The Regional Council of CP Women’s Ministry met on June 19, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. at Innisbrook Resort in Palm Harbor, Florida. The meeting was called to order by President, Jamie Berkley, who welcomed the delegates and made introductions. Secretary Brenda Shoultz gave the opening devotion and offered the opening prayer. Copies of the 2017-2018 directory were given to each delegate to update their region’s information as needed. There were 21 regional delegates present. Introductions of each attendee were made. Co-chairs Luann Barber (Nashville Region) and Sondra Gould (Magnolia Region) led the discussion regarding the project proposals for 2017-2018. The Council made the recommendation to Convention to accept as projects 1) Missionary car for Daniel and Kay Jang and 2) Lawn mower for Camp Israel Folsom. In addition, Council made several other recommendations – 1) to correct an error in the nominating report, 2) to accept the Executive Committee Report, and 3) to update the criteria for the Bethel University CP Women’s Ministry Scholarship. (marked APPENDIX “A” and filed). The delegates were asked to discuss in their region in the coming year the pros vs. cons of moving Convention to an every other year meeting format.

There was an afternoon trip to visit the Beth-El Farm Worker Ministry in Wimauma, FL. Attendees from Convention and General Assembly were invited to tour the facility, have dinner, and enjoy the Mariachi band while learning more about this ministry. Transportation was provided. The school supplies that were collected by attendees was delivered to the ministry. Well over 500 backpacks filled with school supplies was donated to Beth-El school children.

Tuesday, June 20, 2017

While not a part of official Convention business, there was a joint devotion led by CPCA National Missionary Society.

Jaime Kay Berkley (president) welcomed everyone to Convention and gave a greeting. Sondra Gould opened with prayer. President Berkley invited regional delegates to stand and introduce themselves and mention where they are from.

The report from the Regional Council Meeting was passed out. President Berkley explained that the vote would be taken during Wednesday's business meeting. Delegate Gould went over details of the report and asked everyone to read over carefully it and be ready to vote the next day.

President Berkley made announcements regarding luncheon tickets and resources for our program. She then announced the different activities available for the morning and
Director of Women’s Ministries, Pam Phillips-Burk, gave further detail on the afternoon activities and logistics. Nadara Jones made an announcement regarding the Coalition of Appalachian Ministry table and camp area in Townsend, TN. She showed a quilt and instructed the ladies that it would be auctioned off at the end of the week and all proceeds go to the person who made the quilt.

President Berkley recognized the Connecting with our Neighbor banner and mentioned that the Trinity North region designed and created the banner in memory of Virginia Crawford, a very active woman in their region who died this past year.

President Berkley gave direction for the break-out workshops and gave out door prizes given to first time attendees, (6). We sang It’s a Beautiful Day in Our Neighborhood and President Berkley dismissed with prayer to the day’s activities.

Beginning at 10:15 the following options were available for participants wanting to find new ways to Connect with Our Neighbors.

- Connecting with Our Neighbors Through Prayer – several prayer stations were set up in the meeting room – Prayer Cards for the Wilkerson family to take with them when they move to Colombia Memorial Prayers where the names of those individuals who had passed away during the past year written down and a candle lit by the one praying, Neighborhood coloring station to pray over our neighborhoods. These prayer stations were left up throughout convention.

- Connecting with Our Neighbors Through Training (workshops) -
  1) I’m a CPWM President, Now What?” led by Judi Truitt (Nashville Region)
  2) “Church + Neighbors=Community” led by Elinor Brown, Discipleship Ministry Team
Participants were free to visit the prayer stations before and after the worshops, or participate in the creative activity of painting the neighborhood landscape background led by Lita Swindle (SonCoast Region).

At 2:00pm, there were three options for Connecting with Our Neighbors.

  1) Connecting with Our Neighbors through Bible Study led by Director Phillips-Burk, an on site activity which introduced the new 2017-2018 bible studies.
  2) Connecting with Our Neighbors Through Service
     An off-site gardening project through Religious Community Services of Pinellas County, and helping out at the local Church Women United clothes closet.
     Transportation was provided for all offsite activities.

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Music director Melody Dierking and pianist Patti Needham opened the morning with music, He Has Made Me Glad. President Jamie Kay Berkley gave welcome and announcements then recognized the host committee. It has been 41 years since they have hosted Convention and General Assembly. Thanks was also given to Murfreesboro Region who helped SonCoast by donating the Convention tote bags this year. President Berkley recognized the executive
officers, regional delegates, and the regional council co-chairs, Sondra Gould (Magnolia Region) and Luann Barber (Nashville Region). Credentials Report #1 was presented with a total attendance of 68 (marked APPENDIX “B” and filed).

President Berkley pointed out the folder each attendee received and went over each item in the folder as well as went over the details of the prayer tables with emphasis on the Wilkerson prayer card tables. She also gave some reminders and additional announcements. Melody Dierking and Patti Needham led Convention in a time of singing.

Constituting Prayer was led by Lita Swindle (SonCoast Region) and President Jamie Kay Berkley called the Convention of the Cumberland Presbyterian Women to order. Convention convened at 10:10am. President Berkley introduced international delegates, Chiaki Ohi (President of Japan WM), Miho Nemoto (Japan WM officer, President-Elect), Rutsuko Matsumoto (Japan and newly graduated from Memphis Theological Seminary) and Luz Dary Guerrero (missionary and WM leader in Mexico). Chiaki Ohi gave a greeting from Japan and thanks for attending and brought bookmarks for everyone from Japan. Rutsuko Matsumoto offered an explanation of the (the knot at the top indicated a bond between people). Luz Dary Guerrero gave greeting from Mexico and thanks for attending (Nona Thomas served as her translator)through an interpreter.

President Berkley introduced Sondra Gould to speak on behalf of the Regional Council report. Additional reports were given to those without one. Chair Sondra Gould briefly went over the report (previously marked APPENDIX “A” and filed). President Berkley explained that the Nominating Committee report is in with the Regional Council report and will be voted on as one report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Opportunity was given for discussion. Questions and comments were made regarding the possibility of Convention being held every other year:

- What will the “Conferences” on alternating years will be like?
- What if the cost of the “conference” lower?
- What about the CPCA and the Unification process? How will that affect Convention?
- This is a good opportunity to speak with, and meet with women from other churches.
- Contact churches who do not usually attend Convention and get their input.
- For churches in South and Central America, it is difficult for them to attend an event like Convention. If the meetings were smaller, like the “conference” that would be more cost effective and it would be easier for them to come.
- Pam Phillips-Burk invited executive officers to attend the regional meetings to discuss this throughout the year.

President Berkley opened the floor for nominations. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations and move to vote. A motion was made to elect the slate of officers presented in the Regional Council report. A second was received. The vote was taken - all in favor, no opposed.

The Officer Installation Service was led by Past-President, Athala Jaramillo,. A prayer for the officers was offered and the installation was followed by the Lord’s Prayer, sung by the Rev. Virginia Espinoza and interpreted by nieces of Faith Parra, newly elected President, in the Choctaw sign language.
President Faith Parra introduced a Sesame Street song, "People in Your CP Church", which was sung by the Executive Committee, Carla Bellis, Chris Warren, Melody Dierking and Sherry Poteet. Patti Needham accompanied on piano, and all attendees joined in on the chorus. The words to the song were rewritten to reflect the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the neighborhood theme for the year.

President Faith Parra introduced Reverend Lisa Anderson who brought the keynote address entitled “Who Is My Neighbor?” Rev. Anderson serves as pastor of Colonial CP Church in Memphis, TN. She explained that the church desired to focus on their neighbors in their area, church, and outside the church. Members of the congregation asked their neighbors, "What is one thing you need from your church neighbor?" They discovered a big need was a safe place for children during the summer because the working parents could not afford daycare, so often children were left home with older siblings. Rev. Anderson shared the stories of two young who came to their church as children through a summer camp program started by the church, Grace and David. Eventually David and Grace began to attend church and worship, serving as acolytes, attended Sunday school and youth group, and event presbytery church camp. They slowly met other Cumberland Presbyterians and began to understand they, too were Cumberland Presbyterians. David and Grace were baptized and know what it is like for neighbors to become family no matter where they come from or who they are. They began at 7 and 8 years old and are now teenagers. David led worship at junior camp this year, he and Grace were both elected to be a part of the youth ministry team, and David present this week at General Assembly serving on the youth advisory board.

Rev. Anderson continued to share about the transformation of Colonial CP Church when they started looking at their neighbors. That self-evaluation and focused prayer has led to becoming the nucleus of a citywide ministry with people who are experiencing homelessness, Room in the Inn. Rev. Anderson shared the life-changing stories of two children involved in this ministry, Will and Carl, brothers, 12 and 7 years old. Lisa explained that now their neighbors have become family – whether they are children and families in their surrounding neighborhood, or homeless folks from downtown, or a growing Hispanic church that is now using Colonial’s facilities. Rev. Anderson closed in prayer and asked that we pray for their group in Memphis.

President Faith Parra recognized a few individuals including her husband, Dennis, and invited everyone to the Choctaw Presbytery in the fall, as well as next year when General Assembly and Convention will meet in Oklahoma. Two door prizes were given out to the youngest and eldest women. President Parra dismissed for lunch and reminded everyone to take advantage of the prayer tables and cards.

Wednesday afternoon, June 21, 2016

The afternoon session opened with singing (I Will Call Upon The Lord) led by Melody Dierking and accompanied by Patti Needham.

President Faith Parra welcomed everyone back and introduced the Bible study leader – Loida Garcia, from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Naples, FL – “Connecting Hands” (marked APPENDIX “C” and filed). Her husband, Rev. Ramon Garcia opened in prayer. Using videos, a powerpoint presentation, and presentation she led the group in exploring Ephesians 2:10 and Luke 10:25-37, “Extraordinary Purpose.” Mrs. Garcia highlighted several aspects of how our hands are used to help others (like the Good Samaritan in the theme text. Following her study, she invited the group to turn to a neighbor and put lotion (in the health kits she and her church provided for Convention) on each other's hands while offering a prayer. Afterwards, she gave instructions "Sister
Selfies” where the women were invited to take selfies with each other and post on the CP Women’s Ministry facebook group. It was a great time of laughter, friendship and connection.

President Faith Parra introduced Luz Dary (missionary in Mexico) who gave a presentation on Women’s Ministry in Mexico. She spoke through her interpreter, Nona Thomas. She highlighted the ministry using 1 Corinthians 2:2.

President Faith Parra introduced Jeannie Garrison (Forked Deer Region) and those helping her (Robin Finch, Betty Ramey and, Clara Morris, all from Forked Deer Region) who led the Membership presentations. They did a skit of celebration explaining the different memberships. Balloons were given to represent each level of membership; Pink=Perpetual, White=Diamond, Red=Patron, Silver=Silver Patron, Yellow=Golden Patron. The strings of the balloons represent the growth of the endowment, as of June 2017 - Perpetual total, $1,053,868; Patron total, $858,416.61. Several memberships were given - Carla Bellis (Missouri South Region), on behalf of Missouri River Region presented a Diamond Perpetual membership to Melody Diarking (Missouri River Region). Jamie Berkley, Past President presented a Silver Patron Membership to President Faith Parra for her 25+ years of service in the CP Church and Women's Ministry.

President Parra referenced the memorial prayer table and introduced a video of Beverly St. John, the first director of Cumberland Presbyterian Women. The video was Mrs. St. John bringing greetings on the occasion of the 135th anniversary the organization of the Woman’s Board of Foreign Mission (May 25, 2015). Director of Women’s Ministry, Pam Phillips-Burk spoke about Beverly, who passed away in May 2017, and recognized as well Rev. Boyce Wallace and Rev. Randy Jacob. Director Phillips-Burk gave a prayer of thanksgiving for these people and all whom heaven has gained this year.

Jamie Berkley, Past President gave birthday greetings to Athala Jaramillo. Two door prizes given to Sondra Gould who wrote the most cards to the Wilkerson family and as the one in attendance who had been to the most conventions. Susan Gray, Secretary closed the afternoon with prayer

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Convention was opened with singing led by Melody Dierking and Patti Needham (How Great Thou Art and Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love)

Pam Phillips-Burk made an announcement regarding the centerpieces, which were not available to take but gave instruction on how to make them and that the graphics will be on the website. Lita Swindle made an announcement regarding the luncheon table centerpieces, handmade pottery bowls that are available at the luncheon regarding how to use them. Information was given on how to access the photos that Jamie Johanson (Missouri South Region) has taken throughout the week. They are on the CPWM Flickr account under the people category. Convention sang together the chorus, Sanctuary.

President Faith Parra introduced Susi Franco, a leader in the Building A Promising Future ministry. She began by showing a video “Building Promising Futures 2017” and then shared updates on the ministry using a PowerPoint presentation. The ministry is now a non-profit organization. She reported that there are now 16 trained volunteers. The ministry was engaged with 325 students in April in Guatemala. She also mentioned some specific prayer concerns – those who started this ministry seven years (Josina Sanchez, Susi Franco and Joanna Franco), for direction and vision, more staff/volunteers, and finances to sustain the ministry. To keep up with the ministry follow them on Facebook or email at bpf.cfp@gmail.com
President Faith Parra introduced Yvonne Frierson, president of the CPCA National Missionary Auxiliary. Yvonne gave greetings and information regarding CPCA. She also shared a couple personal experiences related to the unification process. Following her presentation, door prizes were given out. There was a five-minute break to get prepared for the closing worship service.

Following the brief break the closing worship began (marked APPENDIX "D" and filed). President Parra gave the message with the help of a skit. The offering was received which will go to support the project, Building a Promising Future. Special music, “Be Thou My Vision” was sung by Caroline Phillips-Burk. Convention was recessed to the concluding Convention Luncheon.

The Convention Luncheon (marked APPENDIX “E” and filed) and program was held in the Atrium of Inverness Hall. Program highlights was special music by Caroline Phillips-Burk, introductions by Brenda Shoulta (Covenant Region) of the 2017-2018 Bethel University Women’s Ministry scholarship recipient, Kelsey Hayes, who was unable to attend, and speaker Jessica Wilkerson, missionary to Colombia. The luncheon concluded with a special prayer for the Wilkersons’ as they leave for Colombia in July. Having been fed in body and soul, President Parra adjourned Convention to reconvene in Oklahoma, June 18-21, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gray
Secretary
The Regional Council of Cumberland Presbyterian Women’s Ministry met on June 19, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. at Innisbrook Resort in Palm Harbor, Florida. The meeting was called to order by President, Jamie Berkley, who welcomed the delegates and made introductions. Secretary Brenda Shoulta gave the opening devotion and offered the opening prayer. Copies of the 2017-2018 directory were given to each delegate to update their region’s information as needed. There were 21 regional delegates present. Introductions of each attendee were made. Co-chairs Luann Barber (Nashville Region) and Sondra Gould (Magnolia Region) led the Council in their business.

We make the following recommendations:

**Recommendation #1** – that the following projects be accepted for the 2017-2018 program year:
Project #1 – Car for Daniel and Kay Jang, missionaries to the Philippines

Project #2 – Lawn Mower for use at Camp Israel Folsom, Choctaw Presbytery

**Recommendation #2** – that the Nominating Committee be accepted and Convention elect and install the 2017-2018 officers and Nominating Committee members. (Note: Patti Needham was omitted from the report, and Council added her to the Nominating Committee report.)

**Recommendation #3** – that the Executive Committee Report be accepted.

The criteria for the Bethel University CP Women’s Ministry scholarship is based upon the recipient being a Cumberland Presbyterian woman who is planning to go into some type of Christian ministry and who has a financial need. Some years it has been difficult to find a recipient who meets all the criteria. There is nothing in the endowment that would prevent broadening the criteria for this scholarship.

**Recommendation #4** – that the Bethel University and CP Women’s Ministry scholarship be awarded based upon the following criteria in priority order – 1) that the recipient be a woman attending Bethel University who plans to enter into full Christian ministry (minister, youth director, music, etc.) and who has a financial need, but, 2) if there is not a young woman who meets this criteria, then the recipient can be any Cumberland Presbyterian woman regardless of her course of study, and who has a financial need.

Convention expenses continue to increase and even with increased registration fees, there is a shortfall most every year. Regions make sacrifices to send a delegate, but it is a financial burden to most. The Council discussed the possibilities of moving to an every other year Convention, with a “conference” event in the alternating years. The years that Convention would not be held, there would be a Women’s Ministry presence at General Assembly with a booth/table for resources, possible a keynote address/gathering, and a luncheon sponsored by CP Women’s Ministry.

**Recommendation #5** – that regions and local groups discuss the pros and cons of this approach in the coming year and be prepared to report back at the Regional Council meeting in 2018.

Respectfully submitted

Regional Council Co-Chairs
Sondra Gould –
Luann Barber –
2017 Women’s Ministry Regional Council

SYNOD OF GREAT RIVER

White River Region – Kim Tubb
Mountain Valley Region – Louise Jenkins
Hands of Harvest –
Missouri River Region – Melody Dierking
Missouri South Region – Jamie Johansen
Forked Deer Region – Jeannie Garrison
New Seekers Region –
Southwest Tennessee Region –

SYNOD OF MIDWEST

Covenant Region – Brenda Shoultz
Cumberland Region – Wanda Darland
North Central Region – Susan Smith

MISSION SYNOD

Andes Region –
Cauca Valley Region –
Choctaw Region –
Red River Region – Betty Jean Cooper
Trinity South Region –
Trinity North Region – Sherry Poteet

SOUTHEAST SYNOD

Nolachuckey Region – Kathy Tinker
Alabama Grace Region – Patti Needham
Magnolia Region – Sondra Gould
Soncoast Region – Laura Reed
Hope Region – Charlotte Rodgers
Robert Donnell Region – Marcia Hughes

Appendix A
TENNESSEE SYNOD

Columbia Region – Brenda Howell
Murfreesboro Region – Judy Miller-McGee
Nashville Region – Luann Barber
Japan Region – Mike Nemoto

Youth Delegate

Mexico
Luz Dary Guerrero
Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee of the 2017 Convention of the Cumberland Presbyterian Women’s Ministry meeting in Palm Harbor, Florida, June 20-22, 2017, places in nomination the following persons for 2017-2018 officers:

**Past President** – Jamie Kay Berkley, Forked Deer Region/Synod of Great Rivers  
**President** – Faith Parra, Choctaw Region/Mission Synod  
**President-Elect** – Cathy Littlefield, Mountain Valley/Synod of Great Rivers  
**Secretary** – Susan Gray, Murfreesboro Region/Tennessee Synod

**Nominating Committee:** (three year term)  
**Past Convention Officer** – Martha Fisher, Robert Donnell Region/Synod of the Southeast  
**Member-at-Large** – Suzy Rolman, Nashville Region/Tennessee Synod

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Sain, Chairperson, Columbia Region/Synod of the Southeast, 2019

Michelle Rackley, Tennessee/Georgia Region/Synod of the Southeast, 2017

Betty Jacob, Choctaw Region/Mission Synod, 2018

Carol Medley, Murfreesboro Region/Tennessee Synod, 2018

Alice Turner, Murfreesboro Region/Tennessee Synod, 2019

***Glynda Rich (New Seekers Region/Synod of Great Rivers) resigned during the final year of her term.***
Women’s Ministry Officer Nominees

Faith Parra – President (Choctaw Region/Mission Synod)
Faith is a life-long member of McGee Chapel CP Church in Broken Bow, OK where she wears many hats both in her church, in Choctaw Presbytery, and in her community. She has been an active member of the presbyterial Board of Christian Education for 11 years, and is now serving on the Board of Missions. She’s served in every position of Women’s Ministry in both her church and in the region. In addition to her church work, Faith is a special education teacher at the local high school focusing on biology and computer science. Faith is married to Dennis J. Parra, and they have one daughter, A’An who attends the University of Oklahoma. One little know fact about Faith is that she earned her Masters of Public Health at OU and worked in Salem, Oregon, for several years.
Contact Info – 580/306-5692; faith.jacobparra@hotmail.com; 610 W. Adams, Broken Bow, OK 74728

Cathy Littlefield – President-elect (Mountain Valley Region/Synod of Great Rivers)
Cathy stays busy with her family, church and community. She has served in every position possible within her region and at the local level of Women’s Ministry. She is also an ordained elder at her church, Booneville CPC, in Arkansas. Cathy currently serves as the president of the Booneville Chamber of Commerce. She and the Booneville ladies stay busy and on the go – traveling and serving and enjoying each other’s company.
Contact Info – 479/849-6000; cat8760@gmail.com; PO Box 125, Booneville, AR 72927

Jamie Kay Berkley – Past President (Forked Deer Region/Synod of Great Rivers)
Jamie is a fifth generation member of the Newbern CP Church in Newbern, TN, where she serves as an elder and in various other leadership roles such as session clerk and president of her local women's ministry. She has served as president and secretary of her region. Jamie is an Assistant Public Defender in the 28th Judicial District of Tennessee. In her spare time she enjoys reading, concerts, and traveling.
Contact Info – 731/676-8626; jamiekayb@hotmail.com; 403 E. Main, Newbern, TN 38059

Susan Gray – Secretary (Murfreesboro Region/Tennessee Synod)
Susan is a multi-talented woman who has a deep commitment to serve the Lord. Discipleship and women’s ministry are two of her passions. She has served in many different roles from treasurer to president in both the local church and region. Susan currently serves as treasurer of Murfreesboro Region. She has a gift for drama and has portrayed the Woman at the Well for a past Convention and the 2015 “Come to the Water” women’s conference. She has even rapped a gavel as interim mayor of Pineville, AR!!! Her husband, Isaac serves as pastor of Smithville CPC in TN, where she serves alongside him in many capacities. They have two children (Caleb, 9 years and Sarah, 7 years) that keep them busy!
Contact Info – 615/318-1584; mrsgray2003@gmail.com; 512 Ed Taft Dr., Smithville, TN 37166

Patti Needham – Secretary-elect (Alabama Grace Region/Synod of the Southeast)
Patti has been a member of the Piedmont CP Church for 58 years and for most of those years she has served as the pianist and organist. She previously served as a deacon, and is currently serving as an elder. She has taught an adult Sunday School class for 25 years, served many terms as director of VBS, and led VBS music for many years. She has been awarded the Patron, Perpetual, and Golden memberships for her long time service as president of the Piedmont CP Women's Ministry. She currently serves as President of the Alabama Grace Region. She and husband Charles have 3 children and 2 granddaughters. She is a retired school media specialist having worked 42 years in Alabama and Georgia. Her hobbies include playing the piano, singing, cooking, canning vegetables from the garden, reading, and especially working with the different activities in her church.
Contact information: 256/282.8543 ; number1teacher26@aol.com; 537 CR 176 Piedmont, AL 36272

Nominating Committee Members
Carol Medley (Murfreesboro Region/Tennessee Synod) – Past Officer, 2018
Betty Jacob (Choctaw Region/Mission Synod) – Member-at-Large, 2018
Sally Sain (Murfreesboro Region/Tennessee Synod) – Pastor Officer, 2019
Alice Turner (Murfreesboro Region/Tennessee Synod) – Member-at-Large, 2019
Martha Fisher (Robert Donnell Region/Synod of the Southeast – Past Officer, 2020
Suzy Rolman (Nashville Region/Tennessee Synod) – Member-at-Large, 2020
Executive Committee Report to Convention 2017

The Executive Committee of CP Women’s Ministry has had one face-to-face meeting since the last report in 2016. At that meeting plans were developed for the 2017 Convention, the two new initiatives advanced (Young CP Women’s Ministry and ministry with Latinas), and preliminary plans for Convention 2018 were made when the Cumberland Presbyterian Church celebrates 200 years of ministry with Choctaws.

In February 2017, 27 young women came together for a second weekend retreat. There were young women from the following regions: North Central, Murfreesboro, Forked Deer, Hope, Covenant, New Seekers, Southwest Tennessee, and Nashville. A fall 2016 retreat was planned for the East Tennessee area, but it had to be cancelled due to low registrations. The goal is to keep the February retreat in West Tennessee (Camp Clark Williamson) as an annual event, and reach out to other areas for an additional retreat in the fall of each year. Regional advocates are needed to work with the young women's ministry planning team. Contact consultant Abby Prevost (abbyprevost@gmail.com) if you can help. The age range for this ministry is post-high school to age 35.

Forty-nine Latinas gathered for an overnight retreat in March 2017 at Camp McDowell (near Birmingham, AL). This was the first time that an event like this had been held in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. For many of the women it was the first time that they had ever attended a retreat. The women in attendance represented five different Hispanic churches. One of the most significant elements of the retreat was that it was conducted entirely in Spanish. This fact alone made it a very enriching experience for all 49 women. The comments were “let’s do this again next year” and “let’s have a two night retreat next year.” Plans are already in the works for 2018.

Why do we have these two new initiatives in Cumberland Presbyterian Women’s Ministry? Why don’t these women just join with an existing regional ministry? Regional groups could certainly benefit from the excitement and energy of young women and Latinas. These are good questions and comments. The answers and responses are not easy. The main goal of these two initiatives is to facilitate the building of vital relationships between women. We do not know what the future holds for these groups. Right now we are doing all that we can to help foster a sense of community in these two pretty unique groups of women. For the Latinas, being able to attend an event conducted in their language without any translation barriers was very significant and affirming. Maybe one day these two groups will join with existing regional ministry. Maybe they will continue to develop into separate, unique ministries. For the present time, we are asking for your prayers and support. We need regional advocates. We need financial support. We need “cheerleaders.” God is doing some new things in CP Women’s Ministry and everyone is invited to participate.

Officers attended several regional meetings and retreats this past year providing a variety of leadership services. If your region would like to have an officer attend your gathering, please contact them early. It is the goal that expenses be covered, if not completely, then partial. BUT, if a region has not had the Women’s Ministry president or another officer recently, we will do whatever we can to make that happen. It is a pleasure to attend these gatherings, and the officers value the opportunities to make those connections.

In March 2017, a small representative group of Women’s Ministry traveled to Mexico City to meet with women of the Mexico council of churches. This six-day trip gave Women’s Ministry the opportunity to make connections and build important relational ties. A one-day women’s conference was held in which those who traveled from the U.S. provided some of the leadership. Robin Finch (Forked Deer Region) led group-building games. Rev. Lisa Oliver (Murfreesboro Region) delivered the morning message, and Pam Phillips-Burk (who was assisted by Milton Ortiz) presented the history and current work of Women’s Ministry. During this gathering we presented to them the 2015-2016 Women’s Ministry project offering. Women’s Ministry is alive and active in Mexico and we rejoice in the good work that God is doing through them.

The Executive Committee continues to work on better communication with the regional presidents. There are Shepherd Groups in place and are as follows –

- **Faith Parra** – Tennessee/Georgia, Columbia, Choctaw, Trinity North, Nolachuckey, Mexico
- **Jamie Berkley** – Forked Deer, SonCoast, Missouri South, Missouri River, Cauca Valley
- **Susan Gray** – SW Tennessee, Covenant, Hope, Robert Donnell, Alabama Grace, Andes
- **New Secretary-Elect** – Hands of Harvest, White River, New Seekers, Mountain Valley, Red River
New President-elect – Cumberland, North Central, Magnolia, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Japan

We encourage Regional Presidents/Officers to contact their “shepherd” for information, support, and encourage. In turn, each officer checks in periodically with her “flock.”

The Executive Committee challenges all local groups to make sure they get their annual reports into the Women’s Ministry office by May 1 of each year. This is how the annual directory is kept up to date which is vitally important in maintaining good communications between all the groups. If a local church does not have an “active” women’s ministry group, we still want to include them in the directory as a point of contact. They will be listed as “inactive.” Hopefully, with this new addition to the directory we will be able to maintain a basic line of communication to these local groups. We also want to thank all of the local and regional officers in your diligent and selfless work to continue the important work of Women’s Ministry in the CP Church and beyond. And lastly, we are very grateful for the work of each woman in this organization. Together, we make a huge impact around the world as we work and serve Jesus Christ together.

Respectfully submitted,

CP Women’s Ministry Executive Committee
2016 CONVENTION
REPORT #1 OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 21, 2017

We, your Credentials Committee, submit the following report:

Executive Staff 4
Convention Officer 22
Regional Delegates 13
Youth Regional Delegates 0
Local Delegates 6
Life Members
Perpetual Members 1
Diamond Perpetual Members 3
Patron Members 2
Silver Patron Members 1
Golden Patron Members

TOTAL 58

Non-Delegate Women’s Ministry Members
Others (visitors) 12

TOTAL REGISTERED 68

Signed,

[Signature]
CONNECTING HANDS

Get ready to connect

1- **Hands of Compassion**

These were the kind of hands the Good Samaritan had in Luke 10:33-34 when he saw the man that was stripped of his clothes and wounded. Not only did the Good Samaritan have hands of compassion but he also had hands of mercy.

- According to these verses, how did the Samaritan showed hands of mercy?

Read Matthew 9:35-38. “When Jesus looked out over the crowds, he had compassion."

- What makes Jesus’s heart break?

2- **Hands of Hospitality**

Simon’s mother-in-law knew what it was like to have these types of hands. Luke 4:38-39 makes mention of it.

- What details have you noticed about this woman?

- What makes her have hands of hospitality right away?

3- **Hands of Productivity**

Proverbs 31:10-31 A Wife of Noble Character, who can find?

- Why do you think character is more important than the woman's deeds?

- In Proverbs 31:13-19 we read that the woman of noble character is a willing worker. Which part of the lecture challenged you to change something in your life, in order to have hands of productivity?
4- Hands of strength

In John 4:28-29 we learn that God sometimes uses very weak and unlikely instruments, like the Samaritan woman, to accomplish the good works.

- In what ways the Samaritan woman demonstrated hands of strength?

- How often do you tell others about Jesus so they can “hear” about him?

5- Hands of Cleanliness

Read Romans 3:20-24. Based on the parable of the Good Samaritan, the Priest and the Levite stayed away as they passed by, in order to avoid contamination.

- What have you learned this week about being righteous through Faith and not by the Works of the law?

6- Hands of love

In John 3:16, we find the supreme expression of God’s love.

- (Personal) How have you experienced God’s faithfulness as you’ve followed His example of hands of love?

- (Personal) Find ways to connect and demonstrate the love of God to your neighbors.
**Convention Luncheon**
12:00 p.m.
Inverness Atrium
Speaker: Jessica Wilkerson
Missionary to Colombia

**Note:** The pottery bowl used for the luncheon table decorations will be available for purchase - $25 each. See a Host Committee member for more information.

2017-2018 Resources will be available on the Women’s Ministry website for download by the first of August.
www.cpcmc.org/mmt/wmresources-current

**CP Women’s Ministry Convention**
Closing Worship
June 22, 2017

**Gather in God’s Name**

**Gathering Music**

**Call to Worship (responsive)**
Cathy Littlefield
We are called from all over the world; from Mississippi to Mexico, from Florida to Kentucky, from Japan to Tennessee –

*We come to this time and place to praise God and celebrate God’s goodness.*

God calls us through scripture, song, prayer and giving –

*We come with open hearts and willing spirits.*

We are called together to be sent out; to be neighbors to all we meet.

*We come to be equipped and prepared to go out and connect with our neighbors!*

Let us worship God together!
Prayer for the Day

Song – Jesu, Jesu

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)
Forgiving and loving God, for the times we fail to love as you do, forgive us. When we become so self-absorbed with our own needs and agendas that we do not notice the suffering one, forgive us. For the times when we turn the other way rather than reach out to help a neighbor, forgive us. When we close ourselves off from the stranger, the outsider, the Samaritans of our day, forgive us. Hear our sincere prayers and wash us clean from our sinfulness, for it is in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God’s Forgiveness

Passing the Peace of Christ with Our Neighbors
The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

Proclaim God’s Word

Special Music If We’re Honest Caroline Phillips-Burk

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading - Luke 10:29-37 Reader’s Theater

Message

Faith Parra
CP Women’s Ministry President

Give Thanks to God

This year’s Convention Offering is the second year in a three-year focus – Building a Promising Future. This is a project centered on education and reconciliation in Guatemala. The setting is the public schools in Guatemala. It is an ambitious goal of changing lives, families, and society with the love of Jesus shown through the teachers and churches connected with this ministry. The goal for this year’s offering is $10,000.

Offertory Be Thou My Vision Caroline Phillips-Burk

Prayer of Thanksgiving – Susi Franco

Song – Christ, You Call Us All to Service

Benediction and Sending Out (responsive)
God now sends us from this place of community into the world. We have learned and laughed and worked and grown during our time together.
There is much work to be done back home and around the world.
We will strive to live up to the example set for us by the Good Samaritan.
You’ve been given a first aid kit as a practical reminder to find all kinds of ways to connect with your neighbor in the year to come. May we all “go and do likewise.”
Amen!
Convention Luncheon
Thursday, June 22, 2017

Welcome and Blessing
Women's Ministry President, Faith Parra

Meal

Special Music – Caroline Phillips-Burk
Count on Me
What Love Really Means

2017-2018 Bethel University
Scholarship Recipient
Kelsey Hayes

Program
Speaker - Jessica Wilkerson
Missionary to Emmaus Presbytery, Colombia, SA
Words of Encouragement Presentations
Prayer

Blessings and Sending Forth
Faith Parra

You are invited to participate in the Stott-Wallace MISSIONARY
Offering Fund with your loose change. There are containers on each
table for your donation.

Convention Luncheon
Thursday, June 22, 2017

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Monday, June 19th
10:30 a.m. – Regional Delegates Meeting & Lunch                Sterling West
Afternoon – Trip to visit Beth-El Farm Worker Ministry
             (Pre-registration required)

Tuesday, June 20th
8:30 a.m. – Devotions (led by CPCA National Missionary Society) Edinburgh East
9:30 a.m. – Gathering of Women’s Ministry Edinburgh East
Welcome and distribute reports. Then visit prayer centers or attend one of the
training sessions being offered during the morning:
• Connecting with Our Neighbors through Prayer (ongoing) Edinburgh East
• Connecting with Our Neighbors through Training (10:15 a.m.) Edinburgh Salon 3
  Church + Neighbors = Community
  I’m a Women’s Ministry President – Now What? Edinburgh Salon 2

12:00 noon – Lunch
CPCA National Missionary Society Luncheon (lunch at 12:30) Inverness Hall Atrium
2:00 p.m. – Afternoon Options
Connecting with Our Neighbors through Bible Study Edinburgh Salon 3

Connecting with Our Neighbors through Service (pre-registration required)
  Religious Community Services Gardening project – pick-up/drop-off @ Osprey
  Church Women United Clothes Closet - pick-up/drop-off @ Osprey
  Transportation will DEPART at 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 21st
8:30 a.m. – Devotions Ballroom A/Stirling East
9:30 a.m. – Convention Convenes Edinburgh East
Welcome and Gathering
Constituting Prayer – Lita Swindle, SonCoast Region
Greetings from Japan and Mexico Women’s Ministry representatives
Business Meeting & Installation of Officers
Lord’s Prayer – Rev. Dr. Virginia Espinoza
Keynote Address – Rev. Lisa Anderson

12:00 noon – Lunch
2:00 p.m. – Convention Reconvenes Edinburgh East
Bible Study - Loida Garcia, Iglesia Nacion Santa Internacional of Naples
Mexico Updates and Celebrations! – Rev. Luz Dary Guerrero
Membership Endowment Presentation – Protemus CPC, Troy, TN
Remembering Beverly St. John (first director of CP Women)

Thursday, June 22nd
8:30 a.m. – Devotions Ballroom A/Stirling East
9:30 a.m. – Convention Reconvenes Edinburgh East
Building A Promising Future Updates - Susi Franco
Closing Worship (Convention Offering will be received)

12:00 noon – Convention Luncheon Inverness Hall Atrium