

2009 ANNUAL REPORT
RACIAL/ETHNIC SUB-COMMITTEE
of the
COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

Members of the 2009 Racial/Ethnic Committee are: Edna Goshorn and Frela Beck (co-chairs); Charlita Lytle, James Hooper, the Reverend Eddie Deas III and the Reverend Riley Covin,. Staff person, Robbin Buchanan, was invaluable as a resource person and able assistant to this Sub-Committee.

Meetings were held on:

February 21, 2009 at the Presbytery Office in Morganton,
May 16, 2009 at the Third Street Presbyterian Church in Gastonia,
August 22, 2009 at the Presbyterian Church in Morganton,
November 21, 2009 at the Green Street Presbyterian Church in Morganton.

The activities of the Racial/Ethnic Committee, in 2009, included helping to plan a workshop for “Let’s Celebrate.” The workshop, entitled “Different Shoes-Same Road” was led by the Rev. Bill Heck, the Rev. Pat Bacon and Jim Wallis. It was well received and enjoyed. Following up on last year’s plan, there was a meeting of Racial/Ethnic ministers, in Hickory, on June 20th, with the Rev. Eddie Deas as convener. It was felt to be productive and tentative plans were made for meeting in the future. Efforts were made toward planning a presentation on cultural diversity at a Presbytery meeting, but were discontinued upon learning that Presbytery was also considering a multi-cultural event.

The Task Forces were inactive in 2009, in regards to meetings. Mamie White resigned as Chair of the Women of Color Task Force due to age and health issues. Charlita Lytle, Chair of the African American Advisory Task Force, attended the 40th National Black Presbyterian Caucus at Stillman College in July.

Co-chairs, Edna Goshorn and Frela Beck attended the Committee Chair Training on January 22, 2009 in Morganton and represented the Committee at a meeting on December 14th, at the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, to discuss expanding the responsibilities of the Committee on Representation to include those of the Racial/Ethnic Sub-Committee. A number of factors, including budgetary constraints, Committee and Task Forces’ communication and participation, duplication of committee members and efforts, supported this possibility. It would expand the responsibilities of the Committee on Representation, to include those of the Racial/Ethnic Sub-Committee, resulting in a newer, stronger, more inclusive Committee on Representation and increasing its membership to 12 members. At the February 19th, 2010 Presbytery meeting, held at the Waldensian Presbyterian Church in Valdese, this proposal became reality. Speaking for the Racial/Ethnic Committee were the Rev. Riley Covin, the Rev. Eddie Deas III, and Frela Beck. Each was supportive of this measure. There were no objections.

It has been our privilege to serve on the Racial/Ethnic Sub-Committee these past 3 years and to become acquainted with more of our brothers and sisters in our Presbyterian Church Family. We give thanks to you and for you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Co-Chairs, Edna Goshorn and Frela Beck