

Ministers Council ABCUSA Local Chapter Report 2017-2018

Chapter Name: ABC Ministers Council of Metropolitan Chicago

Current Chapter Officers

President: Rev. Thomas Aldworth

Vice President: Rev. Dr. David Sagar

Treasurer: Rev. Jacki Belile

Specialized Ministries Representative: Rev. Dr. Delois Brown-Daniels

Seminary Representative: Alexis Owens

Communication/Representative to National MC: Rev. Erica Van Brakle

Activity Summary

1. How frequently has your chapter met in this past year? **We had a fellowship event with a group attending the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.**
2. What has been your average attendance? **12-20**
3. How many people are on your e-mail/mailing list? **156**
4. List special programs offered in the past year to support collegiality, centeredness and/or competence. **We had a fellowship event with a group attending the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.**
5. Were any of these programs recorded? **No**
6. How many, if any, were sponsored with your local ABC region? **N/A**
7. Did your local ABC region sponsor any programs specifically supportive of local ministers? If so, describe? **Our Region has been in a time of transition and engaged in work entitled: "New Paths". This work engaged clergy through listening sessions and a presentation of the data. As a result of some of the feedback the region has already scheduled a Clergy Retreat for early 2019.**
8. Are there regular small groups for clergy meeting? If so, how many? **Yes, 3**
9. Characterize these groups here by circling all that apply:
 1. Informal but regular gathering
 2. Continuing from Together in Minister Lilly Grant Cycle
 3. Convened by Regional Staff
10. Please email any pictures of event activities to Ms. Lisa Simpson at info@ministerscouncil.com

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11. Overall, what is going well? **We are very excited that our local chapter website has launched! Given our limited resources, the leadership team determined to invest in the creation of a website. Though our website we hope to better communicate with our members, provide resources, support on-going National resources (example: monthly webinars) and so much more! The website also supports two of our significant initiatives right now: our Health and Wellness and Seminarian Engagement initiatives.**
12. Is your chapter experiencing any challenges? If so, describe. **Like many chapters we are trying to determine how to best use our time and energy that will result in the building up collegial relationships. We have found that the wide range of "life stages" present unique challenges when trying to design opportunities for members to engage. Additionally, the wide range of ways in which our clergy serve mean that there is no one "perfect" time to host events. We continue to seek ways in which we might create various opportunities while also recognizing our leadership teams own limited time.**
13. Do you have recommendations for other local chapters? For National board or staff? **We will be creating a document that makes recommendations for how to build a website for their local chapter. We will share some of the things we learned along the way that will hopefully help other chapters successfully build this tool as well.**
14. How might we support you better? **Making webinars available at various times (morning, afternoon, evening) is VERY helpful!**