

REPORT ON HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

First of all, thank you for allowing me to represent Central Church at the 2019 Annual Conference June 9-12 at Lake Junaluska, NC. Also from Central were New River District delegates at large (called Equalization delegates) Marcy Harless, Mike London, Betty and Dennis Overdorf. Our pastor served as a counter/usher there as well.

On the bulletin board in the hallway outside the sanctuary are copies of "The Call". These report on activities of the previous day as well as the schedule for that particular day. They will give you a rather broad idea of what takes place, so please stop by to read them at your convenience.

I can't begin to report on everything that happened there- days were long, busy, and tiring. That having been said, I'll share a few things that I think you might find of interest.

- On Monday, our day started with a praise band followed by morning devotions and communion led by Rev. Tony Collins. "We're not called to be happy, we are called to serve." You will want to watch this DVD (see DVD note later in this report)!
- Then came Tim Holton's presentation on The Addictive Brain. The five of us agreed that we've never heard a more engaging speaker! We purchased this DVD and are eager to use it with not only our congregation, but invite other churches in the city to join us. He had been an addict for fourteen years, lost everything that was important to him, and found his way back to being a nationally known speaker on that subject.
- Evening worship on Tuesday started with a large group of young people playing African drums! Then George Howard of the General Board of Global Ministries talked about Holston's heart for missions. We also are purchasing this DVD to share since there was too much information to even try to write as he spoke.
- Speaking of DVDs, these will be available to borrow through the church office once we receive them:
 1. Tony Collins' Monday morning devotional
 2. The Addictive Brain
 3. Tuesday morning's devotional led by Rev. Leah Burns (who was a little ball of fire!)
 4. Tuesday morning's business session in which our District Superintendent, Kim Goddard, delivered a very inspiring message
 5. The Missions Celebration on Tuesday evening.
- Interspersed with these during the days and evenings were many, many reports and voting on General Conference delegates. The voting took place using paper ballots and took huge chunks of time due to a majority requirement. Laity had 13 ballots before reaching a final decision.
- The elephant in the room seemed to be "the resolution". Holston Annual Conference adopted a resolution by a vote of 573 to 301 titled "Holston Conference Commitment In Being In Ministry Together". There was discussion lasting around 45 minutes involving about 15 speakers that included speeches for and against. Each speaker was allowed no more than 3 minutes which was good. During this time, votes were taken to approve using a paper ballot and to approve an amendment changing the word "apologize" to "grieve" in the last sentence. The entire resolution can be read on line.
- The website, Holston Annual Conference 2019, has much more detailed information.

Sincerely, Gayle Miller
Gayle Miller