

**KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**  
**72ND ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**  
**OCTOBER 24-25, 2019**  
**DELEGATE'S REPORT**

The 72nd Annual Assembly of the Kentucky Council of Churches was held on October 24-25, 2019, at the First Baptist Church, Morehead, 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 "Reclaiming Jesus," focusing on re-discovering and proclaiming the often provocative Jesus of the gospels. The program included keynote presentations by the Rev. Dr. Obery Hendricks (Columbia University) and Dr. Loida Martell (Lexington Theological Seminary). The Rev. Dr. Hendricks preached at the Assembly worship service. Special music was provided by the First Baptist Church choir, as well as an inspiring local gospel choir. Workshops at the Assembly included "Reclaiming Compassion," "Reclaiming our Environment," "Reclaiming Christian Service Work," and "The Politics of Jesus."

At the Assembly Banquet, several awards were presented to organizations and individuals for significant work in response to the 2018 Assembly theme ("A House Divided:") including: "FORR - Focusing on Race Relations" of Frankfort/Franklin County; the Rev. Dr. Leah Schade for her work in providing tools for maintaining unity in the midst of diversity and division; "Empower West Louisville" for its work to unleash the economic, educational, and spiritual power of challenged neighborhoods; Mr. Bryant Hileman, co-founder of HEART USA, for providing cooperative ministry to Paducah and surrounding areas.

During the business meeting, KCC Executive Board officers for 2020 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. The Council's ongoing financial challenges were also discussed, including the importance of supporting the KCC as a voice for God's justice in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

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.

The 73rd Annual Assembly, October 22-23, 2020, will also be held at First Baptist Church, Morehead. The assembly theme will be "The Golden Rule."

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael L. Ward