

President's Report  
November 2020

As I write this report, there are few words to describe what has become an unexpected Presidency. In as much, I am thankful for those who have been called for such a time as this; namely OGS staff and an Executive Committee have made these times that have been filled with discussions and planning around a global pandemic, natural disasters and racial unrest in many portions of the United States palatable.

Additionally, I have held tight to my belief in us as people of God and have held especially tight to this portion of our mission statement:

*"As a people of prayer, purpose, and passion, we are in the forefront of creating a diverse community of faith where people of every race, nationality and culture gather as one in worship, witness and work."*

*The heart of the gospel is God's redemptive love. In our life together, the world will see the power of forgiveness to overcome alienation, the strength of love to transform hate, the power of grace to break the bonds of guilt, the triumph of hope over despair, and the victory of faith over doubt."*

Following are several issues that I have focused on over the last several months:

**Biennial Mission Summit Planning**

I am both excited and pleased with the creativity and energy with which the planning team is carrying out the work to provide a Biennial Mission Summit in June 2021. To date, the planning is honoring our history and relationships with partners while preparing for the family to gather virtually in different and energizing ways.

**General Secretary Search**

The Executive Committee has spent considerable time re-envisioning a path forward and will present a plan for consideration at the November BGM meeting. EC envisions a process that includes the denominational family engaging in identity work as we position ourselves to call our next General Secretary – one that is able to follow in the footsteps of those who've served previously and fulfill the roles needed in the days ahead as the denomination fulfills its mission in times such as these.

**Anti-racism Task Force**

As a result of the Call to Prayer and having received over thirty applications to participate in the work of the task force, Dr. Natalie Wimberly and Rev. Justin Thornburg are planning to facilitate the first meeting of the task force on Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

**Caucus Funding**

Preparing to engage with leadership to understand and re-calibrate, if necessary, the work and improve the process of administrative funding the Caucuses. I am planning to give a report at the next meeting in June regarding allocations for facilitating the budget for 2022.

**Response to invitations/Presentations**

On behalf of the Board of General Ministries, I was participate the following regional activities:

Participated in the ABCRGR opening session of the Delegate's Meeting held on May 30, 2020 via Zoom.

Shared a video message for ABCNJ region's Annual Session during their 190th anniversary. The theme of the session was "Deeply Rooted in Christ, Mission and Love" and was held on October 3, 2020.

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 McKee Heritage Mission Adventure to Ghana and Liberia being facilitated by International Ministries was postponed. The mission trip has tentatively been re-scheduled for March 2021.

In closing, I appreciate the prayers and encouragement being offered via texts, emails and voicemails as I continue leading in these ever evolving and uncertain times.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Podsiadly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Podsiadly