

National Women's Conference Learning Experiences

July 21-27, 2012

Learning Experiences "A" for Monday Afternoon 2:00 to 3:00 PM

A-1 "Celebrate Love" — Minister Betty Holmes, national coordinator of Love Gift

I. **Through Giving** - John 3:16 "For God so Loved the world that He Gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting Life

II. **Through Life** - Matthew 19:16 "And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I might have eternal Life?"

III. **Through Obedience** - Romans 5:19 "For as by one man's disObedience many were made sinners, so by the Obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

A-2 Transformed by the Spirit — Rev. Cheryl Harris, coaching consultant

This workshop will ask the question: "What challenges are we facing for which we do not presently have an answer but which must be addressed if we are to live into the future God has for us?"

A-3 Are You a Bag Lady? — LaKeeyna Cooper, national coordinator of Young Adult Women's Ministries

Too often as young adult women we walk around with bags that are too heavy for us to carry. Even though our Coach and Gucci bags are big enough to hold all our stuff, God didn't create us to be weighted down by what's in them. Whether you are carrying a book bag, a baby bag or a briefcase, come to this workshop to learn how to balance the items in the bags that are weighing you down.

A-4 The Bee — Rev. Sandra Hasenauer, associate executive director of AB Women's Ministries (and a quilter)

Since ancient times, women have been gathering together to help one another in doing communal work. These gatherings have traditionally been referred to as "bees" (spinning bees, husking bees, quilting bees). Bees have become opportunities to provide companionship, swap ideas, and inspire and encourage one another while sharing in the joy of creating.

You're invited to bring your own portable handwork—knitting, crocheting, hand-quilting, scrapbooking, or whatever you can fit in your suitcase and bring along! We'll join together in a bee and entertain one another while we work on our projects. Have you always wanted to learn how to do something like knit or quilt or whatever? Come along! You'll be able to reap the benefit of the gathered knowledge in the room. You will also hear about Sandy's sabbatical experience related to textiles and women and join in some fun activities while working on your projects.

A-5 The Fabulous You! — Dr. Tommie Morton-Young, author, leader of Out Reach Ministry at First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill, Nashville.

Using the premise from her book *Women Claiming and Celebrating the Fabulous Self: Mind, Body, Spirit*, you'll learn how women were molded by the Great Potter as a "fabulous being," "not given a spirit of fear but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7) Believe it! Claim it! Act on it!

A-6 Coming Out with My Head Up — Vanessa Shorter, a ministry leader at New Vision Baptist Church, Nashville

In this workshop we will look at the needs of woman in prison for re-entry into society as well as the engagement/relationship that needs to happen to facilitate ministering to their needs. *Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. — Philippians 4:6-7*

Learning Experiences "B" for Monday Afternoon 4:00 to 5:00 PM

B-1 Networking Women: Stories of Women Leaders Past and Present — Dr. Deborah Van Broekhoven, executive director of the American Baptist Historical Society

Since 1800, when Mary Webb organized the Boston Female Society for Mission Purposes, American church women have been organizing in support of church ministries and community service. Dr. Van Broekhoven will share some sample biographies and suggest ways in which women today can collect, preserve, and share their stories, as well as those of persons who mentored or inspired them.

B-2 Fun with AB GIRLS — Becky Howard, AB GIRLS National Leadership Team member
Learn games and ice breakers to take back home to start a relationship with your AB GIRLS.

B-3 Violence Even Among Church Folk — Peggy Burke, missions advocate and speaker
Violence against women is everywhere. This workshop will be devoted to advocacy and up-to-date information to *Stop the Pain* of violence against women.

B-4 Reader's Theater — Andrea Dresser, national coordinator of Personal Development Ministries; assisted by Cheryl Felch, president of AB Women's Ministries of Michigan

Reader's Theater participants will need to wear black clothing.

Do you like drama, but have a hard time remembering lines? Come and learn how to do a reading in front of an audience with your lines right in front of you. The only condition is that you must wear a black outfit when you perform. This workshop will prepare you to do a reading in front of American Baptist women at the conference. It is fun and exciting; you will also learn that you can take just about anything and turn it into a play to read in front of others.

B-5 "Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted" Interactive Bible Study — Rev. Dr. Etheleen Hill, ministry leader, Nashville

Is God calling you out of your comfort zone to do something that you'd rather not do? This study of Jonah, written by Priscilla Shirer, helps to redefine "interruption" from a spiritual perspective. Many of us are like Jonah when God interrupts our lives and we run in the opposite direction. These interruptions can actually be "divine interventions" in our life's circumstances in which the hand of God is moving to give us the opportunity to partner with Him in His purposes. Many men and women in the Bible who made a mark in history for the kingdom of God (including Peter, Mary, Esther, Rahab and others) came to a point in their lives where they had to make the decision to be obedient to God's call or to continue on their own path instead. If our significance is found in the degree to which we yield to God's purposes for our lives, rather than what we do or where we are from, we too will leave a mark that has eternal significance.

Learning Experiences "C" for Wednesday Afternoon 2:00 to 3:00 PM

C-1 Joyful Noise — Conference Choir led by Rev. Dr. Samella Spence

Come share your joyful voice as Choir Director Samella Spence teaches and leads. The Conference Choir will perform during our final session.

C-2 The Act of Intimate Communication — Andrea Dresser, national coordinator of Personal Development Ministries

Come and learn the art of getting even closer to God; everything starts with prayer. In the same way that God took a rib from Adam's side to make a soul mate for him, God took something of Himself and placed it within each of us. According to Ecclesiastes 3:11, God put "eternity in the human heart"—a mysterious part of His essence that would not only be in us in this lifetime with wonder, but also would continue to give our existence joy and meaning into perpetuity with Him. It is a longing to experience an intimacy with God, the insatiable appetite in each of our hearts that is never satisfied without experiencing more and more of Him.

C-3 Claiming Our Call: Finding Our Voice as God's Sculpted Vessels — Rev. Betty-Rae Hopkins and Peggy Johnson

Are you wrestling with the whispers of God or struggling with God's silence? Are you dancing in God's demonstrative shouts or wavering in uncertainty? Wherever you are on your journey, this workshop will help you to claim or clarify God's call.

C-4 Calling a Woman Pastor — Rev. Patricia Hernandez, national director of American Baptist Women in Ministry

Would my church call a woman pastor? We will explore issues and concerns around calling woman pastors as well as examine the biblical and theological bases for women in ministry.

C-5 The Common Threads — Dr. Tommie Morton-Young, historian, author, and teacher

As human beings we tend to place judgment on all things and most people. Yet there are common threads in the life of groups of people who have survived to this day, and those threads link humankind to common roots, beginnings, and survival. A brief look at markers that sustain humankind and how acceptance and appreciation of these markers move us toward "a more perfect community."

C-6 Leadership Tips — Virginia Holmstrom, executive director of American Baptist Women's Ministries

Virginia will share helpful leadership hints and tips she's learned, sometimes the hard way! Leadership is a journey; come, learn, and be encouraged along the way.

Learning Experiences "D" for Thursday Afternoon 2:00 to 3:00 PM

D-1 Pregnant With Possibilities — Dr. Linda Plummer Ward, M.D., ministry leader in Nashville

God has planted within each person gifts for ministry and God calls us to use our gifts to build up the Body of Christ. In our weakness, God can use our gifts. When we use our gifts, we equip and enable others through a circle of influence and by example.

D-2 Christian Stress Management Bible Study — Quinester Calloway, New Vision Baptist Church, Nashville

When your stresses are greater than your stress, what do you do? There's no way for us to avoid all the stresses life has to offer. Some of us are more prone to stress than others, but all of us will at times be faced with situations that cause stress. Be assured there's a place for believers to go in times of need. We will look at Psalm 46 and other scriptures as God's Word will give us answers we seek.

D-3 Storms and Maps and Post-Its, O My! — Rev. Sandra Hasenauer, associate executive director of American Baptist Women's Ministries

Are you looking for new ways to help your ministry leadership team envision the future of the ministry? Often we get into a rut of simply plopping new titles on the same events, or we face the tyranny of the blank calendar and grab at the first ideas that come to fill it up. In this workshop, we'll explore several ways to engage in envisioning using methods that are creative, effective, and fun. We'll burrow into brainstorming variations, mess around with mind maps, and play with post-its.

D-4 AB Women's Ministries Organizational Financial Tools — Diana Shutt, president of AB Women's Ministries of Pennsylvania and Delaware

Have you ever wondered why your ABWM needs a budget? Do you create a registration amount for your event before first sitting out to figure out how much it will actually cost? Have you done things the same way year after year? Have you wondered why in the past there was extra money left at the end of the year, but now it seems as though you don't receive enough funds to cover the expenses? We will delve into these questions as well as others that may affect your ABWM's financial health. We

are called to minister, but we may need to do things differently in order to be good stewards of the ministry that God calls us to do.

D-5 Let Your Fingers Do Something New! — Rosalyce Grubbs, crafts learner and teacher

This craft workshop is for those looking for something to keep their fingers busy and having fun with others while creating something different. You just might be surprised at your ability to make something interesting and useful. Bring \$1 for workshop supplies.