

## Annual Conference 2017 Report by Jeanice Whitmeyer

East Ohio's 2017 conference was June 12-15 in Lakeside Ohio. Our new Bishop, Tracy Malone presided over the Business and Worship services. The theme for this year's conference was "Bearing Fruit that lasts". The conference was the 144<sup>th</sup>.

Gary Garrett and I were Lay Delegates and Pat Moore, Lenny Lust, Greg Lyons and Galen Whitmeyer were delegates at Large. Pastor Brad Smith and Pastor Casey Roelle attended also.

Business sessions were held each day along with Church reports. Ten Resolutions were considered and were not concluded until we stayed an extra 1 ½ hours the last day to finish them! Those passed were;

1. Retaining Young Clergy of color.
2. Welcoming Immigrants in our Midwest.
3. Human Rights of Palestinians.
4. Day of Repentance.
5. Health Care for the most vulnerable.
6. Christian Behavior towards GLBTQ people.
7. Churches encouraged to be advocates for those addicted.

Other business included a report of YAC where 1,077 youth attended Friday through Sunday from both East and West Ohio Conference.

The Treasurer report found the conference finances in good order. We heard reports on Health and Welfare, Pastoral Care, and 3 C's (Churches, Clinics, and Classrooms).

Conference attendances gave \$39,500 to CCC.

The Lemonade Kids sold cold drinks again and with donations from conference and grandparents matching funds they have reached \$100,000 for Nets for African kids in the last few years.

Nineteen ministers retired serving 450 years of ministry. Thirteen people became Deacons, Elders, and the order of Elders-one of whom was Jeremy Roseberry, grandson of Mr. John Roseberry of Col. Crawford fame. As usual the worship services were unique and they gave great joy. At the Holy Communion service on Monday fifteen clergy and 23 spouses were remembered as Saints.

Bishop Michael McKee of North Texas gave the morning messages titled "Rooted and Grounded", "Have the Mind" and "We are one". His faith and messages gave everyone a spirit of hope in this world.

Facts on interest included;

- 420 Cleaning Buckets received
- 3,100 Health kits
- \$5,728. In cash
- 35 Layettes
- \$1,422,604. Given to World Service
- \$50,000. To repair and update the Bishop home.
- 8 Churches were closed in East Ohio
- \$6,000. Raised from 5K run
- 1,398 people attended
- 658 were Ministers 740 Lay Members
- Mid-Ohio had 26 changes in appointments
- 14 of us honored former Pastor Don Krap's retirement with a meal at Hotel Lakeside

Some Statements of Faith that encouraged my soul;

- “You need to know the story of Jesus”
- “All Christians should remember their baptism”
- “Build Up and Encourage”
- “Be Bold in Your Witness”
- “Regard the Faith by Sharing the Faith”
- “There’s no such thing as secret discipleship”
- “Keep at Work”
- “You need to be rooted and grounded in the Love of Christ”
- “We are in for the long haul”
- “We Love You and there is nothing you can do about it”

Thanks for letting me be one of your delegates.

Being part of this church and Methodism is a great joy for me. Each of us has a mission to share our faith by action to others.

Sincerely,

Jeanice Whitmeyer