



Kentucky Council of Churches
60th Annual Assembly
Provisional Minutes
October 18-19, 2007
*(To be reviewed and adopted at the
next meeting of the KCC Executive Board)*

Call to Order

Melissa Holland, Acting President

The assembly was called to order at 9:31a by acting president Melissa Holland standing "in persona Kathryn Johnson" who has taken a position as Lutheran Ecumenical officer in Geneva, Switzerland. The roll of denominations and churches was called and recorded (see attached). Introduction of guests: Dr. Michael Kinnamon and Fr. and Chuck Queen, guest speakers, and representatives from Emmanuel Baptist Church, Georgetown, members elect.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. James Byrd, Pastor of 3rd Baptist Church

Adoption of the Agenda

Changes: Report of Committee and Structure will be presented at 2:45 after finance report
Morning worship Thursday will be led by Dr. CK Henry
1:15 Wed: Workshop with Church world Service is cancelled
1:15 Thursday: Fr Richard Meredith will convene "Moving Past..." workshop

Motion: Agenda adopted by consent and without objection

Morning Prayer

Msgr. Don Hellman

Creating an attitude of gratitude: Reflection on Luke 17:11-19, the gratitude of the Samaritan leper.

Keynote Presentation

Dr. Michael Kinnamon

After a short break, a panel response followed Dr. Kinnamon's remarks. Participants in the panel were:

- o Rev. Leonard Jepson, Ecumenical representative of the Ind-KY Lutheran Synod
- o Mr. Mark Pettis: United Church of Christ seminarian at Lexington Theological Seminary
- o Rev. Howard Reynolds, United Methodist Clergy, retired
- o Rev. Mike Clark, Ecumenical officer of Roman Catholic diocese of Owensboro
- o Rev. Dr. James Byrd, Pastor, 3rd Baptist Church

PLENARY SESSION I:

This business session was called to order at 12:04pm

Executive Director's Report

Rev. Dr. Nancy Jo Kemper

Nancy Jo made comments on her written report in the vein of the "State of the Council." Thesis: American Christianity has moved into post denominational, localistic, populist, and consumerist impulses: people want to do it for themselves, and they want to see their money at work. She highlighted organizational "threats" listed in her written report, and that the council or indeed ecumenical concerns continue to be last on the list of denominational meetings or synods, if they are considered at all. "Pending responses" paragraph is from a report of the National Council of Churches, written by a committee chaired by Michael Kinnamon: "The world is too strong for a divided church." Delegates were challenged to take

back all that they here, and present the documents and covenants, insisting that resolutions be proffered to local churches and regional bodies.

Presentation of Policy Statement on Criminal Justice

Ed Monahan moved adoption this policy found on page 81 of the delegates handbook on behalf of the commission on justice ministries. Vote will take place Friday.

Presentation of Policy Statement on Torture

Ed Monahan moved adoption this policy found on page 107 of the delegates handbook on behalf of the commission on justice ministries. Vote will take place Friday.

Presentation of Document concerning the Vatican's "Responses to Some Questions regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine of the Church"

This document is being presented as an informational message from the Commission on Christian Unity. The document begins on Page 65 of the delegate hand book. The document is meant to be shared among our constituent congregations.

Nancy Jo moved that this report be received on behalf of the CCU. Vote to be held Friday.

Overview of Workshops

Chris Skidmore

Workshops held at 1:15pm were:

The following workshops were described and held in various rooms of the church.

- Moving On Toward Justice: The Campaign Against Torture (Moderator, Kent Gilbert)
- Moving Toward a Better Criminal Justice System (Ernie Lewis, Mark Pettis, Ed Monahan)
- Moving Past Misunderstandings of the Vatican's "Responses to Some Questions regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine of the Church": (Richard Meredith, Convener)

PLENARY SESSION II: Reports on Our Life Together

Our second session was convened at 2:50pm

Financial Report

Curt Ehrmantraut, Treasurer

Expenditures are in line with both the budget and with patterns in recent years. Endowment funds continue to be drawn down (a recurring concern), though this trend was partially offset by market performance gains. Constituent income is coming in at same rate as last year, but last year's income was down \$10,000. Roman Catholic has agreed to continue their 25% contribution of the previous year's constituent contributions. Individual contributions can now be received online. The June 30th report printed does not include an approximate \$20K received from communions since the printing.

Budget for 2008

Curt Ehrmantraut, Treasurer

Budget was presented for information only (approved by Exec Board at August meeting). Includes about a 2% increase, including \$4000 of increase in personnel costs. Buying out the copier helped decrease office expenses. Income projections show a \$20K shortfall that will be made up by endowment. Staff has been actively seeking grants to supplement the work and program. Finance and Budget committee with board has agreed that we should maintain current level and staffing. Reducing would impair service and involvement, let alone the ability to develop more revenue streams. Audit for 2006 shows no findings of unusual transactions or problems. (Auditors did note that no CPA is on staff which changes some technical ways they report their findings.) Investment returns look to be growing at about 10%, slightly ahead of the market. We are drawing it down at about 12%.

Question: How much is in our endowment? Answer: around \$588,000.

Presentation of Slate of Nominees

Rev. Dr. Robert Stauffer, Chair

Standing Committee on Personnel & Nominations

Melissa Holland standing for President, First VP and Secretary are open. Vote will be taken tomorrow

Report of the Committee on Policy & Structure

Rev. Ron Gaddie

Report handed out on goldenrod paper was referred to, and the covenant of renewal (p. 71) are intended to spark the commitment of the judicatories. The Virginia Council of Churches has provided a fruitful model that the KCC is currently exploring. KIDRP was/is an important visual model of what the churches acting together. Covenant will be sent to judicatories for a one year review among parishes, congregations and denominational bodies.

Report of the Associate Director

Rev. Chris Skidmore

Round of applause called for both Jeanie Hartman and Aloma Dew for work on the local, sustainable food provided at the KCC. Chris reported that KKK activity has been reported in the central KY counties, that included cards planted outside African-American homes and homes of civil rights activists. Chris highlighted "Unity Trek" as a wonderful vehicle of the KCC for local churches. Chris also repeated a plea for current contact information among constituents.

Workshops:

Meeting was adjourned to afternoon workshops at 3:17pm

- **Moving into a New Future: Receiving and Affirming a New Covenant:** a presentation on ecumenical reception; what "reception mean" and how to do it; and the reasons for a new covenant to the members of the KCC.....Nancy Jo Kemper
- **Facing the Racial Divide: Racial Disproportionality** Delanor Manson and Larry Michalczyk, KY Community Partnership for Protecting Children (CPPC)
- **Moving Toward Restorative Criminal Justice:** another opportunity to review the proposed policy statement
- **Leadership, the Future of Denominations and the Future of Ecumenism:** a conversation with Michael Livingston and Michael Kinnamon

Question of Opposition to Expanded Gambling was raised and addressed by NJK. Current assembly doesn't address this longstanding position in light of gubernatorial election. Because the issue is not directly affected by this election, KCC has decided to avoid raising it lest it appear partisan toward one candidate or another. Commitment continues.

Evening Worship 7:30pm

Evening worship was begun in the context of a rising storm. Following prayers, confession and intercession, the sermon had just begun when the tornado sirens were sounded and Nancy Jo asked us all to move to out of the sanctuary and to the ½ basement rooms nearby that were without windows. This was at approximately 8:00pm. Everyone made their way there safely, and though crowded we were for the most part comfortable. Several of the company sang hymns we could remember: What a friend we have in Jesus, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, What a Mighty God We Serve, and This little Light of Mine. During one of the hymns we felt a great pressure wave press through the rooms and the power went out.

After 10 minutes emergency services personnel gave us permission to exit the rooms. We moved in the darkness out under the portico where the rain was still coming down in sheets. The Pastor James Byrd came out and announced that the sanctuary roof had been blown in and the balcony had collapsed. Several cars of delegates were damaged with windshields blown out or cracked by debris. One car was blown over the hedge and flipped over. There were no injuries, however. The decision was made to reconvene at First Christian Church of Owensboro the next morning.

At that time, it became clear that our first priority should be to assist Third Baptist Church. By unanimous consent \$1000 was voted to TBC from the Kentucky Interchurch Disaster Recovery Program (KIDRP) funds of the Kentucky Council of Churches. Dr. Kemper had all the catered lunches sent to the local relief agency to aid victims or emergency workers. All other pending business was referred to the executive board and the delegates were dismissed with no further business or workshops possible.

Let the record show that the exemplary behavior of the staff in the midst of the emergency contributed to both our safety in the storm, as well as to compassionate and helpful response to the needs after. We are especially grateful to the members of Third Baptist Church for their hospitality and care for us in our need. We join them in rejoicing that no one was hurt, despite the devastation of their sanctuary. Our prayers of thanksgiving rise for them, and for all who were our strong arm in times of trouble.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kent H. Gilbert
Secretary pro tem