

Executive Committee Report to Convention 2009

Your Executive committee has met four times since Convention 2006 for the purpose of planning and organizing Conventions 2007 and 2008, the first Spirituality Conference, as well as planning for Convention 2009. We met in September 28-29, 2007 and March 28-29, 2008 in Huntsville, Alabama at Christ Church of Monrovia, and then again in November 1-2, 2008 and February 28-March 1, 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee at the Wingate Hotel. At all of these meetings the committee worked diligently to flesh out the appointed themes and plans for each Convention and the 2006 Spirituality Conference.

The 2008-2009 program year was full of Women's Ministry events and activities. Close to 175 people participated in the Convention held in Tokyo, Japan. There were 34 official participants from the United States. The Spirituality Conference included over 130 participants. And lastly, the fifth work trip to Christ's Outreach to the Blind involved approximately 20 women.

The Executive Committee would like to share with Convention some of the evaluation observations from the Spirituality Conference. There were 96 evaluation forms returned (71%). The evaluations showed positive reports across the board with the entire conference. Some of the suggestions and comments will be helpful for future events and planning. Some of the data gleaned from the evaluations provides a nice snapshot of who was in attendance.

15 & under – 2

16-20 – 3 (didn't submit evaluation, but they were in attendance the whole time)

21-29 – 2

30-39 – 7

40-49 – 11

50-59 – 13

60-69 – 25

70 & up – 37

While certainly the majority of the participants were age 50 and up, there were more younger women and teen girls present than normally attend Convention. Another interesting snapshot from the evaluations had to do with whether or not the women attended Convention or not on a regular basis. Of those turning in evaluations forms, 49 women attend Convention regularly while 43 did not. The Executive Committee is excited to share with Convention these findings because it means that more and more women are becoming involved in Women's Ministry programming, particularly in new areas. 52 women indicated that they would be interested in more conferences like the one in July 2008. So, in response to that interest, your Executive Committee is planning another conference in July 2010, with the exact location to be determined. The goal is to have it closer to the Mississippi River in order to encourage women further west to participate. To keep the costs down, it was determined that it would again be held at a church, if feasible. Three locations were discussed – Dyersburg, TN; Little Rock/Russellville, AR; Bowling Green, KY. Proposed dates were July 29-31 or July 22-24, 2010 with the theme of "Taste and See" based on Psalm 34:8.

In the Spring 2008, the Executive Committee met with the president of the CPCA Women's Ministry to discuss joint activities during the 2010 Convention. Initial plans were made for that time, along with possible workshops and a joint work project. Each group would have its own programming and business meetings. These plans continue to evolve, as space and opportunity allow.

In 2009, there will be two women work trips – Christ Outreach to the Blind in Mt. Vernon, KY and Colombia, SA. Currently, there are 14 women registered for the work trip to Kentucky, which will be led by Bobbi Logan, who is from Texas, and was a participant on last year's work

team. This will be the last year for a denominationally sponsored work trip to Kentucky, and the hope is that a church will pick up this particular work trip and sponsor it in the future. Attention will be given to try and start a work trip of a similar nature west of the Mississippi River. This is in an effort to continue to expand and diversify Women's Ministry activities. The international work trip to Colombia, South America has 15 women, including two from Hong Kong. These are exciting times for Women's Ministry within the Cumberland Presbyterian Church as we endeavor to involve more women and reach out to serve others around the world.

A new part-time position, Convention Coordinator, was created by the Missions Ministry Team and filled in the fall of 2008. Mrs. Jo Ann Shugert was called to serve in that position and has taken on the responsibilities related to that role. It became apparent that if Women's Ministry was going to continue to expand into a diversity of ministries it would be essential to have additional staff. Pam Phillips-Burk remains as the Women's Ministry Director and will continue to provide staff leadership to the various ministries involving women within the church.

During the past two years, the Executive Committee has discussed issues related to regional groups, reporting processes, and ways to support and encourage regional officers. A new reporting format will be explored and discussed at the Regional Council breakfast at Convention 2009. The Executive Committee will be seeking input from regional officers concerning the reporting process and report forms presented at this meeting. The goal is to streamline and clarify (make easier) the reporting process. In addition, each member of the Executive Committee will be a "shepherd" to 5-6 regional presidents. Our goal is to strengthen this mentoring/supportive role in the coming year. We look forward to building these relationships and nurturing each other in our respective ministries.

Your Executive Committee has enjoyed serving the entire Women's Ministry organization during the past two years and prayerfully asks for your support in the coming year. We are excited about the success of the international Convention in Japan; the various work trips that have occurred as well as the first women's conference. We covet your prayers as we continue to plan for the women of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and their ministry in each local community.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive Committee