

DELEGATE'S REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY
62ND ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
OCTOBER 15-16, 2009
NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK

The Kentucky Council of Churches held its 62nd Annual Assembly on October 15-16, 2009 at Natural Bridge State Park. The theme for this year's assembly was "United for the Care of God's Earth." The keynote speaker was Dr. Larry Rasmussen, Professor Emeritus of Social Ethics, Union Theological Seminary (NY).

As the assembly theme suggests, this year's program focused on affirming the theological ground for ecumenical witness and action toward faithful stewardship of the earth and its resources. Workshops focused on practical suggestions for congregations and individuals to not only "talk the talk" but also "walk the walk" of faithful stewardship of the earth including: eating foods from local producers, energy audits of church facilities, composting and recycling waste, advocating for earth friendly policies and legislation, etc. Internet resource sites include the Web of Creation (www.webofcreation.org) and Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light (www.kentuckyipl.org) for liturgical, study, and action resources.

A highlight of this year's assembly was the ecumenical worship service on Thursday evening, which included the installation of the Rev. Dr. Marian McClure Taylor as the Council's Executive Director. Judicatory leaders from member communions, including General Presbyter Richard Smith, participated in the service. Dr. Taylor, a Presbyterian, preached the sermon focusing on the "eager longing" of the Creation for wholeness in all aspects of life.

The Rev. Chris Skidmore, the Council's Associate Director, reminded the assembly of the wonderful program, "Unity Trek," which is available for local congregations. "Unity Trek" invites youth to explore and experience the unity to be found in Christ. Contact Chris to learn more about the possibility of a "Unity Trek" in your congregation.

While not as happy a subject, the assembly nonetheless spent time considering the Council's current and future financial situation, which is precarious. Last year's stock market decline seriously affected the Council's income and reserves, and regular contributions from member communions have not been able to make up the difference. New and creative ideas are needed to support the Council's work. Congregations are encouraged to supplement their denominational support of the Council through the dedication of occasional Sunday offerings to the Council. Donations from individuals are also welcome and needed.

For more information about the work of the Kentucky Council of Churches, see their website at www.kycouncilofchurches.org.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent Transylvania Presbytery at this year's annual assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael L. Ward
Delegate from Transylvania Presbytery