

The Professional Ministries Team met virtually on May 10, 2022 with 9 members present.

Rothangi Chhangte shared a devotion from John 21:1-18 where Jesus rebuilds trust with Peter after Peter's denial of Jesus. The text marks the importance of feeding sheep and serving others with humility regardless of whether Peter (or we) feel that we can love the Lord unconditionally based upon our previous responses to the Lord.

The group spanned time zones from HST (Hawaii) where it was 4:00 am to IST (India) where it was 7:30 pm. Randolph Miller said that the sun never sets on the ABC!

The team share personal and professional updates regarding projects related to supporting clergy.

Randolph Miller walked the group through the revised ABC Ministers Code of Ethics. Randy Miller led the PMT through a discussion of the revised ABC Ministers Code of Ethics. Ministers Council has been curating this document over a number of years. The revised form was affirmed and approved at our Biennial meeting in November of 2020. It is now being sent out to local councils for review, discussion, and vote. The document is not up for revision during the local chapter review phase. Ministers Council began in 1935 out of a desire for collegiality and support. The three core values are centeredness, competence, and collegiality.

The team continued its review of the "Professional Registry" document, now called the "ABC Leadership Registry." This document contains guidelines for entry into the registry, coding regarding ordination status, definitions, and information regarding how to work with the database. The registry itself, housed in the American Baptist Churches Information System (ABCIS), functions as the repository of the many individuals who currently serve and/or have served in some leadership capacity in an American Baptist-related ministry. This includes both ordained and commissioned persons as well as lay ministers. In its entirety, the registry intends to be a comprehensive list of these individuals, particularly clergy, thereby preserving the credentials and job history of ABC leadership. The registry also serves as the credentials granting procedure for clergy. The PMT addressed several issues raised by the Executive Ministers during a call earlier in the year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. C. Jeff Woods, Chair