

299th Annual General Association
Missionary Society
Connecticut Conference UCC
September 29, 2008
9:10 am
Silver Lake Conference Center
Sharon, CT
Cedars Building

Rev. Kathy Peters, Chair of the General Association (GA) Planning Committee called to order the 299th General Association of the Missionary Society of the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ.

Introduced were our hosts, the Interim Directors of Silver Lake Conference Center Dave and Sharon who welcomed us and reminded us all to use our camp or we could lose them. They then congratulated us for using the conference center calling it a “miracle place”.

Kathy Peters reminded us to wear our name tags and that the conference center is a non-smoking facility. She reminded us that business may be conducted throughout the next two days and that the meeting would close at the end of worship on Tuesday.

Jan Gregory then led us in worship.

Introductions of the GA Planning Committee were made: Kathy Peters, Olivia Robinson, Jan Gregory, Ron Brown, Linda Westby, Ken Peterkin, and Rick Hulett. Everyone was encouraged at that moment to then greet someone around them they did not yet know.

New clergy to the Conference were asked to stand and introduce themselves. We also identified and introduced two In-Care students, one Christian Education professional, and two Music professionals who were attending.

The minutes from the 2007 298th GA were swiftly reviewed and approved.

The presenter for 2009, 300th anniversary GA was announced to be Rev. John Thomas, the outgoing General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

Then announced was that our Conference Minister, Rev. Davida Foy Crabtree would offer her Conference Minister’s address later in the day at the Amphitheater.

Kathy Peters then gave her Moderator’s address highlighting the many changes that this General Association has brought through the years from once being an all male, formal gathering in formal garb to a mixed gender gathering with a casual tone. Kathy noted the presence of our Christian Educators and their importance—as they are often undervalued.

She reminded us about the very human nature of Jesus and that if we are not willing to understand and embrace that humanness in ourselves as pastoral leaders, we cannot be like Jesus. Also, Kathy reminded us that working for Jesus is not an easy task. We were reminded to not fall pray in making our church the “church of convenience”.

Most importantly Kathy reminded and encouraged us to value our selves, our staff, and our Christian Education and Music staff; to not be loners and to count on others. We need not be a savior as there already is one, and to remember what we preach—salvation is for our selves also.

Tom Loeder led us in prayer.

Ron Brown was brought forth to introduce our presenter Tom Troeger.

Later that day we gathered at the Amphitheater to hear Davida’s address to us. The setting was chosen to protect Davida her because of her susceptibility to infection due to the effects of cancer therapies. Davida reminded us that her condition and her use of available healthcare resources was one example of many issues to come to the fore in the ensuing year.

A business session was called at 4:59 pm Monday to elect a new Moderator for the next year. It was proposed and unanimously approved by the Planning Committee and the attending Clergy to call Davida as the next Moderator.

Tuesday at 12pm a business session was called to elect Cynthia Carr to be a member of the Planning Committee. She was unanimously approved.

With our final worship we officially closed the 299th General Association, calling all clergy to attend next year’s 300th Annual event September 21-22, 2009.

Submitted by,

Rev. Ken Peterkin
Essex, CT