

## 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).

## 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.



**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.



**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.



**Dr. Reggie Wenyika** 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 established a \$70,000 endowed gift with American Baptist Home Mission Societies that will support at least two African-American female pastors yearly who serve congregations of 300 or fewer members as senior solo pastor.

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, PA 19406.

Questions should be addressed to Vincent Dent, ABHMS' chief development officer, at [vincent.dent@abhms.org](mailto:vincent.dent@abhms.org) or 610.768.2420.



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Celebrating its 20th anniversary, Judson Press' updated and expanded best-seller "Rest in the Storm: Self-Care Strategies for Clergy and Other Caregivers" by Kirk Byron Jones, Ph.D., D.Min., M.Phil., M.Div., has reached no. 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.

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## 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.

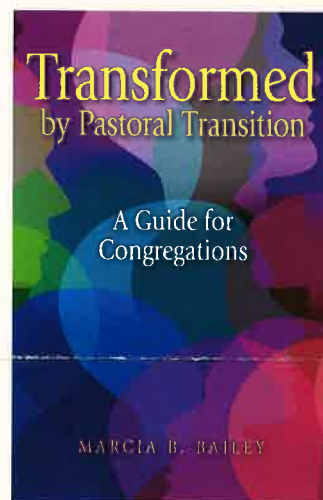
The new Co-Creators and their projects are as follows: **Monique C. Harrington**, Way Club, a faith-based social club for high school-aged teenagers; **Dr. Ruth Alerte Jones**, the H.E.M. (Healing Embrace Maternal) Network, a faith-based ministry centered on spiritual wellness for women following pregnancy 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 enjoyment.

Additional information about the Co-Creators Incubator is available at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) or by contacting the Rev. Lauren L. Ng at [Lauren.Ng@abhms.org](mailto:Lauren.Ng@abhms.org), 888.79.ABHMS.

## 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.

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