Report on Kentucky Council of Churches Assembly Susan Warren October 30, 2017

Profound challenges to privilege – in many cases, privileged white churches – emerged from keynote speakers, group leaders and worship at the  $70^{th}$  annual assembly of the Kentucky Council of Churches meeting in October in Jeffersontown.

"We have domesticated resistence and protest," said the Rev. Dr. Miguel De La Torre, who along with others urged a radical approach to rejecting privilege and focusing on mission. Torre and others speakers stressed the importance of reconciliation with victims of racial, social and economic injustice – something that can be accomplished only by listening and working together closely.

This year's theme, "Unpacking Power and Privilege," brought together clergy and lay members of churches that focus on ecumenical relations. Also at this year's assembly, the Rev. Dr. Donald Gillett II was formally installed as new executive director and plans were announced to hire a lobbyist to discuss council views with Kentucky legislators. Among a number of other issues council has taken positions on behalf of juvenile detainees, opposing the death penalty, and implementing gun control measures.