

AS ONE THAT SERVES (AOTS)

This past year has seen a number of developments within AOTS. Conference representatives were active in organizing the AOTS Spring Roundup in April 2009, which focused on the theme of the 40th General Council, *Down to the Potter's House*. The meetings dealt with the issue of change for the church and AOTS as we transform and move forward to the new demands of contemporary church and spiritual life.

The conference also organized its annual fall rally, the successful *Providing Abundance – what kind of fairness?* event at Beach United on November 7. Based on the scriptural passage from 2 Corinthians 8:15, “The person who had much did not have too much and the person who had little did not have too little”, the one day event attracted 75 people. AOTS president Jim McKibbin presented the keynote presentation, which focused on the growing gap between rich and poor and the dynamics of addressing issues of fairness, balance and equity in light of that gap; what does God call us to do? The rally concluded with some excellent Dixieland music presented by the Xentic Band.

In addition, men of the AOTS conference were active in supporting the Men's Ministries' Dondi Project to rebuild a school in the Dondi region of Angola. The school, which was a very successful United Church mission, had been destroyed in the course of 27 years of war in the country. AOTS is supporting this project through the organization of drumming circles across Canada led by the Abbey North Drummers. Both the AOTS clubs at Trinity United in Newmarket and Beach United supported by men from Don Mills, Wexford Heights and Kingston Road United held successful drumming circles and both congregations have taken on continuing support of these drumming circles and this project in the months ahead.

Two conference clubs made the decision to disband as AOTS clubs and continue as congregational-based men's groups attending and participating in AOTS events as individual members. All clubs will be continuing with a variety of fundraising dinners, events, forums and retreat programs into the future.

Finally, the conference actively participated in the Central Region's 2010 Spring Round, in April, where Jim McKibbin, who is now national president of AOTS, made a presentation on “The Road Ahead – for AOTS and the Church”.