

MINUTES OF THE NINTH ANNUAL CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MINISTRY CONVENTION

Dickson, Tennessee

June 14-17, 2010

Monday, June 14, 2010

General Assembly Opening

General Assembly opened at 2:00 p.m. at the Dickson Middle School with worship, followed by the election of Rev. Boyce Wallace, Cauca Valley Presbytery, as Moderator; Rev. Harry Chapman, Del Cristo Presbytery, as Vice-Moderator; and Michael Sharpe as Stated Clerk.

Regional Council Buffet Dinner and Meeting

Delegates from each region met at 4:00 p.m. at the Ponderosa Restaurant for a buffet dinner and to choose the recipients of monies for the special projects and Convention offering for 2010-2011. Mary Lyn Childs, President, welcomed delegates and introduced the other members of the Convention Executive Committee: President-Elect, Martha Chambers; Secretary, Peggy West; Past-President, Patricia Long; Convention Coordinator, Jo Ann Shugert; and Director of Women's Ministry, Rev. Dr. Pam Phillips-Burk. Regional delegates were recognized and introduced to their "shepherd" on the Executive Committee. One youth delegate was recognized.

The tables were decorated with centerpieces designed and made by the women of the Bethesda CPC, Hands of Harvest Region. Stones were used in many unique ways in these arrangements to depict this year's Women's Ministry theme "**What Do These Stones Mean?**" Small stones inscribed with inspirational words were placed at each place setting.

Mary Lyn Childs opened the devotional time with prayer. In her devotion, she stressed the importance of women in the overall growth of the denomination and its mission fields. She challenged each person to think about what they were doing with the gifts they had been given and what memorial stones they were building. She closed with the following questions: "what will the stone say that you leave?" and "how will you create a legacy that tells what you have done for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church?"

Sue Alverson, Robert Donnell Region, gave the blessing.

After enjoying a delicious meal, the Regional Council meeting began. Nancy Gordon, North Central Region, and Faith Parra, Choctaw Region had been named co-chairs of the Council. Nancy Gordon was introduced. Parra was not present for this meeting. Gordon said a prayer asking God for guidance as the delegates entered into discussion and made decisions. She chaired the meeting that followed.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Martha Chambers thanked the Regional delegates and the co-chair, Gordon, for their willingness to serve and expressed appreciation to the ladies of Bethesda CPC for their service. She closed the meeting with prayer.

Moderator's Reception

A reception honoring GA Moderator Rev. Boyce Wallace, Vice-Moderator Rev. Harry Chapman, Retiring Moderator Sam Suddarth, Convention President Mary Lyn Childs and Convention President-Elect Martha Chambers was held at the Dickson CPC at 7:30 p.m.

CPWM Fun Night

For the first time, the CP Women's Ministry Executive Committee hosted a fun night beginning at 8:30 p.m. at the Montgomery Bell State Park Conference Center for Convention attendees and their families. Snacks, games and conversation were enjoyed by a variety of folks, including several young girls. Over 80 people attended.

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Day At The Park

Tuesday was spent at the Birthplace Shrine at Montgomery Bell State Park celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Morning worship included the carrying of stones by Presbyterian representatives to build an altar, bagpipe music, a message brought by Rev. Dr. Jay Earheart-Brown, President of Memphis Theological Seminary and a communion service. Preaching in the chapel, various types of music, crafts and games and a "brush arbor" were all used as reminders of life 200 years ago. This celebration concluded with a dedication service for a new monument commemorating 200 years of the CPC/CPCA.

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Opening of Convention

The Convention opened at 8:30 a.m. at the Montgomery Bell State Park Conference Center with singing led by Jacky Clifton and Janice Bane, pianist. Both are from the Nashville Region. Convention President Mary Lyn Childs opened with prayer and then introduced herself as being from Missouri Presbytery, Missouri River Region. She welcomed Convention attendees. As she spoke of the historic occasion of the 200th Anniversary of the birth of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Childs quoted a 1930's statement made by Eva Hughs. The statement, "History is HIS-story" was found in records of the then Missouri Synod. Childs then introduced the current Executive Team. The Host Committee was recognized and thanked for their hard work. This committee included Carla Meade, President and Suzy Rolman, President-Elect, both of the Nashville Region CP Women's Ministry, along with others from the region. Ladies from the Columbia Region were recognized for their interpretation of the theme, "**What Do These Stones Mean?**" that was used as they designed and created this year's Convention banner. Beth

Wallace, representing Cauca Valley Region, Colombia, S.A. was recognized as well as those who were attending Convention for the first time. Two youth delegates were recognized.

Keynote Speakers

Serving as keynote speakers in the interview session “Three Stones Speak” were Beverly St. John, Cornelia Swain and Pam Phillips-Burk. In 1965, Beverly St. John became the first Director of the Division of Women’s Work. Cornelia Swain began in 1977 and continued for 25 ½ years. In 2002, Pam Phillips-Burk became Director of Women’s Ministry. Each of these three ladies told of some of the “rocks” that they had encountered and experienced in their work over the years. Many of their stones were joys and blessings, while many stones were challenges. Some of their stones were stepping stones, while others were stumbling stones. Many of their stones came in the form of people who were encouragers, supporters, enablers and mentors. At the conclusion of this entertaining and informative interview, ladies from several different regions came to share their “stones”. Beverly St. John closed with a time of silent prayer followed by the group praying in unison the “Wayside Prayer”. This prayer was worded by Mildred Ramsay, an early leader of the Missionary Auxiliary. Jacky Clifton led the group in the singing of “Ancient Words” followed by an announced break.

Business Meeting

This session resumed with singing of a praise song led by Clifton. At 10:15 a.m., President Childs called Convention to order.

Credentials Report Number 1 (marked APPENDIX “A” and filed) - - Amy Holman, Nashville Region, on behalf of the Credentials Committee, reported a total of 178 voting delegates, with a total registered of 205. The report was accepted.

The Constituting Prayer was offered by Carolyn Jackson, Nashville Region. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda (marked APPENDIX “B” and filed) subject to change.

The Executive Committee Report (marked APPENDIX “C” and filed) - - Childs, on behalf of the Executive Committee, presented this report for information only.

The Regional Council Report (marked APPENDIX “D” and filed) - - Regional Council Co-Chair Nancy Gordon, North Central Region, on behalf of the Regional Council reported that the following special project for 2010–2011 and the 2011 Convention Offering were recommended:

2011 Convention Offering - - Publication and Translation Ministry Project
Special Project - - Construction of a Chapel in Cucurupi

The Council also recommended that the current by-laws for regional and local organizations become guidelines unless by-laws are required for legal purposes. If guidelines are legally required, the Council recommends that the wording concerning term limits of the Regional Treasurer be changed.

Action will be taken on this report during the Thursday morning business session.

Nominating Committee Report (marked APPENDIX “E” and filed) - -Alison Coleman, Chair, Forked Deer Region, on behalf of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers and moved that the report be received. The motion was seconded and passed.

2010-2011 Convention Officers

Past-President:	Mary Lyn Childs, Missouri River Region
President:	Martha Chambers, Hands of Harvest Region
President-Elect:	Mary Ann Cole, Cumberland Region
Secretary:	Peggy West, Nolachucky Region
Secretary-Elect	Glynda Corbin, New Seekers Region

Nominating Committee; (three year term)

Past Convention Officer:	Barbara Harrell, Red River Region
Member-at-Large:	Elaine York, Covenant Region

The above slate was placed in nomination. The floor was then opened for nominations for any of the officer positions. Motion was made and seconded to close the nominations and elect the slate of officers by acclamation. Motion passed.

The Installation of Convention Officers, June 2010 (marked APPENDIX “F” and filed) - - Patricia Long led the service of installation of the 2010-2011 Convention Officers. She closed the service with prayer.

Martha Chambers, newly elected and installed President, introduced and thanked some of her “stones”. She presented her three children, Rev. Jason Chambers, Nicholas Chambers and Joanna Chambers; her sister, Rev. Roberta Johnson; and all the ladies who had traveled from Arkansas to share this special time with her. Martha Chambers presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Mary Ann Cole, newly elected and installed President-Elect, awarded door prizes and gave announcements.

President Chambers announced a break before the beginning of Focus Group Session #1. Lunch will follow the focus groups with Convention to resume at 1:30 p.m.

Focus Groups

At 11:00 a.m. the following focus groups met:

- CP Children’s Home - - Kevin Hensen
- Bethel University - - Dr. Robert Prosser
- Memphis Theological Seminary - - Cathi Johnson
- Global Missions - - Bob Watkins

The Afternoon Session resumed at 1:30 p.m. with music and singing led by Jacky Clifton and Janice Bane.

Martha Chambers recognized those ladies who had attended the 150th Celebration of the founding of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church held in Nashville. She also welcomed and recognized the delegation of ladies from Japan.

Chambers then introduced “Eva Hughs” portrayed by Joann Alexander, SW Tennessee Region. Alexander shared the “Eva Hughs Story” by telling how the Perpetual Membership Endowment was established in 1924 by Ms. Hughs with seed money of only \$30.00. She had on display charts showing the growth of the program over the years both monetarily and in the number of different endowments that are now available. Alexander recognized any Golden Patrons present as well as recognizing those who held memberships of each kind and then recognized those who held all the memberships.

President Chambers called for those who might have membership presentations to make. Marcia Hughes, Robert Donnell Region, was presented a Golden Patron Membership by her husband, Richard Hughes and her mother, Genevieve Johnson, Cumberland Region. Pam Phillips-Burke shared that the ladies of Japan Region had just recently been introduced to the Perpetual Membership Endowment Program and that five women were presented memberships in 2008 when Convention was held in Japan. Phillips-Burke recognized two of those five ladies who were in attendance at this Convention. Hanae Hamazumi, president of Japan Region, was introduced and she presented a Golden Patron Membership to Beverly Stott, New Seekers Region, and a Patron Membership to Mrs. Stott’s daughter, Roberta Smith, Japan Region.

Mrs. Beth Wallace, Cali, Colombia, S.A., representing Cauca Valley Region was introduced by Past-President Childs. Morningside CPC in Evansville, IN had given a monetary gift in memory of Joyce Lovelace. Mrs. Wallace received the presentation in the absence of John Lovelace. Mr. Lovelace had requested that any monetary gifts given in his wife’s memory go to the ministry of Eunice Caicedo in Cali. This ministry is a school that Caicedo started at age 65 upon her retirement as director of San Marcos Colegio. She named her school “The Path of Life, Love and Peace” and it is located in and serves the ghetto area of Cali. Caicedo has dreams of purchasing the house where the school is now housed so that she may expand and serve more people in need.

The Rev. Roberta Johnson was introduced. Johnson is a second-generation ordained Cumberland Presbyterian minister. She is a graduate of the Program of Alternate Studies and is Pastor of the Fellowship Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Camden, AR. Rev. Johnson led the Bible Study using the theme scripture **Joshua 4:1-9**.

Beginning her presentation, she shared her personal testimony as she told of some of the “stones” in her life and of her journey to get where she is today. She had prepared an inductive study guide to be used with the theme scripture, but would be a useful tool for study of any scripture. She told of steps in preparation for Bible Study which should always begin with prayer. She led the group to answer the following questions in relation to Joshua 4:1-9: Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? She asked the attendees to talk about what the stones meant to them and how they had seen the mighty hand of the Lord at work in their own lives. Small groups were formed to discuss certain parts of the Bible Study with each group reporting back to the whole group at the conclusion of the study.

Following the Bible study, the group was led in singing praise songs by the music leaders.

President-Elect Mary Ann Cole gave announcements and awarded door prizes. She thanked Rich Shugert and Danny and Elaine York for the wonderful job they were doing with the sound equipment and the Power Point presentations.

Chambers announced a photo op and break before the beginning of Focus Group Session #2.

Focus Groups

At 4:00 p.m. the following focus groups met:

- Board of Stewardship - - Frank Ward presented in the absence of Rev. Robert Heflin
- Program of Alternate Studies - - Dr. Tom Campbell
- Pastoral Development - - Milton Ortiz

At 4:45 p.m. the following focus groups met as Focus Group Session #3:

- Discipleship - - Frank Ward
- Missions - - Mike Sharpe
- Historical Foundation - - Gwen McReynolds

Convention adjourned until 8:30 a.m. on Thursday upon completion of Focus Group Session #3.

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Convention resumed at 8:30 a.m. with music and singing led by the music leaders.

Mary Lyn Childs, addressed the Convention as Moderator of Missouri Presbytery, host Presbytery for next year's CP Women's Ministry Convention and General Assembly to meet in Springfield, MO. She invited everyone to attend and shared that the Convention Keynote Speaker and Bible Study Leader would be Jennifer Rothschild, nationally known speaker.

President-Elect Cole made several announcements and recognized Glenn Watt, missionary to Hong Kong. She also announced that over 260 hygiene kits had been completed at this time.

Chambers introduced Gloria Villa Diaz, formerly from Colombia, S. A., now living in Houston, TX. She told of a ministry in which she is involved called "A New Day In Christ". This is a devotional calendar outreach program in relationship with the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Houston. Devotional calendars provide a message of hope to men and women in prisons and others just waiting to hear the Gospel. These calendars are now sent upon request to persons in all 50 states and some foreign countries to as many as two thousand persons per month. Other Christian resources are also available from this ministry upon request.

Business Meeting

Chambers called the business session to order.

Credentials Report number 2 (marked APPENDIX “G” and filed) - -- Amy Holman, Nashville Region, on behalf of the Credentials Committee, reported a total of 189 voting delegates, with a total registered of 212. The report was accepted.

Regional Council Report (APPENDIX “D”) was presented in Wednesday’s business session by co-chair Nancy Gordon, North Central Region. Chambers placed the report and its proposals before the body. There was no discussion. She asked for a motion that the report be accepted. That motion was made, seconded and passed. It was noted that the vote for this change would take place when Convention convened in 2011, due to the bylaw that any changes need to be announced 30 days prior to vote.

The business meeting concluded and Convention prepared for closing worship.

Worship bulletins (marked APPENDIX “H” and filed) were distributed. Pam Phillips-Burk introduced Jennifer Hayes, a candidate for the ministry from Grace Presbytery and current park chaplain at Montgomery Bell State Park. Hayes assisted with the baptismal remembrance service.

Convention was led into the spirit of worship with music and singing. Worship began with a selection of songs sung by Jason Chambers, Nicholas Chambers and Joanna Chambers. Executive Committee members provided leadership during the worship service. A total of \$5,455.69 was received for the Convention Offering to benefit New Church Development in Mexico. Several hymns were sung during the service as well as the Convention Song “**Ancient Words**”.

Chambers gave the President’s Address which was entitled “The Blessed Assurance” (marked APPENDIX “I” and filed). She shared that over the years God has shown her that when the SON is shining in her life, she has “the blessed assurance” that He will carry her through all of life’s trials.

Phillips-Burke conducted the Memorial Service. Regional delegates were asked to bring small stones with the names of those being remembered written on them in permanent ink. The stones were placed on the worship table. She explained that after the service, these stones would be placed in an area near the birthplace cabin. She closed the service with prayer. Phillips-Burke was assisted by Hayes in the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Covenant. Worship participants were asked to choose a small stone from a basin of water and as they did to remember their baptism. Chambers closed the worship service with prayer. Convention was adjourned until the Convention Luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

The Convention Outreach Project was the assembly of Hygiene Kits to be shipped through Church World Service to earthquake survivors in Haiti and Chili, and other places of disaster. Attendees spent free time during Convention working on this project in an area near the registration area.

Convention Luncheon

The Convention Luncheon was opened with a welcome and blessings for the meal by Emcee Kathleen Murphy from the Nashville area. After the meal, Luncheon attendees were given a musical treat by Dwight Liles, who is pastor of Mt. Joy Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant, TN. He is also a noted Christian songwriter and he sang many of his own songs as well as accompanying himself on the piano. An offering of \$1,028.06 was received which will be used to cover the cost of shipping the hygiene kits for distribution. Dr. Robert Prosser presented the 2010-2011 CP Women's Ministry Bethel University Scholarship recipient, Anna Sweet, from Knoxville, TN and a member of Beaver Creek CP Church. Kathleen Murphy presented a very poignant dramatic monologue entitled, "I Pick My Stone". At the conclusion of the luncheon, Convention President, Martha Chambers gave the benediction which closed Convention 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy West
2010 Convention Secretary