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Passing Legends



July–September 2005

Volume 36, Number 3

www.gcsr.org

Appeals committee reverses church trial verdict in Stroud case

Judicial Council to review in October

The Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church will hear oral arguments in the case of Irene Elizabeth (Beth) Stroud Oct. 27 in Houston.

In a church trial last December, Stroud was found guilty of violating the denomination’s prohibition of “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” in the ordained ministry. Then serving as associate pastor of First United Methodist Church of Germantown in Philadelphia, she lost her clergy credentials but remained on staff as a layperson.

The October hearing, which is open to the public, will begin at 9 a.m. at the Stansbury Building on the Westchase Campus of First United Methodist Church in Houston. Representatives of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and Stroud will be allowed 30 minutes each to present their arguments.

Deliberations will follow the hearing, but the Judicial Council normally does not release information about its decisions until the conclusion of the full meeting, which would be October 29.

Additional information about the Stroud trial and appeals process is available at www.umc.org.

Linda Bloom and Erik Alsgaard contributed to this report.



Elizabeth Stroud

Key
The



Standing on the promises

Recently, a sister district superintendent challenged my suggestion that women church leaders today owe a debt or allegiance to our pioneering foremothers.

“I don’t think of myself as a woman DS; I’m a DS who happens to be a woman,” she said. “And I got here by working hard. Period.”



No doubt she has worked hard to make it to a cabinet position. However, unless she’s been living on Pluto for the past half century, she must know that just 50 years ago, a woman couldn’t be a superintendent or bishop, no matter how hard she worked. No matter how qualified she was. No matter what her calling.

That superintendent, you and I have opportunities for ministry that our grandmothers couldn’t have imagined! Why? Because the *first* woman was willing to risk ridicule in her annual conference. Because that *first* group of sisters organized and staged demonstrations at General Conference to see that we received full voting rights. Because the *first* woman usher, trustee, lay leader, missionary, pastor, superintendent, and bishop paved the way.

We are standing on their shoulders, and we can’t afford to forget it. We’re standing on God’s promises, and we will not fail because of that standing. Admitting that we owe such a debt doesn’t weaken or diminish the posts we now hold at the church’s decision-making tables. In fact, we should be doubly proud: we’re becoming the church our mothers always envisioned. Thanks be to God.

M. Garlinda Burton, General Secretary

The Flyer

July–September 2005

The Flyer is published four times yearly by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) 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 Teams. Women outside the United States, please ask your bishops’ office to make sure you get The Flyer.

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

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UN and UMC sponsor conference

By Linda Bloom*


New York (UMNS)—More than 1,500 women from a variety of cultures and backgrounds were able to network at the United Nations with others involved with indigenous issues as a result of assistance from The United Methodist Church.

The Fourth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the United Nations concluded May 27. The “First People’s Forum on Peace for Life” examined situations faced by indigenous, or native, people, with a focus on the goals to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and to achieve universal primary education. The event was sponsored in part by the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Church and Society.

The event had a focus of Christians acting in solidarity with Muslims and “called for an interfaith collaboration in addressing issues of justice and peace,” said Liberato

Bautista, an executive with the General Board of Church and Society.

As the women learned, indigenous peoples world-wide have similar concerns, among them ownership of land, constant violations of human rights, and the encroachment of multinational corporations. In many countries, indigenous peoples are asking for the right to self-determination.

At the conclusion of its session, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommended that the UN, its member states and other intergovernmental organizations ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in the design, implementation and monitoring of strategies to reduce poverty. 

**Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York.*



UMNS photo

A woman carries a basket of produce near Kidapawan on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines.

Senator Clinton, Representative DeLauro Introduce Bill to End Wage Gap

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) and Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act in April in both houses of Congress to address the pay gap between men and women in the US.

Although the Equal Pay Act was passed in 1963, women working full-time, year-round only make 76 cents for every dollar that a man makes. The act was introduced in recognition of Equal Pay Day, April 19, which marks the day when women’s wages “catch up” with men’s from the previous year.

The Paycheck Fairness Act aims to empower women to negotiate for equal pay, as well as strengthen enforcement of equal pay laws, according to Clinton’s office. The legislation would reinstate the Clinton Administration’s Equal Pay Matters Initiative and demand the continued collection of data on women workers. “According to the National Committee on Pay Equity, working women stand to lose \$250,000 over the course of their career because of unequal pay practices,” according to a recent statement from DeLauro.

If women’s wages continue to increase at the current pace, they will not achieve parity until 2042.

Value families

While the politicians compete to define “family values” the National Council of Churches says, “Value Families!”

Check on line for a new resource for families of all shapes and sizes. By pointing your web browser to www.nccusa.org/elmc/family2005/index.html, you can print out free resources for intergenerational events, all-church activities or individual family devotions. All resources are designed to help everyone appreciate the many characteristics that shape families today.

The program ideas for “Valuing Families” are based on Ephesians 3:14–19:

“For this reason I bow my knees before God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of God’s glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God’s Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (NRSV)

The US Census Bureau characterized the 102.5 million American households in the following way:

79% **Family Households**
(a group of two or more people living together and related by birth, marriage, or adoption)

49% **Families with children under 18**

45% **Biological, nuclear families**

21% **Step families**


27% **Single-parent families**
(87% mothers, 13% fathers)

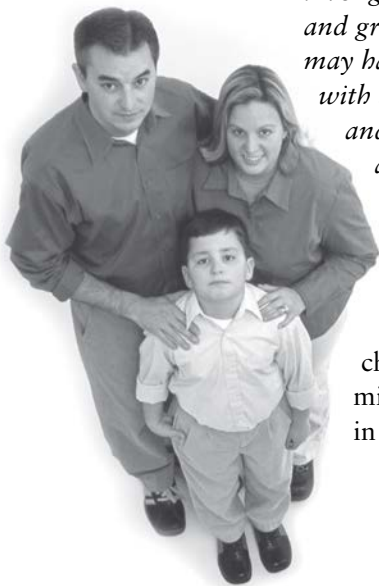
5% **Grandparent-headed families**

2% **Co-habiting families**

The remaining 21% were households representing a variety of other single or group configurations.

Valuing Families provides conversation starters and small group activities to remind participants that everyone’s family is valued.

Print copies of the resources are also available. Send \$10 to cover photocopies, postage and handling to: Garland Pierce, Associate Director for Education and Leadership Ministries, National Council of Churches, Suite 880, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. Direct inquiries may be made to him by email at gpierce@nccusa.org. 






Clergy families given tips to thrive

The Virginia Annual Conference hopes to make parsonage life easier for its clergy families by providing a *Thrival Kit*.

This book, filled with what new-to-town clergy families should expect, who to call, and where to turn for help, is given to all pastors and staff parish committees in the conference. Nuts-and-bolts issues about clergy taxes, myths, and expectations about clergy spouse behavior as well as a section on “the joys of living next door to the church” round out this sometimes humorous, but helpful guide.

Since General Conference passed legislation developed by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women highlighting the unique lifestyle of parsonage living, many annual conferences are beginning to take a serious look at parsonage life and either updating or providing resources for the parsonage family.

The *Thrival Kit* is free and can be found at www.vaumc.org. Click on Conference Offices -> Ministerial Services -> Thrival Kit. 

You know you live in a parsonage when...

- You come into the kitchen on Sunday morning to find a church member putting a salad in your fridge because the one at the church is full.
- Your children have never lived in home that was “owned” by a member of your family.
- You own sheet sets in every size because you never know what size bed the next house will have.



TEND AND BEFRIEND

For teens, TIME=LOVE

By Sherry Pugh, Parish Nurse, Alabama-West Florida Conference

The summer months can be difficult for families. Moms and dads are working; younger children are active in daycamps and summer programs. Often, teenagers can fall through the cracks and feel ignored by their families.

Here are my ABCs of parenting a teenager to help you through the summer months and into the school year.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>A Accept and value yourself and your teenager.</p> <p>B Be consistent, honest, fair, and firm as you relate to your teenager.</p> <p>C Concentrate on what you like about your teenager and comment on it.</p> <p>D Develop interests of your own.</p> <p>E Encourage your teenager to discuss ideas and goals, expressing the belief that he or she can do many things well.</p> <p>F Forgive your teenager’s mistakes, which are a natural part of learning.</p> | <p>G Gladly share your time, affection, and support.</p> <p>H Help your teenager feel safe and secure.</p> <p>I Interest your teenager by complimenting his or her efforts.</p> <p>J Joyfully take pleasure in life.</p> <p>K Keep harsh criticisms to yourself; avoid using “should” and “ought.”</p> <p>L Let your teenager experience the results of his or her behavior.</p> <p>M Model by example those qualities you want your teenager to have.</p> <p>N Negotiate privileges and responsibilities, avoiding overindulgence.</p> <p>O Offer some choices, allowing your teenager to make decisions.</p> | <p>P Problem solve with your teenager, listen carefully to his or her feelings.</p> <p>Q Quit blaming, shaming, and threatening.</p> <p>R Respect your teenager.</p> <p>S Share household tasks.</p> <p>T Take time with your teenager.</p> <p>U Use photos and traditions to mold memories.</p> <p>V Value honesty, kindness, dependability, truth, and caring.</p> <p>W Weather trials together as a family.</p> <p>X Examine your attitude toward your teenager.</p> <p>Y Yield to professional advice.</p> <p>Z Zestfully participate in a variety of family traditions and activities.</p> |
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Number of clergywomen grows, but growth

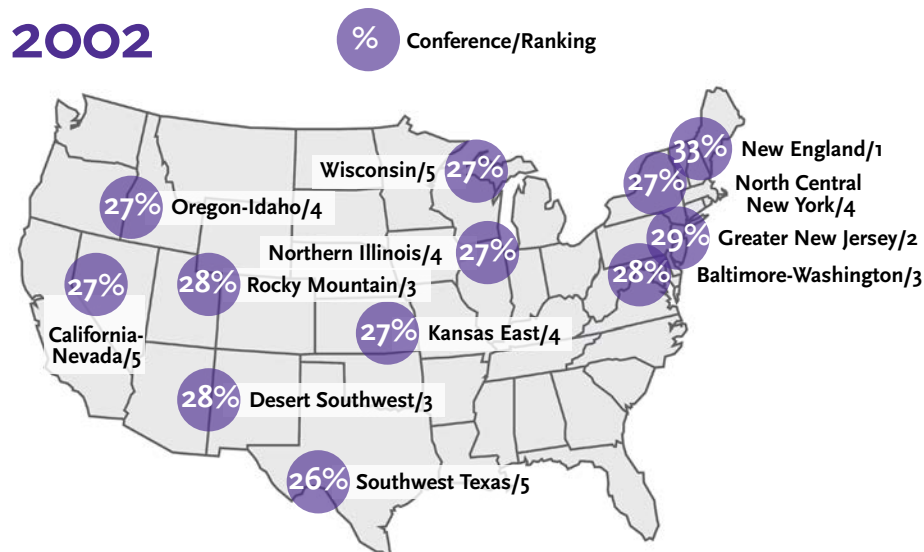
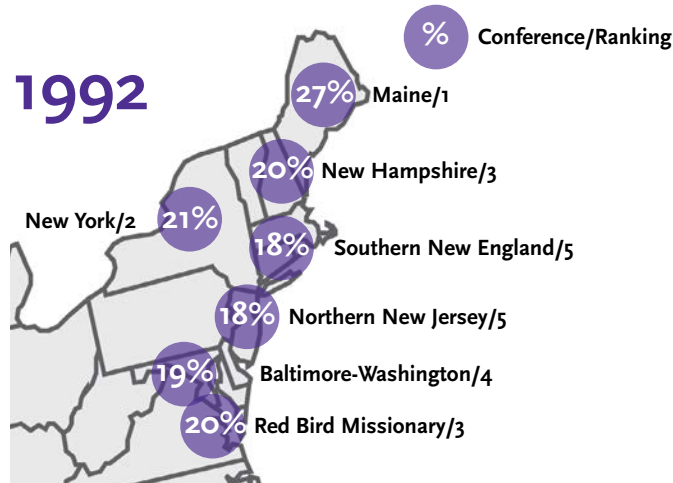
Craig This, formerly with the General Council on Ministries, is a “numbers guy.” His research for the denomination has helped many groups see where they are headed by looking at where they have been. One of the numbers Craig has been tracking relates to the ministry of the

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and the “where we’re headed” is looking better all the time.

According to Craig, the percentage of clergywomen in The United Methodist Church increased from 11% in 1992 to 19% in 2002, the most recent year for which data are available. Thirty-four conferences had 19% or more clergywomen in 2002. This is good news as we move toward a more representative future.

Top Five* Annual Conferences

by Percentage of Clergywomen, 1992 and 2002



The “top five” annual conferences

If the “Big 10” collegiate sports conference comprises 11 universities, the “top five” annual conferences with the highest percentage of clergywomen can be made up of 12 annual conferences. Annual conferences with a membership of 26% clergywomen or more make up the “top five.” New England has the largest percentage of clergywomen with 33%, followed by Greater New Jersey with 29%. This contrasts favorably with 1992 when the “top five” were actually only 7 annual conferences and 16% was the smallest percentage in fifth position. In 1992, only the Maine annual conference had 27% clergywomen while, in 2002, 12 annual conferences had 26% or more clergywomen.

Comparing “clergy membership”

The definition of “clergy membership” as a statistical category has changed from

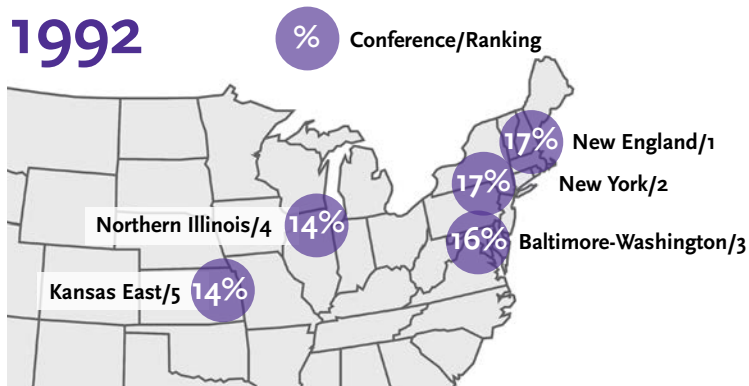
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not uniform

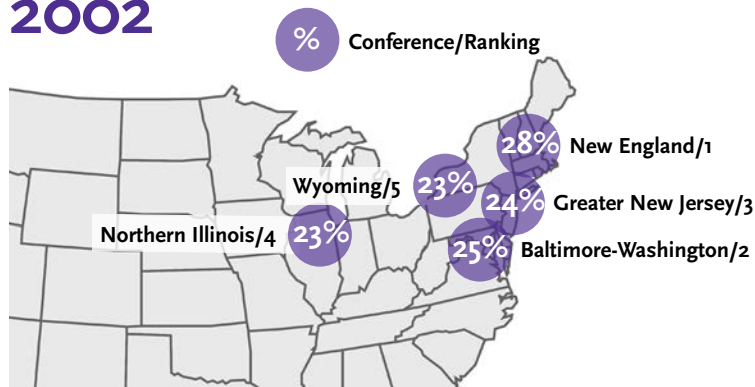
Top Five Annual Conferences

by Percentage of Female Elders in Full Connection, 1992 and 2002

1992



2002




1992 to 2002. In 1992, clergy membership, as collected by the General Council on Finance and Administration, included elders in full connection, probationary members, associate members, and full-time local pastors. By 2002, clergy membership included elders in full connection, deacons in full connection, probationary members, associate members, full-time local pastors, and part-time local pastors. The change in status accounts for the significant increase in the number of clergywomen.

Elders in full connection

The percentage of female elders in full connection for the denomination has gone from 8% in 1992 to 15% in 2002. Like the percentage of clergywomen, this increase has not been across the board. The top five annual conferences in terms of the percentage of women who are elders in full connection are very similar to those of the top five annual conferences for clergywomen as a whole. Interestingly, the top five annual conferences in 1992 would not get into the top five in 2002, where the cut-off is 23%. This shows the gains and improvement made by women clergy in The United Methodist Church.

The bottom line

Numbers guys like the “bottom line,” and Craig is no exception. The data show remarkable progress by women clergy from

1992 to 2002, in terms of growth in percentage of numbers. What remains to be examined is the impact of this growth on women in leadership positions across the denomination in being elected bishop, serving as district superintendent, serving on general agencies, being elected to general conference, and receiving appointments to the “big steeple” churches. 

**Annual conferences with the same percentage share a ranking.*

Source of data: *Clergy Membership Tables 1992 and 2002*. General Council on Finance and Administration, Evanston, Illinois.

★ To **Georgina Kacyon Dapceвич**, a Tlingit Indian laywoman and member of the UMC of Sitka, Alaska, who has been elected a director of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. She is the first Alaska native to serve on the board of a denominational agency, according to Lonnie Brooks, also a director of the commission.



★ To **Hazel Bennett** (center), who was elected chairwoman of the UM Committee on Older Adult Ministries. Bennett is a retired pastor in the South Carolina Annual Conference.

- ★ To **Terri Rae Chattin** on being appointed superintendent of the Frederick District of the Baltimore-Washington Conference.
- ★ To **Pamela H. Ford** on being appointed superintendent of the State College District of the Central Pennsylvania Conference.
- ★ To **Elizabeth Lopez** on being appointed superintendent of the Metro West District of the Minnesota Conference.
- ★ To **Elaine Stanovsky** on being appointed superintendent of the newly combined Seattle and Tacoma districts in the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference.
- ★ To **Brenda J. Biler** on being appointed superintendent of the Charlottesville District of the Virginia Conference.
- ★ To **Peggy I. Sewell** on being named the new associate general secretary for episcopal services with the General Council on Finance and Administration.

★ To **Anne Cairns Federlein**, on being inaugurated as the 30th president of Kentucky Wesleyan College. The United Methodist-related liberal arts college is located in Owensboro, Kentucky.



- ★ To **Mamie Williams** on becoming the executive director of the Northeastern Jurisdiction's Multi-Ethnic Center of Ministry. Williams previously served as superintendent of the Annapolis District in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference.
- ★ To **Ianther Mills** on being appointed superintendent of the Washington East District of the Baltimore-Washington Conference.
- ★ To **Sara S. Bainbridge** on being appointed superintendent of the North District of the Arkansas Conference.
- ★ To **Marvalene Hughes** on being named president-elect of Dillard University in New Orleans, the first woman to head the church-related college.
- ★ To **Helen Oates** on being appointed superintendent of the Southern District of the West Virginia Conference.
- ★ To **Cheryl Walker** on joining the staff of the General Board of Discipleship as director of African American Ministries. Walker was formerly the director of black concerns, outreach, and advocacy for the Southeastern Jurisdiction Administrative Council.
- ★ To **Charlotte Nichols** on being appointed superintendent of the Salisbury District of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference.
- ★ To **Sharon Schwab** on being appointed superintendent of the Indiana District of the Western Pennsylvania Conference.



Ten women receive seminary scholarships

Nashville, Tenn. (UMNS)—Annual scholarships have been awarded to 10 seminarians showing the spirit of a teacher and theologian who was instrumental in the 1956 decision giving women full clergy membership in the Methodist Church.

The 2005–06 Georgia Harkness Scholarships are given to women over 35 who are preparing for ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church as a second career. Recipients must demonstrate leadership traits that Harkness embodied: scholarship, spiritual leadership, and social justice leadership.

The scholarship recipients and their schools and annual conferences are:

- **Linda G. Birchall**, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, North Georgia Conference.
- **Pamela Suzette Everhart**, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Rocky Mountain Conference.
- **Beverly W. Casstevens**, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, North Georgia Conference.
- **Johnna J. Galloway**, Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, Okla., Arkansas Conference.
- **Alexis Smith Coleman**, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, Western North Carolina Conference.
- **Tamara Lou Holtz**, Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Mo., Nebraska Conference.
- **Marian Sams Crane**, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, Baltimore-Washington Conference.
- **Cynthia M. Moore**, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference.
- **Sheila L. Elliott**, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, South Carolina Conference.
- **Linda Sue Stetter**, Boston University School of Theology, Boston, Mass., New England Annual Conference.

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honored for scholarship, spiritual, and social justice leadership

For more information, contact the Division of Ordained Ministry at P.O. Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007, or 615.340.7409; or log on to the Georgia Harkness website at www.gbhem.org/Harkness.html.

Worth Repeating



“Freedom, especially freedom for women, is more than the absence of oppression. It’s the right to speak and vote and worship freely. Human rights require the rights of women. And human rights are empty promises without human liberty.”

—First Lady Laura Bush, speaking at the World Economic Forum, The Dead Sea, Jordan



Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey

Achievements:

- ✓ First woman to serve as “senior pastor” in a traditional parish in the Iowa Annual Conference
- ✓ First woman to serve as General Conference delegation head from Iowa
- ✓ First woman elected to the episcopacy from the Iowa Annual Conference
- ✓ First woman to serve as bishop of the Dakotas area

In a previous life: Kiesey majored in piano performance and religion at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. From there, she went directly to Boston University School of Theology where she planned to get a degree in Christian education. Once she arrived at Boston, she realized that women could be ordained as elders and a whole new world of possibilities opened to her. She chose the church over piano performance.

Role models: Kiesey cites the support and leadership of the United Methodist Women within the churches she served as ever-present role models. In addition, Beje Clark, a woman who served in the Iowa Legislature and was Christian education director in Mason City when Kiesey’s father was senior pastor there. Other role models include the women bishops who paved the way. Whenever Kiesey receives a phone call or a complaint, she pictures one of her sister bishops and how they might handle the situation.

Words of wisdom: “Your gifts and style of leadership are God given and uniquely your own. I don’t do things the way my male colleagues do or the way my women colleagues do and that’s okay.”



UMNS photo by Cindy Feldman

Bishop Kiesey

“Your gifts...are God given and uniquely your own.”



Editor of *Disciple Bible Study* dies at 72

By United Methodist News Service

Nashville, Tenn. (UMNS)—Nellie Moser, instrumental in the vision and development of the *Disciple Bible Study* for the United Methodist Publishing House, died in May. She was 72.

Moser retired from the Publishing House in 2003, after 37 years of service. She had been executive editor of adult resources and also worked on *Christian Believer* and *Jesus in the Gospels*.

In March 1986, Bishop Richard B. Wilke had a vision for a Bible study to train Christian disciples. He said Moser also had that vision and was pivotal in the development of *Disciple*.

More than 1 million people have completed the 34-week *Disciple Bible Study* since it was published, according to Neil M. Alexander, the Publishing House’s president and publisher.

“She [had] a profound reverence for the gift of Scripture, great affection for the church, and a deep and abiding love of God. These aspects of Nellie’s character were consistently and expansively expressed, radiating a light that shone the way for hundreds of thousands of disciples of Jesus Christ across the world,” Alexander said.



UMNS photo

Nellie Moser

“ A lot of people are waiting for Martin Luther King or Mahatma Gandhi to come back—but they are gone. We are it. It is up to us. It is up to you. ”

—Marian Wright Edelman,
founder of the Children's Defense Fund



Best practices: annual conferences

Virginia Conference CSRW taking their challenge faithfully


The Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church is faithfully taking on the challenge of pressing for the inclusion of women in all areas of ministry.

Neola Waller, co-coordinator, says CSRW is making a difference in her region. “What excites me most is the monitoring of election of members of boards and commissions by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team and annual conference session,” she said. “Our monitoring has made the conference aware of their actions and they consciously make efforts for equality, especially in the election process. This is fulfilling to me because I have seen such a positive change in the results just in the few years I have been involved.”

Other ministries of the Virginia Annual Conference CSRW include:

- Publishing newsletters for delegates at Annual Conference.
- Planning a Celebration of 50 Years of Full Clergy Rights for Women for 2006. Committee members include representatives from COSROW, Board of Ordained Ministry, United Methodist Women, and Clergywomen's Collective.

Plans include publicity beginning in 2005, a special worship service held at Annual Conference, a traveling display, and a study course for women.

- Holding a retreat with the Commission on Religion and Race and the Commission on Disability to discuss our similar needs and to share resources. We will be represented by one person on The Common Table (Virginia's connectional ministry agency), beginning in 2006.
- Surveying church members on their attitudes about the status and role of women. The 2004 results were almost identical to 2003; 91% of those surveyed believe that clergywomen's pay should equal that of clergymen for the same years of experience and similar assignments and 85% would be willing to have a clergywoman as senior pastor in their churches.
- Co-sponsoring with the Board of Ordained Ministry a seminar on clergy spouse stress. GCSRW's petition for the 2004 General Conference, “Life in the Fishbowl,” provided the impetus to offer this event. 



General Commission on the Status and Role of Women
in The United Methodist Church
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*For better health for women and a healthier environment for our children,
our newsletter is printed on chlorine-free, acid-free recycled paper using soy inks.*

National gathering of AC Response Team Safe Sanctuary advocates planned July '06

An inter-agency training and networking event for annual conference Response Teams and Safe Sanctuary advocates will be held July 26–29, 2006, in Nashville, Tennessee.

The gathering is open to members of annual conference Response (and/or crisis) Teams, Safe Sanctuary committees, bishops, district superintendents, or any other persons involved in sexual misconduct intervention, training, and response.

Workshops and plenary sessions will equip newly formed teams as well as veteran teams.

Response Teams are those that address sexual misconduct crises within an annual conference. Their composition and processes vary from region to region, but most assist the bishop and cabinet in educating clergy and laity in leadership about sexual ethics, provide support for victims, and help congregations address and find healing in the aftermath of a misconduct charge.

Safe Sanctuaries includes a church-wide program sponsored by the General Board of Discipleship. The program helps congregations develop policies and practices to protect children, you, and other vulnerable persons from abuse in church contexts.

This event is the second of its kind sponsored by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. The first, co-sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference, was held in 2001.

To learn more about organizing a Response Team, contact Kim Coffing at kcoffing@gcfa.org; 847.869.7330. For information on Safe Sanctuaries, contact Mary Alice Gran at the General Board of Discipleship by email at mgran@gbod.org.

Watch the GCSRW website (www.gcrsw.org) for updates on the July 2006 event. 

