

## Unprecedented



Hope Morgan Ward • Deborah Kiesey • Jane Middleton • Mary Virginia Taylor • Sally Dyck • Minerva Carcaño

## six women elected bishop across four jurisdictions

largest number ever in single year includes first Hispanic-American woman

Of the 21 bishops elected by United Methodist jurisdictional conferences across the country, July 14-17, six of those bishops are women—the largest number of women elected in one year.

Among those six is Minerva Carcaño, the first Hispanic-American woman elected to the episcopacy and the only racial-ethnic woman elected this quadrennium. South Central was the only jurisdiction that did not elect any women.

The new women bishops and their assignments are:

**Hope Morgan Ward**, Southeastern; Mississippi Conference;

**Deb Kiesey**, North Central; Dakotas Conference;

**Jane Middleton**, Northeastern; Central Pennsylvania Conference;

**Mary Virginia "Dindy" Taylor**, Southeastern; South Carolina Conference;

**Sally Dyck**, North Central; Minnesota Conference; and **Minerva Carcaño**, Western; Desert Southwest Conference and the Korean Mission.

Since Marjorie Matthews was elected in 1980 by the North Central Jurisdiction, the church has elected a total of 20 women to the episcopacy. During the 2005-2008 quadrennium, 15 women will serve as active and four as retired bishops. Matthews died in 1986, after retiring in 1984. There are 50 active bishops in the U.S.

Susan Hassinger, Northeastern, and Sharon Zimmerman Rader, North Central, now join the ranks of retired bishops, along with their sisters in the faith Leontine T.C. Kelly, Western, and Judith Craig, North Central. ●

**WATCH** for interviews with the new women bishops in the next issue of *The Flyer*. For an outline of the election of women bishops, check History and Stats on the GCSRW website: [www.gcsr.org](http://www.gcsr.org).

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# silence is not an option

**W**e're celebrating significant steps forward in our quest for full participation and empowerment of women and girls in the life of the church. The 2004 General Conference approved important GCSRW-sponsored legislation (see p. 4).

Unfortunately, church lawmakers rejected our resolution inviting the church to embrace in its liturgy language about God beyond masculine metaphors and names. Delegates also rejected a proposal to include "gender" in the church's Constitution as one of the categories protected from discrimination.

Many important proposals at General Conference either passed or failed by a narrow margin, sometimes because delegates—including women—chose to "abstain" rather than vote "yes" or "no."

Our foremothers made sacrifices and took risks to ensure that we today have a place at the decision-making tables. Had they remained silent or abstained, we would not have had the record-number of lay and clergywomen attending the 2004 General Conference. We would not have more than 8,500 clergywomen serving the church, nor would we currently have 19 women bishops.

For those of us seeking justice and equity for all people, silence is not an option. Remaining on the fence will not allow us to move the church. My prayer for all women—and men who support women—is that God will grant us wisdom and, most of all, courage for the living of these days.

—M. Garlinda Burton  
Interim general secretary, GCSRW

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### The Flyer

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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.

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# Wonder Woman



A UMNS photo by Rasu Welch

## Eunice Musa

**Church:** Pastor of 1,200-member church, Nukkai, North Nigeria; formerly pastor of 5,000-member church.

**Accomplishment:** Delegate to the 2004 General Conference in Pittsburgh, Pa. One of five United Methodist clergymen (out of 250 clergy) in her annual conference.

**Pastoral focus:** Working with United Methodist Women-led projects to help rural women support their families by learning to sew and make soaps and lotions. The church in Nigeria has long combined spiritual discipline with practical training to "open new doors for women."

**Wise words:** "It is not easy breaking down walls that hold women back in church and society, but we [Nigerian clergymen] believe we are called to lift women up!"

## Clerical Corner

5

the number of racial-ethnic women elected as bishop in the UMC in the U.S.

20

the number of women elected bishop since the first woman was elected in 1980.

129

the total number of bishops elected in the UMC since 1980.

## OVATIONS

To **Sally Curtis Askew** and **Sally Brown Geiss**, who are retiring from the Judicial Council.

To **Beth Capen**, attorney in private practice, Kingston, N.Y., and **Susan Henry-Crowe**, dean of chapel and religious life at Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., and teacher of polity at Candler School of Theology, who were elected by the 2004 General Conference to the Judicial Council. Henry-Crowe had also served from 1992-2000.

To **Angela Cosner**, Burlington (W.Va.) United Methodist Family Services, who was recognized as Chaplain of the Year by the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries.

To **Pamela Couture**, professor at Colgate Rochester Crozer Theological Seminary in Rochester, N.Y., who has been appointed dean and vice president for academic affairs at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo.

To **Aquilino (Pong) Javier**, former member of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW), who was honored by the Fellowship of Asian Americans of Northern Illinois Conference.

To **Jan Love**, newly-elected general secretary of the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries.

To **Carolyn Marshall**, retiring as General Conference secretary, who has served at every level of the church: local church, annual conference, Women's Division, six-time delegate to General Conference, and  
*please turn to page 10*

*Women's voices heard more often. . .*

## legislative victories offer hope; defeats chart future work

"Like water in the desert," is how one worshiper described the worship offered by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, held on May 2 during the 2004 General Conference in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Preaching by Janet Wolf and liturgy by Marcia McFee inspired more than 700 delegates and guests. Worshipers celebrated 50 years of full clergy rights for women and the lives and witness of courageous women, using rich, inclusive images and language for God and humankind.

Among the legislative decisions, some victories offer life-giving water for women, while some defeats leave women journeying through the church's desert of discrimination.

### VICTORIES!!!

#### Clergy Spouses and Families—"Life in the Fishbowl"

GCSRW-sponsored resolution calls for more support for the spouses of clergy and their families. Most clergy spouses are women.

#### Sexual Ethics Within Ministerial Relationships; Eradication of Sexism in the Church

GCSRW-sponsored updates of two resolutions that educate and support our efforts to eliminate sexual misconduct in our church: These resolutions are important resources for the Commission and for local churches, districts, and conferences.

Other legislation allows clergy to choose (except in cases of mandatory reporting) whether to report a case of suspected child abuse. This action preserves confidentiality for pastors.

#### Celebration of Full Clergy Rights for Women

GCSRW-sponsored resolution calls on annual conferences and local congregations to celebrate the 50th anniversary of full clergy rights for women in 2006.



Western North Carolina delegate Dawn M. Hand follows legislation. —A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose

### DISAPPOINTMENTS . . .

#### Inclusiveness of the church *Not passed*

GCSRW-sponsored amendment to the United Methodist Constitution would have protected persons from discrimination on the basis of gender, disability, or mental condition.

#### Biblical language *Not passed*

GCSRW-sponsored resolution would have called on the UMC to use diverse images from the Bible for God in liturgy and worship, rather than relying on masculine-dominated language.

#### Appointment making *Not passed*

GCSRW-sponsored amendment to *Book of Discipline* would have added a category of special needs for pastoral ministry to factors affecting clergy appointments.

### snapshot of the plenary floor

#### Who voted on these petitions?

Women—398 or 40 percent of delegates.

Men—600 or 60 percent of delegates.

Central conferences—180 or 18 percent of delegates.

Racial-ethnic persons—196 or 20 percent of delegates.

Clergy—499 or 50 percent of the delegates.

Laity—499 or 50 percent of the delegates.

## GCSRW expands monitoring at Conference

"Everybody doesn't have to think the same to do the work of the church," Garlinda Burton, interim general secretary, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW), said in her presentation to delegates at the 2004 General Conference. "What is important is that we don't discount the ideas of young and old, women and persons of color."

Her presentation, "Becoming the Beloved Community: Inclusion and Hospitality," which set the context for the ongoing monitoring work of the Commission, was developed in cooperation with the General Commission on Religion and Race. For the fourth consecutive General Conference, the GCSRW assisted the legislative gathering in moving the whole church toward the ideal of a truly inclusive table. Staff, former board members, seminary students, and other volunteers monitored legislative committees, subcommittees, and plenaries to observe how well we ensure that all delegates have equal access to our processes, and that the opinions and ideas of women, people of color, and Central conference delegates are honored. Data gathered were reported daily in the "Walking our talk..." column in the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

### Findings...

For the first time in our 12 years' experience monitoring, committee chairs in a few legislative committees asked for feedback from monitors during the committee sessions rather than awaiting the monitors' reports at the end of a session. This method of checking in is helpful to delegates who wish to self-monitor their own and others' participation.

Certain topics generated lopsided participation patterns. For example, men spoke more frequently than women on issues of reproductive rights and homosexuality; women spoke more than men on issues of economic justice and violence. Men spoke more than women on lay and youth ministry. Women equal to men provide process motions and questions, more than parity for women delegates. Central conference delegates spoke much more frequently in the debates on human sexuality than they did on any other topic during the legislative sessions.

Copies of "Becoming the Beloved Community" are available for \$15.00 each from the Commission. Monitoring tools are also available by phone, (847) 869-7330, or online at [www.gcsr.org](http://www.gcsr.org). ●

### Sample of monitoring results

*In Legislative Committee Action on subcommittee recommendations April 29:*

Committee	Female % of group	Female participation
Conferences	45%	42%*
Church and Society	42%	48%*
Discipleship	42%	24%
Faith and Order	33%	72%**
Financial Administration	25%	16%
General Administration	39%	40%*
Global Ministries	61%	65%*
Higher Ed. and Ministries	31%	43%**
Judicial Administration	33%	26%
Independent Commissions	41%	30%
Local Church	40%	66%**

\*Parity—participation comparable to representation \*\*Greater than parity

## 2008 recommendations

After surveying legislative committee officers and debriefing with monitors, the Commission suggests ways to strengthen inclusiveness and decision-making at General Conference 2008:

- Include in the **orientation** for delegates a segment on inclusiveness and diversity, as was done at this conference.
- Expand the new legislative committee officers' training to include **more training** in diversity, indicators of exclusivity, inclusive leadership, and tools to assist legislative-committee leaders.
- Begin legislative committee work on the **second day** of General Conference rather than the night before. Give the committee officers that evening for training in legislative-process requirements and for preparing the petitions for the committee on the following day. This process can save time, confusion, and frustration.
- Establish a new legislative committee role: **parliamentarian**. Consider appointing episcopal leaders for this role.
- Develop a **job description** (duties, tasks, skills) for each committee officer position to assist delegates and officer candidates to form clearer expectations.
- Establish a better process of **selecting subcommittee chairs**. The entire committee might identify subgroups needed and elect subgroup chairs. Then full committee can monitor that selection for inclusiveness and representation.
- Offer **models** of shared leadership for committee officers in the officers' training. ●



# photo gallery

g eneral Conference 2004



UMNS photo by Paul Jeffrey

Beverly J. Shamana, bishop of California-Nevada Conference (left), is greeted by Judith Craig, retired bishop, after Shamana's sermon during morning worship on May 5.



UMNS photo by Mike DuBose

Ana Kelsey-Powell, Northern Illinois, presents the work of the Local Church Legislative Committee to General Conference.



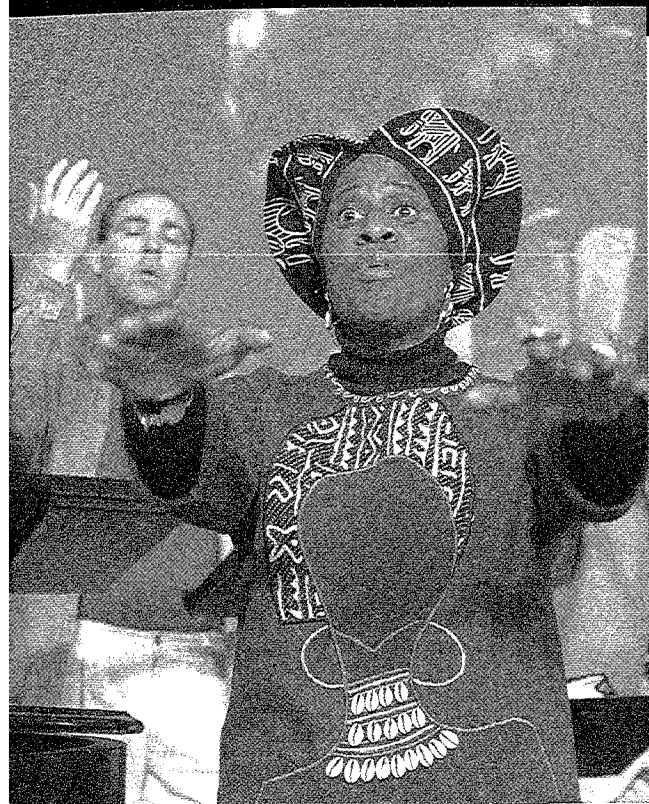
UMNS photo by Mike DuBose

Janice Riggle Huie, left, bishop of Texas Conference, assisted by Katie Krackhardt and Spencer Bailey Butler, serves communion at the opening worship.



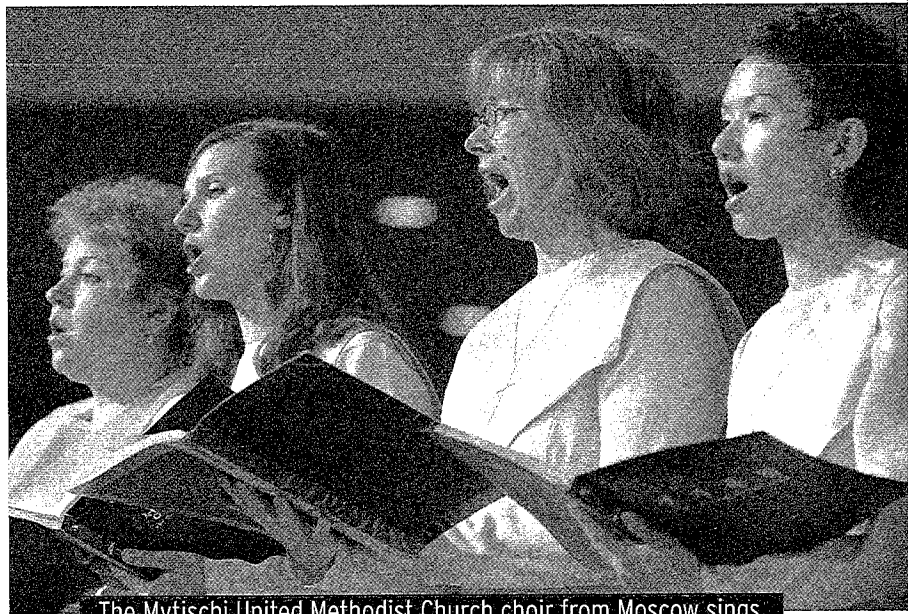
UMNS photo by Mike DuBose

Gulshan Titus, right, traveled from Jaipur City, Rajasthan State, India, to Pittsburgh, a 22-hour trip.



UMNS photo by John Goodwin

Kapitola Williams of Fort Street United Methodist Church in Atlanta sings during a worship service.



UMNS photo by Mike DuBose

The Mytischki United Methodist Church choir from Moscow sings during morning worship.



UMNS photo by Mike DuBose

Barbara Day Miller, General Conference music director, conducts the choir of St. James United Methodist Church, Alpharetta, Ga., during morning worship on April 27.



UMNS photo by Paul Jeffrey

Cherie White (left) and Joyce Hill, Spanish-English translators, provided delegates with simultaneous translation. The General Conference proceedings were translated into nine languages.

## UNITED METHODIST

### **Dorothy Brown, South's first African-American woman doctor, dies**

Dorothy Brown, the first black woman surgeon in the South and a member of United Methodist Women, died June 13, in Nashville, Tenn., after a life in which she opened doors that had been closed previously to African Americans and women. She was 90.

Brown was also the first single adoptive parent in Tennessee, and the first African-American woman to serve in the Tennessee legislature. Throughout her life, Brown often remembered God, Methodist Women and her adopted parents who helped steer her on a path of success in a world of barriers.

—United Methodist News Service (UMNS)

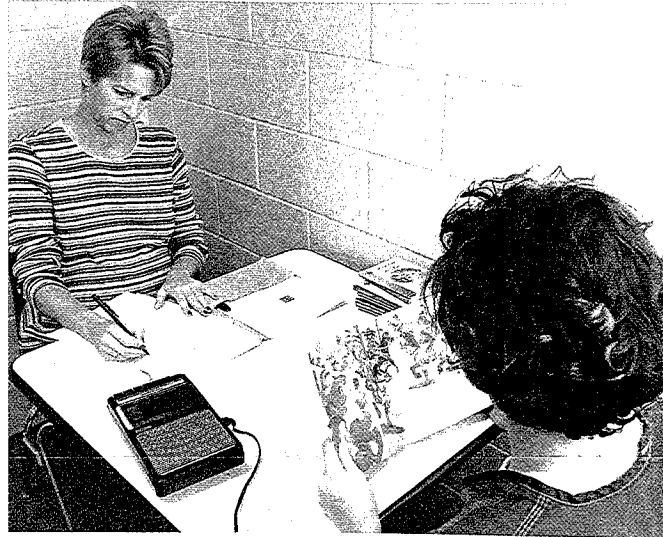
### **UMC women aiming at Staples stores**

Members of United Methodist Women are urging the Staples office supply store chain to stock and promote chlorine-free paper.

The campaign is part of an ongoing effort to fight environmental toxins that are suspected of causing breast cancer.

After a similar campaign with Kinko's copy stores, according to the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, senior management agreed to ensure that all franchises stock chlorine-free paper and eliminate the price differential between standard white and processed chlorine-free paper.

More information and a "report card" for those who want to visit Staples are available at [gbgm-umc.org/umw](http://gbgm-umc.org/umw), the organization's Web site.—UMNS



Michelle Tomczak, former director of volunteer programming for Berks County (Pa.) Prison Society, helps a mother record a story.

UMNS photo courtesy of Berks County Prison Society

### **Pennsylvania women take ministry to prison**

Children of imprisoned mothers can now hear their mother's voices on tape, thanks to a project begun by a United Methodist woman at the Berks County Prison.

Althea Harmon, a member of United Methodist Women and Holy Cross United Methodist Church in Reading, Pa., heard about the "Mother's Voice" project at a 1995 workshop presented by Gerald Weaver, former executive director of the Pennsylvania Prison Society.

With the help of the Berks County Prison Society, Harmon proposed the idea to the Berks County Prison warden. "He was excited because this would be a ministry that meets a need and strengthens the relationship between a mother and her children," she explained.

The books and cassette tapes are delivered to the children, who can hear their own mothers' voices each day. In 2003, Mother's Voice enabled 288 mothers to record stories and brief personal messages of love and encouragement for 529 children.—UMNS

## NATIONAL

### **UMs march for reproductive rights**

United Methodists were among the hundreds of thousands who gathered April 25 at the National Mall in Washington to focus attention on what they say are attacks on women's reproductive rights.

Called the "March for Women's Lives," the event included women from across the nation and 60 foreign countries. The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice brought together some 70 religious and religiously affiliated organizations for the march, including contingents from the General Board of Church and Society and the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries.

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## **GCSRW Annual Meeting**

**Evanston, Ill. • Sept. 23-26, 2004**

**Theme:** Drawing from the Well

**Worship leader:** Judy Loehr, consultant

**Team building:** New Dynamics

**Consensus training:** Robert Williamson, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center

**Monitoring training:** Pat Callbeck Harper

**Board responsibility training:** Mark A. Dennis, Jr., The Alford Group



United Methodist Social Principles sanction abortion when an "unacceptable" pregnancy may cause "devastating damage" to the mother. But the church opposes "partial-birth" abortion, a late-term procedure now banned by legislation signed into law last November. —UMNS

### **AME elects two women bishops**

Meeting in Indianapolis, Ind., June 30 - July 7, the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church elected two women bishops. Carolyn Tyler Guidry, former member of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, is formerly a presiding elder, Los Angeles/Pasadena District, Southern California Conference. Sarah Frances Davis served Bethel A.M.E. Church, San Antonio, Tex. These women join Vashti Murphy McKenzie, the first woman elected bishop of the A.M.E. church. —*African Methodist Episcopal Church*

### **Women in ministry confront barriers**

More than a century after Anna Howard Shaw became the first woman ordained in the former Methodist Protestant Church, women are still confronting barriers in ministry.

Fifteen women religious leaders discussed those barriers and other aspects of being in ministry at the 20th anniversary of Women and the Word. The Anna Howard Shaw Center at United Methodist-related Boston University School of Theology presents the symposium to celebrate women's preaching and leadership. More than 80 people attended this year's event, held March 24-25 with the theme, "Celebrating the Past, Honoring the Present, Envisioning the Future."

The speakers included pastors, teachers, community leaders and two bishops. They led panels on four themes, focusing on the past, present and future as well as on the power of women to effect change. In the process, they acknowledged their cultural contexts, faith stories and institutional struggles.—UMNS

### **Assemblies of God open presbytery to women**

Meeting in Washington, D.C. last August, the U.S. Assemblies of God (AG) General Council voted to include women ministers in the governing body of the church, or

the General Presbytery, which has 260 members. Among the 33,000 AG ministers, 5,502 are women. Spokeswoman Juleen Turnage said no women served among the AG's top 17 elected officials. —*Charisma News Service*

### **11,000 allegations of clergy sex abuse: survey**

A survey commissioned on behalf of the U.S. Catholic hierarchy has reportedly concluded that more than 4,000 U.S. Roman Catholic priests stood accused of sexually abusing children over a five-decade period.

—*Ecumenical News International (ENI)*

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Amnesty International launches global campaign to stop violence against women**

Violence against women is a "cancer" eating away at the core of every society, in every country of the world, Amnesty International Secretary General Irene Khan said March 5, as she launched the organization's new global campaign to stop violence against women.

Publishing a new report outlining the endemic scale and urgency of the problem, Amnesty International emphasized that at least one in three women in the world will suffer serious violence in their lifetime.

The report shows that whether in times of peace or war, women are being subjected to atrocities simply because they are women. —*Amnesty International UK*

### **Europeans warned on female trafficking**

Churches in Europe are being urged to step up efforts against trafficking in women, a problem estimated to affect hundreds of thousands of women every year.

A report drawn up for the Strasbourg-based Council of Europe said that decreasing possibilities for migrants to enter the European Union (EU) legally increase their reliance on smuggling organizations and thus their risk of being trafficked and exploited by traffickers.—ENI

### **COPY DEADLINES**

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**Oct. 29, 2004.....Dec.'04-Feb.'05 issue**

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

## **WORTH REPEATING**



"Regarding Ephesians 4:6, 'There is one body and one Spirit'...What part of *one* don't we understand."

—Gloria Holt, lay leader of the North Alabama Conference, in the Laity Address at the 2004 General Conference

## OVATIONS

*continued from page 3*

four quadrennia as secretary of the General Conference.

To **Rebekah Miles**, professor of ethics and United Methodist doctrine at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, who was elected by General Conference to the University Senate.

To **Silvia Mukuka**, who has been elected as bishop of the North-Western Presbytery of the United Church of Zambia, an action praised by the Council of Churches in Zambia as a step in the right direction to transforming unequal relations between women and men.

To **Vivian Oliver**, a member of St. Philip's UMC in Houston, who has been awarded the Perkins School of Theology 2004 Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award, which recognizes laypersons who exemplify Christian faith and commitment of Christ through service to others.

To **Trudie Kibbe Reed**, president and CEO of Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Ark., who has been named president of Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Fla. Reed served as a member of the GCSRW secretariat from 1977 to 1984. Reed will be the college's second female president, joining founder Mary McLeod Bethune.

To **Mattie Mae Rice**, member of the GCSRW, who has been recognized

for her ministry of inclusiveness by the Arkansas Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

To **Mpho Tutu**, daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who was ordained an Episcopal priest at Christ Church in Alexandria, Va., on Jan. 17.

To **United Methodist Women**, who are celebrating their 135th anniversary of mission and ministry in the world as a major source of funding, education, and training for inclusiveness and mission in our church.

To **Barbara Wheeler**, president of Auburn Theological Seminary, who was honored for twenty years as Auburn's president.

To the 10 seminarians over 35 years of age, who won a Georgia Harkness Merit Scholarship for the 2004-2005 academic year from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry: **M. Guadalupe Alonso-Redondo**, Claremont (Calif.) School of Theology; California-Pacific Conference; **Arlindall Burks**, Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, Florida Conference; **Beverly W. Casstevens**, Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, North Georgia Conference; **Marian Crane**, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, Baltimore-Washington Conference; **Catherine Davis**, Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, N.C., Western North Carolina Conference; **Sally Dolch**, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, Peninsula-Delaware Conference; **Tamara Holtz**, Saint

Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Mo., Nebraska Conference; **Mary Anne Kelly**, United Theological Seminary, Buffalo, N.Y., Western New York Conference; **Karen Jean Sorden**, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, West Michigan Conference; **Karen Lee Stoffers**, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, California-Nevada Conference.

To the following recipients of Dempster Graduate Fellowships for 2004-2005 from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry: **Sharon Lynn Betsworth**, an ordained elder in the Iowa Conference, Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif. **Beth Felker Jones**, a certified candidate in the South Indiana Conference, Duke University in Durham, N.C. **Jane Ellen Nickell**, an elder in the West Virginia Conference, Drew University in Madison, N.J. **Hwa Young Chong Will**, an ordained elder in the Northern Illinois Conference, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Rose Arroyo**, 58, who died May 22, member of General Commission on the Status and Role of Women from 1996 until her death. She served as vice president since 2000.

**Sally Underwood**, 71, who died at home in Davis, Cal., July 14. She had served as a member of the first commission of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, 1973-1976.

## WORTH REPEATING

"I do not have to be identified always as the daughter of E. Stanley Jones, as great a missionary and as wonderful an evangelist that he was. Nor do I have to be identified always as a wife of a bishop—and that was very interesting, too. But, I do have, and I have had, permission to be myself; and I have done that...in the freedom of Jesus Christ." —Eunice Jones Mathews responding to being recognized on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.



## Advocacy for Women Endowment Fund

### Advocate for women in the UMC

Your gift to the Advocacy for Women Endowment Fund, established by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, provides monies for emerging ministries related to advocacy for women.

**Yes!** I want to help advocate for women in the UMC.

I enclose the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to endow future ministry on behalf of women.

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Photo by Sherman Harris

### Commission celebrates end of the 2001-2004 quadrennium

During the Feb. 26-28 meeting of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, current members and former members who are serving as General Conference monitors celebrate the Commission's work: from left, Haeran Kim, Bill H. Wilson, Annie F. Moseley, Janet H. Collins, Jim Gates, Jeannie Trevino-Teddle, Pat Callbeck Harper (monitoring trainer), Chuck Hefley, Margie Briggs, Susan Smalley (former member), Doug Grove-DeJarnett (former member), Angelin Jones Simmons, David E. Penalva, Lynn R. Baker, Sherman Harris, Raquel Mull, Eva Thai, Pong Javier (former member), Sam Aguirre, and Cynthia Bond Hopson.

### GCSRW worship yields resources

On Sunday, May 2, at worship sponsored by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW), more than 700 delegates and guests returned to their roots in the lives and witness of strong, courageous women. Worshipers heard the voice of two centuries of women and journeyed through time to draw their own inspiration from the well.

Resources used at General Conference worship are available, as indicated.

- Worship liturgy: "Returning to the Well: A Celebration of Women Following Their Call," designed by Marcia McFee, is available on the GCSRW website, [www.gcsr.org](http://www.gcsr.org).
- Readings from scripture and women: "We Proclaim: The Voices of Two Centuries of Women in Methodist Traditions" is available on the GCSRW website.
- Timeline of milestones: This outline of achievements by women from 1770 to 1980 is available on the GCSRW website.
- Sermon: For a copy of VHS tape of a similar sermon delivered by Wolf at the Southeastern Jurisdiction UMW event, contact Harrison Zoercher, Director of Communications, Kentucky Conference, [hzoercher@kyumc.org](mailto:hzoercher@kyumc.org). Cost: \$9.95.

### WORTH REPEATING

"I withdraw my name as Judicial Council nominee for three reasons. I have been shown that the leaders in this church have closed hearts, closed minds and closed doors—closed hearts when a prominent leader tells me that vengeance rather than mercy and forgiveness are more important; closed minds when an episcopal leader implies that the Judicial Council isn't really a place for young people; and closed doors when this is the only place in our church where fresh new perspectives of young people are not welcome." —Amy Valdez Barker, delegate from Wisconsin, speaking to plenary session of General Conference





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.



## News briefs *from 2004 General Conference*

### **GCOM disbanded, Connectional Table formed**

Setting aside the model proposed by the General Council on Ministries, delegates created a Connectional Table proposed by the General Administration Committee. The new plan preserves General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA), dissolves GCOM, and offers little connection between money and connectional ministry. The new plan also reduces the proposed 130 members to 47 members. Our experience suggests that women and racial ethnic persons lose representation when groups become smaller.

GCSRW and GCORR will monitor the inclusion of women and racial ethnic persons as the Connectional Table is formed.

### **Set up Division on Ministries with Young People**

Young people ages 12-30 gained new clout when General Conference merged youth and young adult ministries into the new entity composed of youth, young adults, and adult workers with young people.

This division of the General Board of Discipleship will include advocacy, faith formation, leadership and resource development, and communications and networking.

### **Form teen sexual identity, suicide risk task force**

Professing a belief in the sanctity of human life, General Conference delegates voted to create a task force to study teen sexual identity and suicide risk.

According to 2003 U.S. statistics, 1 in every 13 U.S. high school students attempted suicide. Teens dealing with issues of sexual identity are two to three times more likely to attempt suicide than other youth.

The task force will report back to the 2008 General Conference.

### **Local pastors receive voting rights**

Licensed local pastors will now have voting rights at annual conference. Previously, only elders in full connection, deacons, and lay members had voting rights. Women comprise 10 percent of the approximately 6,000 local pastors in the U.S. This action gives more representation to smaller and rural churches, as many of them are served by local pastors.

**See detailed coverage, photos inside.**