

**Professional Ministries Team Minutes
October 24, 2016**

Sarah Fogg led the group in devotions, by introducing the “triangling concept” from Systems Theory.

The group was fortunate to hear two presentations related to the Lilly Endowment initiative entitled, “In Support of Ministerial Excellence.” Perry Hopper reported on the status of the grant that MMBB has received related to this initiative. The implementation of the MMBB grant will involve three rounds of small cohort groups comprised of eight clergy couples or singles. Participants will receive education related to clergy wellness and finances as well as coaching. MMBB is also developing a financial wellness institute as a part of the grant.

Jamaal Nelson also reported on the status of the grant that ABHMS has received related to this initiative. The implementation of the ABHMS grant will include a financial literacy program, financial hardship grants for clergy, and a ministry incubator to explore new models of ministry.

Discussion followed each presentation, exploring the overall goals of the grants, evaluation components, selection criteria and delivery mechanisms. PMT members look forward to receiving future updates regarding this initiative.

In other developments, the participants agreed to develop a series of “reflection papers” related to the seven Mission Table priorities listed below. The papers can be compiled in any form, but should reflect upon one of our current Mission Table Priorities and draw from one of the “lenses, frameworks, content areas, etc.” that the author typically employs when reflecting upon issues and concepts. Sample lenses or frameworks might include theological, psychological, sociological, theoretical, biblical, leadership literature, etc. James Kelsey agreed to develop the first paper related to “the Gospel in a Rapidly Changing Society.” Additional assignments will be made at the next meeting on May 12, 2017.

Mission Table Priorities:

1. Next Generation of Leaders
2. Violence
3. Discipleship
4. Poverty
5. Gospel in a Rapidly Changing Society
6. Women in Ministry
7. Innovative Models of Pastoral Ministry

Future work of the team will also include reviewing and updating previously developed resources and posting those resources on the ABCUSA website.

Members also shared professional updates with one another.

Submitted by C. Jeff Woods