

KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
70TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 19 - 20, 2017
DELEGATE'S REPORT—Mike Ward

The 70th Annual Assembly of the Kentucky Council of Churches was held on October 19 - 20, 2017, at the Jeffersontown Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Delegates from the KCC member judicatories (including Transylvania Presbytery) as well as other guests and visitors attended the gathering, one hundred or so persons in total.

The theme of this year's Assembly was "Unpacking Power and Privilege." The program included keynote presentations from Mr. Jack Jezreel (JustFaith Ministries, Louisville) and Dr. Miguel De La Torre (Iliff School of Theology, Denver). The Rev. Traci Blackmon (United Church of Christ) preached at the Assembly worship service. Workshops at the Assembly included "Making Space for the Conversation: Working to Remove Systemic Racism," "No Shelter in the Storm: Basic Human Needs, Immigration Privilege and the Undocumented Jesus," "Environmental Justice in Focus: Exploring Impacts at Home and Abroad," "The Impact of Disparities on Health," and "A House Divided" (introducing the 2018 Assembly theme).

At the Assembly Banquet, awards were presented to several organizations for significant work in the area of "living justly" (the 2016 Assembly theme) including the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, New Roots: fresh food is a basic human right, and NIA Urban Ministries.

The final plenary session of the Assembly included a simulation exercise, "The Racial Wealth Gap Simulation," guided by Ms. Marlysa Gamblin of Bread for the World. The simulation allows participants to learn why communities of color are twice as likely as the general population to experience hunger and poverty. The simulation outlines 13 federal policies and their use of racial discrimination in creating the wealth, income and hunger gaps we see today.

KCC Executive Board officers for 2018 were elected during the business meeting, including the Rev. Philip Lotspeich who will continue his service as Secretary of the Executive Board.

As a delegate representing Transylvania Presbytery, I found the Assembly to be informative and challenging and inspiring, both in its formal program and in informal conversations with sisters and brothers from around the Commonwealth. I would encourage anyone to attend future Assemblies, whether or not serving as a judicatory delegate. Thank you for the opportunity to represent Transylvania Presbytery in this way.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael L. Ward