

Moderator's Report:

What a privilege it has been to serve as Moderator this past year. What a privilege it has been to serve the Church and this Association in a very unique way, especially during this time of transition. The transition may not be readily apparent but this I assure you the ministry and the work of the association has continued to grow. We are indebted to our professional staff and support staff for their ministries. Carol, Rich and Margaret give enormous time and energy to their respective responsibilities as well as being there for each other. Their strong sense of call to ministry is reflected in their relationships to all of us, to the churches and various ministries of this association and the wider church in this time of challenge and transformation. Transition, however, was apparent in the support center staff. In May we bid farewell to James and welcomed Cheryl as part of the team. Cheryl's gifts and skills are truly appreciated.

The transition to an Associations' General Minister has been an important part of my responsibility. Three persons, Dave Carnell, Maureen Webber, and Steve Gehlert, were appointed to serve with 3 people from the Western Reserve Association to develop a job description. Their work reflects the expectations for this ministry and the minister to be called and was completed in a very timely manner. In June a Search Committee met for the first time, with 6 members from each Association. Steve Gehlert is co-chair of this committee and serves with Dave Brown, Anne McKarns, Rich Miller, Bobbi Montenegro and Glen Shedlock from EOA.

There has been transition on the various committees and working groups as they envision what is possible. Things are not at a stand still here. We are not wondering "what do we do now?" We're moving, just like the old camp song says "O the old ark's a movering, a movering, a movering". To this I say "get on board"!

One area, however, where transition is sorely needed is in the financial support for our mission and ministry. We need to envision what more is possible with our giving. We need to see that everything we do is ministry and that financial support for our ministry is crucial if we are to continue to be the church God is calling us to be. The Association Council along with the Association Staff realizes that the old ways of garnering support is out dated. We are looking at new possibilities and ways to further interpret Our Church's Wider Mission.

My term as Moderator will conclude in January but in no way do I feel I am done. I know there are countless possibilities for me to continue to serve this Association, just as there are opportunities for you. I give God thanks for calling us to serve together in Christ's name.

Sandra Hutchinson