

## APRIL REPORT TO THE SENATE

Joe Kutter

We began the month, 6-9, in Green Lake with the General Executive Committee (GEC). The group includes the Executive Leadership of the Office of General Secretary, International Ministries, Home Mission Societies (formerly National Ministries), MMBB, and the Associated Ministries Organizations of which Ministers Council is one. I was invited to lead worship as the meeting opened and I was honored to do so.

Matt Sturtevant served with me for 6 years in FBC Topeka before I accepted this job. It was an honor to preach his installation sermon at the FBC Lawrence, KS on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

From the 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>, I led a Community of Practice workshop/retreat with the ABC Nebraska Ministers Council. Camp Moses Merrill is a wonderful respite on the Plains.

From Nebraska, I led a retreat for the ABCCR Ministers Council at Crosswinds Conference Center, 19-21. As I wrote in our last newsletter, this was designed to be more of a retreat and less of a conference. The plan is to return next year and do a workshop that describes the processes involved in creating and sustaining “Communities of Practice.”

Your Executive Committee met via conference call to talk about pre-Biennial events and hosting a “Preaching Pavilion” in San Juan during the Biennial. About the pre-Biennial events, we affirmed our decision to work in partnership with other groups in creating the event and a conference call among the prospective partners will happen soon. We affirmed our decision to offer a Thursday afternoon event as well as the traditional Friday morning event. And we agreed to host the “Preaching Pavilion” and are looking for names of perspective preachers.

The Women in Ministry Task Force continues to work and new materials have been added to our website, [www.ministerscouncil.org](http://www.ministerscouncil.org).

I continue to be grateful to the small group that serves as our finance team. We meet regularly, via conference call, to review financial statements and to think about our financial future. The bottom line does not change; more money would be very helpful.

The fund raising team has met and we plan to have a proposal ready for the August Senate meetings.

I finished the meeting with the Seniors Group of the ABCCR, 28-29. I made an ad hoc presentation on “What you Need to Know About our Pastors” which was well received, or so those who responded said.

I recently led a workshop/retreat in Ohio. The Executive Committee hosted a meeting of participants to follow up on our gathering. I am attaching the minutes of their follow-up meeting which, I believe, suggests the kinds of things that can happen as we work together on our ministries.

Sue is sending out information about our Senate meetings. Please attend to travel-planning ASAP.

As you enter the spring and summer seasons, I pray God's renewing grace upon you.

Joe Kutter