Clergy Affiliate Information & Resource Network (CAIRN)

What is CAIRN?

CAIRN is a network of Alliance-affiliated clergy who believe that together, in a Spirit-led community, we have everything we need to become and remain healthy, resilient, and prophetic leaders.

Clergy are by nature uniquely gifted people who are in the midst of an extraordinary calling full of unique challenges largely unknown to those we serve. Individually, clergy may not have the resources or gifts to sustain themselves in ministerial isolation; however, when brought together, in the words of Wendell Berry, “What we need is here.” All that is needed is a robust and flexible, Spirit-led network capable of bringing clergy together around common needs. CAIRN is that network.

What is the focus of CAIRN and what are the benefits?

CAIRN was launched in 2017. It is led by a volunteer leadership group, focused on building support for this new and innovative network for Alliance clergy. The areas of focus for CAIRN over the first several years include:

- Teaching congregations and theological education partnerships;
- Coaching, peer groups, and mentoring for clergy;
- Clergy retreats and clergy wellness initiatives;
- Support for chaplains and pastoral counselors; and
- Funding and resources.

CAIRN is just beginning, but your support will help provide these benefits to CAIRN members: access to CAIRN online resources/network (in progress), reduced rates for CAIRN retreats/events (like our Clergy Retreat in January 2018), invitations to CAIRN gatherings, a future CAIRN newsletter, and more!

How do I join CAIRN?

We invite you to be a part of this growing network today. You can join by simply making a gift to the Alliance of Baptists at one of the following minimum contribution categories. This includes any financial contribution total you’ve given to the Alliance during the calendar year, so this doesn’t have to be an additional contribution (though we encourage additional designated giving to support the
network, if you’re able). The initial CAIRN membership categories for 2017 & 2018 include:

- Clergy Affiliate: $50
- Retired Clergy or New Clergy (First Three Years of Ministry): $40
- Partner (non-clergy): $25
- Student: $15
- Organization & Theological Partner (includes seminaries, congregations, other ministry partners, etc.): $150

You can visit this link to give today: [http://allianceofbaptists.org/give](http://allianceofbaptists.org/give)

While making your contribution, please make a note of your interest in joining CAIRN in a particular category. Everyone who gives to the Alliance doesn’t automatically “join” the network. We need to know of your interest in being a part of CAIRN.

Since CAIRN emerged out of conversations around the Alliance’s former Clergy Recognition process, previously recognized clergy and currently endorsed chaplains are considered CAIRN Clergy Affiliates for 2017 & 2018, regardless of contribution. These clergy helped develop and support the idea of network and we consider them our core group as we begin this exciting journey!

**How do I find out about CAIRN event and programs?**

We are launching our inaugural CAIRN Clergy Retreat in January 2018 held in Western North Carolina. Please click on the Clergy Retreat link to learn more about this retreat.

The CAIRN leadership team is continuing to work on developing additional resources and ways to support our clergy network.

Stay tuned for more information about upcoming CAIRN events and programs!
The CAIRN Leadership Group includes Brent Bowden, Eric Cain (Chair), Stephanie True Cooper, Beth Jackson-Jordan, and Christine Wiley.