

## UMMA Gathering — Day Two

The UMMA Gathering celebrated World Communion Sunday in a worship service prepared and led by our new secretary, Hillary Taylor, assisted by Jim Dwyer, presiding at communion.

Judy Chung continued with us for our morning sessions, participating in discussions and answering questions as they arose.

After lunch Mary Ellen Kris, consultant for Ministry With\* (aka Ministry with the Poor) spent 90 minutes with us in candid discussion of the issues the church must address to further partnership between mainline culture and poverty. Her parting remarks indicated that the progress which has been made is still a far step from “ministry from the margins.” All were grateful for the insights gained by sharing different examples and models of being in partnership with the people with whom we were sent to serve. Mary Ellen had provided a thumb drive with the much-appreciated “Ministry With\*” kick-off animation and other resources as well as the New World Outlook issue dealing with “Ministry With\*.”

Additionally we discussed a number of matters of particular relevance to missionaries of non-U.S. origin, including the problematics involved in sending only one member of a couple as missionary when both have applied, the unequal treatment of non-U.S. missionaries created by the lack of measures to balance U.S. social security payments for non-eligible non-U.S. missionaries, and confusions regarding the interpretation of the separate but overlapping programs of home leave for those whose whom is outside the U.S. and their itineration to supporting churches in the U.S.

In the evening individual work was done to explore the GBGM intranet available to missionaries and to discover the recent revisions of the missionary handbook as yet unprinted and unpublished and largely unknown to the missionaries in attendance. Some clarification of various issues related to the handbook and to salary adjustments was gained by group computer work exploring resources

Judy Chung, Associate General Secretary for Missionary Services was also with us from 3:30-5:30 and shared about current developments in missionary recruitment and plans to commission a larger class of new Global Missionaries at General Conference.

Members present included Katherine Parker (new chair), Alina Saucedo (new treasurer), Hillary Taylor (new secretary), Marilia Schüller (Brazil), Mary Escobar (Paraguay), Esther Gitubo (Cambodia), Larry and Kristy Schmitz, new MIRs, retirees Richard Vreeland, DarEll Weist (outgoing treasurer), Jim Dwyer (outgoing chair), Dakin Cook (chair of benefits task force), Hugh and Fritz Johnson — have I overlooked anyone? Becky Harrell, new vice chair was unable to attend.

Despite requests from some to be included via Skype, we were not able to find anyone online. (If we overlooked you, please send an email with the times of your intended availability!