

FOCUS Goes to Minneapolis

By Bonnie Jean M. Durning, President



Recently, I had the privilege of representing our group with our Executive Director Bonnie Studdiford at the 2007 Conference for the Colloquium of Episcopal Professional and

Volunteer Associations (CEPVA) which met at Gethsemane Church Minneapolis. Nineteen organizations of the Episcopal Church were represented. All were formed under the guidance of the Office of Ministry Development. The theme was, "Come to the Garden- Different Tongues/Common Language". We were divided into smaller groups, each with a good mixture of the associations represented. We discussed how individual associations play a role in individual spirituality and how this helped us to further teach the Gospel. We also investigated how groups have a "connected piece", like the Gospel, which tells different parts of the same story with "connected piece". We also discussed the advantages of getting the CEPVA associations together in one place to further the cause.

We shared how our different positions in the Church can affect our spirituality. We realized that our associations give us the opportunity to network and worship and further develop our relationship with God. We discovered that if the Church's mission to the world is to restore all people to unity with God then it is our mission to do that for the Church.

One result of the three day meeting was the establishment of a mission statement for CEPVA: **Strengthening working relationships in the Church.** CEPVA is the place where Episcopal organizations come together to share resources advocate for a common cause. The Steering Committee agreed to stay in place for another year and be called the Working Group. A slate of officers for the year was selected and three sub groups were formed.

Officers:

1. Convener : Kathy Stout, National Association of Christian Education Directors
2. Secretary: Bonnie Studdiford, FOCUS
3. Treasurer: Phil Mc Nairy, National Network of Episcopal Clergy Association
4. Membership Lists: Beth Mathews, Bishops' Executive Secretaries Together

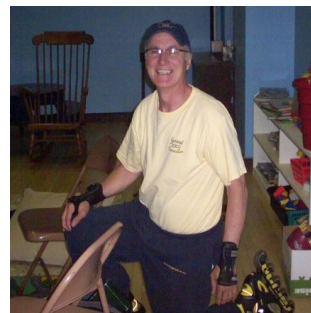
The working group is also made up of representatives from each of the associations and resource consultants:

1. Bud Holland - Ministry Development
2. Christy Campbell - CPG
3. Pam Ramsden - CDO

The three sub committees:

1. **2008 Conference Group**
 1. Convener: Kathy Stout
 2. Members: Bonnie Jean M. Durning, Lou Taylor, Matthew Ellis, Phil Rapp, Anne Karole, and Christy Campbell
2. **2009 General Convention Planning:**
 1. Convener: Phil Mc Nairy,
 2. Members: Missy Morain, Bonnie Jean M. Durning,
3. **Communications / Marketing Group**
 1. Convener: Beth Matthews
 2. Members: Joe Bjordal, Herb Gunn

The new Working Group will investigate and establish guidelines for necessary giving to the group (CEPVA) based on the budget of each organization.



(Left) The Rev. David Anderson of the Cathedral College who led meditations, prepares to catch the spirit.