

MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

No. 11

June 13, 2024

George B. Harris, Minister
Email: bernerdharris@yahoo.com
mhcc16@yahoo.com
Church Telephone: (434) 845-3855
Minister's Telephone: (434) 215-4846

Pam Hubbard
Music Director

Brenda Harris
Administrative Assistant

Regional Assembly

The beauty of the assembly is revealed in its title, it is uniting together as one body of Christ. The Regional Assembly was held at the University of Lynchburg on May 31 and June 1. The assembly had Boundary Training and Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation workshops on Friday as pre-assembly events. Clergy are required to receive this training every five years in order to maintain good standing. Last year I took an Anti-Racism course on-line through Lexington Theological Seminary and a Boundaries training workshop through the Tennessee region. So, I did not need to participate in these events this year.

What I like about the assembly the most are the workshops, socializing with old friends, and the exhibits. I like to go look at the exhibits, it is good to learn about what is going on in other areas of ministry throughout the region. Each table usually has someone attending for discussion or any questions. I confess I keep an eye out for chocolate at these events. I enjoy looking at all of the information and talking with the people. A list of the exhibits, and other assembly information, can be found here on the region's web site https://www.ccinva.org/files/ugd/69e415_b53dbefa3afd46c2af5e42ca74bc3071.pdf.

I attended a workshop on Moral Injury. This is a concept that I was not familiar with so I was interested in learning more. Moral injury is similar to PTSD. Whereas, PTSD comes from the stress of experiencing trauma, moral injury occurs when your moral code is violated. People can have moral injury after they experience situations that go against their values, moral beliefs, and expectations by participating in, seeing, and of failing to prevent harm to another. The damage is done to one's own conscience through the feelings of guilt, shame, anger, and anxiety, etc. The concept became popular through assisting with the moral anguish many service members experienced this after returning home from war. First responders, health care workers, police, and fire personnel can experience moral injury from their proximity to trauma and the inability to give a level of care to which they are committed to provide. I am glad that I attended this particular workshop as I gained some valuable insight about my own dilemmas. It took me three nights to get a good night's sleep after witnessing a head on collision and having to choose which person to help until further help arrived. As Christians we have to deal with the moral dilemma of knowing that no matter what we do it is never enough. There is simply more need than there are resources to meet the need.

It has been a long, winding, and bumpy road but my term as the regional administration and finance chair comes to a close at the end of this year. My term began in 2001. I have served as chair or treasurer for over 16 years and am ready for some respite. The business meeting went very smoothly. The offices and chairs were voted on and approved for 2025-2027. We presented a balanced budget and it was approved without questions or concerns and the assembly, being very well pleased with the performance of our regional minister, voted to extend a six year contract with Bill Spangler-Dunning.

Thank you,

George