



The Baptist Observer Magazine

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HIGHLIGHTING THE MINISTRIES OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES IN INDIANA & KENTUCKY

A Walk Through the 2010 Region Biennial

By: Phyllis Goodyear, NE Area Resource Minister

Biennial Begins with Words from Jerry Cain



J. Millard (50 yr Ordination) & Dottie Branson

Clergy and their spouses kicked off the biennial meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky with worshipful song and opening remarks from Larry Mason. Following the recognition of those ordained 50 years, speaker Jerry Cain, president of Judson University, focused on the phrase “The gates of hell shall not prevail against it,” taken from Matthew 16:18 which was read by Don Scott. In spite of economy and other conditions around us, the statement is still true. He noted that in John 10:10, Jesus promises abundant life.

Then, Cain spoke of the theme for the Biennial, “Thriving, Not Just Surviving.” He said that the keys to thriving are:

(1) Understanding our mission and vision and making the vision a reality.

(2) “acting as if...” He noted that the pastor must become the incarnation of ministry and the institution. “If you are broken,” he said, “everyone else will be broken too.” Act as if you’re a child of God. He encouraged the ministers present to “act as if you’re loved by God, empowered by God,” even when you are not feeling it.

(3) Having good events and gatherings. Fill them with joy and purpose; make them memorable.

The session closed with a brief meeting of the Ministers Council in which officers were elected and ministers shared about those who had encouraged them in their ministry.



Jerry Cain, President of Judson University



Maynard (50 yr Ordination) & Ruth Hatch



Ronald (50 yr Ordination) & Marilyn Newsom

Friday Evening Information Session

On Friday night, prior to the Saturday business session, a final information session concerning the restructure of the Region’s bylaws was held. It followed the same format as the information sessions held throughout the Region in July and August.

On Saturday, the delegates to the Region Biennial voted to adopt the restructure of the bylaws. The vote was 158 yes, 6 no, and 1 abstention. The slate of officers and board members also passed. The new officers and board members are:



James (50 yr Ordination) & Dorris Lund



Paul (50 yr Ordination) & Martha Coates

President: Debra Schill, Seymour FBC; **Vice-President:** Mark Thompson, Brazil FBC; **Secretary:** Tammy Wilkinson, Mounds BC; **Treasurer:** Roger Bailey, Bethel Missionary BC; **2 Yr Term:** Adair Brent, Avoca BC; Gary Britton, Judson BC; Robby Kloke, Kimberlin Creek BC; Becky Pohle, Aurora FBC; Shawn Zambrows, Baptist Student Foundation; Kevin Moore, Plainfield FBC; **4 Yr Term:** Ryan Bailey, Monticello FBC; Pat Ciupek, Waldron BC; Bernie Jackson, Terre Haute FBC; Randy McNeely, Greencastle FBC; Peggy Robison, Tampico BC.

See BIENNIAL, page 2.

ABC-IN/KY Vision Statement

“As the hands and feet of Christ, *compelled* by his love, we will *do whatever it takes* to reach the lost and serve our communities and churches.”