

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would ever be president of Federated Church, but what a great experience it has been. I have learned more about how our denominations work, gotten to know more members of the congregation, and realized how much has to happen to make the church function. There are a lot of people who work hard to make God's church what it is. Our pastors are at the top of the list. I have two brothers who are pastors and I've heard enough stories of their experiences to know that a pastor's job is more than giving a sermon on Sunday. Thanks to our pastors for their leadership and guidance. Nor can I forget the help from the office staff who were there to answer questions and remind me when things had to be done. Having grown up worshiping in a small country church where my sister and I would go with our mother to clean the church each week for a month, I really appreciate the work of our custodian.

The work of the church is carried on by more than the paid staff. There are many people in our congregation who give of their time to serve on committees, the Governing Council, teach Sunday School, supply music on Sunday mornings, usher, help with communion, help with Vacation Bible School, serve as liturgists, work within Women's Fellowship, visit shut-ins, and help with the heating and electrical problems. Thank you to all of you who have used your different talents and abilities to serve Federated Church. Federated Church would not be what it is without you.

There are probably some changes some members would like to see. I would encourage you to visit with the pastors or Governing Council members or whomever is appropriate. I once heard a child psychologist say, "change is difficult, even when you want it". I have found that statement to be true, but not unsurmountable. I've been reading a book about John Adams, second president of the United States, and much of the book deals with his time in Philadelphia at the Continental Congress. I got to thinking about what our country might be like if those men meeting in 1776 had just sat on their chairs and grumbled to each other without taking action? My point being we will not make productive changes if we just sit in the pews and talk to each other. Sometimes we have to ask questions and take action.

Here's looking forward to the best we can be!

Joie Taylor, 2016 Federated Church President