**Monday, October 5, 2020**

***One Priority* Briefing for Congregational Leaders from George Bullard**

A Family of Congregations in the Midlands of South Carolina

***One Priority***

*Starting and Strengthening Churches to Serve as Vital and Vibrant Missional Communities.*

**October is Minister Appreciation Month**

Let me be among the first this month to say to you – “Thank You!” I appreciate your Christian ministry service. I am thrilled you responded to the call of God on your life to be involved in various Great Commission and Great Commandment activities from the base of a local congregation. I hope your congregation already has plans to appreciate you in some visible and tangible way. (If you think not, and I need to nudge a layperson for you, please let me know!)

Julia Bell, our CMBA Communications Coordinator has written an article about Minister Appreciation month which will be posted on our website at [***www.ColumbiaMetro.org***](http://www.ColumbiaMetro.org) on Wednesday and will also post on our CMBA Facebook page at [***https://www.facebook.com/CMBAssociation***](https://www.facebook.com/CMBAssociation). When it comes out, feel free to slip it to a lay leader who needs to know about the special way mentioned to get a gift for the pastor of your congregation which is being facilitated by the National Association of Evangelicals.

During this year of pandemic, I know many of you have been burdened about how to minster with the greatest effectiveness. I suspect for many of you this has been several seasons of unusual stress as none of you have likely experienced anything close to what the pandemic has brought us during 2020. Let us proactively express prayerful concern for one another and continue looking for and walking through the new doors of opportunity God is providing to us.

**Schedule for October One Priority Briefing Live!**

An online video forum for our pastors, staff members and lay leaders to hear about how other congregations are Regathering. You will be the presenters. We have a couple of people who we have recruited ahead of time to “prime the pump,” but we want to hear from many of our churches. Sign on and share how it is going and hear from other churches on how they are handling the current and future stages of the pandemic.

Tuesday, October 6th at 2:00 p.m. – Update on ReGathering Congregations – What is Happening Now!

Tuesday, October 13th at 2:00 p.m. – Handling Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas This Year

Thursday, October 29th at 2:00 p.m. – What Will Your Congregation Be Like By the *Ides of March* 2021?

The third week of the month is Associational Week of Prayer throughout our denomination. That week, George Bullard will be making a presentation on associations.

Tuesday, October 20th at 2:00 p.m. – Boldly Going Where No Association Has Gone Before

The Zoom link for these online gatherings for the month of October will be   
 [***https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85604229802***](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85604229802).

**NOTE: Our One Priority Briefing Live!** Held most every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. To receive the weekly link to this online gathering, please register at [***https://forms.gle/vdE7eTwvzm1gDkDj7***](https://forms.gle/vdE7eTwvzm1gDkDj7?fbclid=IwAR2Rcr25rumqYL_VB_Xz09Wnd8bi1WzPDXiv7VJ2ldhJ4q6NJ5kQEPvRtUU)

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**Gifts can be made to the general fund, to hunger ministry, or to disaster response.**