

California-Nevada Annual Conference
Annual Conference Session
Monitoring Report
Wednesday, June 17, 2008

Bishop and members of the Annual Conference, my name is Jane Yin, a member of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR). Jeffrey Kuan, appointed to extension ministry at Pacific School of Religion, is the chair of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race.

One of the important functions of (CCORR) is to assess “the openness, intentionality and progress of the annual conference, at all levels from the local church to the bishop’s office and cabinet, in the journey to racial, ethnic and cultural inclusiveness.” CCORR, made up of laity and clergy, is implementing this important ministry of monitoring and evaluating at the plenary sessions, worship services, clergy and laity sessions, legislative sections, and ministry workshops at this year’s Annual Conference Session. This morning, Lee Williamson, clergy member, retired, and I are presenting a brief report of our observations of yesterday’s activities.

For the Opening Plenary Session on Wednesday morning, we noted the racial-ethnic background of our Episcopal leader and Conference Secretary, an African American man and an European American woman. We observed that the presenters were made up of two men and six women, of whom there were one Asian American, three African Americans and four European Americans. Among those who led the Celebration of Ministry, the Rethink Church group showed great diversity in race, gender and language. In viewing the video of Conference Staff members, it was observed that the majority were European Americans and mostly female gender. The youth group, which artfully demonstrated the need for Nothing But Nets was overwhelmingly European Americans.

It was noted in the afternoon Clergy Session that presenters, although a good gender mix, were made up of 82% European Americans. Speakers from the floor drew 58% European Americans. There were almost an equal mix in gender and ethnicity in the elder class. It was also noted that the commissioning class is totally European American.

In the Laity Session, it was observed that the participants consisted of 17 European Americans, of which were two African Americans, one Asian American and two Pacific Islanders. A Pacific Islander Praise Band joyfully uplifted our spirits.

Turning our attention to the evening Celebration of Communion, we observed that an Asian American woman and the preacher who was an African American man led the opening liturgy. It was evident that there was a conscious effort to reflect ethnic and gender diversity. Part of the worship team included bearers of colorful cloths, which were placed on the altar. It was noted that there were a lack of racial ethnic diversity, gender, as well as youth and young adult. In addition, the music team also appeared to be entirely European American.

As we continue our holy conferencing together in these next few days, let us remind ourselves of our journey together toward being a diverse and inclusive church.

Submitted by Jane Yin and Lee Williamson