

MarchPresReport

March 2017 President's Report

As I begin this report I find myself amazed that this term as your president has entered the halfway point. The time has gone quickly and I continue to be honored to serve. I am grateful for the wisdom of the 2014-2015 Executive Committee when they selected Susan Gillies as our Interim General Secretary. Susan has been a wise and courageous leader these past few months. She willingly enters into challenging conversations, guides the NEC with deft diplomacy, and has led the Office of the General Secretary through needed adjustments. I pray for her health and well-being as she completes her term of service over the next few months.

Since the November 2016 President's Report, I have been engaged in numerous conference calls. Baptist Talk has convened three times and as will be shared by Don Ng during our meeting. They have developed a workshop for the Biennial Mission Summit that will model how to have challenging conversations and arrive at respect without changing each other's view. I have spoken with Susan Gillies and Jeff Woods regarding a request from a local church. Brad Berglund and I have brainstormed ways to keep Rhythms of the Spirit going forward without financial dependence from OGS. A conference call was held to determine the recipients of the Sparrowk award for this biennium.

One of the greatest privileges I had was the honor of meeting Newton Old Crow, one of our amazing Native American pastors from Montana. Newton offered wisdom and grace as we chatted about his conversion, his ministry, and his hopes for native people.

The General Secretary search process continues to be a paramount priority for my term as president. I will share more about that in Executive Session. The Committee met in January to determine which candidates would be interviewed. Round One of interviews took place February 16-17 where we narrowed the search to four candidates. Final interviews will be held March 17. It is our hope and intention to identify the person we will present to BGM following the March 17 interviews. The board will come together in Chicago on May 8 to meet and vote for the committee's selected candidate.

I write this report in anticipation of two events leading up to our March Executive Committee meeting. March 1-4, I travel to Puerto Rico for their annual meeting. It will be an honor to celebrate Josue Gomez's nomination as president for 2018-2019 with his home region! Just prior to this Executive Committee meeting I will be in Washington D.C. to meet with the ABWIM Advisory Council and with women in ministry from the D.C. area. I'm grateful to Pat Hernandez for her invitations to highlight a female clergy president.

Looking ahead, I will attend NLC at the Greenlake Conference Center April 3-6. This is the only time each year when REMC and national leadership from ABHMS, MMBB, ABWM, IM, and OGS are together to share and reflect on the life of our denomination. Please hold this gathering in your prayers.

Later in April I will join the Women Clergy Colloquium for their annual gathering. Traveling from that meeting, I fly to Hartford, Connecticut to lead a workshop and preach for the

ABCCONN annual meeting. I will remain in Hartford to preach at one of the region's churches on Sunday morning.

Amid these travels decisions are made in preparation for the Biennial Mission Summit as well as considerations for the General Secretary's compensation package. With deep gratitude I "tip my hat" to our remarkable staff! They are wonderfully kind, gracious, supportive, and infinitely patient! We would not be able to do what we do without them!

Thank you for the joy of serving alongside you!

Judy Fackenthal, President 2016-2017