

Professional Ministries Team
BGM Report
May 22, 2018

The Professional Ministries Team continued their practice of developing “reflection papers” related to the seven Mission Table priorities listed below. Rev. Sarah Fogg led an interactive discussion related to our current ABC priority of, “ending poverty.” The presented facts led to an energetic discussion regarding efforts to curb poverty. Some of the suggested approaches include:

- Utilizing approaches that address the spiritual, psychological, physical, and sociological aspects of individuals.
- Engaging in asset based community development rather than needs based.
- Developing comprehensive approaches that include relief, rehabilitation, and development rather than merely relief as many programs do.

The Professional Ministries has also begun suggesting policy in places where such areas are lacking in relation to the American Baptist Churches Information System (ABCIS) and welcomed Geri Blier, the Coordinator of ABCIS, as a new PMT member. Geri led the group in devotions to start the meeting.

Following a discussion regarding data sharing, the PMT recommended a data sharing plan for ABCIS that includes a data sharing matrix, terms of usage, protocols, tiers of access, and safeguards. The approved proposal will now be forwarded to the NEC for further discussion.

The group also welcomed Rev. Dr. Kevin Walden, Associate General Secretary for Congregational and Pastoral Effectiveness.

In other work, the PMT members updated their previously developed bibliography for clergy growth and renewal. The resources include multiple suggestions in each of the categories below:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clergy Health<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Emotional health○ Financial health○ Total health• Clergy Leadership in Context<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Understanding leadership○ Understanding differences among us○ Understanding Baptist history and polity○ Understanding missions○ Encouraging spiritual development | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pastoral Skills<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dealing with crises○ Preaching○ Commentaries and biblical studies○ Evangelism and discipleship○ Stewardship○ Weddings○ Funerals○ Transitions• Spiritual Health<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Prayers and practices○ Reflections on spirituality |
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It is anticipated that the project will be completed this summer. The meeting also included updates on the proposed 2020 Women in Ministry celebration and a new online profile resource from ABHMS.

Respectfully submitted, C. Jeff Woods