

Report to the Senate
July, 2009
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I missed writing and sending a June report so this will cover both June and July.

My Ministers Council travel schedule is considerably lighter in July than other months as you will see from the chart that follows.

June 1	Mid America Ministers Council Executive Committee	Ames, IA
June 4-6	Annual Meeting of ABC Vermont/New Hampshire And meeting with the Ministers Council	Vermont
June 9-10	OGS Extended Council and met with Valley Forge Ministers Council	Valley Forge
June 23-29	Biennial	Pasadena, CA
July	No Ministers Council travel	

First the really important stuff: My second daughter Andrea gave birth to our sixth grandchild Emmett Peter Kohl and all are well. I was able to spend the week of July 13 in Troy, MI with family while Peggy, my wife, did the real work of helping Andrea and her family. I held the baby and played with the other grandchildren. (This may not belong in a professional report but then, I am not only a professional.)

The week before, my other daughter, Erin, and her family spent the week with us in Topeka. Other than grandson Jonathan's emergency appendectomy (Is there any other kind?) we thoroughly enjoyed our time together. Appropriate vacation time has been marked.

The great themes for these two months have been (1) the Biennial and (2) the Senate.

Our Biennial booth was well prepared and well staffed thanks to Sue Sechrist (to whom most of the preparation fell) and the group of volunteers who made it a point to be at the booth at designated times. Thanks also to those who showed up to set up and tear down the display.

The pre-Biennial events featuring Leonard Sweet were very well attended and received. Working with Interim Ministries, Regional Ministries, and Women in Ministry, we were able to offer two quality events, Thursday afternoon and Friday morning that enhanced

the ministries of our constituents in significant ways. We provided one of the highlights of the Biennial.

Financially we came out well. The \$30.00 charge for Thursday afternoon and the offering Friday morning brought the final expense well within our budget and allowed our partners to complete the project without extra costs to them.

The Biennial itself was well planned and executed. I suppose that everyone could find something with which to quibble, my sense is that it was the best in the last decade. The singular glitch was the narrow failure of the proposed change in structure to receive the necessary 2/3 vote. I'll not try to analyze that failure here.

Much of my time has recently been taken by Senate planning. Once again, thanks to Sue Sechrist and her familiarity with the process and her capacity for details. The current remaining challenge is the budget. We are waiting for necessary information from our service providers. That information should be forth coming and we expect to be ready.

Coming days will see us attending to two major projects.

The Together in the Lord Conference, January 4-7 is nearly prepared. Now we need to communicate the value that will be received by attending. We have great leaders, great workshops, a great location and, comparatively, very attractive rates. Now we need to meet the challenge of getting participants there.

As you may know, this year's conference has a special feature. We are working in partnership with the "Orientation to American Baptist Life Conference" for seminary students and ministers new to the ABC. While the workshops will be specific and different for each group, the two groups will share the plenary time together.

The second major project will be to continue our effort to strengthen our constituent councils. A brochure describing Community of Practice workshops and retreats will be presented at the Senate. My ideal goal would be to have every constituent council participate in a retreat over the next 2 years.

Following the Senate, I will be communicating with constituent council leaders and Executive Ministers offering to lead workshops that are available to their ministerial leaders.

I look forward to seeing you at the Senate.