

Churchwide Coordinating Team Representative Annual Report June 2011

This year started with a bang at the Synod Gathering in Huntsville. It was a great time for all. We enjoyed great workshops, amazing speakers and music, and then there was the weather. God surely had a plan for us. Every time I think of Leah Bradley's address and the return of the lights, I get chill bumps.

The next thing on my agenda was the General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN. Before each General Assembly, the team of Moderators chooses about half of the CCT members to attend to the General Assembly to observe the Committee meetings and Business meetings. In that way, everyone gets to attend one General Assembly meeting during their time on the CCT. There were two special Breakfast Meals to attend; one was to honor special women from across the nation. I also attended the Breakfast meeting of the Medical Benevolence Foundation. The special speakers at each of these events brought messages of hope and encouragement. There was a fun dinner with the other commissioners and guests of the Presbytery of St. Andrew.

In August some of the work of the Mission Relationship Committee, which I chaired, was conducted ahead of the meeting by Conference Call. These meetings run very smoothly--with minutes kept -- and usually last about an hour. Near the end of August, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee had its semi-annual meeting to grant the Thank Offering Grants. The Birthday Offering Grants are decided in March.

September was a busy time. The Churchwide Gathering Planning Team met in Orlando, FL for two days of intense meetings. Planning the Churchwide Gathering is a very large undertaking. There are many Committees, each with a different part of the Gathering to plan. I was assigned to the Great Room Committee. The name of this Committee has been changes several times due to us having events all over the Hotel and Convention Center instead of a Great Room. It should be lots of fun for everyone. Following close behind the Gathering Planning meeting, women from all over the country started arriving for the CCT Training Event. There was great excitement at new ideas on how to train women to be leaders in their churches. The CCT meeting finally got under way for another five days.

The weather had begun to cool down a bit and was very pleasant by the time I had to go to Scottsdale, AZ for the Medical Benevolence Foundation Board of Trustees meeting. As I got off the plane, the temperature was 99 degrees. Well, so much for a nice fall. That meeting only lasted for two days, so I could leave the hot weather behind me.

In November, Jackie Riddle and I met in Elizabethtown, KY for a visit to the First Presbyterian Church. I had contacted the local Moderator of PW and asked if they would be willing to host the Synod Gathering in 2013. They are very excited and the church is

beautiful and all on one level. There will be ample room to have our Gathering. The Gathering travels from one state to another each Triennial.

I attended the Spring Gatherings in the Presbytery of St. Andrew and the Presbytery of the Mid-South. I carried greetings from the Churchwide Coordinating Team to each.

March brought another round of meetings in Louisville, KY. The Creative Ministries Offering Committee met to grant the Birthday Offering Grants and that meeting was followed by the CCT meeting.

In April, I attended my last meeting of the Medical Benevolence Foundation Board. This is a very good Presbyterian organization and I have been in awe of the amount of time and energy that so many doctors give to caring for the under privileged of the world. There are also a lot of other people who give a lot of time and their talents to support this organization. I am grateful that I was chosen as the Presbyterian Women's representative to this Board.

Serving on the Churchwide Coordinating Team has been a wonderful experience. Thank you so much for allowing me to represent our Synod in this way. You learn so much that you think, "Will my head hold anymore knowledge?" My life has been made fuller for this honor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Martha Knichel