

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

Memphis, Tennessee

June 15, 2009

Monday, June 15, 2009

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 Convention offering for 2009-2010. Patricia Long, President, welcomed the delegates and introduced the other members of the Convention Executive Committee: President-Elect, Mary Lyn Childs; Secretary, Suzi Middleton; Past President, Beverly Stott; Convention Coordinator, Jo Ann Shugert; and Director of Women's Ministry, Dr. Pam Phillips-Burk. Youth Delegates, Leanne Kerner and Laurie Williams were recognized. Pat offered blessings for the meal.

The tables were decorated with beautiful wire baskets with a lit candle placed inside to represent this year's Women's Ministry theme, "**Gifted to Serve.**" Each delegate was asked to write one of their spiritual gifts on an index card and place it in the gift box note holders on the tables. Mary Lyn placed a gift box favor for each delegate on the tables. The Executive Committee members acted as table hosts for the delegates from their assigned Regional Contacts.

After a delicious breakfast, Margie Vanderlaan, Bethany CP Church, North Central Region, led the group in inspirational music.

Suzi Middleton, led the group in a devotional entitled, "You Want Me To Do What?" based on the theme and theme scripture **1 Peter 4:10-11**. She shared how surprised and humbled she felt when she discovered her gift from God. She reminded the group that as God gives each of us a wonderful gift, He also prepares and strengthens us to use His gift to build up His kingdom. Beverly Stott concluded the breakfast with a prayer.

Pam Phillips-Burk introduced the Regional Council Co-Chairs: Cathy Littlefield, Mountain Valley Region and Heather Morgan, Hope Region. After the Convention Executive Committee members were dismissed, the Regional Council meeting continued.

General Assembly Opening

General Assembly opened at 2:00 p.m. Elder Sam Suddarth, Columbia Presbytery, was elected as Moderator of General Assembly. Rev. Cliff Hudson, Tennessee/Georgia Presbytery, was elected as Vice-Moderator. CP Women's Ministry Convention President Patricia Long participated in the worship service.

Moderator's Reception

A reception honoring GA Moderator Sam Suddarth, Vice-Moderator Rev. Cliff Hudson, Retiring Moderator Rev. Jonathan Clark, Convention President Patricia Long, and Convention President-elect Mary Lyn Childs was held at Memphis Theological Seminary.

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Opening of Convention

The Convention opened at 10:00 a.m. at the Hilton Memphis, Southeast Ballroom with opening music led by Margie Vanderlaan. Welcome and greetings were extended by Convention President Patricia Long. She introduced and thanked Dr. Pam Phillips-Burk, Jo Ann Shugert, and Host Committee members Joann Alexander, Joan Gray, Alison Coleman, Olene Rush, and Cornelia Swain. She also made several announcements and expressed thanks to the following: Elaine and Dan York – Sound; Rich Shugert – PowerPoint operation; Glynda Corbin – Stage Decorations; Linda Addington, Red River Region – Banner; Jim Ratliff, SW Tennessee Presbytery – Flowers. Pat highlighted some new changes in the Convention format then the group enjoyed a PowerPoint presentation of Cumberland Presbyterian Women’s Ministry 2008-2009 highlights including Convention 2008 in Japan, Women’s Work Trip to Christ’s Outreach for the Blind in Mt. Vernon, KY, and the Be Still and Know Women’s Conference. Margie gifted the group with musical special, “Little Is Much.”

Business Meeting

Patricia officially called Convention to order. She recognized Sam Suddarth, newly elected Moderator of General Assembly, and his wife Nancy.

Credentials Report Number 1 (marked APPENDIX “A” and filed) – Marcine Cook, SW Tennessee Region, on behalf of the Credentials Committee, reported a total of 91 voting delegates, with a total registered of 98. The report was accepted.

A quorum was declared. The Constituting Prayer was offered by Barbara Harrell, Red River Region. Lita Swindle, Soncoast Region, was appointed parliamentarian. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Program (marked APPENDIX “B” and filed) subject to change.

Regional Council Committee Report (marked APPENDIX “C” and filed) – Co-Chairs Cathy Littlefield, Mountain Valley Region, and Heather Morgan, Hope Region, on behalf of the Regional Council Committee reported the following special projects for 2009-2010 and 2010 Convention Offering were recommended:

2010 Convention Offering – Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Mexico
Special Project #1 – Scholarship for Spanish-Speaking Students – PAS Program
Special Project #2 – Africans in Missions Fund

The Committee also recommended that every woman of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church read Hearth and Chalice, a history of women’s work in the CP Church. A motion was made that the report be concurred in and the recommendations therein be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed.

Nominating Committee Report (marked APPENDIX “D” and filed) – Sidney Milton, Covenant Region, on behalf of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers, moved

the report be received and the recommendations therein adopted. The motion was seconded and passed.

2009-2010 Convention Officers

President: Mary Lyn Childs, Missouri River Region
President-Elect: Martha Chambers, Hands of Harvest Region
Past President: Patricia Long, Red River Region
Secretary: Suzi Middleton, Tennessee/Georgia Region
Secretary-Elect: Peggy West, Nolachucky Region

Nominating Committee: (three year term)

Past Convention Officer: Alison Coleman, Forked Deer Region
Member-at-Large: Carolyn Knight, Magnolia Region

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

Beverly Stott led the installation of the 2009-2010 Convention Officers.

Margie led the group in singing the theme hymn, "Make Me a Blessing."

Newly installed Convention President, Mary Lyn Childs presided over the remainder of the meeting. She introduced denominational representative, Gwen McReynolds who brought greetings from the Historical Foundation, whose mission is to keep and preserve the history of the church. She reminded the group that the CP denomination will celebrate its 200th anniversary on February 4, 2010. Mrs. McReynolds also reminded the group of the Cumberland Presbyterian Women Archival Storage Endowment that is used for supplies for the Historical Foundation. She encouraged the group to remember the importance of CP history and passing it down to the following generations.

Mary Lyn made several announcements and awarded 5 door prizes. Dr. Pam Phillips-Burk introduced missionaries Glenn Watson and Kenneth and Delight Hopson. She also invited everyone to visit displays on St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Human Trafficking. Margie led the group in singing "Make Me a Servant." Convention was adjourned for lunch by prayer led by GA Moderator Sam Suddarth at 11:30 a.m.

The Afternoon Session resumed with inspirational music led by Margie.

The group enjoyed drama presentations from two youth groups from Holly Grove CP Church in Brighton, TN, West Tennessee Presbytery. The drama team, *Straight Up*, presented energetic dance interpretations to "Our God Is An Awesome God!" "Holy, Holy, Holy," and "Victory." *Kids for Christ* presented a very moving stick drama to "He Was Still Her Little Child."

President, Mary Lyn Childs, introduced the 2009-2010 theme, Gifted to Serve, opening several gift boxes that revealed some of her spiritual gifts. She read the theme scripture, 1 Peter 4:10-11.

She emphasized how this theme can take on a very personal meaning to each woman as she discovers her gifts and takes them back to her region and local church to use as God intends.

Mary Lyn introduced the Keynote Speaker, Rev. Lisa Anderson, who currently serves as staff chaplain at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. She shared how St. Jude's is one of the world's premier pediatric research and treatment facilities that serves children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases and is primarily funded by donations. St. Jude's provides a place of hope and support for the children and their families by providing 3 housing facilities (including a short stay hotel, Ronald McDonald House, and Target House) for over 350 families per night with children undergoing either inpatient or outpatient treatment. Believing that no day is complete until you hear the laughter of a child, the staff of St. Jude's is a group of special people who do their job, not because they're special, but because God has chosen them to do the job. She shared many unique ways she has seen the children express their spirituality through both play and dealing with their illnesses. St. Jude's is an amazing place full of amazing people, striving to help both children and their families as they struggle to cope with major childhood diseases.

Mary Lyn announced a 10 minute break.

Convention resumed at 3:30 p.m. with instrumental music by Margie.

Mary Lyn introduced Melody Dierking, Missouri River Region, who invited several people to talk about their spiritual gifts during *Moments with Melody* throughout Convention. She began her chats with Margie Vanderlaan who is serving as music leader for Convention. Margie shared that music was the primary gift God has given her, and believes that music is as strong as the spoken word. She said that even though her gift was very visible, other gifts such as administration and prayer, might not be seen, but are equally important.

Sidney Milton explained that Dress for Success Memphis is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help unemployed disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, interviewing skills, and career development tools. Sidney displayed several professional outfits on mannequins featuring items donated by Women's Ministry members. Throughout the week, everyone was encouraged to "vote" for their favorite outfit with coins. A total of \$127.19 was collected to donate to Dress for Success Memphis. Sidney also presented *Project Runway*, a fashion show featuring donated items modeled by the following ladies from Covenant Region: Lora Kerner, Debbie Hayes, Martha Darnall, and Brenda Shoulta. Then Sidney introduced Susan Kyle, Director for Dress for Success Memphis, who expressed her thanks to Convention participants for their donation of clothing, money, and time.

Joann Alexander, SW Tennessee Region, presented an entertaining and informative monologue portraying Eva Hughes, who began the Perpetual Membership Endowment Fund in 1924. The following memberships were bestowed: Patron membership to Cheryl Tabor by her husband, Rev. Don Tabor; Silver Patron membership to Mary Lyn Childs by her mother, Doris Hunter; and a Patron membership to Mary Lyn Childs by Missouri River Region.

Martha Chambers, President-Elect, made announcements and awarded 2 door prizes. Convention was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. to reconvene Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Convention resumed on Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. with prayer and praise music led by Margie. Mary Lyn made several announcements.

Credentials Report Number 2 (marked APPENDIX "E" and filed) – Marcine Cook, SW Tennessee Region, on behalf of the Credentials Committee, reported a total of 127 voting delegates, with a total registered of 137. The report was accepted.

Mary Lyn introduced Rev. Anetta Camp, associate pastor of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Dyersburg, TN who led the Bible Study. Using Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter 4 she shared how all believers are called, gifted, equipped, and sent to serve God. She likened spiritual gifts to paint used by an artist on her pallet where a color (gift) is beautiful alone, but when dabbed and mixed with another color (gift), a perfect picture of Christ is revealed. She then led the group in completing a spiritual gift assessment and encouraged everyone to find their place of ministry and use God's gift for the benefit of His Kingdom.

Mary Lyn introduced Denominational Representative Cathi Johnson, Vice-President of Advancement, Memphis Theological Seminary. She expressed thanks to Women's Ministry for their continuing support. Ms. Johnson announced the establishment of the Baird Buck Chair of CP Studies Endowment that will raise \$1.2 million to finance the supply of the chair. She also explained MTS expansion plans that include the purchase of 12-15 acres.

Melody Dierking continued *Moments with Melody*, interviewing Miryam Gonzalez de Ortiz, GA Commissioner from Columbia, South America. She believes her spiritual gifts are her love for children, teaching, and hospitality. She uses her gifts to care for 40 children in her home while their mothers are away and to teach them about Christ, ethics, and behavior. She says that even with the language barrier, the love of Christ is here and she uses her gift to serve. She believes that our citizenship is in heaven and we are all one.

Martha made announcements and awarded 3 door prizes. Mary Lyn announced a 25 minute break.

Convention resumed with music led by Margie.

Rev. Bob Watkins, Director of Global Missions, led the following panel of missionaries in questions concerning their spiritual gifts: Kenneth and Delight Hopson, Uganda; Glenn Watts, Hong Kong; Peggy Jean Craig, short-term missionary at Vision School in SE Asia, Laos; and Anay Ortega, from Colombia to Medical Clinic in Guatemala. When asked how they came to accept God's call to serve on the mission field, they all shared how God had spoken directly to their hearts, asked them to make specific sacrifices, and they answered "Yes." All agreed that God had given them specific spiritual gifts that allowed them to serve. Kenneth believes he was given the gift to serve and that by making himself available, God gave him strength to overcome

his fears to allow him to speak in front of people. Delight believes the gift of teaching allowed her to work in children's ministry and start a children's club with 52 members. Glenn believes he was gifted with long suffering and patience that helped him with the frustrations of communications and cultural differences he experienced living and working in another country. Peggy Jean knew God would use her gifts of singing, speaking, and writing in Laos, but believes that her gift of appearance (Asian) allowed her to be more approachable by the Laos people. Even though at first she didn't think she was qualified, Anay quickly realized God had gifted her with the gifts of service, administration, and teaching to use for His service in Guatemala. They all believe that as they served, they also developed more gifts such as pastoring, organization, hospitality, leadership, wisdom, evangelism, and encouragement. Kenneth and Delight are able to encourage the development of spiritual gifts in those they serve by realizing that in Uganda they have time on their side to nurture spiritual gifts. Glenn looks for people's passion (music, gardening) and looks for an outlet for that passion in their church. Peggy Jean believes that everyone has a way to serve God, and in Laos, they have no stopping time; they work on God's time. By dedicating herself to discipleship, Anay takes time to get to know others well so that she can help them to identify their gifts to put to God's use. They all agreed that missionaries are just a bunch of nobodies trying to exalt Somebody!

Mary Lyn led a prayer for all missionaries and blessings for the meal. Convention was adjourned for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

The Afternoon Session resumed at 2:00 p.m. with inspirational music led by Margie.

Mary Lyn introduced denominational representative Edith Gholson, Director of Ministries who brought greetings from the Ministry Council and shared its hopes and accomplishments. She shared a humorous but meaningful video portraying the ministry teams being released from chains, opening the door to work collaboratively in Missions, Discipleship, Communications, and Pastoral Development. Even with separate spheres of influence, the CP organization considers itself familial, combining efforts and resources so that common dreams and visions might be accomplished.

Business Meeting

Mary Lyn called the business meeting to order.

Credentials Report Number 3 (marked APPENDIX "F" and filed) – Marcine Cook, SW Tennessee Region, on behalf of the Credentials Committee, reported a total of 167 voting delegates, with a total registered of 181. The report was accepted.

Executive Committee Report (marked APPENDIX "G" and filed) – Patricia Long, on behalf of the Executive Committee presented the report as information only.

Melody continued *Moments with Melody*, interviewing Doris Hunter, Missouri River Region. Doris shared that she believes that God gave her the gift of leadership. She grew up with a passion and love for Jesus Christ, her church, and her denomination, which she shared with her daughter, Mary Lyn Childs. Friends have confirmed that she is also gifted with administration,

hospitality, and encouragement. She advised everyone to listen to God's quiet leading and to remain humble in our service.

Lita Swindle, 2010 GA Planning Committee Representative, in period clothing, invited everyone to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the CP Church in Dixon, TN, June 13-18, 2010. The celebration will include dedication of a new monument, reproduction of the McDonald history of the CP Church, meeting concurrently with Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, musical drama by Renaissance, arts and crafts from 1810, making an altar, and many activities on the grounds.

Rev. Kevin Hensen, Executive Director, and Richard Brown, President of the Board of Trustees, brought greetings from the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home expressing their thanks for the ongoing donations and prayerful support offered by Women's Ministry members.

Regional Council Committee Report having been previously accepted and concurred by the body was opened for questions from the floor. None were brought forward.

Convention adjourned for a 10 minute break to prepare for closing worship.

Convention reconvened for worship with the Host Committee distributing worship bulletins (marked APPENDIX "H" and filed). Worship included the theme scripture, purpose statement, hymn, and song. Beulah Griffin, Missouri South Region, led a memorial prayer. Peggy Jean Craig explained that the Convention Offering will support the Vision School in Southeast Asia and brought a presentation that showed work that goes on there. A total of \$6,121.91 was received. Mary Lyn Childs gave the President's Address, "To Be Gifted To Serve. . . What does that mean to you and I?" Our goal in Women's Ministry is to share and help others using the gifts God has given us for His glory. Everyone was asked to write on a card the gift they will commit to God and place it in the designated receptacle.

Following the benediction, Martha made several announcements and awarded 3 door prizes. Convention adjourned at 5:00 p.m. for the day.

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Buses left at 8:30 a.m. to transport participants to the following offsite work projects: tour of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, and work groups to Dress for Success Memphis and Memphis Theological Society.

At 9:00 a.m. the following focus groups met:

- Gift of Administration – Nancy Gordon (Director's Row 1)
- Gift of Servanthood – Rev. Larry Bagby (Director's Row 3)
- Gift of Thrift – Liz Terrell (Promenade 1)

Convention Luncheon

The Convention Luncheon was opened with welcome and blessings for the meal by Emcee Susan Groves, Good Prospect CP Church, Trilla, Illinois. After the meal, Margie led the group in singing. Rev. Lisa Anderson spoke of the work accomplished at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. An offering of \$2,550.62 was received. Dr. Robert Prosser presented the 2009-2010 CP Women's Ministry Bethel College Scholarship recipient, Brittany Meeks. Mary Lyn extended thanks to the Host and Credentials Committee for all their hard work in making Convention a blessing and success. In the *Final Moment with Melody. . . in Reverse* Mary Lyn interviewed Melody who talked about the difference between a talent and a gift. She wants to live her life by using her gift for God's honor and glory. Believing she must stretch herself to do things she can't do in her own power, she is just willing to be used in God's power. Melody shared her gift of music in "My Father's Heart." Convention President, Mary Lyn Childs gave the benediction which closed Convention 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Middleton
2009 Convention Secretary