

# the flyer

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GENERAL COMMISSION ON THE  
STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ministry of monitoring

## GOAL: To advocate gender, racial, age-level inclusiveness in UMC

**W**e want to think the best of ourselves. So we do not even recognize when we are excluding people by not listening to their voices," said Raquel Mull, clergywoman from New Mexico Conference. Mull monitored gender and racial inclusiveness during proceedings of the 2004 General Conference and the

...when I observe a meeting for a short time,  
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I can demonstrate it with statistics.

South Central Jurisdictional Conference on behalf of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. "In fact, when I observe a meeting for a short time, I can now identify where the power resides. I can demonstrate it with statistics. Often participants cannot see it for themselves," Mull adds.

Pat Callbeck Harper of the Yellowstone Conference, a long-time consultant for GCSRW, trained Mull and past and current Commission members last spring. The team monitored the participation of people of color, women, youth and young adults during legislative sessions at General Conference. Harper also provided tools and training for those who monitored the five U.S. jurisdictional conferences last summer, as voting delegates elected bishops and regional representatives to United Methodist churchwide agencies.

The Commission has done the ministry of monitoring inclusiveness at General Conference since 1996.

The goal of the monitoring ministry is to advocate

gender, racial and age-level inclusiveness in the denomination's decision-making process at all levels. "We hold up a mirror for the church so that we can see who is included and who is marginalized," Harper explained during orientation for new Commission members last fall. "By showing the sheer numbers—who gets to speak and who doesn't, who gets elected and who doesn't and which category of persons is most likely to interrupt a person from another group—we can see the strides we've made in being truly just and inclusive. And we can show the church how far we have yet to go."

Eva Thai, Commission member from California-Pacific Conference, and Mull each monitored their 2004 annual conference proceedings. Thai said that a team of twelve monitors in her conference were trained two months in advance and worked with the bishop to educate

*please turn to page 11*



Photo by Bonny Stalnakier Roth

**ELECTED GCSRW OFFICERS FOR THE 2005-2008 QUADRENNIUM** at the Commission's annual meeting in September were, l to r, Eva Thai, Cerritos, Calif., vice president; Mary Virginia "Dindy" Taylor, bishop of South Carolina, president; and Dianne Spencer, Decatur, Ga., secretary. (See story, p. 3)

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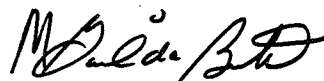
## holding up a **mirror**

Last spring, at the 2004 General Conference, nearly 30 current and former Commission members, along with volunteers from United Methodist seminaries, spent two weeks counting the number of times women delegates spoke compared to men. We tracked the number of times women interrupted a man who had the floor versus the number of times men "took an speaking opportunity" (as our monitoring expert, Pat Callbeck Harper, describes it).

We also had sidebar chats with presiding officers to commend those who actively admonished people hogging the microphone to allow other delegates a chance to speak. And we used our tracking-sheet documentation to help other presiding officers remember that the Nigerian delegate had been interrupted three times by U.S. speakers. Each day, we published our findings.

Monitoring is a unique ministry—indeed a calling. We're not just "bean counting." We're holding a mirror up to our church's face and saying, "This is who we say the people of God look like. This is who we say deserves a place at God's table, where decisions are made about how the United Methodist Church witnesses to the world." Monitoring tells us at a glance which areas of church life and leadership are still "off limits" to some people, and where we have made strides. Monitoring tells us whether or not we are walking the walk or merely talking the talk of equity and openness.

We at the Commission will spend this quadrennium extending our ministry to church agencies, congregations and other entities by tracking the role that gender and racial bias may play in the way we elect our representatives, ordain clergy, hire staff, reward volunteers, even develop church school material. We invite you to join us in this important ministry. Hold up a mirror in your congregation, seminary classroom, conference or district office—even in your workplace. We have monitoring forms at [www.gcsr.org](http://www.gcsr.org). Together we can make our dreams of true inclusiveness a reality.



—M. Garland Burton, general secretary, GCSR

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Renewal

*The Flyer invites you to subscribe and thus demonstrate your support for women in the United Methodist Church. As the primary communication tool of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, The Flyer offers its readers updates on women's issues and resources for annual conference and local church women's groups. Your subscription will guarantee four issues of The Flyer for one year.*

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## The Flyer

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*The Flyer* is published four times yearly by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSR) in The United Methodist Church. Primary distribution of *The Flyer* is through the Annual Conference Commissions on the Status and Role of Women and Response Network Resource Teams. Women outside the United States, please ask your bishops' office to make sure you get *The Flyer*.

EDITOR: Bonny Stalnaker Roth

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, an agency of the worldwide United Methodist Church, acts as an advocate, catalyst, and monitor to ensure the full participation and equality of women in the church.

GCSR OFFICERS:

Mary Virginia "Dindy" Taylor, president  
Eva Thai, vice president  
Dianne Spencer, secretary

GENERAL SECRETARY

M. Garland Burton

STAFF:

Ariel Alonso  
S. Kim Coffing  
Elaine Moy Johnson

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201, (847) 869-7330, [GCSR@gcsr.org](mailto:GCSR@gcsr.org).

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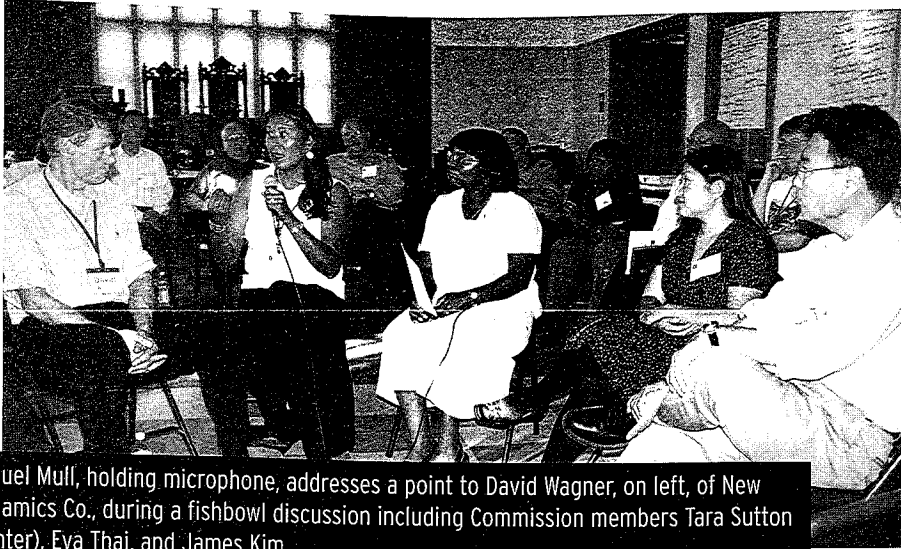
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Photos by Bonny Stalnaker Roth



Raquel Mull, holding microphone, addresses a point to David Wagner, on left, of New Dynamics Co., during a fishbowl discussion including Commission members Tara Sutton (center), Eva Thai, and James Kim.

## Plans to conduct sexual harassment survey highlight action at GCSRW annual meeting

During its annual meeting in September in Evanston, Ill., the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women made plans to conduct a U.S.-wide sexual harassment survey of United Methodist lay and clergy, employees and parishioners, lay leaders, and seminary staff and students. Work on the survey is to begin in early 2005.

This survey is a continuation of the Commission's ongoing work on sexual ethics in the church, as mandated and reaffirmed by legislation passed by the 2004 General Conference, including the eradication of sexual misconduct relating to children, employees, volunteers, clergy and their families, and congregants.

Among other plans for the coming quadrennium, members proposed a second churchwide training and networking event for annual conference Response Teams, which address issues of sexual misconduct by clergypersons and lay professionals.



Jorge Lockward, General Board of Global Ministries, in discussion with Judy Loehr, who led worship services at the meeting.

The Commission formed a task force on racism-sexism-globalism to work in conjunction with the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Board of Global Ministries. It also formed a new Endowment Task Force to increase funds in the Advocacy for Women Endowment Fund,

established by the Commission to provide monies for emerging ministries related to advocacy for women.

Along with electing officers for the 2005-2008 quadrennium (*see front*

*page photo*), committee and task force leaders named were newly elected GCSRW vice president Eva Thai, Nominating; Debbie Wallace-Padgett of Lexington, Ky., Personnel; Mary White of Rosemont, Penn., Finance; Marvin Shackelford of Alabaster, Ala., Endowment; Jim Gates of Wenatchee, Wash., Legislative; Raquel Mull of Albuquerque, N.M., Racism/Sexism/Globalism; Tara Sutton of Waterford, Mich., Constituents, Advocacy, Resources and Education (CARE); and, Emily Dawson-Peterson of Fort Collins, Colo., Research and Monitoring (RAM).

The Commission also elected M. Garlinda Burton as general secretary for the Commission, effective Jan. 1. Burton, formerly editor of *Interpreter* magazine and a 20-year employee of United Methodist Communications, had been GCSRW interim general secretary since November 2003. ●

## World Day for Water: March 22, 2005

World Water Day 2005 will be guided by the upcoming water decade's theme "Water for Life." It will be the starting day for this International Decade for Action, "Water for Life" 2005 - 2015, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly. For more information, see

website:

[www.worldwaterday.org](http://www.worldwaterday.org).




# March is Women's History Month

*We encourage local churches and annual conferences to mark Women's History Month each March. A wealth of information is available on historic women in the United Methodist Church. We offer here a few ideas and resources to help you get started.*

## **Celebrate a prominent community woman**

As part of its 150th anniversary celebration, First United Methodist Church, Evanston, Ill., hosted a bicycle ride/walk focusing on Frances Willard in September. A former member of the church, Willard was an important force in the 19th century women's rights movement and a social reformer best known for establishing the Women's Christian Temperance Union, which remains headquartered in Evanston. The event included tours of the Frances Willard house in Evanston.



Pioneer suffragist and social reformer Frances Willard learns to ride a bicycle with characteristic resolve and courage at the age of 53 (and in a long skirt).

Photo courtesy WCTU.

## **Collect and share stories of local church women**

You do not have to look for a famous historic figure or a prominent clergywoman to celebrate Women's History Month. Every local church has foremothers who have served and led their congregations through important passages or events.

Work with your local chapter of United Methodist Women and local church archivist to develop a display of photos and other items that tell the stories of women who made a difference. Use this month to continue to collect memories from women whose stories have not yet been recorded.

## **Prepare for 2006 celebration of full clergy rights for women**

As the United Methodist Church prepares for the 2006 celebration of full clergy rights for women in the United Methodist Church, annual conferences and clergywomen across the United States are invited to contribute to an important historic book.

Each annual conference is asked to submit the name and biography of the first woman in each racial/ethnic group to receive full clergy rights. These documents are being collected in an historical book on women's ordination.

Anyone who can offer information on women of color who are the first in their ethnic group to be received into full connection is invited to contact Patricia Thompson, PO Box 538, Morrisville, VT 05661-0538. E-mail: [pajt8817@aol.com](mailto:pajt8817@aol.com). Phone: (802) 888-2185.

## **Collect stories of your conference clergywomen**

In addition to the firsts among clergywomen, there are many stories of subsequent clergywomen to be collected and shared across your conference. Northern Illinois Conference clergywomen were invited to tell their stories during a day-long gathering that included videotaping of small groups of clergywomen responding to several questions posed by a moderator.

For more information: Lana Thompson Sutton, (630) 904-1035 or [Lana\\_Sutton@wheatlandsalem.org](mailto:Lana_Sutton@wheatlandsalem.org).



Photo by Bonny Stainaker Roth

Northern Illinois Conference clergywomen gather to tell their stories at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. From left are Young Ok Park, Pilgrimage UMC, University Park; Bonnie F. Davies, First UMC, Polo; Lana Thompson Sutton (facilitator), Wheatland Salem UMC, Naperville; and Barbara Greicar, Humboldt Park UMC, Chicago.

## **Resources**

General Commission on Archives and History, (973) 408-3189. [www.gc.ah.org](http://www.gc.ah.org).

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, (847) 869-7330. [www.gcsrw.org](http://www.gcsrw.org).

Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, [www.gbgm-umc.org/umw](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/umw).

Annual conference bodies charged with archives & women's concerns  
National Women's History Project, (707) 636-2888. [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org)

# Wonder Woman

## Dawn Hand

**Home church:** St. Mark's Church, Charlotte, N.C.

**Accomplished:** The communications director for the Western North Carolina Conference, she was named the 2004 Communicator of the Year by the United Methodist Association of Communicators. Served twice as a General Conference delegate, as a governing member of United Methodist Communications for eight years, and as president of the communicators' association for three years.

**Role models:** "My maternal grandfather, Richard Alexander Pone, had the most spiritual influence on my life. Edna Pone, my maternal grandmother, continues to inspire me. Marion Reid, my paternal grandmother, who was a single mom raising three children, helped me understand the value of hard work."

**Wise words:** "I believe with all my heart that ... one of the most special ministries that we can do is to tell the awesome story of Jesus."



Photo by Woody Woodrick



### Apply now for UM scholarships and loans

Every year the United Methodist Church awards several million dollars in scholarships and loans to undergraduate and graduate students. Contact the scholarships office at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, (615) 340-7344, [umscholars@gbhem.org](mailto:umscholars@gbhem.org); [www.gbhem.org/gbhem/loans2.html](http://www.gbhem.org/gbhem/loans2.html).

### Learn about UM complaint process

The October 2004 issue of *Interpreter* magazine includes an article on the process for filing a formal complaint against a United Methodist clergyperson or lay employee. The article lists chargeable offenses for which a pastor or other staff person may face trial and an outline of the complaint process from a committee on inves-

tigation to a trial court. It explains counsel representation for complainant and respondent, along with selection of members of the trial court and possible outcomes. Helpful sidebars illustrate the members of committee on investigation for complaints against different clergy and lay staff as well as a glossary of terms comparing secular and church trials.

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women counsels women who believe they have been the victim of sexual harassment or misconduct in a congregation or church agency. For confidential inquiries and support, call the Commission toll free at (800) 523-8390.

To order copies of the article, contact *Interpreter*, (615) 742-5107. Website: [www.interpretermagazine.org](http://www.interpretermagazine.org).





A UMNIS photo by Mike DuBose

U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), right, among the 10 Methodist women who have been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, talks with Sharon Brown Christopher, bishop of Illinois Great Rivers Conference, at a meeting in the senator's office last year.

# Ovations

To **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, U.S. Senator from N.Y., and **Betty Bumpers**, former first lady of Arkansas, who are two United Methodists among the 10 women being inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2005.

To **Takayuki Ishii**, pastor of Metropolitan-Duane United Methodist Church in New York City and former member of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, who was honored by the Council of Churches of the City of New York for outstanding service.

To **Diane Klemann**, associate pastor and director of administrative services at the Bridgewater (N.J.) Church, who was elected president of the United Methodist Association of Church Business Administrators.

To **Wangari Maathai**, who has been named the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner for her campaign against deforestation across Africa. She is the first African woman in history to receive this prize.

To **Ann Sherer**, bishop of the Nebraska Conference, who became the first woman president to lead the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. Sherer and **Minerva Carcaño**, bishop of the Desert Southwest and Korean Mission Conferences, also became the first women bishops to serve as commission members.

To **Lillian Smith**, former director of Ministry for Women and Persons of Color in the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's Division of Higher Education, who was named associate general secretary of the Division of Ministries with Youth and Young People at the General Board of Discipleship.

To **Deb Vosler**, a member of Faith United Methodist Church in Eyota, Minn., who competed on the U.S. women's sitting volleyball team in the Paralympic Games last summer in Athens, Greece, and helped her team win a bronze medal.

To **Kyung Za Yim** of East Northport, N.Y., who has been elected president of the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries. She is the first woman of Asian heritage and the first United Methodist deaconess to serve as division president.

To **Tatyana McFadden**, of Linden Linthicum United Methodist Church in Clarksville, Md., who won a silver medal in the 100-meter and a bronze medal in the 200-meter wheelchair races at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece. ●



Tatyana McFadden

A UMNIS photo by Melissa Lauber

## WORTH REPEATING



"The church is so focused on whom we are keeping out that we haven't had time to discuss what belongs in....The biblical literalists seem to have had their way at the past General Conference, but that is not the way United Methodists understand and interpret scripture."

-Carolyn Henninger Oehler, president of Scarritt-Bennett Center and former president of the Commission from 1978 to 1984, addressing annual meeting of the GCSRW

## UNITED METHODIST

**Beth Stroud loses ministerial credentials**

Irene Elizabeth "Beth" Stroud, a United Methodist clergywoman, has been stripped of her ministerial credentials by a church trial court. Stroud, a lesbian, was found guilty Dec. 2 of engaging in "practices that are incompatible with Christian teachings." After that 12-1 decision, the trial court — or jury — entered a penalty phase and voted 7-6 to strip Stroud of her ministerial credentials, effective immediately.

Stroud, 34, is not able to perform the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion but plans to remain on staff at First United Methodist Church of Germantown in Philadelphia, where she had been associate pastor since 1999. She has the right to appeal the court's decisions in 30 days to the denomination's Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Appeal.

Stroud acknowledged in a press conference after the trial the divisive nature of the issue of homosexuality, which was visible during the proceedings. Looking at the trial court, she said, "in every face that I saw, I saw pain, and in every face I saw, I saw compassion."

She said she hopes the trial has been "a teaching moment for the church. From today, I feel a lot of sadness, but I also feel hopeful for the future of the church."—UMNS

**Desegregation decision, 'wonderful moment,' woman recalls**

Mai Gray was a first-year schoolteacher in Kansas City, Mo., when the U.S. Supreme Court decided that segregating her students was against the law. The May 17, 1954, announcement by Chief Justice Earl Warren that the court had decided "separate but equal has no place in public education" was a "wonderful moment," she recalled. Gray and Carolyn Johnson, a Purdue University professor, took part in a discussion marking the 50th anniversary of that landmark court decision, "Brown vs. the Board of Education," during the Oct. 15-18 annual meeting of the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries. Both of the African-American women are former presidents of the division—Gray serving from 1976 to 1980 and Johnson from 1992 to 1996.—UMNS



A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose

Beth Stroud, at a press conference following her conviction in a church trial on charges that she has violated church law by being a "self-avowed practicing homosexual." (See story at left.)

**Shamana dismisses same-sex marriage ceremony complaint against Oliveto**

A complaint against a United Methodist pastor for performing a gay marriage ceremony in a church sanctuary has been dismissed by Beverly Shamana, bishop of the California-Nevada Conference. Karen Oliveto officiated at a ceremony last winter for Bethany United Methodist Church parishioners Bill Hinson and Dan Johnson after they received a marriage license at San Francisco City Hall.—UMNS

## INTERNATIONAL

**Agency creates child abuse review panel**

Directors of the General Board of Global Ministries have created a process to receive and assess reports of child sexual abuse by mission personnel in what is today the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) for the period 1945-1978. The action emerged out of an investigation by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in response to allegations of abuse. The board of directors set up a three-member panel of clergy and laity, men and women, not associated with the agency. A nominations process was put into place to identify theologically informed panel members who are also experts in child abuse, sexual misconduct, therapy, and spiritual care.—UMNS

*continued on page 8*

**Kenya church women petition government on child sex abuse**

Women from Christian institutions in Kenya have lobbied the country's health minister, calling for action to deal with sexual abuse of children in the east African country. "We are here today to add our voices and concerns to the many voices on the same issues," said members of the Ecumenical Women's Forum in Kenya in a statement. They lit candles outside the health ministry where they presented a petition to the ministry's permanent secretary.

—*Ecumenical News International*

**World Methodist leaders adopt statement on unity, sexuality**

Top leaders of the World Methodist Council have adopted a statement on unity to "sound a note of warning" that churches must seriously address tensions around issues of human sexuality. If the church fails to look at the issue of homosexuality now, the unity of the church will suffer, said His Eminence Sunday Mbang, chairperson of the council's executive committee and prelate of the Methodist Church in Nigeria. The executive committee adopted the "Unity and Sexuality" statement during its fall meeting.—*UMNS*

**Younger Tutu urges honesty on sexuality and destigmatising AIDS**

Destigmatising AIDS and speaking honestly about sexuality and sexual health are the best weapons the global Christian church can use to fight the pandemic, says Mpho Tutu, an Episcopal priest and daughter of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Tutu, ordained an Episcopal priest earlier this year and assigned to Christ Church in Alexandria, Va., spoke at Miami University on behalf of the Global AIDS Alliance. Based in Washington D.C., this alliance coordinates international programs for education, fundraising and political action to fight the disease which claims 9,000 lives each day around the world.—*ENI*



A UMNS photo by Mike DuBoise

Eileen McDonald (right), a mission worker from the Methodist Church of the United Kingdom, visits with Floria Humani (left), who cares for up to 30 children at the Sekunjalo Pre-Primary School in New Brighton, near Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The school is supported by St. John's Methodist Church in Port Elizabeth.

**South African Methodist Church women run school for needy pre-schoolers**

Drive down a dusty, rocky path, weave through a maze of fences, dogs and chickens, and eventually you will arrive at Sekunjalo Pre-Primary School. Floria Humani, a retired teacher who runs the center, cares for between 26 and 30 children, ages 18 months to 5 years old, in three small shacks made of flattened oil drums and other scraps of metal and wood. "I love the children," Humani says, smiling. "Whatever they do, I do. If they are running, I am running. If they throw a ball, I throw a ball," she explains. "If I did not take them in, they would be in the street."

Members of the World Methodist Council's executive committee visited Sekunjalo and several other ministries to get a firsthand look at what the Methodist Church is doing in Port Elizabeth.—*UMNS*

**WORTH REPEATING**



"No matter how many women bishops, district superintendents, pastors, chairs of boards of ordained ministry, and other women leaders the church has, your work is not over. Sexism is alive in the United Methodist Church."

—Sharon Zimmerman Rader, retired bishop, convening the annual meeting of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women



## Resources

**Body and Soul: Rethinking Sexuality as Justice-Love**, Marvin M. Ellison and Sylvia Thorson-Smith, eds. (Pilgrim Press, 2003). A collection of powerful essays on transgender concerns, HIV/AIDS, and sexual diversity of many sorts.

**Counseling Women: A Narrative, Pastoral Approach**, Christie Cozad Neuger (Fortress Press, 2001). A prophetic view of the often invisible social, cultural, and systemic forces that affect women's life stories.

**Does Christianity Teach Male Headship? Equal-Regard Marriage and Its Critics**. Ed. Blankenhorn, Browning, Van Leeuwen. (Eerdmans, 2004). This text offers a summary of various views of the topic. It explains that male headship was assumed rather than proscribed in the Bible.

**Jesus, Our Spiritual Director: A Pilgrimage through the Gospels**, Wendy J. Miller (Upper Room, 2004). This book shows the deep biblical roots of Christian spiritual direction. Miller helps us recognize ways in which God is in dialogue with us today.

**The Labyrinth and the Enneagram: Circling into Prayer**, Jill Kimberly Hurtle Geoffrion and Elizabeth Catherine Nagel (Pilgrim Press, 2001). A useful structure for experiencing this prayer form.

**Made in God's Image: A Resource for Dialogue about the Church and Gender Differences**, Ann Thompson Cook (2003). This 24-page pamphlet can assist groups who want to talk about gender diversity and move beyond rigid stereotypes and expand the image of

the divine. Available from Dumbarton United Methodist Church, 3133 Dumbarton St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.

**Once Upon a Time in Africa: Stories of Wisdom & Joy**, Joseph Healey (Orbis, 2004). Short stories from Kenya and Tanzania to inspire faith. This book offers parables and meditations.

**Preventing Sexual Abuse in Congregations: A Resource for Leaders**, Karen A. McClintock (Alban Institute, 2004). In this comprehensive resource, pastor and pastoral psychologist McClintock demonstrates that sexual abuse in congregations is preventable and gives clergy and lay leaders the tools they need to prevent sexual abuse in congregations. This book shows congregations how to protect children and vulnerable adults, prevent sexual harassment either by clergy or of clergy, and strengthen clergy families by raising awareness of the occupational and emotional risks inherent in pastoral ministry. [www.alban.org](http://www.alban.org) or (703) 964-2700, Ext. 273.

**"Toward a Feminist Wesleyan Theology,"** *Quarterly Review*, Winter 2003. An important collection of articles on the theme of the issue. Published by General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. (615) 340-7334 or [www.quarterlyreview.org](http://www.quarterlyreview.org).


**Two Centuries of Methodism in Arkansas, 1800-2000**, Nancy Britton. This 432-page hardback book includes more than 800 mini-histories of Arkansas United Methodist churches. Available from Jim Beal, 1811 Jefferson St., Conway, AR 72032.

**What She Said: Quotable Women in Scripture**, Dale Lindsay Morgan (Horizons, Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Church, 2004). This 2004-2005 Bible study contains nine lessons from the call of Abraham and Sarah in Genesis to the early days of the church described in Acts. A number of interactive resources are also available. Contact Presbyterian Distribution Service, (800) 524-2612 or [www.pcusa.org/horizons](http://www.pcusa.org/horizons).

**"Women in Theology,"** *Anglican Theological Review*, Winter 2004. This quarterly journal of theological reflection features women theologians. [www.AnglicanTheologicalReview.org](http://www.AnglicanTheologicalReview.org).

**A new series on the history of mission from GBGM...**

**History of Mission series**, ed. Charles E. Cole. A new series of books being published by the General Board of Global Ministries attempts to rescue the stories of women, racial ethnic persons in the U.S., and indigenous leaders as part of the mission story. Available from the Service Center, (800) 305-9857.



**Guidelines** for Leading Your Congregation

**Advocates for Inclusiveness** is now available from Cokesbury for \$2.75. This booklet is a helpful tool in the ministries of being an advocate, catalyst and monitor for the full participation and empowerment of all people in The United Methodist Church, for local church and annual conference leaders. To order, contact Cokesbury, toll-free phone (800) 445-8189. Website: [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com).



# new DSs and DCMs receive training



*Newly appointed district superintendents and annual conference directors of connectional ministries gathered in August at Lake Junaluska, N.C. for training.*

New women district superintendents and their annual conferences are, listed in alphabetical order: Georgia L. Adamson, Central Texas; Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii, New York; Beth O. Benham, North Central New York; Shelly A. Brooks, Central Texas; Kate Conolly, Oregon-Idaho; Becki Curry, Kentucky; Karen Nichols Dungan, Iowa; Laura B. Easto, Baltimore-Washington; Patricia S. Harbison, Western Pennsylvania; Myrtle F. Hatcher, Virginia; Deborah J. Heisley-Cato, Central Pennsylvania; Diane W. Koob, Greater New Jersey; Florence Anne Lippincott, Iowa; Jo Ann Olson, Pacific-Northwest; Louise R. Ott, Detroit; Veronica P. Palmer, Greater New Jersey; Sharon Ragland, Desert Southwest; Vivian L. Rodeffer, Greater New Jersey; Barbara S. Ross, East Ohio; and Dorothy Ann Webster, North Alabama



The new woman director of connectional ministries is Julie Hager-Love, Kentucky Conference (left), along with a continuing director Twila Glenn, Iowa Conference, who served as one of the faculty for the event.

## Clerical Corner

**35** clergywomen serving in the U.S. in UM churches with 1,000 members or more

**1,099** clergymen serving in the U.S. in UM churches with 1,000 members or more

Clergywomen will be gathering again August 13-17, 2006. This event will be held at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place in Chicago, IL. Contact the web-site: <http://www.gbhem.org/clergywomen/>

## Annual conference news

### Minnesota offers Extraordinary Women Conference

The Extraordinary Women Conference was a day-long celebration in October of encouragement, laughter, and healing, sponsored by Minnesota Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women. EWomen 2004 featured speakers Stormie Omartian, Jennifer O'Neill, Dave and Jan Dravecky, and Ruth Graham as they helped participants to experience what the woman at the well did when she came face-to-face with Jesus. For more information, call (320) 252-2153 or e-mail [gumch@juno.com](mailto:gumch@juno.com). ●

## monitoring from page 1

conference members on the purpose of their work. During the gathering, monitors offered daily reports in the conference newsletter, similar to reports the Commission offered in the General Conference *Daily Christian Advocate*.

Here are the keys for successful monitoring:

- Train volunteers in advance of the meeting, and include opportunities to practice monitoring.
- Use monitoring tools that include room for tallying numbers and the monitors' observations. These comments may include such things as

summaries of a technique a chairperson used to encourage more participation by women and people of color, or quoting examples of a biased remark or actions that event leaders should address. (See the Commission website for monitoring forms and more details: [www.gcsr.org](http://www.gcsr.org).)

- Introduce yourself and present your monitoring ministry to all leaders for annual conference sessions, including group facilitators/chairpersons, the bishop and presiding team.
- Report your results to the larger group. ●

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# emPOWERment

## Advocacy for Women Endowment Fund

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GENERAL COMMISSION  
ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN  
in the United Methodist Church  
1200 Davis Street, Evanston IL 60201

For better health for women and a healthier environment for our children, our newsletter is printed on chlorine-free, acid-free recycled paper.



*Church Women United. . .*

## World Day of Prayer to focus on women of Poland

**P**lan now to celebrate World Day of Prayer on March 4, 2005, with women around the world. Church Women United has named this year's theme "Let Our Light Shine," a focus on women of Poland.

The first World Day of Prayer celebration observed by Polish women was in 1927; the second in 1948; and since 1962, the observance has taken place regularly, uniting growing numbers of members of various Churches in many towns. This perseverance and determination of Christian women in Poland merits our attention and admiration for the difficulties they have endured under a governmental regime antagonistic towards religion. Most recently their solidarity with one another and to the truth of the Gospel's call for justice led to the collapse of that oppressive government.

It is difficult now, in a time of transition to a market economy, for the people in this adjustment of their social structure. It is in this climate that the WDP Writing Committee of Poland, made up of representatives of nine

denominations, tell us to "Let Our Light Shine" as, we might add, they have had to do even when that light was only a flicker. They have called us to meditate on several scripture passages, considering the transformation which God's power can effect in each of us and those around us: Matthew 5:13-16; Ephesians 5:8-14; 2 Kings 5:1-15.

Check the website for details: [www.churchwomen.org/celebrations.htm](http://www.churchwomen.org/celebrations.htm)

### COPY DEADLINES

To ensure inclusion of job listings, calendar items, and other items to be published in *The Flyer*, please submit written details by:

**Feb. 1, 2005.....April-June 2005 issue**

Send to: Bonny Stalnaker Roth, GCSRW, 1200 Davis St. Evanston, IL 60201  
(800) 523-8390 • [gcsrww@gcfa.org](mailto:gcsrww@gcfa.org).