

**\*\*EXTRA!!!\*\***

*Metro Chicago*

## *eWind*

*Suddenly there was...a strong wind blowing, and...  
they were all filled with the Holy Spirit... (Acts 2:2-3, TEV)*

Weekly Electronic Newsletter of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago

A patchwork of varied news and announcements  
from our churches, communities, denomination and other organizations,  
covering a wide variety of interests reflecting the diversity of our region

**April 4, 2005**

"Praise God!" says ABCMC President, Rev. Jesse Brown. "It's Easter and we have followed the Risen Lord's direction in securing an Interim Executive Minister for our region."

The Reverend Dr. Larry Greenfield has accepted the call to be our region's Interim Executive Minister. He has made a commitment to minister full-time in this capacity for six months beginning April 2, 2005.

Larry comes to ABCMC from a position as editor and theologian-in-residence for Protestants for the Common Good. He will continue to write a bi-weekly column for that organization while ministering with ABCMC.

Ordained by the First Baptist Church of Chicago in 1967, Larry is a graduate of the University of Chicago Divinity School, from which he received a Ph.D. in theology in 1978. He has served in varied ministries spanning four decades. While a student at the University of Chicago Divinity School, Larry was director of the Baptist Graduate Student Center. Since then he has served as interim pastor in ABC churches in Chicago and Michigan; as dean of students, professor and president in theological schools; and as a research scholar on topics related to faith, morality, justice and health.

Reflecting on his vision and opportunities for the region, Larry said, "Religious communities must play a role in the vital reciprocity among people and communities in the metropolitan area. This is what I understand Dr. King to be referring to in his appeal for 'the beloved community.' American Baptists in Chicago have something very important to contribute to one another and to the wider metropolitan area... By our interdependence and association with one another in our divinely-given diversity, we give witness to the gracious God revealed in Jesus Christ and engage in mission and ministry on behalf of the community God intends for creation. *I want to be a part of the struggle that reclaims and strengthens this truth. There is significant theological and practical work to be done now.*"

The Interim Search committee was impressed by Larry's hope for the future of ABCMC, and his desire to be a part of the work God is calling us to do. The

search committee enthusiastically recommended him for this interim ministry. We thank the members of the committee: Rev. David Gregg, Rev. Rich Landers, Ms. Gloria Mayberry, Rev. Carol McVetty, Rev. James Missick and Rev. Shakespeare Osorio.

The elected leaders and staff of ABCMC are excited about the opportunity to work with Larry. They affirm with Jesse Brown that "Larry's administrative skills, pastoral presence, personal integrity and theological leadership will be great assets in his ministry with our region."