

REPORT TO THE SENATE  
 May, 2010  
 Joe Kutter  
 Acting Executive Director

The May travel schedule was as follows:

Dates	Place	Event(s)
2-6	Valley Forge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Ministry Team</li> <li>• Office of General Secretary Extended Council</li> <li>• Family Conversation on Immigration</li> </ul>
18-20	Indianapolis	Lilly Endowment Consultation
24-27	Green Lake	Fanning the Flame Conference for Pastoral Renewal

The Professional Ministry Team continues to look at a variety of issues that pertain to ministry. We gave considerable time to reviewing Ordination Standards that were recommended to our regions about 20 years ago. Two kinds of issues are on the table. 1. Updates need to be made simply due to the changing structure of our denomination. For example, the Ministry Leadership Commission no longer exists. 2. Our cultural diversity is more visibly pronounced. For example, the newly arriving Burmese groups have dramatically different, and in some ways more stringent, than most of our groups. At the same time, our fastest growing cohort group includes churches who can no longer afford full time pastoral leadership. So, the conversation goes forward. We anticipate that the revised document will be presented to the Senate at the first opportune time, possibly in August, 2011.

I was honored to preach in the OGS worship service that included representatives from the National Council of Churches in Christ. That service accompanied a significant conversation with the NCCC leaders.

I suspect that the “Family Conversation on Immigration Reform” may prove to be a significant moment in our life together. The words “Illegal Immigrant” have a remarkable power to generate enormous explosions! To say that different folk see it in different ways is an understatement to say the least. To have a conversation that is balanced and

grounded in biblical insights seems to me to be worthy of our best efforts and I am proud to have been a part.

A letter was produced and my signature is attached. You may link to the letter and a list of resources.

*English -*

[http://www.ministerscouncil.com/OnLineManual/documents/ImmigrationLetter51410\\_2\\_.pdf](http://www.ministerscouncil.com/OnLineManual/documents/ImmigrationLetter51410_2_.pdf)

*Spanish -* [http://www.abc-](http://www.abc-usa.org/WhoWeAre/Missions/ImmigrationLetterEspanol/tabid/485/Default.aspx)

[usa.org/WhoWeAre/Missions/ImmigrationLetterEspanol/tabid/485/Default.aspx](http://www.abc-usa.org/WhoWeAre/Missions/ImmigrationLetterEspanol/tabid/485/Default.aspx)

*Immigration Resources -*

[http://www.ministerscouncil.com/OnLineManual/documents/ImmigrationreformResources2010\\_3\\_2\\_.pdf](http://www.ministerscouncil.com/OnLineManual/documents/ImmigrationreformResources2010_3_2_.pdf)

Jeff Savage and I attended the Lilly Endowment's SPE (Sustaining Pastoral Excellence) Conference in Indianapolis and it proved to be very valuable. We connected with others who are engaged in projects that are similar, but never quite the same, as our TIM. And we received an in-depth report on the impact that TIM-like, collegial covenantal clergy groups have on ministry. I have summarized a part of that report in our newsletter. To read the full report go to [www.austinseminary.edu/cpl](http://www.austinseminary.edu/cpl).

I was pleased and honored to be invited to attend the "Fanning the Flame" conference and to have an opportunity to share the core work of the Ministers Council with the participating pastors. I think that it is fair to say that some old wounds are still healing and this proved to be an opportunity to help that process along. I am particularly grateful for the conversations that we had with several of the Executive Ministers who were present. In this we share a common goal that our Ministerial Leaders will be equipped personally and professionally to lead healthy churches in the proclamation of the gospel and the advancement of Christ's ministries. I am grateful to the hospitality that was extended to me in so many ways.

Through the month we also continue to work with the WIM task force, the task force that is planning the pre-biennial, and the fund-raising task force. Mike Saylor and the Communication Committee have a Minister Magazine in the works and we are eagerly hoping that all who promise to write will indeed submit.

It's hard to describe how much I enjoy being with our colleagues. But I will admit that I am looking forward to a season of reduced travel. It's time for some desk work and to spend the evenings cutting the grass, pulling weeds, and sitting on the deck and even talking with Mrs. Kutter.

A last thought; if you receive a note from Sue asking for help in preparing for the senate, please respond asap. Thanks.

The Lord bless you and keep you and make God's face to shine upon you.