

## QuickLinks

Show support for Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana residents who were impacted by severe winter storms. A check payable to American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) can be mailed to the attention of Kim Wilkins at ABHMS, 1075 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406. Write "OGHS-Cold Wave Disaster Relief" on the memo line. Learn more at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org).

As a member of the World Council of Churches (WCC), ABHMS lifts up the WCC's "Thursdays in Black" campaign, which seeks to help end gender-based violence. Individuals are asked to show support by wearing black on Thursdays. Read more at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org).

An ABHMS staff member received a "gift" that was 15 years in the making. Find out who and what it was at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org).



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## At the Biennial Mission Summit: Listen, Learn & Live the Gospel

Join American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) at "Living the Gospel in the United States and Puerto Rico," a workshop to be held at 4 p.m. on Friday, June 25, during "Imagine," American Baptist Churches USA's 2021 Biennial Mission Summit.

*Panelists are as follows:*



**The Rev. Dr. Luz Celeniar ("Lucy") Tirado** is a chaplain for Valley Home Care Hospice and the Protestant chaplain in the women's facility of New York City Corrections. She is a

board certified chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains. A native New Yorker, her family of origin is from Puerto Rico. She has worked and trained in several different hospitals, nursing homes and hospices throughout New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut.



**Christian Esteban** is executive director of JOYA Scholars, a nonprofit in Fullerton, southern California, that serves junior high and high school students who dream

of becoming first-generation college students. Esteban believes that mentorship is the key to serving JOYA Scholars' Latinx and immigrant neighbors and that higher education has the power to break the cycle of poverty.



**The Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird** has been pastor at First Baptist Church, Jamaica Plain, Mass., since 2003. She began with a mandate to redevelop the congregation and, after

a devastating fire, has overseen a building project as well. During her tenure, the church has trained more than 20 seminarians, started "The Centre for Faith, Art & Justice" and grown in membership and capacity to serve both God and neighbor, while coordinating significant outreach through the COVID pandemic.



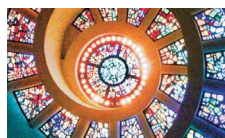
**Dr. Reggie Weniyika** is president and professor of Education and Religion at Ottawa University Midwest, an American Baptist-related and global college in Ottawa,

Kansas, with students from 39 states and 33 countries. He has a strong commitment to training people, and his leadership is marked by a strong dedication to God and the students of Ottawa University.

Listen to the lessons they have learned about living and leading through change. ABHMS will provide three resources to support continuing skill strengthening beyond the workshop, along with links connecting participants with mission opportunities across the United States and Puerto Rico.

## Supporting African-American women ministers

Several years ago, the Rev. Chris Smith had a vision of providing support to African-American women ministers who were leading small congregations, many struggling financially. Buoyed by this prophetic calling, Smith authored her groundbreaking book, "Beyond the Stained-glass Ceiling: Equipping and Encouraging Female Pastors" (Judson Press, 2013).



Restoration Ministries of Greater Cleveland Inc., the church pastored by Smith, has estab-

Your gift to the Stained-glass Ceiling Endowment Fund helps ABHMS to support, encourage and advocate for the well-being of Black female pastoral leaders by helping to alleviate the economic challenges and related stress they face. Your gift helps to ensure that those who are called to serve are equipped to serve.

To support the Stained-glass Ceiling Endowment Fund, give online or mail your check with "Stained-glass Endowment" in the memo section to American Baptist Home Mission Societies, 1075 First Ave., King of Prussia,

1 in Amazon's Clergy category.

The guide examines how ministry has changed through the years, and stresses that rest is vital now more than ever.

Says Laura Alden, Judson Press publisher: "We celebrate this accomplishment with the book's author, Dr. Kirk Byron Jones, trusting that readers of 'Rest in the Storm' will benefit from his wisdom, especially during these final, long days of the pandemic. May it serve as a cool drink of water for us all."

To order, contact Judson Press at [judsonpress.com](http://judsonpress.com) or 1.800.458.3766.

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

# Mission in America

## ABHMS announces second cohort of 'Co-Creators Incubator'

ABHMS announces the names of six individuals chosen to participate in the second cohort of its "Co-Creators Incubator."

The Co-Creators Incubator is a two-year program that strives to nurture the growth of innovative ministry ideas.



While fostering collegiality, the incubator provides creative individuals—referred to as *Co-Creators*—with resources to develop their ideas or enhance their ministries, pairing them with mentors and introducing them to creative partners who may provide long-term financial and other support.

While a Co-Creator is eager to put ideas into action, he or she may be at any point in the creative process, from brainstorming to launching.

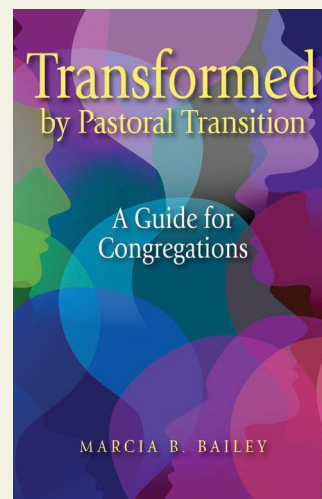
The new Co-Creators and their projects are as follows:

**Monique C. Harrington**, Way Club, a faith-based social club for high school-aged teenagers; **Dr. Ruth Alerte Jones**, the H.E.M. (Healing Embrace Maternal) Network, a faith-based ministry centered on spiritual wellness for women following pregnancy loss; **Jonathan Malone**, multiple-day hiking and backpacking trips into the wilderness, with an emphasis on engaging with the divine; the **Rev. Yolanda M. Norton**, Global Arts and Theology Experience (GATE), an organization dedicated to promoting the wholeness, healing and development of Black girls and women through programs that promote womanist theology and the arts; **Dria Price**, Justevia, which creates natural tea blends using locally grown, organic herbs that are sweetened with stevia as opposed to sugar; and **Alex Zarecki**, songwriting that is fit for personal and congregational use.

## Book: Ministry transitions can be times of renewal

Designed as a practical and deeply spiritual guide for congregations facing pastoral transition, Judson Press' "Transformed by Pastoral Transition: A Guide for Congregations" uses the framework of the Christian worship service to help church leaders usher their faith community through a process of honoring the past, healing the present and discerning the future.

The book includes worship resources for each stage in the transitional season, from bidding farewell and processing grief related to the outgoing minister to



celebrating the gifts of community and anticipating the next stage in the congregation's life together.

"Transformed by Pastoral Transition" asserts that transitions in ministry are opportunities for renewal and growth. It addresses the experience and needs of the transitioning congregation, so that it might

be a season of transformation in the life of the church. It defines a process for navigating pastoral transition that can be tailored to individual congregational contexts.

The book is written by the Rev. Dr. Marcia B. Bailey, an American Baptist pastor and an associate professor of teaching at Temple University, Philadelphia.

Order at [judsonpress.com](http://judsonpress.com)  
or 1.800.458.3766.

# Five Judson Press books win Independent Press Awards

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (4/23/21)**—American Baptist Home Mission Societies and Judson Press are proud to announce that five books published by Judson Press have received Independent Press Awards.

The Independent Press Awards recognized “#InThisTogether: Ministry in Times of Crisis” edited by Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, as a winner in the Current Events category; “A History of the Black Baptist Church: I Don’t Feel No Ways Tired” by Wayne E. Croft Sr., Winner, African American Nonfiction category; “Black Millennials and the Church: Meet Me Where I Am” by Joshua Mitchell, Distinguished Favorite, African American Nonfiction category; “Still A Mother: Journeys through Perinatal Bereavement” edited by Joy M. Freeman and Tabatha D. Johnson, Distinguished Favorite, Grief category; “With Liberty and Justice for Some: The Bible, the Constitution, and Racism in America” by Susan K. Williams Smith, Winner, Cultural and Social Issues category.

The competition is judged by experts from different aspects of the book industry, including publishers, writers, editors, book cover designers and professional copywriters. Selected award winners and distinguished favorites are based on overall excellence.

In 2021, the Independent Press Awards had entries worldwide. Participating authors and publishers reside in countries such as Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, Japan, Singapore, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and others. In addition, books submitted included writers located in U.S. cities such as Atlanta to Santa Fe; Chicago to New York; from Boise to Honolulu, and others.

“We celebrate this recognition—both for the authors and for Judson Press,” says Judson Press publisher Laura Alden. “The IPPY awards help to promote these titles to a worldwide audience, which also extends our witness for Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!”

For more information, please visit [independentpressaward.com](https://www.independentpressaward.com); and to see this year’s list of IPA Winners and Distinguished Favorites, please visit these website pages:

- 2021 Winners:

<https://www.independentpressaward.com/2021winners> and

- 2021 Distinguished Favorites:

<https://www.independentpressaward.com/2021distinguishedfavorites>.

*American Baptist Home Mission Societies partners with American Baptists to promote Christian faith, cultivate Christ-centered leaders and disciples, and bring healing and transformation to communities across the United States and Puerto Rico.*

*American Baptist Churches USA is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with approximately 5,000 congregations comprised of 1.3 million members, across the United States and Puerto Rico, all engaged in God’s mission around the world.*