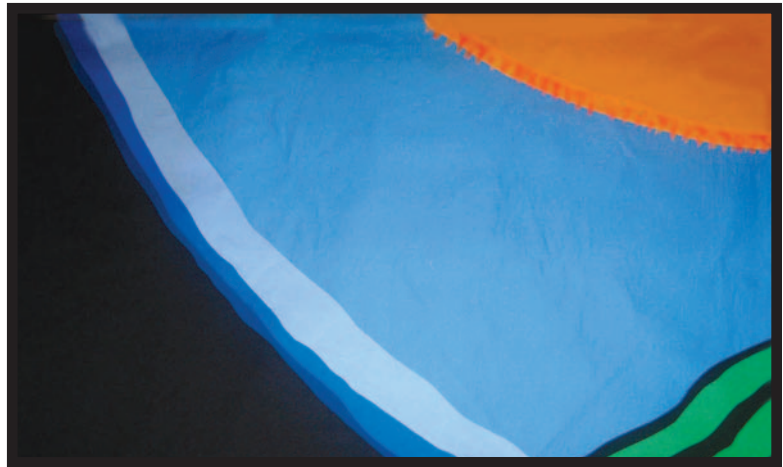


# Through an Artist's Eyes

Each day of the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, participants who attended plenary were treated to a feast for their eyes and ears. Many women asked about the beautiful banners that hung center stage. Here are the artist's interpretations of the banners she created.

The light is pushing away the darkness as God has commanded it to do. Try to imagine how the earth looked that first well-lit day!



God made man and woman in God's image. When I observe people and their vast differences, it serves as a reminder to me of God's omnipresence. In this banner, I tried to show different ages and races of women, unifying them with the color red.

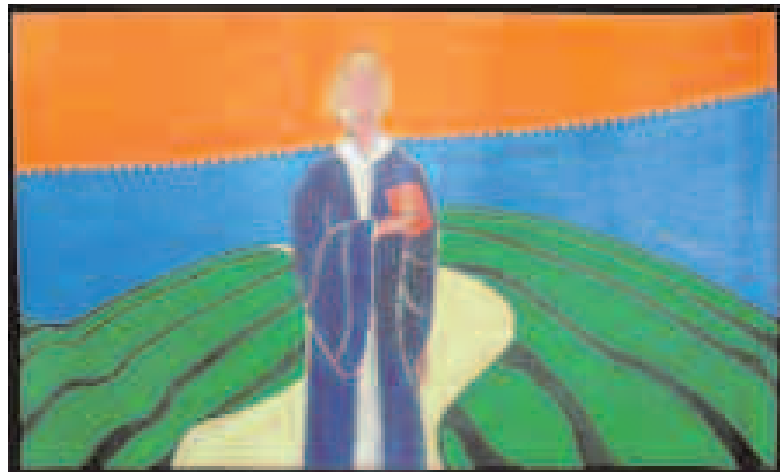


Karen Cooper is the artist who created the beautiful banners displayed on the plenary stage throughout the Gathering. Karen lives in Abilene, Kansas, where she taught art to high school students for many years, and now has a small studio called Studio Frog, where she teaches art to children.



Because I'm from Kansas, when I think of hard thankless labor, I think of being out in the elements, struggling with the soil. Although today most North American farmers use air-conditioned combines, farmers in many other countries still depend on the most basic of tools—their hands.

This woman represents women leaders in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She has traveled down a long path to this point in time. The path goes on and I imagine it going beyond the banner, extending forward for every woman in the church to travel on together.



When I think of transformation in regard to women, I think of butterflies. The transformation that a butterfly goes through is similar to the transformation we all go through as women. These butterflies are moving upward, as if they've just been released, just as all of the women attending the Gathering will be released into their own communities to spread God's Word and provide Light for the Journey.



The banners were placed side-by-side for the closing worship service of the Churchwide Gathering.