

SUMMER 2016 WAS BETTER THAN EVER!

By Dr. Charlotte Kroeker, CMI Executive Director

The Church Music Institute added an extra event in 2016 and served more people in its usual events than ever before. Interest in pursuing excellence in music and worship is alive and well!

June 10-11, Dallas, Texas: Over 100 clergy, musicians, and laypersons gathered to enjoy the hospitality of Zion Lutheran Church (Robert Preece, Doug Haney) and to learn from the team from Madison Avenue Presbyterian in NYC (Fred Anderson, Andrew Henderson, Mary Huff) and Christopher Aspaas (Texas Christian U.). Of special note were the afternoon devoted to children's music and worship and splendid worship services prepared by the MAPC team, as well as guest appearances by Hal Hopson, Emmet Smith, Paul Thomas and John Weaver!

June 19-23, Houston, Texas: CMI was invited to explain the eLibrary pilot project with Kansas City, Indianapolis, and Atlanta chapters to the American Guild of Organists national convention. Interest ran high at the CMI booth in the exhibit hall.

July 24-27, Grand Rapids, Michigan: CMI co-sponsored the annual convocation of the Association for Reformed & Liturgical Worship with the Calvin Institute where 40+ clergy, musicians, and scholars gathered to consider liturgical and sacramental theology with Dr. Nicholas Wolterstorff. Other highlights were CMI board member Dr. Paul Westermeyer's presentation, "Singing around Word, Font, and Table," and a Hymn Festival based on the service for the Lord's Day.

August 14-15, Portland, Oregon: A "Choral Sing through the Church Year" found 70 hot but happy singers in the choral room at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, hosted by Bruce Neswick on Sunday night, led by nine master conductors who unpacked major repertoire for all feast days and seasons of the church year. The next day moved to Calvin Presbyterian in Tigard, hosted by Rev. Dr. Jim Mitchell, and CMI friend John Hedrick, where air conditioning greeted grateful clergy, musicians, and laypersons who considered topics common to all and gathered resources for the upcoming year. Several mentioned how unique this workshop is in the Northwest and how they depend on it each year for their worship and music planning.

Thanks to all who so graciously hosted each of these events, the CMI board members and volunteers to help, and to those who attended and offered their rich gifts of person, abilities and spirit. Such a joy!