

KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
71ST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 25-26, 2018
DELEGATE'S REPORT

The 71st Annual Assembly of the Kentucky Council of Churches was held on October 25-26, 2018, at the Jeffersontown Christian Church, Jeffersontown, 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 "A House Divided," focusing on finding unity in the midst of divisive times. The program included keynote presentations by the Rev. Dr. Leah Schade (Lexington Theological Seminary) and Bishop Marvin Frank Thomas (Christian Methodist Episcopal Church). The Rev. Paul Prather (pastor of Bethesda Church in Mt. Sterling and *Lexington Herald Leader* columnist) preached at the Assembly worship service. Workshops at the Assembly included "Healthy Congregations, Healthy Communities," "The Heart of Ecumenical Dialogue," "Talking Together: Getting Beyond Polarization Through Civil Dialogue," "Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival," and "Reclaiming Jesus" (introducing the 2019 Assembly theme).

At the Assembly Banquet, several awards were presented to organizations and individuals for significant work in "unpacking power and privilege" (the 2017 Assembly theme) including "The Girl Project" empowering girls to challenge the mis-representation of girls and women in American culture, "The Carter G. Woodson Center for Interracial Education" at Berea College for its emphasis on understanding and equality between races, "Kentuckians for the Commonwealth" for helping often "voiceless" persons and groups in our society be heard, and the Rev. Reginald Barnes of the Brown Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church (Louisville) for leadership in justice ministry taking seriously the call of Micah 6:8.

During the business meeting, KCC Executive Board officers for 2019 were elected including the Rev. Kent Gilbert (Union Church, Berea) as President, the Rev. Amanda Groves (Disciples of Christ) as 1st Vice President, Ms. Linda Axon (Church Women United) as 2nd Vice President, the Rev. Lisa Zahalka (PCUSA) as Secretary, and Ms. Melissa Holland (Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington) as Treasurer.

As a delegate representing Transylvania Presbytery, I found the Assembly to be informative, challenging, and inspiring, both in its program and in the fellowship 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael L. Ward