys.org/clergy-retreats.html>

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**SERVING TOGETHER: ABCNYS & TUSCARORA INDIAN MISSION**  
**JULY 24-30, 2022 – SEE ENCLOSED BROCHURE**  
<https://www.abc-nys.org/tuscarora-2022.html>



The Ministers Council

**To those needing a break from all the work of our churches,  
news of the world, tensions of life...this RETREAT is for you!**

Lay people and pastors are invited to this quiet, meditative, contemplative retreat led by the Revs. Wendy Depew Partelow and Howie Maxson, two people highly skilled in these practices.

Early bird deadline has been extended to April 25th, and it is a great price of only \$75.00. Private rooms for everyone.

And Spring on the Niagara Frontier is beautiful!

Questions? Call me at 1-716-433-0976

Patricia Ludwig, President of NY Ministers Council



**Vick and Pathfinder Camp and Conference Ministries has several opportunities for employment, volunteers, and youth camp programming!**

We are **URGENTLY HIRING** for many positions, including Waterfront Director, Food Service Director, Facilities Director, Vick Site Caretaker, Camp Nurse, Counselors, and Lifeguards. Join us for an unforgettable experience of ministering to youth while spending a few weeks in the beautiful and adventurous atmosphere of camp! Temporary commitments of one or two weeks may also be appropriate for some positions. Additionally, we are looking for volunteers to fill the roles of Boat Operators, weekly Pastors, and general supervision/programming assistance. If you or someone you know may be interested in working or volunteering with us, please visit our employment page at <http://www.vpccministries.org/camp-staff/employment-opportunities/>

We are in need of many helping hands to assist us in getting both Pathfinder Lodge and Camp Vick ready for summer camp and events. If you have experience in plumbing, electrical work, painting, or general construction, please consider lending your expertise in helping us to tackle various projects, both large and small. There are also several other tasks that require no experience such as general cleaning, organizing, stocking supplies, and moving some furniture around camp. **We have two scheduled work days: May 7 and May 14;** however, we welcome groups and individuals to come at any time prior to camp opening. To see how you might be able to serve, please find a list of projects and the contact form at <http://www.vpccministries.org/camp-staff/work-weekends/>

At Camp Vick, we are in search of a team of individuals who can be dedicated to be part of the Vick Crew. This crew would be essential to the opening and closing of camp each year, primarily working with the water system, as well as other maintenance issues as needed. If you would like to learn more about this, please visit <http://www.vpccministries.org/camp-vick/camp-vick-crew/>

**Registration is open for camp!** There are opportunities for youth camp ages 5-18, Family Camp, Seasonal Camping (at Vick), as well as special events. Visit our camp program page for a complete brochure and registration form <http://www.vpccministries.org/summer-camp/>

VPCC Ministries is hosting a Spring Youth Retreat at Pathfinder Lodge for youth in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade through College. "Reckless Love" will be held May 20-22. The cost is \$75.00 per student and \$25.00 per adult volunteer chaperone. Please register by May 11. For questions and registration, contact Peggy Norton at 518-791-6550 or [laypastorpeggy2020@gmail.com](mailto:laypastorpeggy2020@gmail.com)

Seasonal camping at Camp Vick will be open Memorial Day weekend. Our campground is situated on over 200 peaceful and beautiful acres. All campsites have electric and water hookups that can accommodate RVs, campers, and tents. Enjoy hiking, access to Skim Lake, swimming in our in-ground pool, and playing on our recreation areas. To find rates and registration information, please visit <http://www.vpccministries.org/camp-vick/vick-campground/>

We are celebrating 75 years of Camping in 2022! Join us for a very special anniversary event August 26-28. Be sure to visit the website for details and join our Facebook page for updates and opportunities to be involved in this memorable event. We are looking for stories, memorabilia to showcase, and items for our silent auction. <http://www.vpccministries.org/pathfinder-lodge/pathfinder75/>

Questions can be directed to Mandy Simons, CEO, at 574-302-2006 or [vpccministries@gmail.com](mailto:vpccministries@gmail.com)

*Vick and Pathfinder Camp and Conference Ministries is an ABCNYS validated ministry, cooperating to serve a common ministry purpose. VPCCM is an autonomous, self-governing organization with its own internal governing process and selects its own leadership.*



## AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES NEW YORK STATE MINISTERS COUNCIL

### A TIME AWAY: REFRESH, REVIVE, AND RESTORE

TUESDAY MAY 17 THRU THURSDAY 19, 2022

#### CENTER OF RENEWAL RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER

4421 Lower River Road  
Stella Niagara, NY 14144  
ph. 716•754•7376

### A TIME AWAY: REFRESH, REVIVE, AND RESTORE

Are you burned out, tapped out, spent? By May of 2022 we will have all been through two full years of pandemic worry, technology overload, screen blindness, and community anxiety. Some of you I know have hardly taken a breath since March 2020 when this virus began to break and doors began to close.

If this description fits you, then why not consider giving yourself “*A Time Away*” to refresh your spiritual connection with God, Revive your awareness of the Spirit’s life within you, and Restore your sense of community with Christ Jesus and fellow pilgrims seeking the peace of Christ? Perhaps in the process you can reawaken that sense of call and purpose that drew you to ministry in the first place!

As guests of the Center of Renewal we will explore the beautiful grounds of the Stella Niagara Retreat Center, which is situated right on the Niagara River. Two members of our Ministers Council Executive Committee will be leading the retreat:

Rev. Howie Maxson serves as Pastor of Fowler Baptist in Gouverneur. He brings with him years of discipline in Celtic Spirituality, as well as his experience as a Certified Spiritual Director through the Spiritual Renewal Center in Syracuse.

Rev. Wendy Depew Partelow served as Pastor of First Baptist Bainbridge for six years, is a two-time participant in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola as administered through the Spiritual Renewal Center in Syracuse, and brings over 20 years of practice in various spiritual disciplines.

Together they hope to bring a retreat of spiritual renewal to those who attend.

We hope you will give yourself something to look forward to and join the Ministers Council for “A Time Away: Refresh, Revive and Restore,” on May 17-19, 2022. After two Christmases and three Easters of worship-service juggling you need a break. “A Time Away” may be just what you need to renew yourself in Christ.

**MINISTER'S COUNCIL RETREAT • MAY 17-19, 2022 • REGISTRATION**

*This retreat is partially funded with your membership dues and  
by a grant obtained through the National Ministers Council, ABC/USA.  
Registrants of this retreat may be required to show proof of vaccination.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E:mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Any special dietary needs? \_\_\_\_\_

CEUs? \_\_\_\_\_

Fees include all meals from dinner on Tuesday through lunch on Thursday.

	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS
PRIVATE ROOM ( <i>All rooms are private</i> )	_____ \$100	_____ \$125
COMMUTER	_____ \$50	_____ \$75

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT (April 25th): DEDUCT \$25

**REGISTRATION BONUS**

**IF YOU ATTEND THIS RETREAT AND THE ONE IN SEPTEMBER WE WILL CREDIT \$50 OFF YOUR 2023 DUES!**

*Grants to attend this retreat are available:*

1. *Lynnette Martin*: Contact Pat Ludwig (see below)
2. *Grant Application for D.Min. or Mission Trip*: Office of Financial Aid for Studies, ABHMS, 1-800-ABC-3USA – Ext. 2067 or email: carolyn.Majeed@abhms.org
3. *Cultivating New Life*: Office of Financial Aid for Studies (see above)

Questions? Contact: The Rev. Patricia Ludwig, President ABCNYS Ministers Council  
e-mail: butterflypreacher@juno.com Phone: 716-433-0976

To Register: Please enclose \$60 deposit (by April 25 for discount), made payable to: Ministers Council of NYS. Please Note: *May Retreat 2022* in memo.

Mail (Deadline April 30, 2022) to: Cedric A Broughton, 706 N. George St., Rome, NY 13440



## **American Baptist Men of New York State**

### **Just a short note and an invitation...**

Looking out the window today I can see God's handiwork. I am thankful to our LORD JESUS for everything he has given us. A way of salvation by believing in him.(Romans 10:9,10) A fellowship of believers unified in JESUS CHRIST.( 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:7) As the Birds return, the flowers rise and the snow melts, spring seems to be finally approaching.

As we observe the light of spring please remember that Jesus is our true light. This brings me back to 1<sup>st</sup> John chapter one verse seven.( "7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin.)(KJV)

I am writing this note is to remind us of the fellowship we have with JESUS and through him fellowship with each other. As the light of spring returns and the darkness of the last two years seems to be fading let us not forget the fellowship of believers.

It is this Christian fellowship that we all need and our church assemblies yearn for, meeting together in person. In Hebrews chapter 10: 24-25, we read (24. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:25.Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; bur exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"))(KJV)

So in conclusion please plan to attend the 2022 Christian Men's Conference, we all need to renew/build our fellowship in CHRIST and with each other. It will be held for one day on May 21<sup>st</sup> 2022,registration starts at 9am, Sponsored by American Baptist Men of New York, hosted at The New Beginnings United Methodist Church/United Baptist Church, 300 East Miller Street, Elmira, N.Y. 14904.

Please plan to attend and pray for the conference. Please pray for all Christians, especially in war zones.

May the LORD JESUS bless you and may he bless your families:

Chris Blackwell  
President, ABMen NYS

**2022 Christian Men Conference Registration Form**  
**New Beginnings UMC/United Baptist**  
**300 East Miller St. Elmira, NY**  
**May 21, 2022 10am-7pm Doors Open 9am**



Name and Mailing Information (use a separate form for each person) (please print clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church/Association \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**2022 Prices - A deposit of \$20 is required to secure your reservation**

**Laymen Cost**

\$ 45.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Clergy Cost**

(Clergy pricing is at a special reduced rate - - YOU MUST register before May 10<sup>th</sup> to maintain this price. After May 10th you pay Laymen rates.)

\$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Youth Cost (12 to 18 years)**

\$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Virtual Attendance**

\$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (we will provide you with a link and code to join us virtually)

I would like to add \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my registration for:

Booster Club Project \_\_\_\_\_ Conference Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_

General Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Disaster Relief \_\_\_\_\_

Boys Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

*limited amount of scholarship funding is available when there is a financial need. Pastor endorsement is required. Please submit endorsements below. You will be notified once approved.*

Scholarship requested in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. I recommend a scholarship for the above name individual so he can attend the 2022 Christian Men's conference sponsored by American Baptist Men NYS..

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church Name

Make checks payable to: **ABMen NYS**

**Mail to: ABMen NYS, c/o Rich Russell**  
**43 Orchard Park Rd.**  
**Pine City, NY 14871**

# SPRING YOUTH RETREAT GRADES 7 - COLLEGE

May 20-22, 2022

@ Pathfinder Lodge, Cooperstown, NY

Registration begins Friday @ 5:00 pm

Program starts Friday @ 7:00 pm

Ends Sunday @ 12:00 pm



“Reckless Love”

Luke 15:3-7

Speaker: Lay Pastor Peggy Norton  
Fort Edward Village Baptist Church

**Worship with: Signs On Earth**

**Cost: \$75.00 per person**

Includes meals & lodging

**Register by May 11th**

**Call Peggy Norton @ 518-791-6550 or**

**e-mail: [laypastorpeggy2020@gmail.com](mailto:laypastorpeggy2020@gmail.com)**

**Sponsored by: Vick & Pathfinder Camp & Conference Ministries**

**A retreat designed for youth groups of 1-12 in size.**

**Time for large group worship with other youth groups from around central New York.**

**Time for smaller group discussion on topics where our youth live.**

**Time for looking into God's word in a vibrant and life-changing way.**

**Time for games, campfire, fellowship, good food and plain old fun with youth groups.**

## **ABCNYS LAY STUDY PROGRAM FALL COURSES 2022**

Check out this link: <https://www.abc-nys.org/lis-courses.html>

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – STARTING SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

**When:** Monday evenings - Online via Zoom

**Instructor:** Dr. Shawn Hast, [thast@juno.com](mailto:thast@juno.com)

### **PREACHING – STARTING SEPTEMBER 8, 2022**

**When:** Thursday evenings - Online via Zoom

**Instructor:** Rev. Ken McKenzie, [PastorKen.FedChurch@yahoo.com](mailto:PastorKen.FedChurch@yahoo.com)

**To Register:** Complete registration form and postal mail with payment (payable to ABCNYS) to ABCNYS, 3218 James St., Syracuse NY 13206. You can also pay online at <https://www.abc-nys.org/lay-study-program.html>.

**Fees:** The tuition is \$110. For family members living in the same house, the course fee is \$110 for the first person and \$60 for each subsequent person. Students may audit a course, without credit, for \$60. The cost of the textbooks for each course is in addition to the tuition.

**Questions:** Rev. Leon Oaks-Lee (315.637.0023, [leon.oakslee@gmail.com](mailto:leon.oakslee@gmail.com))

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### **2022 ABCNYS BIENNIAL – OCTOBER 7&8**

#### **THE UNITED CHURCH, CANANDAIGUA NY**

#### **"The Church: Gifts from the Exile" - Isaiah 43:1-19**

The church is returning from "exile" in the wake of a pandemic. What has left? What has stayed? What things have we learned along the way? What gifts have we carried out of the exile, and how will they shape the church of the present and future?

Some of the guest speakers who will help us explore our theme: Jeff Woods (ABCUSA General Secretary), David Harris (ABCNYS local church pastor), Karen Podsiadly (Past President, ABCUSA). And more!

Watch for more information in the months ahead!



AMERICAN BAPTIST  
MISSION SUPPORT

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES  
OF NEW YORK STATE  
THROUGH MARCH 2022 & 2021

	United Mission	Annual Offerings	Institutions, Specifics & Targeted	Total ABMS
Received 2022	55,859	53,812	42,617	152,288
Received 2021	60,120	46,527	46,075	152,722
\$ Ahead (Behind)	(4,261)	7,285	(3,458)	(434)
% Ahead (Behind)	(7.09)	15.66	(7.51)	(0.28)

For listing of church-by-church giving, go to:  
<http://www.abc-nys.org/abms-summary-reports.html>

**Conference Cost  
(Saturday Lunch and Dinner  
meals included)**

**Adult Layman**

\$45.00

**Youth (12 to 18 years)\***

\$ 35.00

**Clergy\***

\$ 40.00

**Virtual**

\$20.00

*\*Clergy & Youth pricing is at a special reduced rate — YOU MUST register before May10th to maintain this price. After May10th, you pay Laymen rates.*

*A limited amount of scholarship funding is available. Pastor endorsement is required.*

**A deposit of \$20 is required to secure your reservation.**

**Sorry, no refunds for “No-Shows.”**

*Note: The Conference Package includes lunch and dinner. We will follow NYS and church protocols for masks.*

*Please register by May 10th, 2022*



*We welcome men from all denominations to gather with us again this year.*

Conference hosted by New Beginnings United Methodist & United Baptist Church, Elmira, NY

Questions: Rich Russell  
[nyrussells@gmail.com](mailto:nyrussells@gmail.com), 607.734.5669

The 2022 conference theme is “Inner Peace” based on Philippians 4:6&7

*Don't* worry about anything;  
INSTEAD, PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING.  
TELL GOD WHAT YOU NEED,  
& Thank Him  
FOR ALL HE HAS DONE.  
PHILIPPIANS 4:6

MEETING PURPOSE

To help men establish and nurture a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

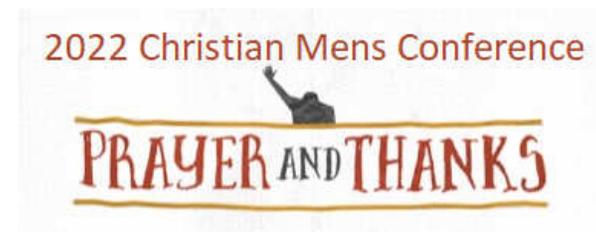
To share personal feelings and experiences with other men in an atmosphere of trust and confidence.

To create an atmosphere in which men will freely acknowledge their dependence on God in life's successes and failures.

To encourage men to construct a more intimate relationship with family and friends.

To encourage men to grow and experience the joy of living fully to become all they were meant to be by

our Creator God Almighty. All growth occurs in relationships.



Hosted at New Beginnings United Methodist Church/United Baptist Church  
300 East Miller Street  
Elmira, NY 14904

SPONSORED BY



May 21, 2022

Doors Open at 9:00 AM  
Conference start time 10:00 AM

AB Men: bringing men and boys into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.



*“Prayer is not a hard requirement - it is the natural duty of a creature to its creator, the simplest homage that human need can pay to divine liberality.”*  
- Charles Spurgeon

## **SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

**Keynote Speaker: Rev. Brett Charsky**



**Rev. Brett Charsky** Rev.Charsky is the pastor of the Pulaski Baptist Church in Pulaski, NY. He is a 1987 graduate of Wellsboro Area High School, Wellsboro, PA. He received his Masters of Divinity from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1996. He was commissioned in April 2000 as a U.S. Army military chaplain. He is currently serving as the State Chaplain

(Colonel) for the Vermont Army National Guard. Throughout his career in the U.S. Army, he received several medals including The Bronze Star Medal, The Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, 3 Army Commendation Medals, 2 Army Achievement Medals, Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with “M” Device and the Army Service Ribbon. His two tours were in Iraq from 03-04 and 10-11. He will share experiences with us from his U.S. Army Chaplaincy.

## **Reverend Cedric L. Cooper, M.Div.**



**Pastor Cedric Cooper** is first and foremost a child of God who preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Currently he serves as the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Hornell and has served there for the past nine (9) years.

He was born and raised in East St. Louis, IL. He is the youngest of twelve children. He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree with a double major in Sociology and Religious Studies from McKendree University in Lebanon, IL. and earned

his Master of Divinity Degree from Eden Theological Seminary located in Webster Groves, MO. Pastor Cooper has nearly 30 years of ministerial experience, serving churches in both inner city and rural communities in Illinois, Missouri, and New York.

As a bi-vocational pastor, God has blessed Pastor Cooper with the opportunity to combine his calling as a pastor with his experience in the social services and human services fields. He believes that God has blessed him with this unique skill-set to help people thrive from both a spiritual and social perspective.

He has served on the Advisory Board for Turning Point Hornell, American Baptist Churches of New York State Board of Mission, and former board member of Faith In Action of Steuben County.

He lives in Hornell, New York with his wife Kizzie and they recently celebrated their 24<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They have three sons: Jeremiah, Weldon, and Malcolm. He enjoys spending quality time with his family, reading, and playing lots and lots and lots of golf.

IS prayer  
your  
steering wheel

  
or your spare tire?

- Corrie ten Boom -

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# GROWTH POINTS

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With Gary L. McIntosh, D.Min., Ph.D.

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## Thinking about Leadership

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As ministry begins anew this year, it's a good time to think about the basics of leadership. Here are some insights to remember and build upon to improve your leadership in the year ahead.

*First, remember that people buy into you before they buy into your vision.*

Relationships are crucial for good leadership to take place. Your ability to establish relationships with people in the church is more important than your ability to manage budgets, start new programs, or develop and carry out a vision for future growth. Through the close scrutiny of face-to-face relationships, people discover your true character. Your fruitfulness will hinge on people seeing you as a genuine person who cares about others. As they buy into you, trusting you, they will buy into your vision for the future of their church.

*Second, confront your personal baggage.*

Each of us is human. We carry personal issues from our past into ministry. If needed, find a counselor who can help you process your feelings, hurts, and pains. The earlier you do this in your life, the less it will damage your ministry. If you haven't faced your personal demons, being a pastor will allow them emerge. You can be doing all the ministry stuff, but personal grief and loss from deep wounds surface creating tensions.

*Third, vision is caught not taught.*

Leading effectively happens through trusting relationships. As you live out your life in real time among real people in real life, people catch on to what you envision for the church's future. Start investing in people, and others will catch on to what you're doing and join you in making a difference in the church.

*Fourth, lead from the pack rather than the front.* Leadership takes place among the people rather than from out in front of them. While it's true that leaders have followers, this doesn't translate into always being in the front. True leadership emerges from the midst of the people. You can and should, of course, lead from the pulpit. Yet, leadership power from the pulpit is supported by the trust engendered from ministry among the people. When you stand with the people—supporting them, experiencing the same challenges—they will follow you.

*Fifth, lead the people not the organization.* God doesn't call you to DO

Put Dr. Gary L. McIntosh on  
your coaching team.

Email [cgnet@earthlink.net](mailto:cgnet@earthlink.net)  
for full details.

leadership ON people, but to lead people. That's an entirely different calling. Remember: you're leading people not an organization, so focus on the people rather than the organization.

*Sixth, work with your church's structure, not against it.* You'll discover that most churches are structured to keep you from leading. Some churches have boards that see their purpose as keeping the pastor under control, rather than allowing them to lead. Romans 12:6-8 indicates gifts, like leadership, are to be celebrated, not limited. Are checks and balances good? Yes, So, begin by working within the structure that's in place, and change it as you go along.

*Seventh, listen more than talk.* Make your ministry 90% listening and 10% talking this year. What this means is avoid interrupting others and listen twice as hard. One trick to help you listen better is to write things down during a conversation. Doing so will keep you focused on what the other person is saying, as well as help you clarify what they're really saying. It also leads to better questions.

*Eighth, work at building a team.* If you want your church to grow, you'll need more leaders. Generally, your church will grow at a rate of ten people for every leader in the church. Find someone who shows evidence of being a leader and spend time with them. Invest in them. If you look for leaders,

you'll find them. Build a team who can help fulfill the vision of the church. Now, the lack of finances may keep you from hiring staff, but look around and find some people who can give you, say, three to five hours of time a week. Challenge them to be on your staff. Then work with those who respond to form a team.

*Ninth, redeem your loneliness.* You will experience loneliness. You won't be able to be as open, authentic, and vulnerable as you'd like. You can only share so much with your spouse, and they can only take so much, so find other pastors who can be real with you. Take them out for a meal and share concerns openly. You'll find wisdom, and maybe even a hug or two, that will make a difference.

*Tenth, Find a mentor.* You want someone who will lift you up when you're down, and take you down a notch when needed. Ideally, this person is older and more experience than yourself, so they can empathize with you. The person you want to mentor you is likely not looking for you. Step up and courageously ask them to help you, meet with you. Volunteer to pay for their help, or at least for dinner.

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Which of these leadership insights do you need to put into practice this year?

Which will you work on today?

Which will you prioritize this year?

**Growth Points** is published twelve times a year. Subscription price is \$29 (US Funds) per year. Permission is granted for use in a local church. For other reprint usage, advance permission must be obtained.

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# GROWTH POINTS

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With Gary L. McIntosh, D.Min., Ph.D.

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## Build Trust

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Loving relationships are foundational to focused, faithful, and fruitful ministry. Speaking to his early disciples, Jesus told them “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). “Follow me” defines the relationship, while “make you fishers of men” defines the mission.

Relationship comes before mission in the life of a church. The primary relationship is with God the Father through Jesus Christ His son. However, the importance of relationships with both Christ and his earthly disciples is seen throughout the early church.

Paul also pointed out the crucial nature of relationships, by calling attention to the reality that people follow leaders as they follow Christ. “Be imitators of me,” Paul commanded, “just as I also am of Christ” (Romans 11:1; see also 1 Corinthians 4:16 and Philippians 3:17).

Regrettably, some pastors struggle to create meaningful relationships with people, and trust is consequently undermined. Remember: with every action, you are doing one of two things: establishing trust or mistrust.

Here are some insights and tips that you may find useful, as you seek to build trust with your people.

*First, initiate good conversations.* One of the main ways to build trust is through good conversation. You may find it helpful to actually track the relational encounters you have with people in your church. How many lunches do you have each week? What do you talk about? What do you learn about the people? If we honestly care about people, we’ll ask good questions: “Oh, you have a son? Tell me about him?” “So, you like working with your hands? What do you like doing the most?” “It’s nice to know you travel a lot. Where was your favorite destination?” If you can initiate good conversations, you’ll build a certain level of energy to enable trust to develop.

*Second, follow the social mores.* It’s essential that one follow the basic manners or customs to establish, build, and maintain credibility. Social mores are the customary or acceptable way to behave. While you may think some of the customs in your church are silly, it’s best to follow them until you gain enough trust to challenge them.

Order Dr. McIntosh’s  
newest book -  
*The Ten Key Roles  
of a Pastor.*  
Available from Amazon.

*Third, close the loop.* We've all experienced a time when someone made a promise and then failed to follow through. The person didn't "close-the-loop." Failing to return phone calls or answer emails is a regular occurrence, but a bad communication skill. If you habitually stall on replying to others, doing so undermines trust in your leadership. Now, you don't have to return calls and emails immediately, but you'll need to develop the fine art of saying "no." One way to do this is to say something like, "May I call you back in an hour?" Or, "I can't talk right now. When would a good time be to call you back?" For emails, simply reply, "I'm tied up right now, but I'll get back to you later today." Then make it your goal to close the loop by returning calls and replying to emails.

*Fourth, take your time.* Build trust incrementally and patiently. Don't appear to be in a hurry. Time and taking time are essential for connection and relationship building. In the first few years of church ministry, people are checking you out to see if you're trustworthy. They need to know from experience they can trust you with their hearts—their deep feelings, hurts, and pains. This only comes after they've seen you up close and personal in real ministry situations. So, give it time. The people will come around to work and support you fully in time.

*Fifth, don't over schedule.* As you

build relationships, gauge your time wisely, don't over schedule. Make room for interruptions. Remember: these are not interruptions; they are God-ordained time for building relationships.

*Sixth, Ask others for advice.* If you go about the work of pastoring as though you don't need others, it indicates you don't value others in the work. Asking for advice shows that you respect other's gifts, knowledge, feelings, and experience. A successful pastor always asks for help. It's only as you enter into conversations with an open beginner's mind that you'll build trust.

*Seventh, connect on an emotional level.* This takes asking a lot of questions and listening to what people say. Use words and phrases like "Why?" "I think there's a story behind that," and "Tell me more." This shows that you care for others, and are willing to listen to what they think before recommending changes. Be sure to take notes as you listen, for it conveys your care. To help you listen better, try these ideas. First, summarize what others say before you make your reply. Second, repeat the last three words of the person's comment before you launch into your response. Third, ask two questions about their comments before you respond.

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Start using these ideas to build trust in your own church.

Which of these ideas do you do well?

Which can you begin using today?

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# PARAGRAPHS FOR PARTNERS

2022 – Issue #2



From the Executive Minister  
Rev. Dr. James Kelsey

## WORKING WITH YOUR NON-DOMINANT HAND

### It Has Been a Bit Frantic Lately

In Mark's Gospel, beginning at 1:9, Jesus is baptized, collects his initial group of disciples and heals a man in the synagogue. Then "as soon as they left the synagogue" (1:29), Jesus goes to the house of Simon and Andrew and heals Simon's mother in law. That same evening at sunset they brought all who were sick and possessed with demons, we are told.

The next morning, while it was still very dark (1:35), Jesus gets up and slips out to a deserted place to pray. It didn't work. His disciples go looking for him, and when they find him they complain: "Everyone is searching for you" (1:27). So they all hit the road for the surrounding towns. And so goes Mark's Gospel. Jesus seems to be breathlessly racing through his ministry with a sense of fevered urgency.

At another point Jesus goes off to pray but then must rescue his disciples from a stormy sea (6:45-52). Jesus must at times wondered "what next?"

We all have felt this way in the last several years, racing from need to need, person to person, from one new challenge to the next new challenge. We all must find new and sometimes awkward ways to do what needs to be done. Our learning curve has been rather steep lately.

In our churches this has been particularly true. We had traditions and patterns of behavior that are decades old. Suddenly we had to change, and now we are adapting to the new traditions and behaviors those changes have wrought among us—in our churches, in our families, and in our communities.

Life is more work than it used to be.

### Working with the Other Hand

When Debbie and I went through missionary orientation, our leader made us write with our non-dominant hand for several weeks. He said this is what it is like to work and live in a new culture. To go to the store to buy groceries, to talk with your child's teacher, or to lead a meeting is like writing with your non-dominant hand.

When things were challenging on the mission field, Debbie and I would say to one other: "Hey, I'm working with left hand here." It was a way of saying cut me some slack here; I'm doing the best I can.

We have all been working with our non-dominant hand these last years. When we think about it, this is not the first time this has happened. Nor shall it be the last time. Life has always had a way of catching us by surprise unprepared, giving us a nudge when we are already a bit off balance, or confronting us with

unprecedented challenges. Life is probably less a program to be followed than a puzzle to be figured out, particularly relationships with others.

### Cutting One Another Break

I think the Apostle Paul had this in mind when he wrote:

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony (Col 3:12-14).

Essentially Paul is saying we should cut one another a break; all of us at one time or another are working with our non-dominant hand.

If there is any place on earth where people should be cut a break, it is in the church. In another place, Paul wrote: But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). Gods cut us the biggest break of all. It is incumbent on us all to pass the favor on.

Blessings,  
Jim Kelsey

**CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS: Utica Karen Baptist Church** held a dedication service for their new building on 3/13/22 \* **Rev. Shaun Ellison Jones's** (Star of Bethlehem BC Ossining, Mid-Hudson/Union Association) brother Bishop Courtney Allan Jones died 2/19/22 \* **Rev. Dolores Cottet** (Retired, Madison Association) died 2/24/22 \* **Rev. Walter "Wally" Habel** (Retired, Capital Area) died 3/26/22 \* **Rev. Clifford Gilson** (Retired) died 4/4/22



**ABCNYS reminds member churches to pray for one another**, especially in times of pastoral transition. If your congregation wishes to invite ABCNYS to provide support to your church's search committee needs, please contact Rev. Jerrod Huguenot, Associate Executive Minister, at 518/380-4510 or [jhuguenot@abc-nys.org](mailto:jhuguenot@abc-nys.org).



### **LEADERSHIP CHANGES**

John Jablonski to Pastor, FBC Earlville 3/1/22  
Timothy Bucknam to Pastor, Pike Comm Ch 3/1/22  
Lucy Harris from Kingsbury BC 2/13/22  
Sabrina Smith from Pine City BC 2/28/22  
Anita (Carol) Patterson to Interim Pastor, Pine City BC 3/20/22  
Charles Williams from Hartsville Community BC  
John Zhang.to Pastor, Chinese Christian Ch Albany 2/1/22  
James Perry to Pastor, Mt. Olivet BC Peekskill  
Bill Robinson to Pastor, Reed Corners Fed Ch 3/1/22

**Organ Available:** A member of First Baptist Church, Hudson Falls would like to donate a Yamaha electronic organ to anyone (church or individual) who would put it to good use. There is no cost involved other than picking it up at the church. Contact: Barbara Trombley (518) 747-5927.

## Changes to New York Baptist Annual 2022

- Page 16 **Calvary Baptist Church:** Add email: [cbcithaca@gmail.com](mailto:cbcithaca@gmail.com)
- Page 20 **First Baptist Church, Trumansburg:** Change email: [tburgbaptist@ottcmail.com](mailto:tburgbaptist@ottcmail.com)
- Page 25 **Utica Karen Baptist Church:** New address & phone: 140 Clinton Rd., New Hartford 13413, 315.723.9988



**2022 REGION OFFERING**  
**"SERVING & THRIVING TOGETHER"**  
<https://www.abc-nys.org/region-offering.html>

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:9-10*

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**CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR OTHERS**  
**JUNE 3&4, 2022 – GOOD NEWS CENTER, UTICA**  
<https://www.abc-nys.org/clergy-retreats.html>

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**SERVING TOGETHER: ABCNYS & TUSCARORA INDIAN MISSION**  
**JULY 24-30, 2022 – SEE ENCLOSED BROCHURE**  
<https://www.abc-nys.org/tuscarora-2022.html>



The Ministers Council

**To those needing a break from all the work of our churches,  
news of the world, tensions of life...this RETREAT is for you!**

Lay people and pastors are invited to this quiet, meditative, contemplative retreat led by the Revs. Wendy Depew Partelow and Howie Maxson, two people highly skilled in these practices.

Early bird deadline has been extended to April 25th, and it is a great price of only \$75.00. Private rooms for everyone.

And Spring on the Niagara Frontier is beautiful!

Questions? Call me at 1-716-433-0976

Patricia Ludwig, President of NY Ministers Council



**Vick and Pathfinder Camp and Conference Ministries has several opportunities for employment, volunteers, and youth camp programming!**

We are **URGENTLY HIRING** for many positions, including Waterfront Director, Food Service Director, Facilities Director, Vick Site Caretaker, Camp Nurse, Counselors, and Lifeguards. Join us for an unforgettable experience of ministering to youth while spending a few weeks in the beautiful and adventurous atmosphere of camp! Temporary commitments of one or two weeks may also be appropriate for some positions. Additionally, we are looking for volunteers to fill the roles of Boat Operators, weekly Pastors, and general supervision/programming assistance. If you or someone you know may be interested in working or volunteering with us, please visit our employment page at <http://www.vpccministries.org/camp-staff/employment-opportunities/>

We are in need of many helping hands to assist us in getting both Pathfinder Lodge and Camp Vick ready for summer camp and events. If you have experience in plumbing, electrical work, painting, or general construction, please consider lending your expertise in helping us to tackle various projects, both large and small. There are also several other tasks that require no experience such as general cleaning, organizing, stocking supplies, and moving some furniture around camp. **We have two scheduled work days: May 7 and May 14;** however, we welcome groups and individuals to come at any time prior to camp opening. To see how you might be able to serve, please find a list of projects and the contact form at <http://www.vpccministries.org/camp-staff/work-weekends/>

At Camp Vick, we are in search of a team of individuals who can be dedicated to be part of the Vick Crew. This crew would be essential to the opening and closing of camp each year, primarily working with the water system, as well as other maintenance issues as needed. If you would like to learn more about this, please visit <http://www.vpccministries.org/camp-vick/camp-vick-crew/>

**Registration is open for camp!** There are opportunities for youth camp ages 5-18, Family Camp, Seasonal Camping (at Vick), as well as special events. Visit our camp program page for a complete brochure and registration form <http://www.vpccministries.org/summer-camp/>

VPCC Ministries is hosting a Spring Youth Retreat at Pathfinder Lodge for youth in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade through College. "Reckless Love" will be held May 20-22. The cost is \$75.00 per student and \$25.00 per adult volunteer chaperone. Please register by May 11. For questions and registration, contact Peggy Norton at 518-791-6550 or [laypastorpeggy2020@gmail.com](mailto:laypastorpeggy2020@gmail.com)

Seasonal camping at Camp Vick will be open Memorial Day weekend. Our campground is situated on over 200 peaceful and beautiful acres. All campsites have electric and water hookups that can accommodate RVs, campers, and tents. Enjoy hiking, access to Skim Lake, swimming in our in-ground pool, and playing on our recreation areas. To find rates and registration information, please visit <http://www.vpccministries.org/camp-vick/vick-campground/>

We are celebrating 75 years of Camping in 2022! Join us for a very special anniversary event August 26-28. Be sure to visit the website for details and join our Facebook page for updates and opportunities to be involved in this memorable event. We are looking for stories, memorabilia to showcase, and items for our silent auction. <http://www.vpccministries.org/pathfinder-lodge/pathfinder75/>

Questions can be directed to Mandy Simons, CEO, at 574-302-2006 or [vpccministries@gmail.com](mailto:vpccministries@gmail.com)

*Vick and Pathfinder Camp and Conference Ministries is an ABCNYS validated ministry, cooperating to serve a common ministry purpose. VPCCM is an autonomous, self-governing organization with its own internal governing process and selects its own leadership.*



## AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES NEW YORK STATE MINISTERS COUNCIL

### A TIME AWAY: REFRESH, REVIVE, AND RESTORE

TUESDAY MAY 17 THRU THURSDAY 19, 2022

#### CENTER OF RENEWAL RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER

4421 Lower River Road  
Stella Niagara, NY 14144  
ph. 716•754•7376

### A TIME AWAY: REFRESH, REVIVE, AND RESTORE

Are you burned out, tapped out, spent? By May of 2022 we will have all been through two full years of pandemic worry, technology overload, screen blindness, and community anxiety. Some of you I know have hardly taken a breath since March 2020 when this virus began to break and doors began to close.

If this description fits you, then why not consider giving yourself “*A Time Away*” to refresh your spiritual connection with God, Revive your awareness of the Spirit’s life within you, and Restore your sense of community with Christ Jesus and fellow pilgrims seeking the peace of Christ? Perhaps in the process you can reawaken that sense of call and purpose that drew you to ministry in the first place!

As guests of the Center of Renewal we will explore the beautiful grounds of the Stella Niagara Retreat Center, which is situated right on the Niagara River. Two members of our Ministers Council Executive Committee will be leading the retreat:

Rev. Howie Maxson serves as Pastor of Fowler Baptist in Gouverneur. He brings with him years of discipline in Celtic Spirituality, as well as his experience as a Certified Spiritual Director through the Spiritual Renewal Center in Syracuse.

Rev. Wendy Depew Partelow served as Pastor of First Baptist Bainbridge for six years, is a two-time participant in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola as administered through the Spiritual Renewal Center in Syracuse, and brings over 20 years of practice in various spiritual disciplines.

Together they hope to bring a retreat of spiritual renewal to those who attend.

We hope you will give yourself something to look forward to and join the Ministers Council for “A Time Away: Refresh, Revive and Restore,” on May 17-19, 2022. After two Christmases and three Easters of worship-service juggling you need a break. “A Time Away” may be just what you need to renew yourself in Christ.

**MINISTER'S COUNCIL RETREAT • MAY 17-19, 2022 • REGISTRATION**

*This retreat is partially funded with your membership dues and  
by a grant obtained through the National Ministers Council, ABC/USA.  
Registrants of this retreat may be required to show proof of vaccination.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E:mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Any special dietary needs? \_\_\_\_\_

CEUs? \_\_\_\_\_

Fees include all meals from dinner on Tuesday through lunch on Thursday.

	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS
PRIVATE ROOM ( <i>All rooms are private</i> )	_____ \$100	_____ \$125
COMMUTER	_____ \$50	_____ \$75

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT (April 25th): DEDUCT \$25

**REGISTRATION BONUS**

**IF YOU ATTEND THIS RETREAT AND THE ONE IN SEPTEMBER WE WILL CREDIT \$50 OFF YOUR 2023 DUES!**

*Grants to attend this retreat are available:*

1. *Lynnette Martin*: Contact Pat Ludwig (see below)
2. *Grant Application for D.Min. or Mission Trip*: Office of Financial Aid for Studies, ABHMS, 1-800-ABC-3USA – Ext. 2067 or email: carolyn.Majeed@abhms.org
3. *Cultivating New Life*: Office of Financial Aid for Studies (see above)

Questions? Contact: The Rev. Patricia Ludwig, President ABCNYS Ministers Council  
e-mail: butterflypreacher@juno.com Phone: 716-433-0976

To Register: Please enclose \$60 deposit (by April 25 for discount), made payable to: Ministers Council of NYS. Please Note: *May Retreat 2022* in memo.

Mail (Deadline April 30, 2022) to: Cedric A Broughton, 706 N. George St., Rome, NY 13440



## **American Baptist Men of New York State**

### **Just a short note and an invitation...**

Looking out the window today I can see God's handiwork. I am thankful to our LORD JESUS for everything he has given us. A way of salvation by believing in him.(Romans 10:9,10) A fellowship of believers unified in JESUS CHRIST.( 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:7) As the Birds return, the flowers rise and the snow melts, spring seems to be finally approaching.

As we observe the light of spring please remember that Jesus is our true light. This brings me back to 1<sup>st</sup> John chapter one verse seven.( "7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin.)(KJV)

I am writing this note is to remind us of the fellowship we have with JESUS and through him fellowship with each other. As the light of spring returns and the darkness of the last two years seems to be fading let us not forget the fellowship of believers.

It is this Christian fellowship that we all need and our church assemblies yearn for, meeting together in person. In Hebrews chapter 10: 24-25, we read (24. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:25.Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; bur exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"))(KJV)

So in conclusion please plan to attend the 2022 Christian Men's Conference, we all need to renew/build our fellowship in CHRIST and with each other. It will be held for one day on May 21<sup>st</sup> 2022,registration starts at 9am, Sponsored by American Baptist Men of New York, hosted at The New Beginnings United Methodist Church/United Baptist Church, 300 East Miller Street, Elmira, N.Y. 14904.

Please plan to attend and pray for the conference. Please pray for all Christians, especially in war zones.

May the LORD JESUS bless you and may he bless your families:

Chris Blackwell  
President, ABMen NYS

**2022 Christian Men Conference Registration Form**  
**New Beginnings UMC/United Baptist**  
**300 East Miller St. Elmira, NY**  
**May 21, 2022 10am-7pm Doors Open 9am**



Name and Mailing Information (use a separate form for each person) (please print clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church/Association \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**2022 Prices - A deposit of \$20 is required to secure your reservation**

**Laymen Cost**

\$ 45.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Clergy Cost**

(Clergy pricing is at a special reduced rate - - YOU MUST register before May 10<sup>th</sup> to maintain this price. After May 10th you pay Laymen rates.)

\$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Youth Cost (12 to 18 years)**

\$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Virtual Attendance**

\$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (we will provide you with a link and code to join us virtually)

I would like to add \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my registration for:

Booster Club Project \_\_\_\_\_ Conference Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_

General Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Disaster Relief \_\_\_\_\_

Boys Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

*imited amount of scholarship funding is available when there is a financial need. Pastor endorsement is required. Please submit endorsements below. You will be notified once approved.*

Scholarship requested in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. I recommend a scholarship for the above name individual so he can attend the 2022 Christian Men's conference sponsored by American Baptist Men NYS..

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Pastor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Church Name

Make checks payable to: **ABMen NYS**

**Mail to: ABMen NYS, c/o Rich Russell**  
**43 Orchard Park Rd.**  
**Pine City, NY 14871**

# SPRING YOUTH RETREAT GRADES 7 - COLLEGE

May 20-22, 2022

@ Pathfinder Lodge, Cooperstown, NY

Registration begins Friday @ 5:00 pm

Program starts Friday @ 7:00 pm

Ends Sunday @ 12:00 pm



“Reckless Love”

Luke 15:3-7

Speaker: Lay Pastor Peggy Norton  
Fort Edward Village Baptist Church

**Worship with: Signs On Earth**

**Cost: \$75.00 per person**

Includes meals & lodging

**Register by May 11th**

**Call Peggy Norton @ 518-791-6550 or**

**e-mail: [laypastorpeggy2020@gmail.com](mailto:laypastorpeggy2020@gmail.com)**

**Sponsored by: Vick & Pathfinder Camp & Conference Ministries**

**A retreat designed for youth groups of 1-12 in size.**

**Time for large group worship with other youth groups from around central New York.**

**Time for smaller group discussion on topics where our youth live.**

**Time for looking into God's word in a vibrant and life-changing way.**

**Time for games, campfire, fellowship, good food and plain old fun with youth groups.**

## **ABCNYS LAY STUDY PROGRAM FALL COURSES 2022**

Check out this link: <https://www.abc-nys.org/lis-courses.html>

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – STARTING SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

**When:** Monday evenings - Online via Zoom

**Instructor:** Dr. Shawn Hast, [thast@juno.com](mailto:thast@juno.com)

### **PREACHING – STARTING SEPTEMBER 8, 2022**

**When:** Thursday evenings - Online via Zoom

**Instructor:** Rev. Ken McKenzie, [PastorKen.FedChurch@yahoo.com](mailto:PastorKen.FedChurch@yahoo.com)

**To Register:** Complete registration form and postal mail with payment (payable to ABCNYS) to ABCNYS, 3218 James St., Syracuse NY 13206. You can also pay online at <https://www.abc-nys.org/lay-study-program.html>.

**Fees:** The tuition is \$110. For family members living in the same house, the course fee is \$110 for the first person and \$60 for each subsequent person. Students may audit a course, without credit, for \$60. The cost of the textbooks for each course is in addition to the tuition.

**Questions:** Rev. Leon Oaks-Lee (315.637.0023, [leon.oakslee@gmail.com](mailto:leon.oakslee@gmail.com))

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### **2022 ABCNYS BIENNIAL – OCTOBER 7&8**

#### **THE UNITED CHURCH, CANANDAIGUA NY**

#### **"The Church: Gifts from the Exile" - Isaiah 43:1-19**

The church is returning from "exile" in the wake of a pandemic. What has left? What has stayed? What things have we learned along the way? What gifts have we carried out of the exile, and how will they shape the church of the present and future?

Some of the guest speakers who will help us explore our theme: Jeff Woods (ABCUSA General Secretary), David Harris (ABCNYS local church pastor), Karen Podsiadly (Past President, ABCUSA). And more!

Watch for more information in the months ahead!



AMERICAN BAPTIST  
MISSION SUPPORT

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES  
OF NEW YORK STATE  
THROUGH MARCH 2022 & 2021

	United Mission	Annual Offerings	Institutions, Specifics & Targeted	Total ABMS
Received 2022	55,859	53,812	42,617	152,288
Received 2021	60,120	46,527	46,075	152,722
\$ Ahead (Behind)	(4,261)	7,285	(3,458)	(434)
% Ahead (Behind)	(7.09)	15.66	(7.51)	(0.28)

For listing of church-by-church giving, go to:  
<http://www.abc-nys.org/abms-summary-reports.html>

**Conference Cost  
(Saturday Lunch and Dinner  
meals included)**

**Adult Layman**

\$45.00

**Youth (12 to 18 years)\***

\$ 35.00

**Clergy\***

\$ 40.00

**Virtual**

\$20.00

*\*Clergy & Youth pricing is at a special reduced rate — YOU MUST register before May10th to maintain this price. After May10th, you pay Laymen rates.*

*A limited amount of scholarship funding is available. Pastor endorsement is required.*

**A deposit of \$20 is required to secure your reservation.**

**Sorry, no refunds for “No-Shows.”**

*Note: The Conference Package includes lunch and dinner. We will follow NYS and church protocols for masks.*

*Please register by May 10th, 2022*



*We welcome men from all denominations to gather with us again this year.*

Conference hosted by New Beginnings United Methodist & United Baptist Church, Elmira, NY

Questions: Rich Russell  
[nyrussells@gmail.com](mailto:nyrussells@gmail.com), 607.734.5669

The 2022 conference theme is “Inner Peace” based on Philippians 4:6&7

*Don't* worry about anything;  
INSTEAD, PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING.  
TELL GOD WHAT YOU NEED,  
& Thank Him  
FOR ALL HE HAS DONE.  
PHILIPPIANS 4:6

MEETING PURPOSE

To help men establish and nurture a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

To share personal feelings and experiences with other men in an atmosphere of trust and confidence.

To create an atmosphere in which men will freely acknowledge their dependence on God in life's successes and failures.

To encourage men to construct a more intimate relationship with family and friends.

To encourage men to grow and experience the joy of living fully to become all they were meant to be by

our Creator God Almighty. All growth occurs in relationships.



Hosted at New Beginnings United Methodist Church/United Baptist Church  
300 East Miller Street  
Elmira, NY 14904

SPONSORED BY



May 21, 2022

Doors Open at 9:00 AM  
Conference start time 10:00 AM

AB Men: bringing men and boys into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.



*“Prayer is not a hard requirement - it is the natural duty of a creature to its creator, the simplest homage that human need can pay to divine liberality.”*  
- Charles Spurgeon

## **SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

**Keynote Speaker: Rev. Brett Charsky**



**Rev. Brett Charsky** Rev.Charsky is the pastor of the Pulaski Baptist Church in Pulaski, NY. He is a 1987 graduate of Wellsboro Area High School, Wellsboro, PA. He received his Masters of Divinity from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1996. He was commissioned in April 2000 as a U.S. Army military chaplain. He is currently serving as the State Chaplain

(Colonel) for the Vermont Army National Guard. Throughout his career in the U.S. Army, he received several medals including The Bronze Star Medal, The Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, 3 Army Commendation Medals, 2 Army Achievement Medals, Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with “M” Device and the Army Service Ribbon. His two tours were in Iraq from 03-04 and 10-11. He will share experiences with us from his U.S. Army Chaplaincy.

## **Reverend Cedric L. Cooper, M.Div.**



**Pastor Cedric Cooper** is first and foremost a child of God who preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Currently he serves as the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Hornell and has served there for the past nine (9) years.

He was born and raised in East St. Louis, IL. He is the youngest of twelve children. He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree with a double major in Sociology and Religious Studies from McKendree University in Lebanon, IL. and earned

his Master of Divinity Degree from Eden Theological Seminary located in Webster Groves, MO. Pastor Cooper has nearly 30 years of ministerial experience, serving churches in both inner city and rural communities in Illinois, Missouri, and New York.

As a bi-vocational pastor, God has blessed Pastor Cooper with the opportunity to combine his calling as a pastor with his experience in the social services and human services fields. He believes that God has blessed him with this unique skill-set to help people thrive from both a spiritual and social perspective.

He has served on the Advisory Board for Turning Point Hornell, American Baptist Churches of New York State Board of Mission, and former board member of Faith In Action of Steuben County.

He lives in Hornell, New York with his wife Kizzie and they recently celebrated their 24<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They have three sons: Jeremiah, Weldon, and Malcolm. He enjoys spending quality time with his family, reading, and playing lots and lots and lots of golf.

IS prayer  
your  
steering wheel

  
or your spare tire?

- Corrie ten Boom -

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# GROWTH POINTS

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With Gary L. McIntosh, D.Min., Ph.D.

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## Thinking about Leadership

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As ministry begins anew this year, it's a good time to think about the basics of leadership. Here are some insights to remember and build upon to improve your leadership in the year ahead.

*First, remember that people buy into you before they buy into your vision.*

Relationships are crucial for good leadership to take place. Your ability to establish relationships with people in the church is more important than your ability to manage budgets, start new programs, or develop and carry out a vision for future growth. Through the close scrutiny of face-to-face relationships, people discover your true character. Your fruitfulness will hinge on people seeing you as a genuine person who cares about others. As they buy into you, trusting you, they will buy into your vision for the future of their church.

*Second, confront your personal baggage.*

Each of us is human. We carry personal issues from our past into ministry. If needed, find a counselor who can help you process your feelings, hurts, and pains. The earlier you do this in your life, the less it will damage your ministry. If you haven't faced your personal demons, being a pastor will allow them emerge. You can be doing all the ministry stuff, but personal grief and loss from deep wounds surface creating tensions.

*Third, vision is caught not taught.*

Leading effectively happens through trusting relationships. As you live out your life in real time among real people in real life, people catch on to what you envision for the church's future. Start investing in people, and others will catch on to what you're doing and join you in making a difference in the church.

*Fourth, lead from the pack rather than the front.* Leadership takes place among the people rather than from out in front of them. While it's true that leaders have followers, this doesn't translate into always being in the front. True leadership emerges from the midst of the people. You can and should, of course, lead from the pulpit. Yet, leadership power from the pulpit is supported by the trust engendered from ministry among the people. When you stand with the people—supporting them, experiencing the same challenges—they will follow you.

*Fifth, lead the people not the organization.* God doesn't call you to DO

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leadership ON people, but to lead people. That's an entirely different calling. Remember: you're leading people not an organization, so focus on the people rather than the organization.

*Sixth, work with your church's structure, not against it.* You'll discover that most churches are structured to keep you from leading. Some churches have boards that see their purpose as keeping the pastor under control, rather than allowing them to lead. Romans 12:6-8 indicates gifts, like leadership, are to be celebrated, not limited. Are checks and balances good? Yes, So, begin by working within the structure that's in place, and change it as you go along.

*Seventh, listen more than talk.* Make your ministry 90% listening and 10% talking this year. What this means is avoid interrupting others and listen twice as hard. One trick to help you listen better is to write things down during a conversation. Doing so will keep you focused on what the other person is saying, as well as help you clarify what they're really saying. It also leads to better questions.

*Eighth, work at building a team.* If you want your church to grow, you'll need more leaders. Generally, your church will grow at a rate of ten people for every leader in the church. Find someone who shows evidence of being a leader and spend time with them. Invest in them. If you look for leaders,

you'll find them. Build a team who can help fulfill the vision of the church. Now, the lack of finances may keep you from hiring staff, but look around and find some people who can give you, say, three to five hours of time a week. Challenge them to be on your staff. Then work with those who respond to form a team.

*Ninth, redeem your loneliness.* You will experience loneliness. You won't be able to be as open, authentic, and vulnerable as you'd like. You can only share so much with your spouse, and they can only take so much, so find other pastors who can be real with you. Take them out for a meal and share concerns openly. You'll find wisdom, and maybe even a hug or two, that will make a difference.

*Tenth, Find a mentor.* You want someone who will lift you up when you're down, and take you down a notch when needed. Ideally, this person is older and more experience than yourself, so they can empathize with you. The person you want to mentor you is likely not looking for you. Step up and courageously ask them to help you, meet with you. Volunteer to pay for their help, or at least for dinner.

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Which of these leadership insights do you need to put into practice this year?

Which will you work on today?

Which will you prioritize this year?

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# GROWTH POINTS

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## Build Trust

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Loving relationships are foundational to focused, faithful, and fruitful ministry. Speaking to his early disciples, Jesus told them “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). “Follow me” defines the relationship, while “make you fishers of men” defines the mission.

Relationship comes before mission in the life of a church. The primary relationship is with God the Father through Jesus Christ His son. However, the importance of relationships with both Christ and his earthly disciples is seen throughout the early church.

Paul also pointed out the crucial nature of relationships, by calling attention to the reality that people follow leaders as they follow Christ. “Be imitators of me,” Paul commanded, “just as I also am of Christ” (Romans 11:1; see also 1 Corinthians 4:16 and Philippians 3:17).

Regrettably, some pastors struggle to create meaningful relationships with people, and trust is consequently undermined. Remember: with every action, you are doing one of two things: establishing trust or mistrust.

Here are some insights and tips that you may find useful, as you seek to build trust with your people.

*First, initiate good conversations.* One of the main ways to build trust is through good conversation. You may find it helpful to actually track the relational encounters you have with people in your church. How many lunches do you have each week? What do you talk about? What do you learn about the people? If we honestly care about people, we’ll ask good questions: “Oh, you have a son? Tell me about him?” “So, you like working with your hands? What do you like doing the most?” “It’s nice to know you travel a lot. Where was your favorite destination?” If you can initiate good conversations, you’ll build a certain level of energy to enable trust to develop.

*Second, follow the social mores.* It’s essential that one follow the basic manners or customs to establish, build, and maintain credibility. Social mores are the customary or acceptable way to behave. While you may think some of the customs in your church are silly, it’s best to follow them until you gain enough trust to challenge them.

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newest book -  
*The Ten Key Roles  
of a Pastor.*  
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*Third, close the loop.* We've all experienced a time when someone made a promise and then failed to follow through. The person didn't "close-the-loop." Failing to return phone calls or answer emails is a regular occurrence, but a bad communication skill. If you habitually stall on replying to others, doing so undermines trust in your leadership. Now, you don't have to return calls and emails immediately, but you'll need to develop the fine art of saying "no." One way to do this is to say something like, "May I call you back in an hour?" Or, "I can't talk right now. When would a good time be to call you back?" For emails, simply reply, "I'm tied up right now, but I'll get back to you later today." Then make it your goal to close the loop by returning calls and replying to emails.

*Fourth, take your time.* Build trust incrementally and patiently. Don't appear to be in a hurry. Time and taking time are essential for connection and relationship building. In the first few years of church ministry, people are checking you out to see if you're trustworthy. They need to know from experience they can trust you with their hearts—their deep feelings, hurts, and pains. This only comes after they've seen you up close and personal in real ministry situations. So, give it time. The people will come around to work and support you fully in time.

*Fifth, don't over schedule.* As you

build relationships, gauge your time wisely, don't over schedule. Make room for interruptions. Remember: these are not interruptions; they are God-ordained time for building relationships.

*Sixth, Ask others for advice.* If you go about the work of pastoring as though you don't need others, it indicates you don't value others in the work. Asking for advice shows that you respect other's gifts, knowledge, feelings, and experience. A successful pastor always asks for help. It's only as you enter into conversations with an open beginner's mind that you'll build trust.

*Seventh, connect on an emotional level.* This takes asking a lot of questions and listening to what people say. Use words and phrases like "Why?" "I think there's a story behind that," and "Tell me more." This shows that you care for others, and are willing to listen to what they think before recommending changes. Be sure to take notes as you listen, for it conveys your care. To help you listen better, try these ideas. First, summarize what others say before you make your reply. Second, repeat the last three words of the person's comment before you launch into your response. Third, ask two questions about their comments before you respond.

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Start using these ideas to build trust in your own church.

Which of these ideas do you do well?

Which can you begin using today?

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# GROWTH POINTS

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## Check the Bullies: Part 1

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Church bullies exist, and pastors must often deal with them. They may be called other names, such as, power broker, controller, trouble maker, church boss, or, a particular favorite, Clyde (as in co-llide!).

Bulling is best defined as repeated, aggressive behavior intended to hurt another person or group of persons, with the agenda of gaining power and control. Bullying is a type of abusive power. When exercised in a church, it not only hurts the pastor, but the entire congregation, as the people live in fear of the bully.

It's easy to point out the schoolyard bully, but church bullies are more sophisticated. They use tactics that sound spiritual, and normally practice them in the quietness of unseen lunches, board meetings, or one-on-one conversations. Their behavior is usually not observed by a majority of the congregation, which allows them to fly under the radar.

It's difficult to know how to handle them, since everyone's expected to be nice at church. They're especially dangerous when they maneuver themselves into official positions. They don't need an official position to bully others, but they do need an enemy, that is, someone to fight.

The Apostle John talks about one such bully. "I wrote something to the Church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, neither does he himself receive the brethren, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church. beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good" (III John 9-11).

John mentions five characteristics that define a bully. 1) They love self-exaltation and pride (v. 9); 2) They reject counsel (v. 9); 3) They make unjust accusations against leaders (v. 10); 4) They are not warm to other brothers and sisters in Christ (v.10); and 5) They try to dominate others (v.10).

The underlying motives of church bullies are always power and control, that is, they want the power and control in the church.

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Here are a number of bullying tactics pastors often face.

*Spreading rumors.* One type of church bully is the church tattletale. They are nosy, and constantly monitor the pastor's activities.

*Getting angry.* Some bullies yell, scream, throw tantrums, or otherwise show anger in an effort to intimidate or humiliate others.

*Making false accusations.* They accuse others of making mistakes, statements they didn't make, and being unbiblical. The accusations are used in an attempt to discredit others.

*Glaring or staring.* Bullies try to intimate others by glaring intently at them. They fold their arms, turn away, or roll their eyes at others.

*Forging allies.* Bullies like to gather supporters in an effort to feel more powerful. They may encourage others to join them in criticizing the pastor.

*Dismissing comments.* Attempting to embarrass others is a key tactic of bullies. Making side comments, like, "Oh, that's silly," or "Humph, no one believes that," and other similar types of comments, all serve as ways to show disrespect.

*Using silence.* Giving others the silent treatment to ostracize them is a common tactic of church bullies. Phone calls go unanswered, emails receive no reply, requests for meetings are unheeded.

*Making demands.* A bully may make ridiculous demands, such as, an impossible deadline or unreasonable request, knowing that they can't be met.

*Retaliating.* If a pastor tries to control, speak against, or report bullying behavior, the bully may react negatively. A bully may use insults, increased oversight, or by using some of the other tactics already noted.

Dealing with church bullies is uncomfortable at the least, and dangerous to one's ministry in the most. It's complicated, but dealing with bullies is a necessary aspect of leading a church.

Ignoring bullies leaves the church in serious danger. Be careful. When bullies use you for negative carping, complaining, grousing, glitching, and gossip. This sort of behavior is agenda-driven.

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Have you ever observed a church bully?

Which of the bullying tactics mentioned have you seen used?

In what ways did the bully intimidate others?

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