



18-21 June Minneapolis, MN

“Persistent Women” is the moniker bestowed upon us by Gradye Parsons, PC(USA) Stated Clerk, during his plenary address on our final day. Certainly the attributes of tenacious, determined, tireless and steadfast define the 200-year-old PW contributions to our congregations and communities worldwide. Joining 1,700 other women (and a few men) Yellowstone Presbytery PW Moderator Merry Lee Hooks from Madison Valley, TE Teresa Kendall from Deer Lodge, TE Susi Ennis from Poplar, and Donna Beck, Suzanne Bratsky, Sally Broughton & Susan Gibb from Bozeman attended the recent celebration in Minneapolis. Using 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and the theme “One Body, One Spirit,” we enjoyed four plenary & worship sessions with fantastic music, numerous educational workshops, five on-site mission tours, a March for Justice & Peace, a Silent Witness against discrimination and a Gathering-wide communion service. The various plenary speakers were awesome and inspiring. Several women from our Mission Partners around the world provided colorful accents with their beautiful native dress. Many prayers were offered for our sisters and brothers of the Emanuel AME Church suffering from the recent racially motivated murders in Charleston.

Over \$30,000 in Target gift cards were donated in support of the Minneapolis-area American Indian Family Center and over \$32,000 collected in the Gathering Offering for a women’s vocational institute in Puerto Rico. The Activities

Hall provided opportunities to visit the Presbyterian Bookstore, Speakers’ Corner and Global Marketplace. The several workshops were very informative and wide-ranging from mission experiences and opportunities, leadership programs, ending violence against women, global food security, upcoming *Horizons* Bible Studies, Native American rights, to Presbyterian Women organization. We toured the



beautiful – and very large - Westminster Presbyterian Church across the street from the Gathering venue in downtown Minneapolis. During the business meeting conducted before the Gathering our own Wanda Beauman from Synod of the Rocky Mountains was elected as the new Churchwide vice-moderator for justice and peace concerns.

We thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful fellowship, worship and education opportunities at the Gathering. Many ideas were returned for PW activities in our congregations and presbytery and we will discuss these opportunities in the near future. Plans for the next Gathering in 2018 should be available in late 2016 and will be announced in this space. We hope you can attend!