

**Report
on
Annual Conference
by
Sandy Young, Lay Delegate
June 16-18, 2009**



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The 223rd Session of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference was held at the Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, Pennsylvania on June 16, 17, and 18.

Business:

The laity meeting was so crowded that there was standing room only. It was reported that it was the largest group ever, but no one could give me a head count and I asked two days in a row for that information.

The 2010 budget was adopted without any discussion possibly because they cut 10% out of it this year.

Only one church, Prospectville, closed its doors within the year. Two classes were ordained because of the change last year from three years to two years probationary time. Twenty-three were ordained as deacons or elders. I believe I counted twelve women in the group. There were fifteen retiring in a beautiful service.

Thirty-two constitutional amendments were easily voted on as many of them had the same wording change. It ended up that we only had to have six ballots to cover these amendments. Fifteen resolutions were voted on during the conference. Bishop Johnson said that we were becoming activists after voting on the following:

2009-9 Resolution urging the Annual Conference and Local Churches to support effort to stop the expansion of gambling.

2009-11 Resolution Urging Legislation to Slow Global Warming: – it was reported that Pennsylvania is the 3rd worst state for emitting global warming pollution.

2009-12 A Resolution Regarding Handgun Violence (Please notice the number of this resolution.) Our own Pastor James F. McIntire and Pastor David R. Tatgenhorst presented this resolution.

2009-13 Resolution on the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

All the above passed unanimously.

Personal Thoughts:

We went from the last two years, with lavish accommodations, at the Center City Marriott to a warehouse! Somehow I think Jesus would have heartedly approved. We managed to conduct our services and meetings in the same way within the simplicity of the building and, hopefully, without the extra cost to the churches and the laity.

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The first question on my evaluation form was "What did you like best about the conference?"

My answer was: Our new Bishop, **Peggy Johnson**. My initial impression was that she exuded sweetness and light. She also has a wonderful smile and a delightful sense of humor. Bishop Johnson made the work that we had to do a pleasure. She is making the rounds of the churches and I think we should invite her to Hope so all of you can meet her personally.

The news from our faith friends:

Ed Green - As usual he was the first person that I knew. Because it was so early we had a chance to catch up on our families. He is finishing up ten months as an interim minister at Elverson UM Church. I was seated next to another minister at lunch who told me that Ed Green is just as valuable to the Conference in his retirement as he was in his years in service.

Amy Smith - She came and sat with me during two of the services. Amy is in her second year in Phoenixville.

Alice Ann Bonham - She is returning for her second year.

Ed Kimes - He grew up at Trinity. He was using a cane as he is recovering from knee surgery. Ed is also returning to his church.

Alicia Julia Stanley - She will be staying at Levittown. Her two children are both graduating this year, one from high school and one from a technical school.

Pastor John - He introduced me to two of his laity and they all seemed happy. I told them all that we trained him well! You will all enjoy this -- They told me that they had to replace a small clock in the pulpit with a large school clock to get him to finish his services on time!

Paul Shumate - He was having a very serious neck operation last Thursday Mrs. Shumate told me. We should pray for him. Everyone sent their love.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Young