



## Rev. Robert Rice, LLC Coordinator

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Pastoral ministry is not something for the faint of heart. With each new day comes new challenges to overcome, but also new

opportunities to speak the hope of the Gospel into the lives of those people we serve. When you combine these challenges and opportunities, it's clear that pastors are extremely susceptible to conditions like stress and burnout, and that's in a normal year where everything works the way it should.

When you add to those normal challenges and opportunities, the curve ball of a global pandemic that requires adapting to new ways of doing ministry, the pressure placed on those in ministry is heightened and desperately needs a safe and healthy outlet if meltdown is to be avoided!



One of the "outlets" our region has offered over the past year is pastoral support in the form of Zoom calls, a Facebook forum and our Leadership Learning Communities. Through these ministries, we as a

region have sought to provide that safe space for pastors to share their frustrations, support and mentor one another in how to use online technology, and encourage each other to stand firm in our faith and calling.



Though we have had to adapt and change the way some of these ministries are done, these opportunities for pastors have served to be an encouragement and support when it was desperately needed. Of course, none of these ministries would be possible without your continued support of the region through the Partners In Ministry Offering. As a pastor myself who gets to see both sides of these ministries, I want to personally thank you for allowing me to help provide and participate in these much needed "outlets" this year. I'm not sure what this year will bring

in terms of challenges and opportunities, but I am sure that with your support, we will continue to support our pastors and churches and walk through this new season together!

When you support Partners In Ministry you make it possible for the staff of ABCOPAD, both full-time staff and our Regional Ministry Associates to develop and implement new and innovative solutions to help to support and encourage our pastors. Thank you for your gifts to Partners In Ministry making real partnerships happen in our Region and beyond.



## You can give to Partners In Ministry...

1. Through your local congregation's weekly offering by designating your gift to ABCOPAD - **Partners In Ministry**.
2. Through ABCOPAD's Online Giving option, available on the regional website ([www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org)). Your church can receive mission-giving credit for your online gift.
3. By giving through your mobile device ([www.abcopad.mobile](http://www.abcopad.mobile)).
4. By sending your check (made payable to ABCOPAD WMS) to:

ABCOPAD; P.O. Box 421; Hatboro, PA 19040



Thank You for your giving to **Partners In Ministry** and for your partnership as we minister together in Pennsylvania and Delaware.



**The American Baptist Churches  
of Pennsylvania and Delaware**