

CHURCH AND CITY NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 1987

THE 1988 CHURCH AND CITY CONFERENCE

DATE: May 9-11, 1988
PLACE: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
St. John the Evangelist
Christ Church, Philadelphia
St. Barnabas, New Kensington

DETAILS ON CONFERENCE THEME AND LEADERSHIP
WILL BE REVEALED IN FALL 1987

THE 1989 CHURCH AND CITY CONFERENCE

PLACE: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Church and City Conference
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
18001 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, OH 44107



The Rev. Charles A. Carte
St. Paul's Church
22 E. Chestnut Hill Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Cleveland Conference Report and Barbara Taylor's meditations are available from F. Lee Richards, 7833 Winston Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH AND CITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Richard Gary will chair the Nominating Committee.

Officers are asked to serve for three years on the same cycle as General Convention deputies. The committee report will be mailed to membership before the May meeting in Philadelphia.

James Snodgrass will chair the Program Committee.

For his third conference, James is presently assembling a committee to assist him. Working with him from Philadelphia to assist in the site planning will be John Midwood (St. John the Evangelist) assisted by Franklin Turner and Charles Carter.

Lee Richards continues to serve as treasurer.

Church and City at present has \$12,064 in accrued money. The Cleveland Conference incurred a deficit of \$1,730.

Stewart Pierson is the NEWSLETTER EDITOR.

When possible, Church and City will communicate with members through this format.

CLEVELAND CONFERENCE EVALUATION: Highest ratings for all but small group work. Most felt it was "helpful to my ministry."

"God's People: An Urban Vision"
A REPORT ON THE MAY MEETING OF THE CHURCH AND CITY CONFERENCE
BY David E. Sumner

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- "In the city where dreams die at an early age, we are to witness and bring a word of hope so that God's people can dare to dream yet another dream," declared Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. at the 29th Annual Church and City Conference. "In the Jerusalem where we serve, we are to witness to a word of hope that we have experienced the risen Christ," he asserted.

This pastor of an urban Chicago church, which has grown from 87 members to over 4,000 in 15 years, was the keynote speaker for the conference held here May 11-13. The United Church of Christ pastor shared from his experiences of what it takes to make urban ministry work, and what it means to have "an urban vision" for God's people.

What is the Church and City Conference? The Church and City Conference -- which helped found the Episcopal Urban Caucus several years ago -- provides an atmosphere for people involved in urban ministry to explore new ideas and exchange old ones. "No resolutions. No Robert's Rules of Order. We are able to meet one another...as brothers and sisters who share common experiences in the family, rather than to relate to one another on the level of roles, functions and status within an institution," remarked the Very Rev. Perry Williams. "And there's a greater potential for nurture," he added. "The primary thing we contribute to the life of the church is a high-quality conference every year and a very informal support group for people whose primary concern is the ministry and mission of the church in our metropolitan areas," said the Rev. Charles Carter, president of the conference and rector of Philadelphia's St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

This year the conference was stimulated by dynamic preaching and teaching from Wright, and reflection and feedback from bishops in two of the nation's largest urban areas. The Rt. Rev. Oliver Garver, Suffragan Bishop of Los Angeles, participated along with the Rt. Rev. Frank Griswold, Coadjutor Bishop of Chicago.

Wright stressed two themes in his remarks -- ministry must proceed from a spiritual foundation and it must be for everyone -- black or white, rich or poor, ugly or beautiful.

"Are we going to welcome all the people and treat them as equal, or are we going to stick to 'our kind' of people?" Wright asked. Reflecting on the Great Commission in Matthew 28, Wright said that Jesus told his followers to go out and teach the Gospel to all people.

"Different does not mean deficient," Wright stressed throughout his three talks. He attributed his church's growth to its decision to reach out into its surrounding urban neighborhood and accept its people fully and equally into the life of the congregation.

The spiritual theme was reflected by the bishops. "Whatever we do must be rooted in a faith that we believe, have experienced, and motivates us in all that we do," said Bishop Garver of Los Angeles. "We are not social workers. We are not community organizers. We are Christians doing ministry in the world."

The Rev. Barbara Taylor, associate rector of St. Luke's, Atlanta, was chaplain for the conference and gave a series of meditations.

"I landed in the city by chance, not plan," she recalled. "Before long I, too, was disturbed: by how much there was to do, by how complicated the problems were and how elusive their solutions; by how hard it was to measure any progress at all, never mind success . . .

"I was especially disturbed by the street people who came . . . wanting food, wanting money, wanting chiefly to be reckoned with," said the Atlanta priest.

"The Rev. James Moody, Bishop of Ohio, welcomed conference participants on its opening day at Emmanuel Church in East Cleveland, a Jubilee Parish Center. The conference planning committee was chaired by the Rev. T. James Snodgrass, rector of Christ Church in Cincinnati.

James Miner, rector of Trinity Church in downtown Columbus, Ohio, affirmed, "This conference brings together 'distance runners' who choose to stay with the issues, stay with the mandate, stay with the vision.