

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ.” - 1Corinthians 12:12

Reflecting on 2018, and early 2019, the Missouri Mid-South Conference is a body on the move. Being a nurse, it is easy for me to see the metaphor of the body of Christ, being dynamic, complex and interconnected. The Conference is not one committee or covenanted ministry, but a multiplicity of interwoven committees and ministries that have gifted, dedicated and faithful people who desire to serve. All of them work toward the common good.

At this moment, I want to thank all of those who have made this body of Christ, alive and thriving, and for helping me as I transitioned into the Moderator role. There are so many who have inspired and taught me in this past year what it means to work in this often confusing, but vital body of the church. I want to celebrate and thank our Conference Council members who have given of themselves for the work of the church. In addition, I want to thank standing committees and covenanted ministry teams. Through these committees and teams, the Conference actually carries out its work. Much of their work in this past year has been to support, encourage and be responsible for the work of the body of Christ known as the Conference. Many of them have worked on policies, provided educational opportunities, guided sound financial decisions and offered prayerful discernment on programs.

As well, I want to lift in gratitude the work of the Conference staff – Ginny, Tyler, Jane, Doug, Cindy, Courtney, Nate, Jeremy, Kathy, Lorraine, and Tiffany. Each of them has offered their gifts to build up the body of Christ. With such a small staff, we are mindful that it takes us all in the body to do the work of the Conference. CAG 2019 introduces the body to the Conference attorney in Grant Weins. Missouri Mid-South Conference is blessed to have truly gifted and energized people, who work with what they have to make the body full and rich.

In addition, thanks to the Conference Annual Gathering Planning Team, who is under the leadership of Rick Oberle, Jane Porchey, and Don and Sandy Frandsen have outdone themselves in creating a wonderful 2019 Annual gathering. THANK YOU!

As we move into the future, I look forward to the continuing work that John Bracke and myself in 20/20 Strategic Initiatives. Our hope is that the work will conclude at the 2020 Conference Annual Gathering. I look forward in the future to have meaningful conversations about what is in your heart for the Missouri Mid-South Conference. Together we are the body of Christ! Thank you, my fellow friends and followers of Christ; let us step boldly and bravely into the future together.

Donna Pupillo