



ANNUAL REPORT

21

Weaving God's Love Across Cultures

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Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries exists on two fronts. We work with ethnic pastors and churches on a faith-based level to assist pastors in fruitfully living out their call while exercising faithful stewardship of every gift and potential God has provided. We also work with the refugee and immigrant community through the ACE Center for New Americans on a non-sectarian level, serving to support and meet the multifaceted needs of ethnic and immigrant individuals and communities. Our mission is to Advocate, Empower, and Celebrate New Americans to become active participants in shaping American society and the church.

Through the ACE Center for New Americans, established as a “doing business as” through MBMM – we support, assist, and walk with the refugees and immigrants in their journey of starting their lives, families, educations, careers, and citizenships in the United States of America.

12th ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Moderator: Ms. Barbara Drauschke, MBMM President

Receiving of the Annual Reports:

Executive & Associate Director

Officers

– *President*

– *Secretary*

– *Treasurer*

Other Reports

– *Financial Review: Brooks and Associates, CPA's*

– *Cultural Advocates*

– *Refugee Advocates*

– *ACE Center Report*

– *English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Tutors*

Voting on the Slate of the Board of Directors

Report from the Executive Director

Installation of the Board of Directors

Motion to End the Business Meeting

MESSAGE *from the* EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MBMM IN THE NEW NORMAL, *moving from pandemic to endemic*

One lesson that we learned from the pandemic is that access to health care is a human right. This is what Amnesty International says: “Universal access to health care, without discrimination, is a human right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. There is a healthcare crisis in the United States, with countless people unable to access life saving care due to cost. This has a disproportionate impact on people already marginalized due to socio-economic status, racial identity, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, and other factors.” MBMM has been advocating for the universal access to healthcare for everyone irrespective of what piece of paper you hold to be in this country.

Healthcare is not a partisan issue but a human issue. Social distancing and proper hygiene were some of the most effective ways to prevent the virus, but unfortunately for many of the population that MBMM serves it was a luxury. They live in crowded apartments, travel in crowded work vans or on public transportation. MBMM advocacy work for universal health care is an important priority for us. We will continue to work for it.

The coronavirus has “dismembered” our families and communities. Losing a loved one is real. Losing a job and losing a house to live in is real.



Rev. Dr. Mar Imsong
Executive Director

THE CORONAVIRUS

has “dismembered” our families and communities.

Depression, stress and having a mental health crisis are real. These ongoing health and psychological problems called post-COVID-19 syndrome continue to affect the most vulnerable population. With social, economic, cultural, and linguistic barriers, for many grief and mental health concerns have not been addressed. Mr. Rizal, an Afghani Evacuee, now lives in Lowell, MA. He fought on the front line with the US Army in Afghanistan and his eyes and face are disfigured with injuries caused by bullets. He told me that he still hallucinates and thinks that he is in Afghanistan fighting the enemies. He is suffering from PTSD, yet he has had a hard time filling a prescription for his blood pressure medication. His wife, the mother of 7 children and still caring for an infant, also suffers from anxiety. Mr. Rizal and his wife told me that this year was the most depressing Eid that they have ever observed. They told me that they had no family and friends and trying to cope with their life in a new country has been overwhelming.

A WORD for my fellow pastors

in a time such as this when there is pressure to go back to “normal” as people sense an endemic to the long pandemic that we have gone through, we are asked to be the leader. The pastor is considered to be a cosmic guide, a companion for people in all kinds of situations. Pastors, being paid for their efforts, are expected to be nice and resolve the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of people. Most pastors have faced many hardships and trials during the last few years. Our present work of leading people to a new normal is a hard job. It is time for us to be yoked together with our Master Jesus.

Also, it is very important for every pastor to rest, observe the sabbath, and seek collegial support for mutual help and prayers. Keeping that in mind, MBMM has developed the Thriving Pastoral Ministry Program. (TPMP)

As we see the endemic is nearing, it is an opportunity for us to “re-member” all those who were “dis-membered” during the pandemic. There are many vulnerable people outside the camp that are “dis-membered,” without access to job coaching, without access to economic opportunities, continuously discriminated against because of their country of origin, with no psychologists or therapists available who speak their language or understand their culture. However, there is one universal language that we all can speak- “the language of LOVE.” As I always say, the language of LOVE has no rules of grammar, and the language of LOVE has no accent. In speaking the language of LOVE, we all can raise a voice of justice and mercy. The language of LOVE is not passive but is active engagement for uplifting the voices of the voiceless and marginalized.

ONCE AGAIN another year has passed

Thank you very much to all MBMM staff, board members, volunteers, and donors. It is because of people like you that we made a difference in the life of New Americans and ethnic pastors and churches. Even with all the COVID-19 precautions, we have made our best effort to make a difference on two fronts: with the Thriving Pastoral Ministry Program, (TPMP) in which over 74 pastors participate, and with the ACE Center for New Americans, where we have helped over 400 New American families and individuals through our various programs.

God’s Blessings,

Mar Imsong
Executive Director

MESSAGE *from the* THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

THRIVING PASTORAL *Ministry Program*

The last year of the Thriving Pastoral Ministry Program (TPMP) has been robust yet has also included some significant challenges. We now have a total of seven Ethnic Clergy Groups (ECGs), comprised of 74 members representing 50 congregations. At the same time, the Latinx ECG group has withdrawn from taking part because of the American Baptist Churches' inclusion of Welcoming and Affirming churches. We held our first annual TPMP event, *Gathering for Re-Membering*, a two-day gathering with a refreshingly different makeup. This was done in conjunction with TABCOM's Mission Works Conference. This was quite successful. To accommodate the costs of the conference, however, we reduced the number of times each ECG could meet from 12 to 6 per year. MBMM included funds to support ECG members in going on a spiritual retreat but did not anticipate that so many ministers in our program would want to go on retreat with their spouse, who is often their co-pastor, whether they hold that formal title or not.

SEVENTY FOUR PASTORS

from churches in Massachusetts and surrounding states are currently participating in our TPMP program. They represent various ethnic constituencies. We have 7 Ethnic Clergy Groups (ECGs): African (11 members), Asian (10 members), African American (9 members), two—one all-male and one mixed gender—Haitian (18 members), two Portuguese-Speaking—Brazilian— (16 members), and White (10 members). Each of these groups has unique strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that they explore in their meetings and events. There are two Ethnic Clergy Groups of Haitians: one led by Rev. Lucien Myrthil and another one led by Rev. Veronique Lapaix.



Ngozi Robinson

Associate Director of
Development & Projects

There are also two Brazilian Ethnic Clergy groups because for the Brazilians their spouses are co-pastors, and we have 8 pastors with their spouses with a total of 16 members. One of the Brazilian ECG is led by Rev. Miguel Da-Silva, and the other one is led by Rev. Jackson Oliveira. The ECGs have each been establishing common ground and coming to a better understanding of their group's needs and opportunities. We also have one Intercultural Clergy Group (ICG) made up of nine Cultural Advocates (CAs), many of whom serve as facilitators for the ECGs.

THE GOAL IS TO GROW our ECGs and ICGs

by one per year so that this project will grow slowly over time. This has proved challenging. We have not yet been able to grow the total number of ECGs because the Latinx group withdrew from the program. It has been difficult recruiting new members for a second ICG.

FOLLOWING

the accident and resignation the Director of TPMP from the office, those duties were divided between other staff. This division of labor did cause some errors and lack of clarity around stipend payments to ECG leaders and participants. Having hired Rev. Jim Leavitt as the TPMP Director in the Fall, there will be seamless optation of the TPMP.

LESSONS LEARNED BEST PRACTICE Forsake Not the Fellowship of the Saints

Ministers love meeting and the stipend *does* make a difference, we have found. We knew clergy would love meeting and becoming a small culturally-affirming ministry support group, but it is still gratifying to know how nourishing TPMP members report the collegial act of meeting together is, whether in person or via web conferencing.

SPOUSES Are Ministers Too

When we offered professional development and spiritual refreshment opportunities to ECG members, we encountered many requests that spouses have those opportunities as well. It is far more common in ethnic churches for the pastor's spouse to be a co-pastor of the church, whether they wear that official title or not. Thus the need to share any resources was pronounced.

ENRICHING ACTIVITIES Don't Fall From the Sky

When left to their own devices, ECGs and ICGs are content to simply meet without any particular agenda, professional development (such as relevant subject training), or explicit personal/spiritual care (such as a spiritual retreat). While all the groups acknowledge that they want to do these things and that when they do them they find them quite helpful, it still seems to be taxing to even decide what they want to do and reach out to our offices for assistance. The infamous "lone wolf" syndrome is probably responsible for this, causing clergy to feel they have to do the work even though they do not have to in this case.

LOOKING FORWARD

We look forward to growing our TPMP ranks, both with more members (up to ten) in our ECGs and with more ECGs. We hope to reestablish a Latinx ECG with like-minded clergy from that group. We anticipate being able to continue offering sufficient meeting time for groups, along with another fan favorite—spiritual retreats, to all TPMP participants. We expect to continue learning from TPMP members how best to support them in thriving in ministry.

Ngozi Robinson

Associate Director of
Development & Projects

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

OFFICERS

Rev. Dr. **Mar Imsong**
Executive Director

Ms. **Barbara Drauschke**
President

Rev. **Robert Paiva**
Vice President

Rev. Dr. **Richard Haley**
Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Rev. Dr. **Brita Gill-Austern**

Rev. **Ruth Harvey**

Rev. Dr. **Mary Day Miller**

Rev. Dr. **Dalton Said**

Prof. **Ardeth Thawngmung**

Rev. **Veronique LaPaix**

Mr. **Ifeanyi Okeke, Esq.**

Dr. **Claudia Kessen-Banks**

Rev. **Sheila Sholes-Ross**

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Rev. **Michael Harvey**

Mr. **Edwin Hobart**

BOARD *of* DIRECTOR REPORTS



Ms. **Barbara Drauschke**
President



Ms. **Marilyn Glover**
Secretary



Rev. Dr. **Richard Haley**
Treasurer

President's Report

Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries



Our Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (MBMM) year begins on April 1 and ends the following March 31. This report covers the first year of my fourth two-year term as President.

The mission of MBMM is to Advocate, Celebrate and Empower (ACE) ethnic churches, pastors, and New Americans from different parts of the world. We promote and speak the language of LOVE. Our work is weaving God's love across cultures.

THE MISSION OF MBMM

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and Empower (ACE) ethnic churches, pastors, and

New Americans from different parts of the world.

We promote and speak the language of LOVE. Our work is weaving God's love across cultures.

It has been a pleasure to work with the members of the Board of Directors and Rev. Dr. Mar Imsong, as well as the MBMM staff and volunteers. We have increased staffing to accomplish program goals, and had three full-time staff for part of the program year: our Executive Director, our Digital Design and Communications Specialist and an Associate Director. In addition, there have been five other part-time staff members and many volunteers.

There are two main foci of our work: The Thriving in Pastoral Ministry Program (TPMP) and the ACE Center for new Americans. TPMP, funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, works on developing small groups of ethnic and small church pastors to increase communication, support, and shared experiences among each group's members.

There is a delicate balance between offering events and meetings and not adding to already overfull and stressed schedules. We try! Our ACE Center was expanded into a larger space in Lowell, and offerings included after-school programs, story hours, ESOL classes, SAT preparation classes, Post High School planning workshops, Messy Science for elementary age children, one on one mentoring of students, and help with immigration issues. We have an ACE Shoppe there where newly arrived residents can choose clothing and household goods that have been donated.

We plan to have an in person New American Christmas celebration in December 2022, if it is still advisable, given the continuing evolution of the pandemic.

We are grateful for the Lilly Endowment grant as well as a grant from the Boston Baptist Social Union. We receive donations from some sponsors, churches, and individuals as well. Thanks to all who donate to this ministry. Please consider making a gift.

Our board met via Zoom, and also had hybrid meetings with some members attending in person and some via Zoom. We work with Mar and his staff to keep informed about events, programs and policies. Board members are very supportive and involved, for which I am extremely grateful. The work of MBMM continues to stretch and challenge us all. It is my hope and prayer that this good work will continue to grow and thrive under the excellent leadership of the Executive Director.

Barbara Drauschke

President

Secretary's Report

Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries



The organization's year begins April 1st 2021 and ends March 31st. 2022. It is a 501 (c)(3), Non Profit Organization.

VARIOUS MEETINGS WERE HELD:

October 08, 2021 MBMM Executive Committee via Zoom	February 24, 2022 MBMM Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom
October 20, 2021 MBMM Executive Committee via Zoom	March 24, 2022 MBMM Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom
November 03, 2021 MBMM Board of Directors' Meeting via Zoom	April 19, 2022 MBMM Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom
November 06, 2021 11th Annual Business Meeting / Gala & Silent Auction	April 22, 2022 MBMM Board of Directors' Meeting in person and via Zoom
December 23, 2021 MBMM Executive Committee via Zoom	June 2, 2022 MBMM Meeting via Zoom
January 03, 2022 MBMM Executive Committee via Zoom	June 24, 2022 MBMM Board of Directors' Meeting In Person at First United Baptist in Lowell and via Zoom at Noon
January 31, 2022 MBMM Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom	
February 01, 2022 MBMM Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom	August 29, 2022 MBMM Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom
February 03, 2022 MBMM Board of Directors' Meeting via Zoom	September 9-10, 2022 MBMM Board of Directors' Retreat at Glastonbury Abbey, Hingham, MA

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR:

December 11, 2021 Volunteers gathered at First United Baptist in Lowell to sort and bag gifts and supplies (donated by the American Baptist Women's Ministry). The bags were distributed to families by our Refugee Advocates.	August 6, 2022 Volleyball Tournament, Washington Park, Lowell, MA
June 20, 2022 World Refugee Day celebration, Backpack Stories and entertainment, Sampas Pavilion, Lowell, MA	September 17, 2022 Family Fun Festival, Shedd Park, Lowell, MA

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 30 - October 1, 2022 "Gathering for Re-membering" a Mission Works and MBMM TPMP Collaboration, at Rivers of Living Water International Church, Marlboro, MA	December 3, 2022 Board of Directors and Staff Christmas Party, December 3, 2022, location TBD
November 5, 2022 MBMM GALA /Fundraiser at the Hellenic Center, Watertown, MA	December 2022 12/10 - Packing event for New American Christmas 12/11 - Annual New American Christmas Party, Lowell, MA

Secretary's Report

CALL TO ORDER:

The MBMM annual meeting was held on November 6, 2021 at the Mount Pleasant Golf Club, Lowell, MA. President Barbara Drauschke opened the business portion of the evening at 6:10 p.m., directing the attention of attendees to the Financial Review and Statements on pages 19-24 of the Annual Report for 2020-21. The Financial Review and Statements were accepted on a motion by Marilyn Glover and duly seconded.

THE 2021-2022 SLATE FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WAS PRESENTED FOR ELECTION:

The Nominating Committee's report on the slate of officers and directors for 2021-2022 was found on page 50 of the Annual Report. On a motion by Ellie Collins, seconded by Rev. Daniel Auguste, the following were elected:

OFFICERS:

Ms. **Barbara Drauschke**
President

Rev. Dr. **Robert Paiva**
Vice President

Ms. **Marilyn Glover**
Secretary

Rev. Dr. **Richard Haley**
Treasurer

DIRECTORS:

Rev. **Nathaniel Burnes (CBMM Rep)**

Mr. **Jerry Loew**

Prof. **Brita Gill-Austern**

Rev. Dr. **Mary Day Miller (TABCOM Rep)**

Mr. **Efenyi Okeke, Esq.**

Rev. **Ruth Harvey**

Rev. Dr. **Dalton Said**

Dr. **Claudia Kessen-Banks**

Prof. **Ardeth Thawnghmung**

Rev. **Veronique Lapaix**

Rev. **Michael Harvey (BOD, Emmirata)**

Mr. **Ed Hobart (BOD, Emmirata)**

It was approved on a motion by Brita Gill-Austern and duly seconded. There was, however, one error at the end of the secretary's report—The words "Humbly Submitted" should be removed from the closing, as that was not in the original report.

ADJOURNMENT:

The business portion of the MBMM Board of Directors' Annual Meeting came to an end.

The **GALA** began with a warm welcome by Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Mar Imsong, offering gratitude for the support of those present.

The **MBMM ANNUAL AWARD** was presented to Rev. Michael Harvey.

The MBMM **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD** was presented to Rev. Maung Maung Htwe.

Two **BOARD OF DIRECTORS EMERITI AWARDS** were presented to Rev. Michael Harvey and Mr. Edwin Hobart.

Food service from "Presenting Slavin in the Kitchen"; a delightful performance by the popular a cappella singing group, Women of the World; and an extensive Silent Auction rounded out the evening.

Marilyn E. Glover
Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Massachusetts Baptist
Multicultural Ministries Inc.



The balance sheet, income/expense report and comparison between this year and last year are relatively self-explanatory. There were no unusual or troublesome things to report. Mar has had to spend time with the Lilly Endowment grant reporting requirements because the timing and accounting of our year-end financials differ from theirs but we believe all that has now been ironed out.

Of particular note on the income side are the figures for partner churches and individual donations. They are both quite low. I believe that we, as board members, could help by continuing to ask both our churches and their individual members to help out. As board members we are also expected to make contributions to the mission and work of MBMM and if you haven't already made a contribution, any amount will help.

I believe that we, as board members, could help by continuing to ask both churches and individual members to help out.

The volatility of the market continues to affect our investments negatively, but we remain confident that the low-risk Vanguard funds we use will recover. We may once again want to consider working with Massachusetts Baptist Investment Trust (MABIT) in terms of our investments.

Rev. Dr. **Richard Haley**

Treasurer



Budget vs Actuals

MBMM BUDGET 2021-2022 - FY 21 P&L

April 2021 - March 2022



	TOTAL	
	Actual	Budget
Income		
41000 Grants		
40004 BBSU	235,000.00	230,000.00
41001 ABHMS		4,000.00
41003 American Baptist Foundation	12,780.00	12,780.00
41010 Parker Foundation	7,000.00	7,500.00
41012 Mass Baptist Charitable	5,000.00	
41014 Other Grants	17,100.00	30,000.00
Lilly Thriving in Ministry Grant	248,000.00	240,000.00
Total 41000 Grants	\$ 524,880.00	\$ 524,280.00
42000 Contributions		
41002 Board Member Contributions	2,379.00	5,000.00
41003 Individual Donation	1,785.00	10,000.00
Other Contributions	300.00	
Total 42000 Contributions	\$ 4,464.00	\$ 15,000.00
43000 Congregation		
43001 Partner Congregations / Local C	6,371.60	8,000.00
43003 Donation for White Cross	1,545.00	2,000.00
Total 43000 Congregation	\$ 7,916.60	\$ 10,000.00
44000 Programs		
44001 Friends of MBMM Banquet		
Banquet Sponsorships	7,348.00	12,000.00
Sales of Tickets	12,266.39	10,000.00
Silent Auction Sales	2,840.27	
Total 44001 Friends of MBMM Banquet	\$ 22,454.66	\$ 22,000.00
Interest Money Market	306.16	2,000.00
Total 44000 Programs		
44004 Other Income		
44005 General In Kind Donation	266.77	
44006 In Kind Donation White Cross	1,250.00	
44007 MBMM Product Sales	10.00	500.00
44009 Refunds and Cost Sharing	1,419.94	3,000.00
Total 44004 Other Income	\$ 2,946.71	\$ 3,500.00
Total Income	\$ 563,008.13	
Cost of Goods Sold	40.00	
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 40.00	\$ 0.00
Gross Profit	\$ 563,048.13	\$ 574,780.00
Expenses		
51000 ACE Operating & Admin Expense	21,706.36	17,500.00
52000 MBMM Operating & Admin Expenses	42,235.00	33,440.00
52100 Staff Expenses	4,417.00	13,500.00
52200 Consulting Expenses	8,419.89	51,000.00
52300 Board Expenses	169.46	5,300.00
52400 ADVOCACY	30,069.44	59,520.00
52500 CELEBRATION	21,246.47	18,900.00
52600 EMPOWERMENT	30,712.44	90,600.00
55100 Staff Salaries	313,749.54	301,147.00
Total Expenses	\$ 472,725.60	\$ 590,907.00
Net Operating Income	\$ 90,322.53	-\$ 16,127.00
Interest Earned		5,000.00

Balance Sheet

As of October 5, 2022



	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
ACE Center Checking/TD Bank	2,069.00
In-Kind Clearing	220.71
Investments	793,639.48
TD Bank Business Convenience	34,683.33
TD Bank Business Savings	250,407.27
TD Bank Money Market	7,356.98
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 1,088,376.77
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 0.00
Other Current Assets	
Inventory Asset	0.00
Undeposited Funds	
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 0.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,088,376.77
Fixed Assets	
Accumulated Depreciation	-10,604.00
Computer Equipment	13,135.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 2,531.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,090,907.77
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Thriving Ministry Grant	511,000.00
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 0.00
Other Current Liabilities	
Deferred revenue	511,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 511,000.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 511,000.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 511,000.00
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	
Opening Balance Equity {5}	0.00
Retained Earnings	651,240.14
Net Income	288,614.01
Total Equity	\$ 939,854.15
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 1,450,854.15

Communication Report

Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries, Inc.



Many of the projects created this year built upon the foundation laid in 2021. The promotion of many of our events was streamlined because of the templates we created in the previous year. This allowed us to increase our efforts in new areas, create new documents, and help expand our social media presence.

The team has begun using Salsa CRM, our customer management platform and Salsa, Engage, our marketing automation tool. We migrated and scrubbed all the contact data, from various spreadsheets, and our email platform Constant Contact. We completed our on-boarding and two of the three training sessions. We have centralized MBMM/ACE contact data and its collection. We are in the process of making Engage the hub of communication, using it to build web forms, and generate emails, and letters. We recently received notice that Salsa has been acquired by Bonterra. They intend to migrate all Salsa customers to the Bonterra platform by 2024. Feel free to visit to learn more about the company on its micro-site www.bonterratech.com. Since we are still new to the platform it may be prudent to migrate to the new system rather than continue to learn a program that is sunseting. Migration assistance is available on a first come first serve basis.

The MBMM and ACE Center websites have expanded and are continually updated. We have added an events blog on both sites. On the MBMM site, we have translated the TPMP forms into four languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese & French). They continually need ongoing maintenance as programs change or new ones come online.

In April of this year, we began a social media blitz with the goal of increasing post frequency, creating more meaningful content, enhancing visibility, enrolling new users and promoting engagement. MBMM and the ACE Center both post

4 times a week across 4 platforms, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and to a lesser frequency YouTube. Our content strategy is to inspire with quotes and inform with facts and figures. We also post help/ask messages where we promote programs and ask for assistance (donations, sponsorships, volunteers, partnerships & more). Social media will continue to be a major focus. Going forward we plan on creating more video content. Please, FOLLOW US on all our social media platforms (@embracinghospitality and @aceamericans) LIKE, COMMENT, and SHARE as it helps increase the visibility of our posts.

MBMM Facebook page

- › Has 928 Followers
- › In the last 28 days, it has received 871-page LIKES
- › Audience: (418) 48% Women and (437) 50% Men
- › Audience Age: 60% are 55+

ACE Center Instagram page

- › 85+ unique posts since April
- › 50 Followers
- › Highest engagement: Warsan Shire Quote "No one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than Land". 102 LIKES

ACE Center YouTube

- › Mari & Yoel's World Refugee Day "Backpack Story" is by far the most watched, liked, and commented post to date.
- › It was viewed 663 times and received 57 LIKES and 20 comments.

Christopher Gagnon

Digital Designer and Communications Specialist

Gathering for **Re-Membering: MissionWorks** & Thriving Pastors Event

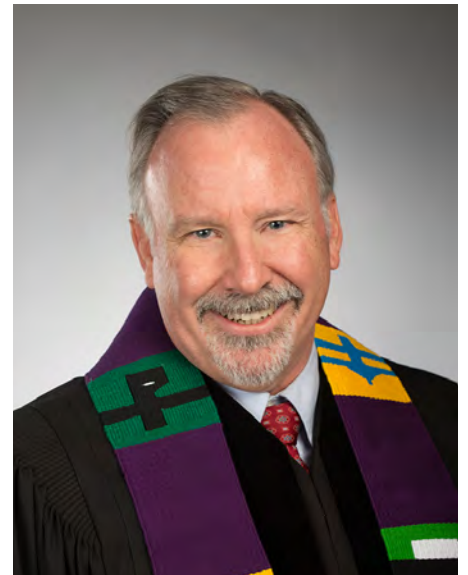
On September 30th and October 1st, Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (MBMM) partnered with The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts (TABCOM) to present the MissionWorks and Pastoral Thriving event. This year's gathering was hosted by River of Living Waters International Church in Marlborough. Pastor Robert Paiva, a Brazilian pastor, provided wonderful hospitality. Pastor Robert is the Vice Chair of the MBMM.



The gathering started with lunch on Friday and was followed by meetings of the Ethnic Clergy Groups (ECG) that are part of the Thriving Pastoral Ministry Program (TPMP) established by MBMM. The groups that gathered included the Asian ECG, African ECG, African American ECG, Brazilian ECG, Haitian ECG, and the Caucasian ECG. The discussed pastoral self-care in light of the stresses that have been placed on pastors over the past two and a half years by the pandemic. Each ECG group had their private meeting to check in and sharing spiritual and personal development in relation to their work and personal lives.



In addition, American Baptist missionary, Melanie Baggao presented on Life and Ministry in Lebanon. After the conclusion of the discussions, with a break, a number of folks then gathered at the Fore Kicks Sports complex for a time of play which included giant Jenga, cornhole, basketball, soccer and volleyball. It was an opportunity for pastors to relax and meet with colleagues in a friendly environment while engaging in some physical activity. Following dinner at the sports complex we gathered back at the church for worship, with the message delivered by Rev. Brian Williams, a Program Director in the Religion Division of the Lilly Endowment, Inc. His message, "Stop by the Potter House," was based on Jeremiah 18:1-6 and reminded the gathered how God, like the potter, can reshape us even with our imperfections. Following the worship service refreshment was served and clergy spent time connecting with one another while Andy Oliveira entertained with Christian Hip Hop music.



Rev. **James (Jim) Leavitt**
Program Director TPMP

“Participating in this conference has been insightful for understanding ways in which ministry leaders are caring for themselves, loving their communities, and navigating a new reality.”

Brian Williams
Lilly Endowment



“For the African ECG, this year’s Re-Membering gathering was timely. The discussions brought hope and enthusiasm to members, and it was evident that COVID-19 had adversely affected our ministries. We were really blessed.”

Pastor **John Asante**
Cultural Advocate American

Gathering for Re-Membering: *MissionWorks* & Thriving Pastors Event

Day two of the event on Saturday began with table fellowship with a wonderful breakfast buffet at the church, followed by the first set of workshops. The morning workshops included topics of; *Soul Care: For Such a Time as This*, *Stories to Set Us Free*, *God Continues to Call*, *Virtual Mission Trips from International Ministries*, and *COVID, Conflict, and Climate Change*. Rev. Lawrence Jay spoke about soul care and how having a spiritual practice is important and how it can be different for each person. Rev. Cynthia Maybeck shared about how stories are an important part of our lives and can be therapeutic.



"I experienced connection with God and with one another."

Jay Mulligan

Rev. John French in speaking about how God continues to call reminded the people that listening is important for following God's will. Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil explored how the pandemic brought out new ways to connect with international missions through virtual mission trips. Rev. Dr. Willard Ashley Sr. and Rev. Margaret E. Lewis spoke of the importance of clergy being part of a peer group to maintain a healthy and thriving ministry. Following the conclusion of these workshops there was a panel discussion with the workshop leaders, led by MBMM's Rev. Ngozi Robinson.



A second set of workshops was held following lunch and included a second workshop on Soul Care led by Rev. Lawrence Jay. In addition, there were two new workshops, Creation Care related to Re-Membering, led by Rev. Rebecca Driscoll discussing how creation care and self-care are related, and *Can You Come Out to Play? Becoming More Creative in Life and Ministry*, led by Rev. Dr. Kirk Byron Jones addressing how play is important to creativity and helps us connect with our inner child in order to be like children as Jesus says in Matthew 18:3. The event closed with worship and communion served by Rev. Robert Paiva and with the message brought by Rev. Dr. Jones, on stillness as an important part of pastoral work.

“Re-ignite, re-energize, and re-surface.”

Theresa Temple

Rev. Dr. Mar Imsong, Executive Director of MBMM, made concluding remarks of the Re-Membering gathering. Rev. Imsong reminded us that as we enter the phase of endemic, faith leaders who are considered as “cosmic guides” are charged to re-member who are dis-membered in our church, our community, our country, and our world. The work of re-membering is centered on Jesus’ cross which happened in the periphery outside the Jerusalem city gate called the SKULL in a place call Golgotha. The message of the cross in Golgotha is the most powerful act of God in re-membering where the LOVE of God is manifested to the fullest. May we re-member people by speaking and practicing LOVE.

“Attending this meeting, re-membering has been re-energizing for me to move forward.”

Sheila Sholes-Ross



“I was invited to re-member and affirm that we are spiritual persons who can connect with God through a variety of practices. We can each answer the question ‘How is it with your soul?’ and choose a practice or from a variety of ways to make the connection when and where we meet God.”

Adrienne Berry-Burton

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Examining Our Financial Health

Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries utilizes Brooks & Associates, CPAs each year to compile the financial reports of our organization. We are thankful for their partnership with us in this endeavor. Just as it is important for every organization to provide public disclosure of all operating funds and financial data, we take pride in producing credible and transparent data for our stakeholders, partners, donors, and future sponsors.

The following financial reports provide insight into the many ways we have allocated, dispersed, and maintained responsible stewardship of the funds within our organization. Most funding of our programs and events for those that we serve are fueled through donors, sponsors, and other in-kind supporters of Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries.



Karen Brooks, CPA, MST
Cheryl M. LaVigne
Susan E. Silvia
Eileen Dunning, E.A.
Barry Gorevitz, E.A.

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT

To the Board of Directors
Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries
Lowell, Massachusetts

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the financial position as of March 31, 2022 and 2021 and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets and cash flows for the fiscal years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of Organization's management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

Accountant's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

Accountant's Conclusion

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

BROOKS & ASSOCIATES, INC., CPA'S

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brooks & Associates". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Statements of Financial Position

March 31, 2022 and 2021

Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries, Inc.



ASSETS	2022	2021
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 257,852	\$ 1,350,944
Investments	940,782	–
Office equipment – Less accumulated depreciation of \$14,027 and 12,074 respectively	6,710	4,566
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,205,344	\$ 1,355,510
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Deferred revenue	\$ –	\$ 20,280
SBA, Payroll Protection Loan # 1	–	14,655
SBA, Payroll Protection Loan #2	–	20,047
Unrestricted net assets	1,205,344	1,300,528
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 1,205,344	\$ 1,355,510

See accountants' review report and accompanying notes.

Statements of Cash Flows

March 31, 2022 and 2021

Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries, Inc.



	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Change in net assets	\$ (95,184)	\$ 1,088,176
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation	1,953	1,470
Deferred Revenue	(20,280)	(229,720)
Gain on Forgiveness of PPP Loans	(34,702)	-
Unrealized Gains on Investments	(19,024)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CASH PROVIDED/(USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(167,237)	859,926
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of Investments	(900,000)	-
Proceeds from Investments	(21,758)	-
Purchase equipment	(4,097)	(3,505)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(925,855)	(3,505)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from SBA/ Payroll Protection Loan #1	-	14,655
Proceeds from SBA/ Payroll Protection Loan #1	-	20,047
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES	-	34,702
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(1,093,092)	891,123
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year	1,350,944	459,821
	<hr/>	<hr/>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year	\$ 257,852	\$ 1,350,944
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Cash, non-interest bearing	\$ 102	\$ 13,927
Cash, interest-bearing	\$ 257,750	\$ 1,337,017

Notes to Financial Statements

The Fiscal Years Ended March 31, 2022 and 2021

Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries, Inc.



NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Operation

Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (the Organization) strives to bridge the different ethnic churches to the American Baptist Churches in the USA, and to foster greater ties within the denomination. Based on the former President Jimmy Carter's phrase, "we become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic, consisting of different people, beliefs, yearnings, hopes and dreams". Therefore, the Organization's objective is to recognize this diversity and to celebrate its great offerings within the whole mission of the church.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are presented on an accrual basis, which recognizes income when earned and expenses when incurred.

Financial Statement Presentation

The Organization has presented its financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations in the United States of America. Under this guidance, the Organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets.

The Organization reports gifts of cash and other assets as an increase in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, this is, when a purpose restriction is accomplished or a time restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, revenues and expenses, and disclosures during the reporting period. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statements of cash flows, the Organization considers all money market mutual funds and highly liquid investments available for current use with an initial maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.



NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Office Equipment

Purchased equipment are stated at cost. All assets are depreciated over estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis. Repairs and maintenance and small equipment purchases are expenses as incurred. Expenditures that significantly increase asset values or extend useful lives are capitalized. Acquisition of property and equipment in excess of \$500 that meet the capitalization requirements are capitalized.

Estimated useful lives are as follows:

Furniture, fixtures and equipment	5 - 7years
-----------------------------------	------------

Deferred Revenue

The Organization is the recipient of grant money. Amounts collected in advance of incurring specified costs and reflected as deferred revenue.

Donated Assets

Donated materials and other non-cash donations are recorded as contributions at their fair values at the date of donation.

Contributions

All contributions are available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. All pledges receivable and amounts received that are donor restricted for future periods or donor restricted for specific purposes are reported as temporarily or permanently restricted, depending upon the nature of the restriction. Temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and are reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restriction when the donor stipulated time restriction ends or the purpose restriction is accomplished by the Organization. All gifts granted to the Organization are recorded at fair value at the time of receipt.

Endowment Funds

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021, the Organization received funds from the Lilly Thriving in Ministry of \$999,000 and Lilly Planning Grant of \$49,857. As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, net assets associated with endowment funds, including funds designated by the Board of Directors to function as endowments are classified and reported on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

Notes to Financial Statements

The Fiscal Years Ended March 31, 2022 and 2021

Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries, Inc.



NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Forgivable Loans – Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

The Organization's policy is to account for forgivable loans received through the Small Business Administration (SBA) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP), as a debt in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 470, Debt and other related pronouncements. The forgiveness of the debt is recognized once the debt is extinguished, which occurs when the Organization is legally released from its liability by the SBA.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are stated at the fair value in the statement of financial position, with all gains and losses included in the statement of activities. Fair value is the price that would be received in the sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Investments are made according to the investment policies adopted by the Board of Directors. Outside parties are made according to the investment policies adopted by Board of Directors. Outside parties are contracted by the Organization for the purpose of providing investment management.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basic. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the dividend date. Realized gains or losses on the sale of marketable securities are calculated using specific-identification method. Unrealized gains and losses represent the change in fair value of the individual investments for the year, or since acquisition date, if acquired during the fiscal years.

Concentration of Risk

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Organization to off-balance-sheet credit risk include cash on deposit with financial institutions which were insured up to \$250,000 by the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The Organization maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts that at times may exceed federally insured limits. The Organization has not experienced any losses in such accounts. Management believes the Organization is not exposed to any significant credit risk related to cash and cash equivalents.

NOTE 2 - OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Office equipment and accumulated depreciation are as follows at March 31, 2022 and 2021

ASSETS	2022	2021
Office Equipment	\$ 20,737	\$ 16,640
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(14,027)	(12,074)
Total Assets	\$ 6,710	\$ 4,566



NOTE 3 - OFFICE RENT

The Organization maintained an operating lease, which can be terminated with a 30-day notice.

NOTE 4 - SBA, PPP LOANS

During the prior fiscal year, MBMM was granted (2) Payroll Protection Loans in the amounts of \$14,655 and \$20,047. Both loans have been forgiven in the current fiscal year.

NOTE 5- INVESTMENTS

Investments consist of mutual funds and were initially recorded at cost as of the purchase date, then subsequently adjusted to fair value as of the reporting date. The following shows the fair value evaluation as of March 31, 2022:

Initial Investment - 06/16/2021	\$	700,000
Additional Investment - 01/18/2022		200,000
		<hr/>
		900,000
		<hr/> <hr/>
Add:		
Proceeds from Investments - 12/31/2021		18,682
Proceeds from Investments - 3/31/2022		3,076
Unrealized Gains - 03/31/2022		19,024
		<hr/>
	\$	940,782
		<hr/> <hr/>

NOTE 6- SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through October 3, 2022 the date of which the financial statements were available to be issued.

FUNDRAISING RESULTS

Many funders today want to see an organization have an active online and social media presence as evidence of engagement with supporters. Significant time was spent updating the website to make sure current projects were highlighted and in creating a multi-channel social media engagement plan. Social media immigration influencers were invited to present their backpack stories at our World Refugee Day event. To date, their streaming of our event on their YouTube channel has brought us the only donations we have received from donors who know of us solely through our social media presence. We plan to continue to develop this area.

MBMM needs to increase its donor base and amount of giving from both individual supporters and the corporate sector. To that end, a semi-annual fundraising drive was held in July, and another will be held. The drive raised \$4,500. Additional donations have been received over the course of the year totaling \$15,836. Although the beginnings of individual donor support have been humble, cultivating this area of our financial base is already yielding positive results. For example, a request that went out in our monthly newsletter asking supporters to check if their workplace offered a matching gift program led to a local insurance company sponsoring World Refugee Day as the beginning of a great relationship.

Invitations to sponsor or donate to our events, namely World Refugee Day and the Annual Fundraising Gala were sent to hundreds of local, national, and refugee-led businesses in order to begin new relationships with organizations that could provide meaningful and reliable support. For instance, when the national Walmart corporation recently gave us \$1,000 through a local store to help provide backpacks filled with school supplies for immigrant and refugee children, a personal call was made to the Walmart manager to thank them for the store's support.



Ngozi Robinson
Associate Director of
Development and Projects

MBMM continues to grow and seek new ways to sustain its work. It only takes a handful of thoughtfully cultivated relationships to bring our funding a more stable and sustainable base. We are endeavoring, with our limited resources, to make intentional and impactful moves that will secure and expand the funding for the activities and services that further our mission of weaving God's love across cultures.

DONOR APPRECIATION



Thank you to all who donated

Your gifts make a difference in the lives of refugees and immigrants. Our support comes from individuals, churches, organizations, businesses, and foundations. Together, your generous giving allows MBMM to carry out its mission of providing hope in the American Dream.

MBMM and the ACE Center also wish to thank all of the volunteers — too many to name — who donated their time and energy — who have packed and moved, cooked and painted, tutored, gathered, and so much more. We are grateful for each of you.

Your generosity makes a positive impact upon the lives of New Americans, in numerous ways.



Your kindness provided the following:

- › Gift bags to over 150 families for New American Christmas
- › Monthly stipends to Refugee Advocates
- › Stipends to English Language Learners (ELL) Tutors
- › ACE Center program supplies
- › Backpacks filled with school supplies to over 100 students
- › Chromebooks for ESOL students
- › Cricket supplies to the Afghani community
- › Assistance to the Bhutanese Community of Lowell's soccer tournament
- › Partnership with ICNA Relief to provide a monthly Halal food pantry
- › Household items and clothing through ACE Shoppe to over 40 families.
- › Canobie Lake Field Trip for ACE Center students

DONOR LIST

Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries, Inc.



INDIVIDUALS

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Amy Feldman | Fred & Barbara Drauschke | Mary & Joe Zellner |
| Anonymous | HyunMin Chang | Michael & Dorothy Bonfanti |
| Aren Imsong | Ifeanyi Okeke | Michael & Paula Harvey |
| Asmita Mangar | James Leavitt | Nancy Zollers |
| Atula Jamir & Mangyang Imsong | James Thawngmung | Neeru Gurung |
| Becke Drake | Jerrell Riggins | Ngozi Robinson |
| Becky Sencabaugh | Jerry Loew | Patrice Augustin |
| Bendangla Imsong | Jim Sinclair | Pranim Magar |
| Bonnie & Joe Sestito | Judith H. Dean | Richard & Judy Haley |
| Brita Gill-Austern | Justin Aier | Robert & Zelda Williams |
| Carol Teed | Kilangsungla Yanger | Robin Magar |
| Chris & Leah Gagnon | Kirs Imsong | Ruth Harvey |
| Claudia Kessen-Banks | Kostyantyn Latyshenko | Sharon E. Gallo-Dunn |
| Conley & Moreen Hughes | Leah M. Hoover | Stella Ordonez |
| Cynthia Maybeck | Lucien Myrthil | Stephen & Ilene Womack |
| Dalton Said | Makoto Okobu | Stephen & Nancy Powell |
| Daryn Stylianopoulos | Manisha Rai | Susan Daneau |
| Ed Hobart | Mar Imsong | Tali Jamir |
| Edith Caro | Marilyn Glover | Thomas N. Rice |
| Etta M. Anderson | Mark Jackson | Veronique Lapaix |
| | Marlene Gil | Wanda Decross MacCurtain |





ORGANIZATION

Academy Lanes

American Baptist Foundation

American Baptist Home Mission Societies

American Baptist Women's Ministries of MA

American Baptist Women's Ministries of Maine

American Baptist Women's Ministries of RI

American Baptist Women's Ministries of Vermont & New Hampshire

Apex Entertainment

Big Y

Boston Baptist Social Union

Boston Flower

Butterfly Place

Chunky's Cinema Pub

Church Street Café

Clemmer Mission Circle

Conference of Baptist Ministers of Massachusetts

Dollar General

Edie Caro Photography

Enterprise Bank

Foodland International

Grotonwood/Oceanwood

Lilly Endowment Inc.

Market Basket

Massachusetts Baptist Charitable Society

Navigation Brewing Company

Northern Business Machines

Office of Refugees & Immigrants, MA

Walmart

Warmer Winters

CHURCHES

Baptist Church Grafton

Brewster Baptist Church

Centenary United Methodist Church

Community Baptist Church Somerville

Damariscotta Baptist Church

Eglise Baptiste Eben Ezer

First Baptist Church Arlington

First Baptist Church Bedford

First Baptist Church Fitchburg

First Baptist Church Hanson

First Baptist Church King's Daughters

First Baptist Church Lexington

First Baptist Church Lynn

First Baptist Church Malden

First Baptist Church Medford

First Baptist Church Wakefield

First Baptist Church Waltham

First Baptist Church Weston

First Baptist Church Worcester

First Baptist E. Millinocket, ME

First Baptist Sanford, ME

First Baptist Springvale, ME

Green St. Baptist Church

Greene Baptist Greene, ME

Ladies Aid Second Baptist Church

Lowell International Church

Metropolitan Baptist Church

New Creation Baptist Church

Putnam Baptist Church

Red Oak Church

Rivers of Living Water Int'l Ministry

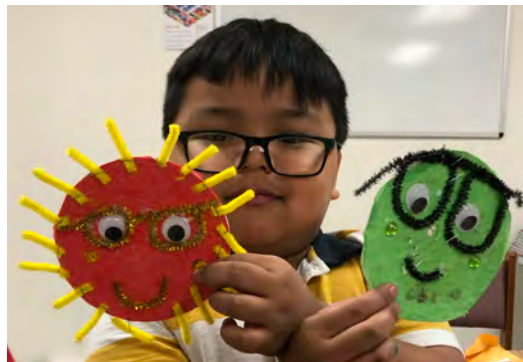
Second Baptist Sidney, ME

Thomaston Baptist Church Thomaston, ME

United Baptist Oakland, ME

W. Bowdoin Church Mission Circle

West Acton Baptist Church





Rev. John Bio Asante
Cultural Advocate

The COVID-19 pandemic has added another dimension, putting the church and other ministries in a unique and challenging position. My observation is that ministry will never be the same again."

AFRICAN ETHNIC CLERGY GROUP

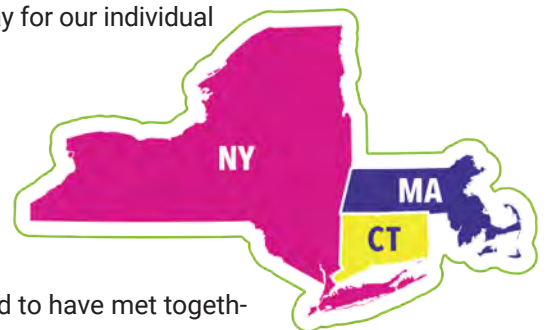
Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (MBMM) exists as an intentional ministry to celebrate diversity, provide hospitality to refugees and immigrant churches, guide ethnic pastors in the ordination process, facilitate cultural adjustments, provide appropriate support and assistance to refugees and immigrant communities, and create a platform for intra- and inter-cultural dialogue.

Sustaining multiracial congregations in the United States has its own challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has added another dimension, putting the church and other ministries in a unique and challenging position. My observation is that ministry will never be the same again.

As we reflect on the losses of relatives and congregants during the pandemic, it is prudent to examine its impact on MBMM as a whole and the African caucus in particular. The closure of churches and the inability to meet in person rattled most congregations, and the rush to find other ways and means to worship became very challenging. Technology, however, came to our rescue with Zoom and other platforms which enabled meetings and worship services to be held virtually.

Even though many churches have resumed in-person meetings, after the COVID-19 protocols were relaxed, church attendance and giving, have been so negatively impacted. The resulting impact on small church pastors – the category in which most African-ethnic churches are – cannot be overemphasized.

Therefore, the Thriving in Pastoral Ministry Program (TPMP) has come as a relief to my constituency, thanks to the generosity of the Lilly Endowment. My group has ten active members from three states: Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York. We meet on the last Tuesday of every month via zoom to discuss issues of mutual importance, pray for our individual ministries, and deliberate on general matters of concern. So far, we have held one very successful retreat by all standards. The excitement during the meeting and the knowledge acquired still linger on. The group was delighted to have met together for the first time to share friendship and food. The retreat presented an opportunity for us to pray for Afghanistan, Haiti, Africa, and the Church of Christ.



TPMP presents an opportunity to experience collegiality, thereby encouraging each other and sharing our plight.

TPMP presents an opportunity to experience collegiality, thereby encouraging each other and sharing our plight. It is an opportunity “for professional and personal development with the goal of increasing pastoral agency for growth and professional development.”

Our meetings focus on praying for and encouraging one another in the walk of the Lord; sharing our faith, our stories, our strengths, and support for each other. Cultivating collegial relationships through our clergy group will help achieve the required professional development needed for most members of the group who are mostly bi-vocational and part-time pastors. Our spiritual and personal care and wellbeing are paramount.

Just as the first century church struggled to keep its Christ-inspired unity movement intact in the midst of wide diversity, MBMM is trying to do same by partnering with the Intercultural Clergy Group (ICG), which is composed of Cultural Advocates who act as representatives for their ECG group. I hope to significantly improve my cultural competence and practice it.

I am very confident that the TPMP will positively impact the ministries of my ECG group. The year 2022 looks even more promising, and I hope that the goals of the program will be achieved. I pray that everyone involved in this program will be blessed in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. John Bio Asante

Cultural Advocate
African Ethnic Clergy Group





Rev. Lucien Myrthil
Cultural Advocate

“Even though we all have as a priority our ministry, our first priority is to take care of our family.”

HAITIAN ETHNIC CLERGY GROUP

We have a group of ten pastors who meet for Haitian fellowship. We had many meetings, and met every two months. We discussed many issues, including concerns for Haitian immigrants. Haiti has a problem: many Haitians leave Haiti for Mexico, Chili, or Brazil with a plan to then go to the United States. When those Haitians arrive in this country, many Haitian pastors have to find money to help them. In my church — The Evangelical First Haitian Baptist Church in Worcester — we have an office and a program to take care of them. When our Haitian pastors group meets, together we discuss the immigrants’ problems and how we as pastors can do the job. We know that the pastor has to have time to take care of his own family and his ministry. Even though we all have as a priority our ministry, our first priority is to take care of our family. When we meet, we discuss this crucial issue. Some Haitian pastors don’t have any time to take care of themselves and their families because they are too busy with their church.

Our Haitian pastors group was so happy to have this organization that thinks about and cares for us and is working with us for the good cause.

MBMM does a good job because it looks for and helps the group find funds and grants to help the Haitian immigrants who suffer. The last time we went on a retreat, MBMM paid all our expenses. Our Haitian pastors group was so happy to have this organization that thinks about and cares for us and is working with us for the good cause. Because of this, we have the ability to work together in the same direction. We love God, we love family, we love the church, and we help others as the good Samaritan did. Our group works together to help people unconditionally. We love all the people in the world, and we work to help them, pray for them, and worship with them. We know that this is the good mission of MBMM. God gives us the commission to go everywhere to preach and proclaim the word of God because God is love.

Rev. Lucien Myrthil
Cultural Advocate
Haitian Ethnic Clergy Group



Veronique Lapaix
Cultural Advocate

"We also use our platform for one-on-one coaching and sharing best practices of pastoral ministry. We are a smaller ethnic clergy group and we have established trusting collegial relationships to support each other. We are very thankful to MBMM for the opportunity."

HAITIAN ETHNIC CLERGY GROUP

Our Cultural Advocate group started meeting in June, and we have had two meetings so far. We have been meeting via Zoom, and not in person. The group has seven members who are Haitian pastors (three female pastors and 3 male pastors, plus myself as the leader). We have invited a new member as well and are waiting to see if they will join. The first meeting was a get together, so that we could get to know one another better. Mar attended, and we all did self-introductions and shared. At that first meeting, no one wanted to talk personally about their needs, and we agreed to save that topic for a future meeting. Most of the group members are interested in finding out more about what is involved in getting TABCOM ordination standing for pastors. For the second meeting, we invited someone to come talk with us about ministerial standing—the "what" and "how" of it. Our third meeting will be via Zoom, and we hope to have a retreat in the future. We are enthused about our group and want to continue meeting. We use email to communicate. If someone can't attend they contact the group to let us know not to expect them. The group is going well so far, and we hope to progress from discussing standing to sharing our collegial, personal and professional needs. We also use our platform for one-on-one coaching and sharing best practices of pastoral ministry. We are a smaller ethnic clergy group and we have established trusting collegial relationships to support each other. We are very thankful to MBMM for the opportunity.

Veronique Lapaix
Cultural Advocate
Haitian Ethnic Clergy Group





Rev. Dr. Moreen Hughes
Cultural Advocate

"Too often women are not given the same opportunities and information that their male counterparts are given, because of a lack of mentoring."

AFRICAN AMERICAN ETHNIC CLERGY GROUP

Looking back upon the year in review, I am privileged to do so reflecting upon what God has done together with a group of seven African American women who have been called to serve him. These women are not pastors, but all are serving in various positions and capacities within their churches; two are ordained while the others are pre-ordained working through the process toward ordination with ABCUSA. It is the goal of each to ultimately seek pastoral ministry.

Our group, "Women Thriving in Ministry" started out meeting on a monthly basis, but later decided to meet bi-monthly. Our meetings are the third Monday of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Activities this past year included:

- › Devotions
- › Personal Sharing
- › Discussions pertaining to the meaning of "Call"
- › How to navigate through the ordination process
- › Setting goals
- › Self-care – How to carve out time for self, and ways to do so

We were blessed to have a seasoned woman pastor, Rev. Dr. JoAnn Browning, ordained for forty years, who shared her journey and was available to answer questions.

The group met in person once for a breakfast meeting, while all others were via Zoom.

I've been led to bring this group of women together for the purpose of mentorship, so that they can learn best practices in ministry, while moving forward to become effective pastors and committed leaders for the kingdom of God. Too often women are not given the same opportunities and information that their male counterparts are given, because of a lack of mentoring.

Coming together as a group of women has proven to be beneficial and fruitful as we were able to share, learn and offer support to each other in our efforts to becoming.

Some of the plans for this group moving forward, are to continue with our bi-monthly meetings, meeting both in person and via Zoom, planning of a retreat, meeting with other groups, and having speakers and facilitators who can offer assistance on this journey.

Rev. Dr. Moreen Hughes
Cultural Advocate
African American Ethnic Clergy Group

WHITE ETHNIC CLERGY GROUP

The White Clergy Caucus of MBMM has been primarily focused on better understanding and cultivating our call to counter and challenge white supremacy, and to integrate and incorporate anti-racist intention and practices within our ministries and churches. We believe this to be integral to our Christian witness in the world and our calling as ministers of the Gospel. Members of our group have intentionally sought out and engaged in interracial conversation and dialogue, conferences and learning opportunities centered around anti-racism, and have committed to our own group retreat and training at an upcoming date, facilitated by Rev. James Ross, Minister for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the Southern New England Conference UCC. Several goals of our cohort include: examining the rise of white nationalism and better understanding the role our churches and ministries can play in countering its venom in our circles of influence; effectively fostering honest and respectful dialogue across difference within our congregations and ministries around matters of racism – navigating white fragility toward brave witness; effectively articulating complexities of racism – informed conversations and leadership; and spiritual practices that can accompany the work of anti-racism and anti-bigotry toward renewed calling, purpose, and intention. We have had members of our cohort participate in spiritual direction, and have one collaborative mentoring partnership exploring collaborative vocational discernment at ecclesial and academic intersections.

One member of our cohort, Rev. Valeria Schmidt, has been called to a ministry of chaplaincy for the University of Massachusetts, Boston. We offer our blessings and encouragement to her. Though her obligations will prevent her from continuing as a member of our caucus, she will no doubt continue in the spirit of this group as she embarks on this new path of ministry. God's grace accompany you, Valeria!

We look forward to our retreat in the near future. In the meantime, we give thanks for the opportunities we've had thus far to connect and encourage one another in ministry and racial justice.

We give thanks for the continued work of MBMM and the life-giving ways it nurtures community across difference within our denomination and beyond.

Rev. Daryn Stylianopoulos
Cultural Advocate
White Ethnic Clergy Group



**Rev. Daryn
Stylianopoulos**
Cultural Advocate

"Members of our group have intentionally sought out and engaged in interracial conversation and dialogue..."



Isaac Seelam
Cultural Advocate

"With confidence, I can say that now our group members are willing to be vulnerable and not hesitant to share the intimate personal stress they are facing in ministry."

ASIAN ETHNIC CLERGY GROUP

In the past, the Asian Ethnic Clergy Group was led by Rev. Dr. Yaliang Zhao in the year 2021. Unfortunately, towards the end of the year she had to discontinue due to health reasons. I was given the opportunity to work with the Asian group at the beginning of 2022. Our group includes clergy, as well as non-church professionals. We have clergy to ethnic congregations as well as clergy to European and multicultural congregations. We have members that are fully American Baptist and others are seeking to join the denomination officially.

We meet regularly either via Zoom or in person. Which we alternate between every meeting. The most integral part of our gatherings is to establish a certain level of trust and confidence among our members towards each. All of our members are part of very important ministries, not only in our denomination but also vital in the ecumenical and interfaith world. Mostly our group has focused its energy on professional development and trying to find ways and means to support our members to be able to reach their goals. We share resources and best practices of how we do ministry in hybrid settings, how we do church administration, and how we conduct annual meeting in the new emerging realities of the endemic.

Three group members are seeking ordination and one is looking for standing with the ABC-USA. Two of our pastors are going through the immigration process through the USCIS and waiting for Employment Authorization and Permanent Residency. The other important aspect that our group focused upon is Soul Care and Spiritual Direction. One board member from MBMM, who does spiritual direction, was invited to share her insights into spiritual direction. We also had a session with our own member, who does Soul Care at the retreat Center hedirects.

One very important aspect of our gatherings is that stress is real. We need to take care of ourselves if we want to give good care for others. The objectives of our gatherings are slowly but steadily being met within the group members. With confidence, I can say that now our group members are willing to be vulnerable and not hesitant to share the intimate personal stress they are facing in ministry. Several of us are grateful for this opportunity to get away from the fast-paced ministry environment and take a break to breathe easy and take time for our own self-care.

Definitely our group has realized the value in intentional gatherings and debriefings among clergy and ministerial colleagues. We realize that not all members are the same and one of our members was in dire financial situation because of not having proper immigration documentation. Our ECG group was able to assist our colleagues.

One thing that Asian Ethnic Clergy Groups value so much is the collegial relationship. We pray together, weep together, celebrate together, encourage one another, and listen to one another. We are so thankful to MBMM for giving us this platform to grow and support each other as Asian Pastors.

Rev. Isaac Seelam
Cultural Advocate
Asian Ethnic Clergy Group





Miguel Da Silva
Cultural Advocate

"Immigrant communities further suffered from poor access to health care, performing essential work, and dealing with a rise in the anti-immigrant rhetoric and racism."

PORTUGUESE SPEAKING ECG

Portuguese speaking pastors participating in the MBMM Thriving Pastoral Ministry Program are mostly from Brazil. One thing unique with the Brazilian pastors are our spouses are also co-pastors, some are ordained, and some are lay ministers. However, for Brazilians, pastoral work is for both husband and wife. It is because of that context we requested MBMM to include spouses in the Ethnic Clergy Group.

We have eight senior pastors participating in the Portuguese Ethnic Clergy Group (ECG) with their spouses. Therefore, moving forward our ECG will be divided into two groups one led by Rev. Miguel Da Silva and Pastor Maria Ribeiro and the other led by Rev. Jackson Oliveira and Pastor Marcela Oliveira.

Most of our pastors are bi-vocational and their main source of income to support the family is through their secular employment such as working in the service industry or working as a general contractor. For most of our pastors their work in the church is voluntary or with very little financial remuneration. Therefore, the pandemic affected those pastors differently. When the church was closed and went virtual it was easier for my pastors to adapt to the technology. However, when the church started reopening and becoming hybrid, bi-vocational pastors faced many challenges. Many of our churches worship sharing space with established churches. The physical space in the church building must follow both the CDC guidelines, local ordinances and the requirement set by the local church trustees and the Board. Our pastors could not do much to mitigate the needs of their immigrants parishioners.

During the pandemic immigrant communities further isolated themselves and tried to hunker down to more familiar groups. Immigrant communities further suffered from poor access to health care, performing essential work, and dealing with a rise in the anti-immigrant rhetoric and racism. They needed the presence of the pastors more during the pandemic, however, as bi-vocational pastors who were mostly essential workers they could not provide pastoral services to the parishioners. These were some of the most challenging and difficult times for the immigrant pastors. However, in times such as these MBMM Thriving Pastoral Ministry Program for collegial support, personal spiritual care and professional development were very timely. We gathered virtually to pray together, and share and update each other. Sharing best tips and practices for our ministry was very beneficial in our ministry.

Now we approach the endemic and after a very long pandemic pastors are stretched too thin to reach out to the parishioners who are not willing coming back to the church. Additionally, many churches are also facing financial constraints while also dealing with loss of employment, loss of housing, and loss of loved ones during the pandemic. The new context for ministry calls for pastors to work together while realizing and recalling that pastors can not solve all these problems and need to take care of their own spiritual development. Our Brazilian pastors cohort groups are committed to work together in pivoting our ministries in the new “normal” realities.

Miguel Da Silva

Portuguese Speaking Ethnic Clergy Group



English for Speaker of Other Languages (ESOL) Report

MBMM & ACE Center for New American



1 ESOL Instructor Lowell

We utilized the text 'Life Prints, ESL for Adults' last year. This year's textbook is "Stand Out," a National Geographic publication. Instructors are utilizing Book 3 and will utilize Book 4 later to provide grammar practice

The in-person classes at the ACE Center consist of Afghan students who speak Dari, but do not read the language. As a result, we are using Total Physical Response methods to model, and practice spoken English. Commands, such as "Walk to the table and pick up the "market" or the "park" (cards) allow us to extend the subject matter beyond the classroom.

One of our Afghan Refugee Advocates, Abdul (speaker of Dari) also reads and writes English. He assists with the activities and offers helpful advice on cultural matters. As the adults were uncomfortable with trying to write and read English letters and words (not reading in their own language), he made me aware of this, and we have had better participation and a more relaxed atmosphere. Some other students attended online classes last year, but had to stop, as they went to work and did not have time for class.

The ACE Center for New Americans included both online and in-person classes. The online classes were held via Zoom while in-person classes were held every Thursday at the ACE Center, which is located at 144 Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA 01852. Thirty two adults and high school students from various ethnic communities participated in our ESOL Program. Some students who were consistent and dedicated were awarded a certificate of completion to recognize their efforts. Shahr Bano, Ayoub, Reza, Raees, Sajad, Astoras, Moner, and Khadija were among the students.



Hester Pender

There were 3 instructors in our ESOL Program. Hester Pender has taught both online and in-person classes. In-person classes were taught by Nicole Skaluba and Sharon Gallo-Dunn. Nicole worked with students at the introductory level, while Sharon Gallo-Dunn worked with a higher-level student. At times, our volunteers and MBMM staff have stepped in to fill in for these instructors. Jerry Loew and Catherine Loew have volunteered to be substitute instructors.

Hester Pender shared her joy of working with "Layla" from the Middle East and the way she has improved her English. She speaks English well, but she wanted to prepare for college and now she attends Middlesex Community College and Hester continues to tutor "Layla."

2 ESOL Coordinator Boston

Our ESOL Program continued remotely via Zoom through 2022, with classes two evenings per week.

The Center located in Allston, MA where we used to meet remained closed for safety reasons, but we continue offering the class virtually. We functioned at two levels – beginners and intermediate. Nine adults joined the intermediate group, of whom one was from out of town and two were from out of state – Philadelphia and Las Vegas. Unfortunately the latter three discontinued as their work schedules changed. The remaining six are from different parts of the world – Venezuela, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Colombia, Morocco, Iran, who have formed into a close, friendly and caring group.

The beginners group worked with five, two of whom dropped out. Two of the remaining students are from Ukraine.

Working with the students brings a special joy. Our thanks go to two dedicated, patient, and caring volunteer teachers.



Etta Anderson



Sharon Gallo -Dunn

3 ESOL Coordinator Lowell

The last year has been a tremendous experience for me as a volunteer at the Ace Center! It was pretty fulfilling to work with adult English language learners on Thursday evenings. I also assisted with sorting and leveling donated books at the Center. Combined with the prescribed curriculum, these books provided each student with the essential experience in learning English. We conducted a celebration and acknowledgment of each person's progress at the end of the year. I am very excited to be back at the ACE Center and working with both new and returning students and volunteer teachers.

ACE Center For New Americans

ACE Center Annual Report 2021 - 2022



Pranim Magar
ACE Center Program Manager



Bendangla Imsong
ACE Shoppe Coordinator



Madhava Narasimhadevara
ACE Center Volunteer Coordinator

The year 2021 represented a new beginning. It was all about beginning over and being resilient. We worked on establishing new programs as well as restarting old ones. After several false starts due to COVID-19, in my opinion, the past year marks our first “truly” successful year of operating our programs at the ACE Center. We successfully ran 9 programs and 11 events throughout the year. As the adage goes, “Every ending is a new beginning,” and with the conclusion of our 2021–2022 programs and events, we begin our 2022–2023 programs and events anew.

With mixed emotions, we bid farewell to several of our colleagues and volunteers who will no longer be able to assist us. We thank them for their service and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Thankfully with change comes new opportunity. As the new program year begins we’ve been blessed retaining many staff and volunteers while welcoming new ones who will help to further the ACE Center’s mission going forward, Advocating, Celebrating and Empowering refugees and immigrants.



Canobie Lake Adventure

Let us have a look at some of our programs and events and discuss them. We have served 40 families since the ACE Shoppe opened in May of 2021. We had 36 students join our After School Drop-In and Instructional Learning Program that ended in June. We took 29 students and 7 chaperons to Canobie Lake Park as a reward for their hard work and continuous engagement in our educational programs. We would love to take students on more field trips in the coming days to motivate and celebrate their hard work and engagement.

Six students took part in our Post High School Preparation Program. We have also modified the program so that we can better assist newly arrived Afghani students. The modified version is known as Workforce Readiness for New Americans (WFRNA). Our Lowell-based English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program had 32 adults and high school students enroll. Dedicated students who completed the program received a certificate acknowledging their continued participation, and effort. Shahr Bano, Ayoub, Reza, Raees, Sajad, Astoras, Moner, and Khadija were among the 7 students recognized. As part of our SAT Preparation Program, we were able to tutor 7 students throughout the summer. Through our Summer Work Help Session, we assisted and tutored 13 students with their summer assignments.



ESOL Graduation at ACE Center

For our After School Drop-In and Instructional Learning Program, we had a total of 29 volunteers. The ESOL Program had a total of 5 volunteers. For the SAT Preparation Program, we had 5 volunteers.



World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day 2022 had a much larger crowd, had more countries represented and was a huge success. We had Lowell's Mayor Sokhary Chau, who is the Nation's first Cambodian American mayor, as our keynote speaker, as well as Mary Truong from the Massachusetts Office of Refugees and Immigrants, Yoel

and Mari, social media influencers and immigration activists, Hamid Dabeer from the Afghani community, and John Saw Bright from the Burmese community, each sharing their own unique "Backpack Story" that detailed their personal experiences of being a refugee, journeying to the United States, and how they have suffered and flourished since their arrival. Favor Nyende, William Nyende, Billerica Chamber Singers Ensemble, Lowell International Church Youth Dancers, Salsa Masacote Troupe, and the one and only Tom Rush all performed.

Friendly Volleyball Competition

The ACE Center for New Americans community gathered for an afternoon of fun, and competition at Pailin Volleyball Court for the second year in a row. We had a strong turnout from our local Bhutanese, Cambodian, Afghani,

Chinese, and Vietnamese communities this year. Five teams competed in this friendly 6 vs. 6 volleyball tournament for the 2022 Volleyball Champion Title. In the end, Team Quick-Step was victorious over the Afghani team. Every player from both teams received an award for their efforts. First and second place team trophies were also presented.

As in years past, the ACE Center for New American, and the local community came together to help refugee students start their school year right by distributing backpacks filled with school supplies. Volunteers and staff prepared over 100 bags with grade-appropriate school supplies for distribution. Snacks and other refreshments were served during the event. While many different communities participated, the Afghani community had the largest turnout. Ninety-eight backpacks were distributed on that day with the remaining ones being distributed through the ACE Shoppe.



Family Fun Festival

As summer 2022 drew to its conclusion, the ACE Center held its annual Family Fun Festival at Shedd Park Pavilion for an afternoon of food, family, and fun. Members of the Afghani, Bhutanese, Burmese, Cambodian communities got to enjoy halal hot dogs, popcorn, freeze-pops, and beverages at no cost. Children were treated to face painting and a balloon twister was on hand. Additionally there was a wide variety of lawn games, for all to play.

Despite COVID-19 concerns, more than 20 volunteers participated 2021's New American Christmas packing party, where they prepared holiday packages for refugee families. Like years past, volunteers prepared a hand-picked bag of items personalized for each member of a refugee's family-man, woman, and child. Bags contained towels, hygienic items, winter apparel, along with other items, including but not limited to, toys, games, new clothing, and more. Despite its hurdles, the event proved to be a successful one thanks to everyone's generosity. We received many in-kind monetary and goods donations from individuals and congregations alike. Together we packed more than 150 bags to be delivered to the families from the Afghani, Haitian, African, Burmese, Bhutanese, Arabic, and Latinx communities. Looking forward, we have been in preparation to host our first in-person New American Christmas Party this year since 2019.

We are eager to meet everyone who has been part of our organization and celebrate not just Christmas but also a very successful year and our resiliency after many years of not being able to host it due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In December, we plan to hold a Volunteer Appreciation Day to honor the support and commitment of our volunteers in assisting our New American friends and families. Without an active and plentiful pool of volunteers, the ACE Center's programs and events would not have been able to achieve such success.

We will continue to evaluate our ACE Center programs and events as a group. With a critical eye, we will make improvements, eliminate, and/or create new programs as needed. We are committed to providing meaningful programs and events to the communities we serve while reaching as many refugees and immigrants as possible.



Mohammed Bilal
Afgahani Advocate



Abdul Had Story Niazi
Afgahani Advocate



Pranim Magar
ACE Center Program
Manager

AFGHAN COMMUNITY

Due to the political climate in Afghanistan, the last year (2021-2022) was filled with challenges and excitement for the Afghan community. Thousands of Afghans have immigrated to the United States. More than 50 families and 100 individuals have settled in Lowell in search of their dream life in the United States. However, there are many difficulties they have to overcome, including strict COVID-19 restrictions, language barriers, transportation issues, and culture adjustments to the American society.

Thanks to MBMM and ACE Center for supporting the Afghan community in a variety of ways, particularly by providing our community's young generation (students) with backpacks, school supplies, educational programs, and even taking them on a field trip to Canobie Lake Park to assist them with community adjustment and much more. They also created English for Speakers of Other Languages classes (ESOL) for the community members who needed to improve or begin learning English. With the support of the MBMM and the ACE Center, we were able to form a large cricket team. They purchased the sporting equipment including bats, wickets, gloves, balls, and the crucial pitch turf. Cricket is a favorite pastime in Afghanistan and sports is a great way to build community and allow for healthy activity.

Mohammed Bilal
Refugee Advocate
Afghan Community of Lowell

Abdul Had Story Niazi
Refugee Advocate
Afghan Community of Lowell

BHUTANESE COMMUNITY

The Bhutanese Community of Lowell appreciates to MBMM and ACE Center for New Americans for their assistance. Most of our community members have been in Lowell for more than 5 years, so they are well settled, and our community seems to be shrinking every year. Despite this, members of our community continue to attend the events hosted by the ACE Center such as World Refugee Day, Backpack distribution, Family Fun Festival, and sports events such as friendly volleyball and soccer tournaments. During these events, members of different communities can be seen having fun and conversing with one another.

Some of our community's youngsters participated in the After School Program and Instructional Learning Program, where they received assistance with assignments and homework. Even though many families' have a vehicle, transportation remains an issue often due to their parents work schedule.

However, compared to the pandemic, we saw a rise in participation from our community. I am hopeful that our community will continue get more involved in the days to come. Our community's youth hosted a soccer tournament, which MBMM and ACE Center sponsored/donated to. We all are grateful for the assistance and support we have received from MBMM and ACE Center over the years.

Pranim Magar

ACE Center Program Manager

HISPANIC COMMUNITY

Nicole Skaluba started working as our Hispanic Refugee Advocate in January 2022. As of July 3rd, she resigned from her position as the Hispanic Refugee Advocate. She started with a mission to find a Hispanic Community to serve in the Greater Lowell area. Having not come from the Hispanic refugee and immigrant community, she found it difficult to establish herself with the community. Not one to back down from a challenge, she started her outreach by connecting with other organizations in the Lowell area such as the Abisi Adult Education Center and Lowell Alliance. She worked tirelessly on promoting our ACE Center programs and events such as the After School Program, Instructional Educational Program, World Refugee Day, and our Friendly Sports Tournaments.

When we realized the challenges, Nicole was facing in establishing a Hispanic Community we chose to alter her duties to take advantage of her talent, and flexibility.

She provided translation services assisting with marketing and communications. She also agreed to become one of our ESOL instructors, working with beginner-level students and provided transportation to those in need. Additionally, she worked hard to recruit more students to the various ACE After School programs, capitalizing on her earlier outreach efforts. At the conclusion of the school year, Nicole resigned to accept a full-time position.

Pranim Magar

ACE Center Program Manager

BURMESE REFUGEE COMMUNITY

The Burmese community is quite active, and many members of the community participate in ACE Center programs and events. They are also active volunteers at assisting both organizations' including World Refugee Day, the Family Fun Festival, and the New American Christmas Party. Our former Burmese Refugee Advocate, Rev. Ko Ko Lay, resigned in early 2022 for personal reasons. He made every effort to assist MBMM finding a replacement including making John Saw Bright's introduction but he too resigned after a month. He found the duties of Refugee Advocate were too demanding of his time while working full-time and studying for his Ph.D. However, both have shown their continued support by volunteering at our events. We are currently looking for a new long-term Burmese Refugee Advocate who is willing to take up the position before the end of the year.

Pranim Magar

ACE Center Program Manager

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* Denotes that this person is nominated for a two year term, which will be voted on at the meeting

Halal Food Distribution

Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) Relief, a national charity organization serving over 36 cities in the US, started a local site operation in Lowell to meet the needs of the newly arrived Afghan refugees in 2021. Since August 2021, the Halal Food pantry; the second one of its kind in East MA, an extension of our program in Boston; has served 78 households (repeatedly), with more than 80,000 lbs of food delivered.

MBMM was a gracious partner by providing space for ICNA Relief to serve the Merrimack Valley. ICNA Relief was able to extend our services including financial assistance, legal support, back-to-school, vaccine clinics, health screening, and domestic violence support.

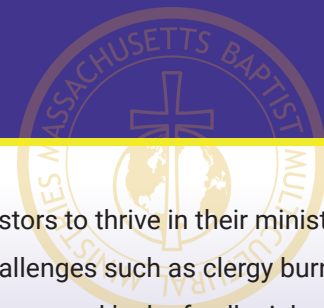
Being partners, ICNA Relief has lent a hand with MBMM's program including but not limited to; immigrant outreach, being a part of the "Refugee Day" event, and assisting in logistics using our truck.



ICNA Relief



Thriving Pastoral Ministry Program



The Thriving Pastoral Ministry Program (TPMP) of MBMM has been created to allow pastors of small congregations and ethnic

congregations pastors to thrive in their ministries in the face of the challenges such as clergy burnout, lone ranger syndrome, and lack of collegial relationships. These are addressed through a three-fold program.



Building collegial relationships,



Professional development,



and personal and spiritual care.

Being a part of the Thriving Pastoral Ministry Program and an ECG can help meet these needs.

ACE Center for New Americans



Advocacy



Celebration



Empowerment