

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL
CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MINISTRY CONVENTION**

Hot Springs, Arkansas

June 18-21, 2007

Monday, June 18, 2007

Regional Council Breakfast and Meeting

Delegates from each region met at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and to choose the recipients of the monies for the special projects and offering for 2008-2009. Beverly Stott, President-elect, welcomed the delegates and those who would be making presentations.

President Debbie Cox introduced the other members of the Convention Executive Committee: President-elect, Beverly Stott, Secretary, Barbara Harrell; and Secretary-elect Martha Fisher. Director of Women's Ministry Dr. Pam Phillips-Burk was also introduced. Martha Fisher, Secretary-elect, offered a prayer of blessing for the food.

The tables had been decorated to represent next year's theme, "Hands Together: One in Christ." The Circle of Friends pottery was placed in the center of each table with a votive candle in the middle. The candle in the center represented the Light of Christ that makes us one. Beverly Stott made announcements and spoke about how important our hands are to us. She introduced our speaker, Beth Wallace who spoke on "Hands Together with Women in Colombia, South America." She called attention to the pamphlet on the table and the picture on the front of Lita Swindle, an avid supporter. A slide presentation of "Women Heads of Families" project in Colombia was shown. An important scripture for this organization is Proverbs 3:5-6. She thanked everyone for all their donations and offerings. We held hands at our tables as Beth offered prayer.

Debbie Cox introduced Elinor Brown, from the Board of Stewardship. She thanked the women for giving to the clergy insurance endowment fund during this past year. Debbie then introduced the following representatives who explained their proposed projects:

Randy Spencer, Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home: Summer Trips.
Bob Watkins, Board of Missions: Laos Vision School Project
Pam Philips-Burk, Women's Ministry: International Women's Work Trip.
Rich Shugert, The Box Truck: Bethel-El Mission, FL

Before continuing with the presentation of projects, Pam announced that we would need to move to Room C so that the hotel staff could set up for the Mission Luncheon.

After moving to Room C, Janet Bedene, Mountain Valley Region, took roll of the delegates. Pam made an announcement about the gathering of the banners on Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in Room B. She explained that the banners this year would be judged by a penny vote. Each person could vote for three banners, but only one penny for each. Continuing with announcements, she told us that the centerpieces at the breakfast tables were for sale. The price was on the bottom and they could be picked up after the Mission Luncheon.

Debbie continued with the introduction of representatives speaking about their projects.

Stephanie Brown, Commission on the Ministry/Board of Missions: “Shall Women Preach” Video Project.

Martha Fisher announced that anyone with news items for the Convention Newsletter needed to write it down and give to her. Beverly concluded with the benediction.

After dismissal of the Convention Executive Committee, the Regional Council, co-chaired by Alison Coleman and Peggy Hudson, met to decide which projects to recommend to Convention.

General Assembly Opening

General Assembly opened at 2:00 p.m. Reverend Frank Ward and Rosemary Magrill were elected Co-Moderators of General Assembly. CP Women’s Ministry Convention President Debbie Cox participated in the worship service.

Moderator’s Reception

A reception honoring the Co-Moderators, Rev. Frank Ward and Rosemary Magrill; Retiring Moderator, Rev. Don Hubbard; Convention President, Debbie Cox; and Convention President-elect, Beverly Stott was held at the First Methodist Church that evening.

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Opening of Convention

The Convention opened at 10:30 a.m. at the Arlington Hotel, Room C, with a welcome and greeting by Convention President, Debbie Cox. She had everyone give a hand to their neighbor and then gave thanks to the Arkansas Region and the Music Ministry Team, Joanna Chambers, Martha Chambers, and Elaine York. She declared a quorum present.

Motion made and carried to accept the agenda subject to change.

Debbie introduced the executive committee and Director of Women’s Ministry.

Nancy McClung, Past President, presided over the Parade of Banners as Joanna Chambers played “*Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desire.*” Banners were presented and displayed by the following Regions:

Great Rivers Synod

Forked Deer
Hands of Harvest
White River
Missouri South
Mountain Valley
Southwest Tennessee
Seekers of Joy
Missouri River

Synod of the Midwest

Covenant
Cumberland
North Central

Synod of the Southeast

Hope
SonCoast
Magnolia
Blount/Cullman
Alabama Grace
Robert Donnell
Tennessee-Georgia

Tennessee Synod

Colombia
Middle Tennessee
Nashville
Cauca Valley Presbytery

Mission Synod

Trinity South
Choctaw
Red River
Trinity North
Del Cristo

Nancy led the group in a prayer of thanks for the banners.

Debbie named Betty Snow (Hope Region) as Parliamentarian for the week of Convention. Mrs. Snow also prayed the Constituting Prayer.

Debbie Cox introduced the keynote speaker, Louise (Weiser) Duvall. Louise spoke of her close relationship with Susan Robinson whose life story is depicted in the movie "Steel Magnolias." The special friendship that Weiser and Susan shared together has allowed Weiser to share the love of Christ with many people following Susan's death. She brought an inspiring message of interceding for others in prayer as she told us of interceding in prayer for her friend Susan. In closing she encouraged us to invest in friends. Friends are treasures.

Belle McMahan (Hands of Harvest Region) presented Weiser and Debbie with the Arkansas Traveler Certificate representing the friendliness of Arkansas to out of state visitors and signed by the governor of Arkansas. She also presented them with baskets, which were handmade by Denise Adams of Arkansas Presbytery. The baskets were in the shape of the state of Arkansas and filled with sundry items from the state.

Debbie made announcements about room changes for focus groups and the sale of centerpieces from the Regional Council Breakfast. She also explained that there would not be a Parade of Banners in 2008 nor 2009. She explained that in 2009, one region would create the Convention banner for that year. She encouraged all regions interested in making the banner to submit their name at the registration desk for a drawing later in the week.

Convention was adjourned for lunch at 12:15 p.m.

Focus Groups

At 1:30 p.m. the following focus groups were held:

- Creative Hands Together for Missions – Nancy McClung (Magnolia)
- Hands Together to Care for the Environment – Missy Rose (Room C)
- Hands Together Across Cultures – Lynn Thomas (Room B)
- Hands Together Across Generations – Laurie Sharpe (Venus I)
- Hands Together with Ministers' Wives – Elaine York (Room A)

Business Meeting

Convention gathered as a whole at 3:00 p.m. in Room C with singing led by the Music Ministry Team. Three door prizes were given away before the afternoon business session began.

Debbie called Convention officially to order. A program honoring all those who received Heart Awards during 2006-2007 was presented by Nancy McClung. Each person received a Heart Award bulletin (marked APPENDIX "A" and filed) as they entered for the afternoon session. Nancy had all of those present who had received a Heart Award to stand. The total number of

Heart Awards given this past year totaled 156! We read *The Chain* together written by Nancy and she led in prayer.

Debbie Cox introduced our business session.

Credential Committee Report Number 1 (marked APPENDIX “B” and filed) – Janet Bedene, Mountain Valley Region, on behalf of the Credentials Committee, reported a total of 135 voting delegates, with a total registered of 158.

Regional Council Special Project Report (marked APPENDIX “C” and filed) – Peggy Hudson, White River Region, on behalf of the Regional Council reported the following special projects for 2008-2009 and 2009 Convention Offering:

Special Projects

- Box Truck for Beth-El Farm Worker Ministry
- Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home Summer Trip
- International Women’s Work Trip

2009 Convention Offering

- The Laos Vision School

Nominating Committee Report (marked APPENDIX “D” and filed) – Tana Sue Lawson, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers:

2007-2008 Officers

- Past President - Debbie Cox, Region of Hope, Synod of the Southeast
- President - Beverly Stott, New Hope Region, Synod of Great Rivers
- President-elect - Patricia Long, Red River Region, Mission Synod
- Secretary - Martha Fisher, Robert Donnell Region, Synod of the Southeast
- Secretary-elect - Rita Vaught, North Central Region, Synod of the Midwest

Nominating Committee: (three year term)

- Past Convention Officer - Sidney Milton, Covenant Region, Synod of Midwest
- Member-at-Large - Peggy Hudson, White River Region, Synod of the Great Rivers

2008-2009 Officers

- Past President - Beverly Stott, New Hope Region, Synod of Great Rivers
- President - Patricia Long, Red River Region, Mission Synod
- President-elect - Mary-Lin Childs, Missouri River Region, Synod of the Great Rivers
- Secretary - Rita Vaught, North Central Region, Synod of the Midwest
- Secretary-elect – Suzi Middleton, TN/GA Region, Synod of the Southeast

Nominating Committee (three year term)

- Past Convention Officer - Jean Garrett, New Hope Region, Synod of the Great Rivers
- Member-at-large - Paulette Morrow, Magnolia Region, Synod of the Southeast

The Music Ministry Team led in the theme hymn, “*Blessed Be the Tie that Binds.*”

Debbie Cox introduced Missionary Beth Wallace who spoke on “Hands Together with Women in Colombia, South America.” She showed us what women are doing in Colombia, specifically Cauca Valley. Slides of the two mission projects they have chosen and other activities were shown.

Belle McMahan gave a prepared welcome basket of items from the state of Arkansas to Beth Wallace.

Beverly made announcements about the Heifer Trip, the Circle of Friends centerpieces, t-shirts and pins for sale.

Convention was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. to reconvene Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

The morning session was opened with singing led by the Music Ministry Team. The music team then sang, "Hand in Hand with Jesus." Beverly Stott made announcements – 1) those going on the Heifer Tour will probably need to leave before the meeting is adjourned, 2) be sure to give names for the memorial service to Linda Galvan, 3) a reminder to complete the Japan 2008 form so that information can be distributed, 4) a reminder about the signature quilt in the hallway, 5) the exhibits this afternoon will be on the second floor of the Exhibit Hall. Beverly then gave out five door prizes.

Debbie Cox opened with prayer and included a special prayer for the grandson of Regional Delegate Sally Sain (Columbia Region).

Debbie introduced Lisa Scott who led us in Bible study with the topic "The Nature of Unity." She read from the theme text Ephesians 4:1-6. The other scriptures used were I Samuel 30:1-31 and Philippians 2:1-2. Everyone formed groups of four or five and were given the I Samuel passage and questions to discuss. Lisa then led in an oral discussion of the questions. Lisa closed with prayer.

At the conclusion of the Bible Study, a 15-minute break was taken.

As everyone returned from break, the Music Ministry Team led in the theme song, "*They'll Know We Are Christians.*"

Credential Committee Report Number 2 (marked APPENDIX "E" and filed) – Janet Bedene, on behalf of the Credentials Committee, reported a total of 136 voting delegates, with a total registered of 159.

Janet Turner from Louisville, Kentucky, gave those present an opportunity to give to the Fellowship of the Least Coin. The Fellowship of the Least Coin has been serving for fifty years. As we give our coins we make a commitment to pray for peace and unity around the world. Following the offering, prayer was offered by Janet.

Linda Galvan from Chapel Hill, Tennessee, led in the Memorial Program. She read Psalm 23. As names were called a hand was put on a cross by a delegate of that Region. With hands together Linda offered prayer. She read a poem and Marie Cook, from Chapel Hill, sang "*Go Rest High On That Mountain.*" The following names were mentioned in the service.

Blount/Cullman Region: Deura Calloway, Dorothy Patterson, and Faye Hollingsworth

Covenant Region: Marguerite Copeland, Ruby Penis, Amy Truiett, Jane Evans, Grady Sain, Virgie Buchanan, Daisy Ezell, Geneva Hester, Dorothy Moore,

Mary Lou Barger, Margaret Hauk, Irene Thompson, Kay Filbeck, Kate Long, Jean Quinn, Lava Travis, Ola Travis, Ruth Davenport, Marguerite Copeland, Erma Rodgers, and Margaret Stanley

Forked Deer Region: Ann Miller and Isabel “Mac” Kerr

Magnolia Region: Jo Nell Reynolds

Middle Tennessee Region: Shirley Liffal and Lara Francis

Mountain Valley Region: Margrette VanMeter, Nieta Pettigrew, Lavern Cole, Whim Guston, Betty Williams, Lucille Martin, and Macy Hunnicutt

Nashville Region: Amy Aueritt, Nancy Cates, Ewing Jackson, Sherry Schaeffer, Lanine Huff, Margaret Allen, Dorothy Hudg, Grace Humphreys, Sylvia Bradley, Edith Hutshaw, Edith Mitchell, and Preston Morrison

New Hope Region: Rebecca Pate and Jane Pate

North Central Region: Gail Gwethay, Edith Awick, Mary Harris, and Genieva Richards

Red River Region: Jeanne Pearson

Southwest Tennessee Region: Beverly Gibson and Ashley Morris

Trinity North Region: Hazel Shriver, Ann Ridings, Opal Stracener, and Dianne Fulton

Trinity South Region: Helen Smith, Guy Culver, Jean Williams, and Helen Cook

White River Region: Ann McKeever

Other names were mentioned from the floor.

Beverly made announcements: 1) there was one ticket left for Heifer Tour, 2) tickets for the luncheon were still available, 3) cookbooks were for sale and also CDs by Elaine York.

Convention was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. Thursday morning.

There was no programming at the hotel in the afternoon due to the Field Trip to Heifer Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas and the Festival of Mission and Ministry in the Exhibit Hall at the hotel.

Thursday, June 21, 2007

This session of Convention opened with singing led by the Music Ministry Team. Joanna Chambers sang special music, “*Jesus, I Adore You.*”

The opening prayer was led by Debbie Cox.

Debbie announced that by a random drawing, Red River Region (submitted by Lisa King) would make the banner for Convention 2009. Beverly gave out four door prizes.

Nancy McClung announced the banners winners.

First Place: Missouri South Region

Second Place: Middle Tennessee Region

Third Place: Seekers of Joy Region

Presentations were made by the following organizations:

Jean Garrett, representing The C.P. Magazine, thanked everyone for sending Women’s Ministry news to the Magazine. Pat White was unable to be present.

Cliff Hudson, representing The Historical Foundation, encouraged everyone to continue sending in any pictures or artifacts from our churches or safe storage in the archives.

The Executive Committee of the Japan Women's Ministry spoke on behalf of Japan's Women's Ministry in Japan and shared some of the details about the 2008 Convention. Nancy McClung presented gifts to the Japanese ladies that had been made in her focus group on Tuesday afternoon. Beverly Stott mentioned the new 2008 calendars that include information about Japan.

Business Meeting

Credentials Report Number 3 (marked APPENDIX "F" and filed) – Janet Bedene, on behalf of the Credentials Committee, reported a total of 139 voting delegates, with a total registered of 162. The report was accepted.

Regional Council – Report given by Alison Coleman, who moved the report be received and the recommendations therein adopted. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee – Report was given by Tana Sue Lawson, who moved the report be received and the recommendations therein adopted. Motion carried.

Debbie asked for nominations from the floor for each officer's position for 2007-08. Motion made and carried that nominations cease. Motion made and carried to elect the recommended slate of officers for 2007-08.

Debbie asked for nominations from the floor for each officer's position for 2008-09. Motion made and carried that nominations cease. Motion made and carried to elect the recommended slate of officers for 2008-09.

Beverly Stott submitted the Executive Committee Report (marked APPENDIX "G" and filed). Motion made and carried to accept the report and its recommendations. The theme for 2008-2009 will be "A Mustard Seed Faith" and the theme for 2009-2010 will be "Gifted to Serve". There will be a Women's Conference in 2008 (July 24-26) in Franklin, TN. Pam Phillips-Burk spoke on the portion of the report having to do with re-structuring the timing of projects and offerings and the Convention theme. After some discussion and re-wording, Convention voted to approve the following:

In order to use the unique opportunity of two meetings (Convention in Japan and the Women's Conference) in 2008 to revise the structure of theme and Convention, allowing the Convention President to launch and travel with the theme of Convention at which she presides, we propose that Convention begin with the President's message based on the theme for the upcoming year and followed immediately by the installation of previously elected officers.

In addition to the above change in timing, the Executive Committee report also included a change in the timing of projects and the Convention offering. Convention has been voting on projects and offerings two years in advance, which causes a great deal of confusion. In 2009, Convention will vote on projects and offering and then will begin funding those projects immediately following that Convention.

Melinda Reams from Russellville Church led a fun, interactive game to give away the final door prizes. Following the game, she announced that the story/game would be posted on the Women's Ministry website.

A fifteen-minute break was taken.

Convention was called back together at 10:30 a.m. for the closing worship and commissioning (marked APPENDIX "H" and filed). During the worship service, Convention was blessed by the musical gifts of Grace Swiri and Saaghe Fogwe from Red River Region who were born in Camaroon, Africa and are both now members of St. John CP Church in Arlington, Texas. They wore their native dresses and sang a few songs from their home country. Jean Garrett gave a presentation about the Membership Endowment Program. One Golden Patron Membership was given during the program.

Beth Wallace, Colombia, South America, presented the Convention Offering, which went to the Women Heads of Families project in Colombia. As the offering was collected a video was shown depicting people of different nationalities. After the offering was collected and the prayer of Thanksgiving prayed, she presented a gift to Pam Phillips-Burk made by the women of Colombia using only products from Colombia. She then gave to each woman present a pin made by the Central Church women in Colombia called Creations Dorcas.

Following the benediction, Convention was adjourned until the luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

Convention Luncheon

The Mistress of Ceremonies, Melinda Reams, opened the luncheon with a welcome. Melinda is the current president of her local church's Women's Ministry at the Russellville CP Church, but she grew up in the Rose City CP Church in North Little Rock. Janet Bedene led in the prayer of blessing.

We were inspired by the gift of music by Kellye Leggett, harpist, who played during the meal. She also played special music, "*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*," written by Charles Converse.

Todd Montgomery was the luncheon speaker. He spoke about Heifer International. He showed us a slide presentation of the Heifer Program. Small boxes were placed on each table to give everyone an opportunity to make a donation to the Heifer Program.

Bob Prosser, President of Bethel College presented Rachel Gibson as the recipient of the 2007-2008 Women's Ministry/Beverly St. John Bethel College Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500. Rachel spoke briefly thanking everyone for their generous gift.

Nancy McClung led the installation of the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 Convention Officers, Convention President, Beverly Stott, gave the blessing and benediction, which closed the 2007 Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Harrell
2007 Convention Secretary