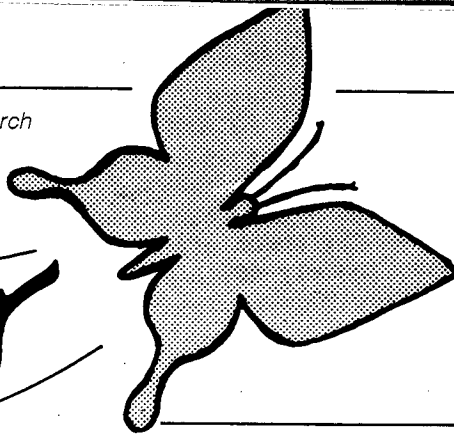


# The Flyer



Vol XVI, No. 2

Fall 1995

## *PrairieFire Rural Action addresses Des Moines meeting*

### **'Massive' farm crisis foreseen in next two years**

"In the next two years, we can expect massive foreclosures and suicides, a farm crisis worse than that of the 1980s," predicted Gil Dawes, pastor of Hispanic Faith Community United Methodist Church, St. Charles, IA, and an organizer with PrairieFire Rural Action, speaking to the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women during their Des Moines meeting, Sept. 21-24. "In fact, up to one-half of family farmers will be out of business," emphasized Dawes.

Speaking with Dawes in the dining room of First United Methodist Church of Des Moines was Pat Eddy, Rural Recovery Program Coordinator for PrairieFire. Both Dawes and Eddy shared stories from their families of foreclosures on family homesteads during the 1980s farm crisis.

According to Eddy, women were the ones who saved the farmers and their families. During the crisis, she said, women were forced to take off-farm jobs in order to secure health insurance benefits. "Then they would come home and work the farm operation at night," she added.

Many farmers, who were farming their families' homesteads, became desperate as they worked to meet loan payments. Women sat with their neighbors when husbands threatened suicide and when women suffered stress-induced domestic violence. What contributed to the stress, Eddy said, were attitudes of local lenders who tried to humiliate family farmers and especially women who were outspoken about the injustices of the system.

PrairieFire Rural Action is committed to revitalizing family farm agriculture and rural communities. Practically speaking, PrairieFire is fighting for the survival of

family farms and rural towns and villages—with the belief that the role of the family farmer is critical to our country—and that if only agri-corporations control land and food, life as we know it today will be dramatically different.

Dawes, who served as a missionary in Latin America in the 1960s, sees liberation theology through small group lectionary Bible study as a major source of hope for rural communities.

Commission members also visited Hawthorn Hill, a United Methodist-related mission agency. This multi-ministry human ser-



Bishop Charles Jordan of Iowa welcomes the Commission to Des Moines for their Sept. 21-24 meeting.

VICES center, specializes in serving women and children. Executive Director Ruth Anne Petrak outlined the programs offered: New Directions Shelter, an emergency shelter for homeless women with children; English as a Second Language/Refugee Outreach, offering instruction in English to refugees and immigrants from over a dozen countries; Emergency Food Pantry, a downtown distribution center for food donated to the Des Moines Area Religious Council; and Clothing Room, a distribution center for donated clothing.

The Commission viewed a video describing these programs of the Iowa Conference affiliate, as well as those of independent agencies sharing space at Hawthorn Hill, a building constructed in 1923 as a school for Methodist deaconesses. ■

### **GCSRW approves resolution for consideration at General Conference**

A resolution calling on the United Methodist Church to denounce sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship is being proposed by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW).

In their Sept. 21-24 meeting, GCSRW members affirmed changes to a resolution on sexual harassment adopted by the 1992 General Conference. The resolution gives an overview of significant progress on this issue. It further points out that as the church has confronted sexual harassment, it has also encountered sexual abuse within ministerial relationships.

Most of the proposed revisions address the particular issue of clergy sexual misconduct and sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship, calling such practice "incom-

patible with biblical teachings of hospitality, justice and healing."

The resolution—to be considered by the 1996 General Conference, which meets next April in Denver—asks the United Methodist Council of Bishops to "reaffirm its leadership in eradicating and preventing sexual harassment and abuse in the Church."

The resolution continues to call for each local church, annual conference, general agency, United Methodist-related educational institution, and denomination-related benevolent care institution to have a policy on sexual harassment and abuse in effect.

In related action, the Commission reviewed the new video for local churches, "Ask Before You Hug: Sexual Harassment in the Church,"

*continued on page 2*

#### **Next issue...**

**Preparing for General Conference 1996: A special issue for delegates and subscribers**

## Joint Task Force on Racism and Sexism reports survey results

Racial ethnic minority clergywomen experience a cumulative effect of oppression, alienation, and discrimination when gender and racial issues intersect, according to a recent report of the Joint Task Force on Racism and Sexism.

The survey was designed to gather information primarily through written narratives. Of the 518 surveys mailed, 112 were returned.

Although there are many areas of common concerns which racial ethnic minority clergywomen share with others in ministry, the respondents pointed out concerns during candidacy that included the following: having no support from anyone; not being taken seriously; and experiencing feelings of fear, discouragement, sadness and loneliness.

Most respondents found the seminary experience to be positive and enlightening, as well as a time of learning and growth. However, the same respondents indicated that they were subjected to racist and sexist treatment. These feelings and treatment were further exacerbated by being in an environ-

ment devoid of racial ethnic minority women faculty as role models.

While many respondents indicated that they are enjoying their appointments and are appreciative of the acceptance of the congregations they serve, some have been rejected by the congregations before they are given a chance to do their jobs. Racist and sexist jokes and remarks are not uncommon. They are expected to assimilate (lose their identities) into the dominant culture. Worship and preaching styles, language, music, and even personal appearance, skills and leadership abilities are automatically called into question. Many of the respondents reported that they faced some of the same issues in racial ethnic minority churches.

In response to the survey question "What have been some of the positive experiences related to your gender and/or race?" racial ethnic minority clergywomen identified the following:

- serving as role models;
- sharing their language, skills, and traditions;

- relating to those who need to be empowered;
- appreciating the openness of congregations to new worship styles.

On issues dealing specifically with gender and race, many racial ethnic minority clergywomen feel they have to prove themselves over and over, and that they are treated condescendingly. Doors have been slammed in their faces during pastoral calls, limiting their capacity to minister effectively. Many are expected to be the "tokens" on boards, agencies and commissions throughout the connection and as a result experience burn-out.

The task force, created at the beginning of the 1993-1996 quadrennium by the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, was formed in response to concerns from racial ethnic minority women, lay and clergy, across the denomination about the cumulative effect of racism and sexism upon their lives. The task force was comprised of five members and one staff person from each commission and was inclusive of clergywomen, clergymen, laywomen, and laymen, representative of the racial and ethnic groups within the denomination. ■

## Plans continue for Women's Congress

Sacred Journeys is the theme for the Women's Congress being planned for April 1999. At the September 21-24 meeting of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in Des Moines, a task force continued planning for the gathering designed to empower women for their sacred journeys into wholeness for the 21st century.

This three-day national event is designed to serve as a model for annual conference spin-off events. Additional training will be provided to equip the annual conferences in planning and developing their events.

According to Francis Guidry, who reported for the task force, the focus is on physical and spiritual well being. ■

### Costa Rican seminary's grassroots campaign

The Latin American Biblical Seminary, its first female president Elsa Tamez, and other professors and students have staked their hope on the dream, "I believe in the solidarity of women." This seminary, well known as an international, ecumenical, innovative center for theological education needs a new building, estimated to cost \$1 million.

Tamez dreams that the building will be funded by men and women in recognition of women. Accordingly, she is asking one million women and men to send names of women they wish to honor, accompanied by one dollar each, to the campaign. The names will be recorded in the new building.

Send names of women and checks made payable to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to: Central American Office, Attn. Julia Ann Moffett (One Million Women, ECO Account #864600), 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396. ■

### GCSRW approves resolution

*continued from page 1*

produced by United Methodist Communications, in cooperation with GCSRW and the California-Pacific Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

Available from EcuFilm, the 31-minute video depicts examples of sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior, as well as appropriate responses and appropriate behavior. ■

### The Flyer

Fall 1995  
Vol. XVI, No. 2

**The Flyer** is published four times yearly by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) in the United Methodist Church (UMC) as a communication link with the 68 Annual Conference Commissions on the Status and Role of Women (ACCSRWs). Primary distribution of The Flyer is through the ACCSRWs; individual subscriptions, available through the GCSRW, are \$7.50.

**Editor:** Bonny Stainaker Roth

The GCSRW, a national agency of the UMC, acts as an advocate, catalyst, and monitor to ensure the full participation and equality of women in the church.

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Printed on recycled paper.

# Status Report

## UN Women's Conference issues platform statement

Representatives from 181 nations attending the Fourth UN World Conference on Women approved a "Platform for Action" at the Beijing assembly that ended Sept. 15.

The paper attacks domestic violence against women, sex trafficking of girls and women, and inequalities against women imposed by patriarchal cultures and by religious extremism. The paper calls the systematic rape of women in wartime a "crime" whose perpetrators should be tried as war criminals. Genital mutilation of girls, domestic battering, sexual harassment at work, and attacks on women because their dowries are too small are all violations of human rights, it stated.

The Beijing statement says women have the right to decide freely all matters related to their sexuality and child bearing; it condemns forced sterilizations and forced abortions. Conference delegates stated that access to credit is critical to women's empowerment. They note that governments and international lending institutions should support banking services for low-income women. The women spoke out against war, nuclear weapons, land-mines, and the resumption by France of nuclear tests.

Janice Love, a UM from South Carolina, who is moderator of the World Council of Churches (WCC) board for international affairs, said there were "several major gaps" in the platform. These gaps include the issues of economic justice, migrant women, and racism. However, she said that she was "delighted" by the focus on the need to overcome violence against women. Aruna Gnanadason, coordinator of the WCC women's desk, criticized the governments represented in Beijing for their unwillingness to make financial commitments to support the promises they made in the platform statement. She also criticized the "marginalization" of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the official UN conference. More than 3,200 NGOs participated in an NGO Forum in Huairou held in conjunction with the official conference.

*Ecumenical News International*, as reported in *Newscope*, Sept. 22, 1995

## Korean-American clergywomen oppose Korean Missionary Conference

A smooth-rolling effort to form three Korean Missionary Conferences in three U.S. jurisdictions has hit a major bump on the

highway to General Conference. A 27-member group of Korean-American clergywomen, meeting during the Atlanta clergywomen's consultation, voted to oppose the proposal.

See He Han, president of the fellowship of Korean-American clergywomen, told *Newscope* that final decisions will be made by a five-member task force, meeting Sept. 25-26 in Los Angeles, but "I have a strong feeling we're still going to oppose [the plan]." If the clergywomen continue their opposition, they will decide whether to argue against the plan at the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) meeting or wait to oppose it at General Conference.

Han explained that fewer than 10 of the 55 Korean clergywomen in the U.S. are now serving Korean churches. While there are variations, the Santa Monica, CA, pastor notes that Korean clergywomen are generally better received in white churches. "We have a pain in our heart [because] we are rejected," said Han. She said Korean clergywomen want the freedom to be appointed to either Korean churches or majority-culture churches and if Korean conferences are created, they would be limited to being appointed to one or the other.

*continued on page 4*

## New women cabinet members receive training

In August, 69 newly-appointed district superintendents and 16 new conference council directors, of whom 16 are women district superintendents and 3 are women conference council directors, gathered at Lake Junaluska, NC, for training.

Sponsored by the Council of Bishops, the General Council on Ministries, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the training event focused on roles, responsibilities, and skill development for new annual conference cabinet members. Stephanie Anna Hixon, member of the general secretariat of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, led the group in training on sexual harassment and sexual misconduct.

Among the new women district superintendents and conference council directors (identified with title) who attended the training event are (pictured at right), front row, from left to right, Cynthia A. Jones, Central Illinois; Gwendolynn Purushotham, New England; Patricia A. Lewis, Western North Carolina; and Susan Keirn Kester, Peninsula-Delaware.



Middle row, from left, are Penelope Eberhart, Dakotas; Marilynn M. Huntington, conference council director, California-Pacific; Teresa A. Benedett-Farmer, Rocky Mountain; Ruth Harris Jacob, Oklahoma Indian Missionary; and Sharonn Davis Halderman, Central Pennsylvania.

Back row, from left, are Patricia Farris, California-Pacific; Elaine Stanovsky, Pacific Northwest; Penelope A. Gladwell, con-

ference council director, Wyoming; Dianne Rohrer Kovacs, Oklahoma; LaVonne R. Kaasa, Iowa; Deborah L. Cronin, Western New York; Cynthia Raski Fuller, Central Pennsylvania; and Jeanie Burton, Little Rock.

Inset photos: Linda Lee, district superintendent, Detroit, top and Joan Roberts, conference council director, New Mexico. ■

Han acknowledged that the plan for the missionary conferences gives some protection for clergywomen, including a proposed Commission on the Status and Role of Women, but she said past experiences do not provide a basis for trust.

The Committee on Korean-American Ministries is proposing the creation of three missionary conferences in the North Central, Northeast, and Western jurisdictions. Present plans call for: 1) the structures to begin after July 1997 and be terminated in 2017; 2) a bishop to be assigned to each conference by the respective college of bishops; 3) conferences to be self-supportive; 4) each Korean church to decide whether to join or not; and 5) voluntary part-time superintendents and full-time paid council directors. The group estimates 233 Korean churches would initially join the three conferences. The plan will be presented to GBGM before presentation to General Conference.

*Newscope*, Sept. 15, 1995

### **Church women focus on leadership in Bolivia meeting**

Leadership development was a key issue when 70 church women from 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries met in Cochabamba, Bolivia, Aug. 7-12 for "Women: Church and Society."

The event was sponsored by the Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean (CIEMAL) and the Federation of Methodist Women of Latin America.

Barbara Pessoa, a World Division staff executive of the General Board of Global Ministries, which supported the meeting, said she believed the participants shared experiences and information in ways which will lead to concrete accomplishments.

Participants discussed how women's leadership can demonstrate the qualities needed to preserve human values and how women's movements both inside and outside the church can organize and act to bring greater democracy for church and society.

United Methodists News Service,  
Aug. 15, 1995

### **Role of clergywomen applauded**

Marjorie Suchoki, dean and professor at the School of Theology at Claremont, CA, applauded United Methodist clergywomen for being at the forefront of the effort to recover the lost and ignored voices of women in the

Bible and theology. She gave the keynote address at the sixth international convocation for United Methodist clergywomen in Atlanta, Aug. 7-11.

The convocation's theme was "Transformed and Transforming." In addition to a variety of workshops and activities, participants built a house for a single working mother through Habitat for Humanity.

*Methodists Make News*, Aug. 11, 1995

### **South Asian UM women gather for convocation**

About 30 South Asian United Methodist women—both clergy and lay persons from eleven states in the U.S., India and Pakistan—met for their first national convocation July 6-7 at the Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville, TN.

About eleven indigenous languages were represented among participants at the Nashville gathering. Keynote speaker was Ruth G. Prudente, a staff member from the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries and president of Asian American Women.

The caucus voted to establish "The National Subcaucus of South Asian United Methodist Women," within the Southern Asian National Caucus of United Methodists, and adopted its constitution and bylaws.

The caucus also elected its officers for a two-year term: president, Catherine M. Charan of Winfield, IL; vice-president, Savita Michael of Antioch, TN; secretary-treasurer, Bernice Singh of Battle Creek, MI; and members-at-large, Nalinee Kant of Chicago, IL, and Adeline Samuel of Garland, TX.

The group is open to clergy and lay women from Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, and others with similar ancestral and cultural backgrounds.

News release from  
South Asian Women.

### **Latin American women still seek dignity and rights**

Church authorities and Latin American women believe that there is still "a long road to travel" in terms of reaching "full recognition of dignity and the rights of women to share responsibilities in church government," according to Elizabeth Raiser, head of a World Council of Churches delegation to Bolivia on behalf of the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998).

"It is depressing to see the misery and violence that campesino women are subject

to," said Raiser. At the same time, she celebrated the work carried out by women who care for their families and develop agricultural and commercial activities.

*Newscope*, Aug. 4, 1995

### **Seminar examines wisdom literature**

"A time to plant . . . a time to heal" was the theme for 26 people who examined the Wisdom literature found in scripture, church history and theology, July 27-30 at Scarritt-Bennett Center. "Biblical Wisdom and Current Theological Ferment," the statement issued last November by the United Methodist Council of Bishops provided the focus for the event.

Sessions focused on how women have done theology throughout history, the core traditions of wisdom and the role of biblical wisdom in Christian tradition. The seminar was a response to the 1993 Re-Imagining Conference in Minneapolis.

*Methodists Make News*, Aug. 4, 1995

### **Good News demands action against clergywoman**

In the wake of the announcement by Jeanne Audrey Powers that she is a lesbian, the Good News organization is urging supervisory personnel of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (GCCUIC) to remove her from her position as associate general secretary. If neither the Minnesota Conference Board of Ordained Ministry nor GCCUIC takes action against her, the caucus warns, "we understand those UM congregations which will choose to withhold apportionment monies from the general church until it is demonstrated the *Discipline* is being implemented."

Good News argues that even though Powers will not say whether she is a "practicing" homosexual, she is still "using her

*continued on page 5*

#### **Copy deadlines**

To ensure inclusion of job announcements, calendar items, and other items to be published in **The Flyer**, please submit written details to the editor by these dates:

November 15      Winter 1996  
February 15      Spring 1996

Send to: Bonny Stalnaker Roth, GCSRW,  
1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201. (708)  
869-7330. FAX: (708) 869-1466.

position to advocate for the acceptance of homosexuality." The evangelical group says this is a violation of *Discipline* para. 906.12, which prohibits use of UM funds (staff salaries) "to promote the acceptance of homosexuality."

Bishop William Boyd Grove, GCCUIC president, and Bruce Robbins, GCCUIC general secretary, disagree. They assert that, as a church employee, Powers has the right to publicly disagree with church teaching on a particular subject.

In an open letter to *Good News* magazine and shared with bishops and general secretaries of UM boards and agencies, Grove and Robbins assert that "Jeanne Audrey Powers was not speaking for the Commission and she was not speaking in her role as Associate General Secretary of the Commission. She was speaking for and about herself. The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns does not advocate acceptance of homosexuality. Clearly, the payment of Jeanne Audrey Powers' salary by the Commission was never intended and has not been used to promote the acceptance of homosexuality."

In a joint statement to *Newscope*, the executives urge all UMs "to listen to those whose positions differ from their own." And they conclude, "We pray for the gift of discernment so that we may all know and follow the mind of Christ, wherever that may lead us."

Powers told *Newscope* she was pleased *Good News* quoted her statements accurately. "I hope the entire church will continue to reflect on whether the UMC wants to be known by whom it excludes or by those who serve it faithfully," she concluded.

Excerpted from letter and from *Newscope*, July 28, 1995

### **Weems to contribute to New IB Commentary**

Among the nearly 100 contributors recruited for a *New Interpreter's Bible Commentary* by the United Methodist Publishing House is Renita Weems, professor of Hebrew Bible at Vanderbilt University. She is one of 22 women enlisted to contribute articles for the project.

More than three million volumes of the first *Interpreter's Bible Commentary* were sold. Weems described it as "coming from one mainstream Protestant point of view. The new one includes scholars who are

evangelicals, liberals, and Roman Catholics as well as African Americans, Asian Americans and Hispanic Americans, to highlight a diversity of interpretation. The old one was dominated by white males."

Weems is an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She will write the commentary on the Song of Songs for the *New Interpreter's Bible*.

"Readers come to the Bible with their own questions, and they take writers seriously who keep those questions in mind," said Weems. "One question is, on whose behalf is a biblical book written? That is, what's the politics behind the text? There's always a conflict underlying each text. It was written to be for something, against something else..."

*The Woman's Pulpit*, July-Sept. 1995

### **UMCOR assists women in Republic of Georgia**

Women suffering the effects of a civil war in the Republic of Georgia are being helped through a six-month program sponsored by the UM Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The project brings together people from both sides of the conflict, according to Rick Spencer, program director.

Spencer said women victims of the 1992-93 civil war have a variety of counseling needs, as well as the need for reconstructive plastic surgery. "A number of women had mutilations as a result of rape," he explained. Others were injured fleeing the fighting.

With grant assistance from the U.S. Agency for International Development and Save the Children, UMCOR began the program in April. An American psychologist

who specializes in post-traumatic stress disorder and has a background in women's study and rape counseling trained two groups of counselors. The counselors set up shop in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, and in Sukhumi, the capital of Abkhazaaia, the northwest corner of Georgia that broke away from the republic after the war. The \$153,000 project concludes in September.

*Newscope*, July 21, 1995

### **ELC halt to women's ordination raises concern**

Controversy over a decision by a Baltic Lutheran archbishop to stop ordaining women as priests is causing deep concern for many leading Lutherans.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia became the first Lutheran church in the world to halt the ordination of women after Janis Vanags was elected archbishop of the church in 1993. Women had been ordained in the church since 1957.

Archbishop Vanags has claimed that the ordination of women would affect ecumenical relations with the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches in his country.

Some Lutherans have called on the leading international Lutheran organization, the Lutheran World Federation, which has 120 Lutheran churches around the world as members, to take action against the Latvian church.

About 70 percent of the Lutheran World Federation's member churches support women's ordination. There are six women Lutheran bishops worldwide.

*The National Christian Reporter*, July 14, 1995

## *Calendar*

### **Nov. 10-12**

**Women's Ordination Conference: Discipleship of Equals**, Arlington, VA. Celebrating 20 years of WOC and 2000 years of struggle. Contact WOC Gathering '95, Women's Ordination Conference, P.O. Box 2693, Fairfax, VA 22031. FAX: (703) 352-1006.

### **Nov. 10-12**

**Food...and the Health of Women and Children: Finding Our Way in the XL Pepsi Generation**, Loveland, OH. Led by Ruth Murphy, executive director of the Community Design Center, Minneapolis; Millie Dosh, Minneapolis; and Grailville's Earth/Land staff. Contact Grailville, 932 O'Bannonville road, Loveland, OH 45140-9742. (513) 683-2340.

### **May 16-19, 1996**

**Annual Meeting of Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS)**, Clearwater Beach, FL. Contact Chris Gray, Registrar, First United Methodist Church, 109 S. Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34601. ■



# Options for Action

## Dakotas sponsors ecumenical retreat

The Adventures and Triumphs of Growing Older is the theme of the tenth annual Ecumenical Feminist Spirituality Retreat for Women, sponsored by the Dakotas Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Oct. 27-28 in Arlington, SD.

The discussion focuses on the book *Out of the Skin, Into the Soul, the Art of Aging*, by Dorothy Albracht Doherty and Mary Colgan McNamar.

Other suggested readings include *The Fountain of Age*, by Betty Friedan; *Old Age: Journey into Simplicity*, by Helen M. Luke; and *New Passages*, by Gail Sheehy.

For information, contact Virginia Tarver, 4108 S. Highland, Sioux Falls, SC 57103. (608) 338-1334.

## Pacific Northwest offers T-shirts and sweatshirts

"T-shirts and sweatshirts with an attitude!" says the order form from Pacific Northwest Conference. The shirts display the United Methodist cross and flame logo with a curved line above it: "I'm proud to be a United Methodist Minister." A curved line below the logo says, "We also ordain men!"

The shirts are available in a variety of sizes and colors. A portion of the price of each shirt sold is given to the Healing Care Fund, which is set up to help victims of clergy sexual abuse in the conference.

For more information, contact Judy Schultz, Crown Hill UMC, 8500 14th N.W., Seattle, WA 98117. Church: (206) 784-2387. Parsonage: (206) 782-1776.

## Missouri East reports on inclusiveness survey

In fall 1994, Missouri East Conference included in the charge conference packet mailing a survey of local church inclusiveness. The survey was designed to measure the size of the church, and the gender, age, and ethnic background of each local church officer and clergy for 1994.

More than 80 percent of all churches in the conference returned the surveys. A copy

of the complete report was sent to each district superintendent along with the appropriate district summary. Copies of the complete report as well as all the statistical summaries are being kept at the conference office for future comparisons and analysis.

For further information, contact Laura Bell, 2418 Oakland Ave., Overland, MO 63114; or Winfrey Dickerson (staff), 870 Woods Mill Road, Suite 400, Ballwin, MO 63011. (314) 891-1207. ■

## Ovations

To **Anna Dirl**, a Knoxville, TN-based project manager for the Urban League and a former community developer for the National Division, who has been named executive director of Black Methodists for Church Renewal.

To **Joyce Conseen Dugan**, superintendent of schools in Cherokee, NC, and a graduate of UM-related Vashti Center in Thomasville, GA, who was inaugurated Oct. 2 as the first woman chief of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation.

To **Myrtle Felkner**, Centerville, IA, a farmer, teacher, Christian educator and author who served for 10 years as director of education in small membership churches for the General Board of Discipleship, who was recently awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters by Iowa Wesleyan University, Mount Pleasant.

To **Carmen M. Gaud**, interim editor of *El Aposento Alto*, who has been named editor of that Spanish-language edition of *The Upper Room*.

To **Sally Geis**, recently retired director of the Iliff Institute, who has been named executive coordinator of the UM-Russian Initiative in Theological Education, a consortium of UM theologi-

cal schools supporting work in Russia.

To **Elinor Hare**, retired elder of Western New York Conference, who received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University, Madison, NJ.

To **Maureen Jones**, a mission partner from Britain, who received 83 of the 167 votes cast by the Kenya Annual Conference to become the first woman Methodist bishop in Africa. She will be installed as bishop of Nairobi early in 1996.

To **Lucia Ann (Shan) McSpadden**, former refugee coordinator for the California-Nevada Conference, who is now the research director of an ecumenical peace research center based in Uppsala, Sweden.

To **Donna Kay Smith**, a Duke Divinity School student, who won the \$200 first prize John H. Ness Memorial Award from the General Commission on Archives and History for her paper, "The Decline of Liturgy in the Early American Church."

To **Rosemarie Wenner**, a member of the German Southwest Conference, who is the first of 39 clergymen in the four German conferences to be named district superintendent. ■

## You can help support women in the Church—Subscribe to *The Flyer*

**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 that you receive **The Flyer** for four more issues.

Yes, I would like to continue to receive **The Flyer**:

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Annual Conference (if United Methodist) \_\_\_\_\_

# Worship among rural churches...

## Commission members connect with Iowa pastors and parishioners

From beginning to end, the Sept. 21-24 meeting of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women was a connectional church experience for Iowa pastors and parishioners and Commission members, in keeping with the meeting theme, "Moving on with God's Vision: Jubilee in the Heartland."

Opening worship was led by Nan Allen, pastor of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Urbandale, IA, and the music director and youth choir from Aldersgate, a church in the Des Moines area.

The following two days, Stephanie Rafael-Nakos, pastor of Waukee UMC, continued the worship theme of planting and harvesting.

On Sunday morning Commission members worshiped with rural churches pastored by women and with Burnes United Methodist Church, the oldest predominantly African American Methodist Church west of the Mississippi River: Colfax UMC, Jill Flyr, pastor; Knoxville UMC, Martha Ward, pastor; Minburn UMC, Kay Hooper, pastor; Monroe UMC, Karen Merrill, pastor; Pleasantville UMC, Marjorie Bradshaw, pastor; ; and Burnes UMC, Charles Woolerly, pastor. ■



Stephanie Rafael-Nakos, pastor of Waukee UMC, greets parishioners following worship service attended by GCSRW staff and members.

Members of Minburn UMC serve coffee at a breakfast preceding worship for visiting Commission members Waymon Hollis and Don Williams.



Youth choir from Aldersgate UMC provides special music GCSRW opening worship.



Commission members, from left, Waymon Hollis, Phil Robison, Pong Javier, and James Han (right), greet Don Mendenhall (second from right), former Commission member, at a reception hosted by the Iowa Conference.



At the Iowa Conference reception, Commission member Taka Ishii gets acquainted with guests Karen McCreary, left, and Ruby Thelander, both from Nebraska Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

Commission member Marie Rivera, left, reminisces with Winona McGee, former Commission member, at Iowa Conference reception.



# Resources

This listing of resources is intended as a service for our readers, not as a promotion for publishers.

**A Directory of National Women's Organizations, The National Council for Research on Women** (1992). Contact The National Council for Research on Women, The Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House, 47-49 East 65th St., New York, NY 10021. (212) 570-5001. FAX: (212) 570-5380.

**Celebrating the Woman You Are, S.** Suzanne Mayer (Paulist Press, 1995). Text combines current work in feminine psychology and spirituality with images from literature, scripture, and noted women. It is a challenge to all women to see their gifts as calls to growth and action. \$3.95.

**Hagar's Daughters: Womanist Ways of Being in the World**, Diana L. Hayes (Paulist Press, 1995). Drawing from stories of strong and vibrant Black women in history, literature and personal experiences, Hayes urges Black women to use their gifts as mothers, keepers of spirituality, bearers of culture and weavers of children's tapestry. \$4.95.

**Sacred Journeys: A Woman's Book of Daily Prayer**, Jan L. Richardson (Upper Room Books, 1995). Using the church's liturgical year as a framework, the book contains five sections. Each week provides an invocation, the biblical text, the context of the scripture, daily readings, questions for reflection, a meditation, and a blessing. \$12.95.

# Jobs

**McCreless Chair of Evangelism**, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas. PhD or equivalent in appropriate field required. Demonstrated achievement and/or potential in teaching and scholarship required. Date of appointment, rank and salary negotiable. Apply by Jan. 15, 1996, to Professor John C. Holbert, Chair, McCreless Chair Search, SMU, Box 750133, Dallas, TX 75275-0133. ■

**Saving Work: Feminist Practices of Theological Education**, Rebecca S. Chopp (Westminster John Knox, 1995). The author explores the impact of dramatic rise in enrollment of women in seminaries is having on theological education. Book offers a starting point for dialogue about the role theological education will play as a new Christian praxis emerges. \$12.99.

**Sexual Harassment: Research and Resources, 3d Edition**, The National Council for Research on Women (1995). A summary of academic research, legal definitions, and practical information about sexual harassment. Updated Oct. 1994. National Council for Research of Women, 530 Broadway at Spring Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10012-3920. (212) 274-0730. Fax: (212) 274-0821. Single issue \$12.

**U.S. History as Women's History: New Feminist Essays**, ed. Linda K. Kerber, Alice Kessler-Harris, and Kathryn Kish Sklar (University of North Carolina Press, 1995). A collection of 15 essays covering a broad sweep of history from the American Revolution to contemporary times, ranging over the fields of legal, social, political, and cultural history. Themes are state formation, power, and knowledge. \$37.50.

**Writing Out My Heart: Selections from the Journal of Frances E. Willard, 1855-96**, ed. Carolyn De Swarte Gifford (University of Illinois Press, 1995). A biographical goldmine, drawn from the 49 volumes of Willard's journal, rediscovered in 1982, weighty with themes and institutions central to women's lives in nineteenth-century America. Cloth \$29.95.

## United Nations publications on women

All are available from United Nations Publications, Room DC2-0853, Dept. 349A, New York, NY 10017. (800) 253-9646. Fax: (212) 3489.

**From Nairobi to Beijing: Second Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women**, Report of the Secretary-General (United Nations Publications, 1995). This review follows one done in 1990 and reports on the 10 years since the third United Nations conference on women met at Nairobi. U.N. Sales No. E.95.IV.5.

**The United Nations and the Advancement of Women, 1945-1995**. Includes more than 100 UN documents relating to women's rights, and chronicles the evolution of a campaign in which the initial focus on political and family life has expanded and now encompasses urgent issues such as poverty, violence against women, and equal access to education, employment and health care. U.N. Sales No. E.95.I.29.

**Women: Looking Beyond 2000**. Text aims to increase awareness of remaining obstacles and help illuminate the challenges women face everywhere. It features up-to-date information about such major concerns as reproductive health, women in the workplace, violence against women and education. U.N. Sales No. E.95.I.40.

**The World's Women 1995: Trends and Statistics, 2nd Ed.** Updated and expanded, this book remains the most complete description to-date of women's conditions and contributions worldwide. Although women's status has improved over the last 20 years, the majority still lag far behind men in power, wealth and opportunity. Readily understandable, this book is a blend of fact and interpretation. U.N. Sales No. E.95.XVII.2. ■



**The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women**  
in the United Methodist Church  
1200 Davis Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201