

# **Education/Formation Commission Report**

## **50<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly, 2020**

### **Catherine Townsend, Chair**

Growing up in the fifties I recall a mayoral campaign in Baton Rouge by a candidate named Woody Dumas. His ad ran on the two television stations constantly: “When others wouldn’t, Woody would.” It was a memorable slogan and he did, in fact, become mayor of Baton Rouge. I tell you this story because of a problem that came up which I reported to you last September.

After a successful interaction between seminarians from two New Orleans schools in 2019, LIC was hoping for an invitation to repeat the interchange at the Baptist Theological Seminary this spring. One of the major players in this conversation was on sabbatical, so we decided to leave it until he returned. In the meantime, our friend Buddy Noel made a few phone calls and started the ball rolling again. I was not only surprised but indeed, delighted that he had contacted several willing parties and scheduled the conversation for February 6.

A group from Notre Dame ventured forth to the Baptist Theological seminary for chapel, enjoyed lunch at their outstanding cafeteria, and then settled in for serious conversation. An instructor from Notre Dame, Rev. Jeffrey Montz, introduced the topic of work, prayer and rest--with many biblical references--- suggesting a necessary balance between and need for all three, as lived out by Jesus Christ. It was a successful and thought-provoking day, making one realize that seminarians are full of energy and idealism, a welcome inspiration for spiritually tired or needy individuals.

I was reminded by this experience to be grateful to people who are not daunted by small challenges. Now I can say that “when others couldn’t, Buddy could”---and did!