

APCE, INC. NATIONAL CONFERENCE
San Diego, CA
February 14, 2008

“DREAMS”

Madame President Penrod and my Church Educator Friends,

Good Morning,

I greet you in the name of our Savior and faith redeemer, Jesus Christ.

I also greet you on behalf of our moderator, 217th General Assembly, Rev. Joan Gray.

Thank you for your warm and cordial invitation to speak to this distinguished association. I'm honored and privileged.

Let us pray: Almighty God, we give you honor, thanks and praise for the help that you provide in so many ways, especially through this association. Bless each officer and member. Amen.

From the beginning God had a dream. In the old and new testament you can find lots of dreamers. Maybe you've heard of other dreamers in the world.

My dream is as follows:

1. Congregations will find ways and means that will result in more gains than losses of members. To be successful at evangelizing, we must look inside and especially outside the box. What is God calling us to be and do? This is the trillion dollar question.
2. Congregations will take serious “The Making of an Effective Congregation” by Rev. Dr. Robert Lithicum that focuses on mission and outreach.
3. Congregations will take the time to teach our children/youth/adults that education opens our eyes to new ways of thinking and perceiving.

4. Congregations will rethink Christian education in accordance with Romans 12:2, which could result in our Sunday Schools overflowing on Sunday mornings and our institutions during the week.
5. The role of church educators in maintaining excellence and innovation in educational ministry will make the PCUSA more responsive to the needs of synods, presbyteries and churches.
6. Let there be peace, love, faith, hope, trust, and unity.
7. Let today and everyday be your life.
8. Challenges/issues be studied and brought before God in prayer.
9. Synods, presbyteries and churches take a larger role in mission.
10. Give youth and young adults an audience.
11. Grow the racial ethnic base.
12. Show compassion to those that are in pain and in need of healing.
13. Listen to the Holy Spirit.

I dare you to dream. Dreamers are dangerous. Dreamers beware. These dreamers dreamed and died: Jesus; Martin Luther King, Jr.; John F. Kennedy; Kenyan Christians; congregations; pastors; elders; deacons; trustees; Christian educators; early Americans and astronauts.

But God says, "Dream your dreams."

Let us pray: When we put you first, Lord, everything else falls into place. Keep us ever mindful of this, please. Amen.

Blessings, love and peace to all.

Robert E. Wilson
Vice Moderator
217th General Assembly, PCUSA