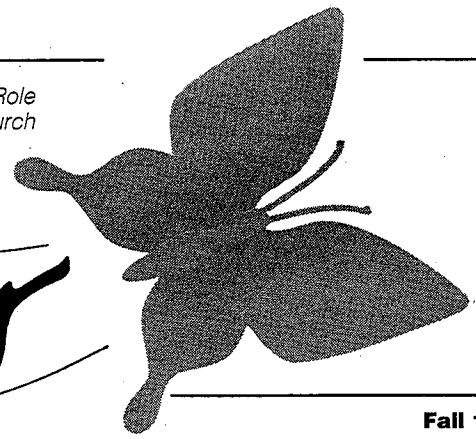


# The Flyer



Vol XVIII, No. 3

Fall 1998

## God's extravagant love evident

### Take risks, GCSRW urged at Millbrae meeting

"God took the risk to be in you and me," proclaimed Leontine T. C. Kelly, retired United Methodist bishop, and through her sermon at opening worship she set the tone for the Sept. 24-27, 1998, meeting of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in Millbrae, CA.

Friday's journey to Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco continued to challenge the Commission to take risks and to recognize those who may be left out. From the moment Commission members left the bus to enter Glide's building, they were met with the faces of persons who had been left out—along the street in San Francisco's rugged Tenderloin district, within the halls of Glide, and in Freedom Hall.

The Commission meeting theme of God's extravagant love also came to life through presentations by Cecil Williams, pastor of Glide since 1964 and chief executive officer of Glide Foundation, and Janice Mirikitani, executive director and president of the foundation. As Williams pointed out, "Unconditional love says that you risk everything. If we are the people of God, we must act that way. Praxis is critical for the church into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To be the people of God, we put no conditions on our love. The people of God love each other so much that we act like the people of God. We give people hope here," emphasized Williams, "with that hope comes joy."

As Mirikitani referred to the breadth of Glide Foundation programs, she continued to emphasize hope Glide offers and shared her own story of self-discovery and recovery as part of the Glide family. A Japanese-American graduate student, Mirikitani arrived at Glide not knowing who she was and not accepting God because of her experience of incest and abuse.

"Cecil's presence shook me up," she re-

called. Admiring the passion of his support for the poor and marginalized, "I could not help but get involved."

In fact, together with him Mirikitani has contributed to Glide's transformation and its powerful force in San Francisco. She oversees the 45 programs and \$6 million budget of the Glide Foundation. Through her leadership the foundation served a million and a

half meals last year, and tens of thousands of persons received services ranging from HIV testing, health care, counseling, crisis intervention, literacy and computer training, job training and placement, and children, youth, and family educational programs.

In Freedom Hall a panel of Glide members told their stories of being left out, even

*continued on page 2*

Retired Bishop Leontine T. C. Kelly, second from left, greets Commission members and staff following opening worship at the September meeting of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. From left are Joyce Waldon Bright, president, and Cecelia Long and Stephanie Anna Hixon, members of the general secretariat.



### Emerging, ongoing issues receive Commission attention and action

At their Sept. 24-27 meeting in Millbrae, CA, members of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women addressed a number of emerging and ongoing issues vital to women in the church. From presidential misconduct to problems of persons caught in welfare transition to explore becoming a Reconciling Commission, Commission members sought means for acting to fulfill the Commission mandate to bring about full and equal participation and responsibility of women in the church.

The Commission forged a statement in response to President Clinton's grand jury testimony, emphasizing that professional sexual misconduct is unacceptable "because it involves an inequity of power between the persons involved." On Aug. 17 Clinton said in a public address that he had an "inappropriate" relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

While the Commission called for a resolution "that will include both forgiveness and

*continued on page 2*

## Emerging, ongoing issues receive attention... *continued from page 1*

accountability," members rejected the "notion that public and private morality are ever separate." Commission members emphasized the importance of the country returning its attention to "critical issues" of the nation, such as Social Security and welfare.

Using a discussion style of holy conferencing during this meeting, the Commission formed a task force to develop a

print and video resource, in conjunction with other general boards and agencies, to assist annual conferences and local churches in addressing domestic violence, health care, and welfare transition within churches and communities. The theme for this resource will emphasize the concept of the church as a sanctuary, or healing place.

The Commission agreed to explore be-

coming a reconciling commission, a designation that means the Commission would welcome into full participation all persons regardless of sexual orientation. To begin this process, the Commission will invite to its February 1999 meeting a representative of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, which became a reconciling commission in 1990.

During a session on "holy conferencing through the arts," Donna Fado Ivery, a United Methodist pastor from South San Francisco, showed the group how her own experience with physical disability has led her to use the arts in a healing way.

In January 1994, Ivery was struck on the head by a glass partition. The resulting brain injury has left her in chronic pain and disrupted normal body functions. She eventually learned that painting pictures that reflected her pain "really opens up a healing road."

"The brushes of the spirit act as my helper in handling the burden of grief," she explained. "When I could do nothing else, I would go to the garage and paint." ■

### GCSRW statement on presidential misconduct

President Clinton's admission of an inappropriate relationship with Monica Lewinsky calls us to speak. First, we emphasize our position that professional sexual misconduct is totally unacceptable because it involves an inequity in power between the persons involved. Secondly, we reject the notion that public and private morality are separate. Thirdly, we affirm that integrity and honesty must never be replaced by political and legal maneuvering. Our country's (the U.S. nation's) attention must not continue to be diverted from other critical issues. Finally, we hope for a resolution to this situation that will include both forgiveness and accountability.

*Approved by the members of the  
General Commission on the Status and Role of Women  
Sept. 26, 1998, Millbrae, CA*

## God's extravagant love...

*continued from page 1*

excommunicated, by other churches and society and being found and loved unconditionally at Glide—stories of former drug abusers, survivors of incest and abuse, prostitutes, criminals, along with gay, lesbian, heterosexual, and transgendered persons. With the voices they have found through the Glide family, these persons now volunteer with and some are employed by the Glide Foundation.

Another panel of Glide Foundation staff persons shared their stories of service through programs for persons with HIV and AIDS, substance abusers, women who have suffered domestic violence, children,

and other persons in crisis. Representatives from Glide's extended family groups offered an overview of Bible study, diversity groups, and caring ministries.

Banners and phrases painted as borders on the tops of walls proclaimed throughout the Glide building: Our way is justice. Our way is compassion. Our way is spirituality. Our way is passion. Our time is now.

At Sunday morning worship, which Glide calls celebration, Commission members experienced the joy of a sanctuary overflowing with persons and Christ's spirit of unconditional love and acceptance reflected in the Glide spirit. ■

## Options for Action

### California-Pacific display on UM women bishops available for loan to CSRWs, other groups

"Women Bishops in the United Methodist Church" is the title of an approximately 20-foot long display developed by the California-Pacific Commission on the Status and Role of Women. This eye-catching display includes 11 posters of the individual women bishops, measuring 2'x3', and a group photo measuring 3'x4'.

The Cal-Pac group is willing to loan the display to annual conference CSRWs or other groups for the cost of commercial packing and mailing and return mail.

Contact Lynn T. Jackson, 780 W. 9<sup>th</sup> St., Claremont, CA 91711. (909)621-1236. E-mail: SFJackson@aol.com. ■

Fall 1998

Vol. XVIII, No. 3

### The Flyer

**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 Stalnaker 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.

#### GCSRW officers:

Joyce Waldon Bright, President  
Darlene Saunders Ousley, Vice-President  
Charlotte Fitzsimons, Secretary

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Printed on recycled paper.



# First-time cabinet members receive training

In August 1997 and 1998, newly-appointed district superintendents and conference council directors gathered at Lake Junaluska, NC, for an annual training event.

Sponsored by the Council of Bishops, the General Council on Ministries, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry,

these training events 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, was facilitator in the session on legal issues involving sexual misconduct.



Among the women participating in the 1997 district superintendent and conference council director (identified with title) training are, from left to right: Seated, Ann L. Glass, South Indiana; Michele Sue Shumake Keller, Missouri East; Wendy Rhodehamel, North Central New York; Marilyn D. Gregory, Kansas East; and Elizabeth A.S. Wright, Virginia. Standing, Marie Palmer Williams, Louisiana; Dolores H. Henderson, New York; Mary Brooke Casad, conference council director, North Texas; Janet R. Ellinger, Wisconsin; Sally Dyck, East Ohio; Hope Morgan Ward, conference council director, North Carolina; Patricia B. Hinker, Minnesota; Shirley G. Lynn, Memphis; Patricia K. Roseberry, Mississippi; Marion A. Jackson, Southern New Jersey; Jane Alison Tews, Desert Southwest; Dale R. Kelley, conference council director, Alaska Missionary; Janet E. Smith-Rushton, New England; Carol Woods, North Texas; Kathi Austin Mahle, Minnesota. Not pictured, Velma G. Smith, Wisconsin.



Among the women participating in the 1998 district superintendent and conference council director (identified with title) training are, from left to right: Seated, front row, Flora Bowers, Pacific Northwest; Kathleen McCafferty, Illinois Great Rivers; Youngsook Kang, faculty; Fredda Minnick, Texas; Barbara Ripple, California-Pacific; and Jeanne Devine, Kansas West. Kneeling, middle row, Margaret Ball, Oklahoma; Joy Barrett, Detroit; Karen Crooch, Oregon-Idaho; Sherrie Boyens Dobbs, conference council director, Northern New Jersey; Barbara Sheldon, conference council director, Kansas West; and Barbara Johnson-Arther, Central Texas. Standing, Mary Jane Coleman, Baltimore-Washington; Maria L. Coleman, New England; Deborah Wallace-Padgett, Kentucky; Jane Newman Brooks, North Georgia; Glenda N. Johnson, North Carolina; Martha Forrest, North Georgia; Emma C. Moore-Kochlacs, California-Pacific; and Jane Follmer Zekoff, conference council director, Wisconsin. Not pictured, Brenda F. Carroll, Holston; B. Susan Ulmer, South Carolina; and Mamie Williams, Baltimore-Washington.

## Ovations

To **Alyne Joann Eslinger**, staff member for the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, TN, who has been elected trustee chairperson for Cook College and Theological School in Tempe, AZ. An Eastern Cherokee, she is the first Native American woman and the first United Methodist to chair the trustee board.

To **Phyllis Ferguson**, member of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, who received the Ruth Award from the Pacific Northwest Conference clergywomen. The award is named for Ruth Steach, an advocate for equal rights for women.

To **Betsey C. Heavner**, a deacon in the Northwest Texas Conference and director of leader development for the conference, who will join the staff of the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, TN, as director of FaithQuest training seminars.

To **Leontine T.C. Kelly**, retired UMC bishop,

who was honored during the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Gulfside Assembly, Waveland, MS, on Oct. 31. She is the only African-American woman to have been elected bishop of the United Methodist Church. Gulfside was founded in 1923 as a retreat center and assembly site for African-American Methodists.

To **Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz**, who has been designated to serve as acting general secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race during the search for a new general secretary following the retirement of Barbara Ricks Thompson.

To **Cynthia P. Schneider**, a member of Oakdale-Emory United Methodist Church, Olney, MD, who was confirmed as an ambassador to the Netherlands.

To **Robyn Thompson**, a second year student at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, who has completed three months as the first Charles

Wesley's House Research Scholar at the Charles Wesley Heritage Centre in Bristol, England, where she did research on Sarah Gwynne Wesley, spouse of Charles Wesley.

To **Ann Greene Whiting**, editor of the *Zion's Herald* newspaper related to the New England Conference, who has been named editor-publisher of the *Michigan Christian Advocate*, which serves the Detroit and West Michigan Conferences. ■

*Visit the Commission  
on the web:*

[www.umc.org/gcsrww](http://www.umc.org/gcsrww)

# Status Report

## Black clergywomen 'reconcile the waters' on Atlantic cruise

Black clergywomen of the United Methodist Church took a symbolic four-day journey through Atlantic waters to pay tribute to their foremothers and to affirm their collective and individual ministries.

More than 70 clergywomen paid their own way to Miami and the Bahamas to become part of "reconciling the waters" on a Sept. 14-18 cruise through waters that first carried their ancestors to slavery. The annual meeting of the Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church included a reconciliation service in the deepest part of the cruise ship, in remembrance of the Africans who were transported in the bowels of the slave ships.

In addition to services of affirmation and healing, the clergywomen discussed their desire for African-American clergywomen to become bishops. Other areas of dialogue included the impact of the denomination's appointment process on African-American clergywomen, as well as networking and providing pastoral support to each other in their ministries.

*Methodists Make News, Sept. 25, 1998*

## Women urge ratification of U.N. resolution

Several female members of the U.S. House of Representatives have joined in urging senators to ratify a United Nations resolution on the rights of women. Their support was announced at a Sept. 10 press conference called by Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA).

Afterward, members of United Methodist Women (UMW) and the Women's Division staff of the General Board of Global Ministries delivered 10,000 letters of support for the treaty to senators. The letters, written at the UMW Assembly in May, were sorted and given to the individual senators representing each writer. (See page 6 for related article on Seneca Falls event.)

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, a treaty passed by the U.N. General Assembly almost 20 years ago, was subsequently endorsed by all the Western democracies except the U.S.

*Methodists Make News, Sept. 11, 1998*

## Bishop completes bicycle ride across America

Mary Ann Swenson, bishop of the Denver Episcopal Area, and her spouse, Jeff Swenson,

have successfully finished their tandem bicycle ride across the U.S. They rode up to the Revolutionary War Monument to Victory in Yorktown, VA, at about noon on Sept. 2, and officially ended 4,059 miles of riding. Their 58-day journey took them through 11 states.

"The high of the trip for me was the immersion into creation, the experience of nature, wild flowers and the animals," Swenson said. "The lows were how we have been destructive of creation. I came home with a new sense of desire to read again the episcopal statement, "In Defense of God's Creation," and to look for new ways to defend God's creation for future generations."

The ride took the couple through the four states of the bishop's area, including Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Utah, plus a corner of Idaho.

*Methodists Make News, Sept. 11, 1998*

## Conference declares rights of older women

A "Nashville Declaration on Older Women's Rights" was drafted during an Aug. 27-30 convocation at Scarritt-Bennett Center.

Dozens of United Methodists joined women from other faith and secular groups at the official preparatory event for the United Nations' International Year of Older Persons in 1999. Global Action on Aging, an international grassroots citizen's group that focuses upon issues of concern to older persons, sponsored the event, in partnership with the Stanley Foundation.

The two-page Nashville Declaration, shaped by the 100 participants from the United States, Europe, Africa and Asia, was presented to Ambassador Julia Alvarez from the Dominican Republic, who gave the conference's keynote address. The declaration will be presented to the U.N. General Assembly at its session on the International Year.

The declaration calls for older women to have:

- access to free education and lifelong learning;
- access to barrier-free environments and clean air, water and soil;
- freedom from hostile social environments and negative attitudes about older women;
- access to comprehensive, long-term health care;
- representation in the political process; and
- provisions for economic security and opportunities for self-sufficiency.

Drafting the declaration was just one

result of the four-day dialogue about the increasing isolation, poverty and marginalization of older women.

*United Methodist News Service, Sept. 1, 1998*

## Most clergy support reproductive choice, survey shows

Protestant and Jewish clergy strongly favor reproductive choice, according to a new survey by the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, a national pro-choice group of 42 mainline faith organizations.

In the survey, sent to 4,000 clergy of conservative and liberal Christian and Jewish organizations, 92 percent of the respondents agreed that every woman should be free to decide when to have children according to her own conscience and religious beliefs.

The percentage was higher than average among Jewish and United Methodist respondents, with 88 percent favoring a woman's right to a safe and legal abortion.

*The Interpreter, Sept. 1998*

## Lambeth Conference approves resolution on sexuality

The Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops, meeting in Canterbury, England in August, approved 526 to 70 a resolution on sexuality. The statement says that: 1) abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage; 2) all faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the body of Christ; 3) homosexual practice is incompatible with scripture, but irrational fear of homosexuals should be condemned; and 4) same-sex unions cannot be legitimized.

*Newscope, Aug. 28, 1998*

## Prominent singer breaks tradition, ordains sister

Famed gospel singer and pastor the Rev. Andrae Crouch and his twin sister, the new Elder Sandra Crouch, hope her ordination by him Aug. 1 will push their denomination, the Church of God in Christ, closer to dropping its ban on ordained women pastors.

"I believe that when you have a sense within yourself that God is calling you to work in a particular part of the ministry, that no matter what gender you are, you should be able to answer that call," Sandra Crouch said in an Aug. 4 interview.

Her brother, a multi-Grammy Award

*continued on page 6*

Our Times Is Now

# Fall meeting of GCSRW...

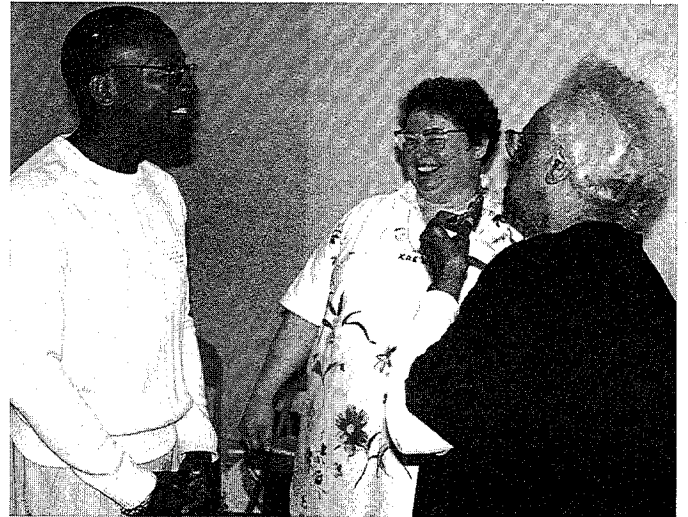
## Commission members and staff learn about ministries of Glide Memorial UMC, learn about healing through art

Members and staff of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women witnessed their meeting theme, "Making the Church Whole: God's Extravagant Love," as they worshiped, engaged in holy conferencing, and toured Glide Memorial United Methodist Church during their stay Sept. 24-27, 1998, in Millbrae, CA.



Glide members tell their own stories and explain opportunities for Bible study and service at Glide.

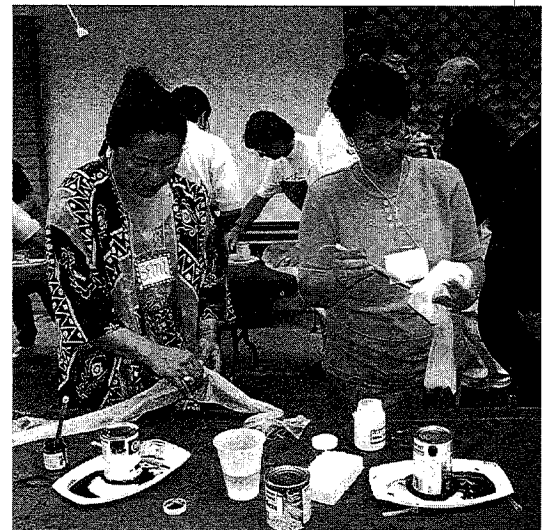
From left, a Glide member talks with Commission guest Kae Lewis, chairperson of California-Nevada CSRW, and Commission member Phyllis Ferguson, following a panel discussion of Glide ministries.



Cecil Williams, pastor of Glide Memorial UMC, greets Cecelia Long, at right, member of the GCSRW general secretariat, prior to his presentation. Commission member Lois Dauway, in center, looks on.



Second from left, Janice Mirikitani, president and director of Glide Foundation, visits with Commission guests following Sunday worship. From left, they are Stephanie Anna Hixon, member of the general secretariat; Commission members Doug Grove-DeJarnett and Gail Murphy Geiss; and guest Mike Alexander.



Commission members Seini Leiti, left, and Rose Arroyo design their own hand-painted silk scarves during holy conferencing through the arts.



## Status Report *continued from page 4*

winner, named her assistant pastor in 1997 and views giving her credentials as "nothing but fair."

Sandra Crouch, who also has won a Grammy for a gospel album, is now co-pastor of their New Christ Memorial Church of God in Christ in Pacoima, CA, a suburb of Los Angeles.

Andrae Crouch became pastor of the church in 1995 after the deaths of his father and brother, the founding and subsequent leaders of the congregation with more than 800 members.

Said Bishop J. Bernard Hackworth of the denomination's Metropolitan Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southern California, "It's just something he's done in his local church, but the Church of God in Christ hasn't approved...women as ordained elders."

In ordaining his sister, Andrae Crouch actually broke two traditions of the nation's largest African-American Pentecostal denomination, which has been estimated to have as many as 8.5 million members worldwide. Not only are women usually not ordained as pastors, pastors do not have the authority to ordain.

*The National Christian Reporter,*  
Aug. 14, 1998

### UMW seeks young members

Efforts are under way to get young women more involved in United Methodist Women. Based on 1997 membership figures, UMW has about 2,400 members in the teen category, ages 12-17, and 6,800 in the college/university category, ages 18-25. Those figures represent about 1 percent of the 862,000-member total for 1997, said Cheryl Hemmerle, an executive with the Women's Division, the

administrative arm of UMW.

In a new move to recruit younger women, UMW is allowing the startup of teen or college/university units within districts. To make it easier, the division is working to develop more resources and guidelines, including a newsletter and a step-by-step guide on setting up a unit.

*Methodists Make News,* July 31, 1998

### Report holds good news, bad news about U.S. children

There's good and bad news regarding the well-being of U.S. children, according to a United Methodist bishop who is leading a churchwide initiative on children and poverty. Reacting to a report issued July 15 by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, Bishop Marshall L. (Jack) Meadors, Jr., of Jackson said he is "heartened" to know that children from infancy through adolescence are off to a healthier start in many ways. More infants are surviving their first year, the report said, and 77 percent of toddlers are immunized. However, the number of children without health insurance rose in 1996, and smoking, drinking and drug use are up among 8th-, 10th-, and 12th-graders. Meadors also cited a National Center for Children and Poverty study showing that more children are living in poverty.

*Methodists Make News,* July 31, 1998

### UMW brings 10,000 letters to Seneca Falls event

United Methodist Women commemorated the 150th anniversary of the declaration of women's rights made in Seneca Falls, NY, by continuing the call against the discrimination of women.

Sara Shingler of Spartanburg, SC, the national UMW president, presented about 10,000 handwritten letters to Congress during a July 18 event outside the Wesleyan

Methodist Chapel at the national park there.

The chapel is where about 300 people, led by pioneer feminist Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others, ratified a "Declaration of Sentiments" in 1848, demanding equal rights for women, including the right to vote and own property.

The letters, written during the UMW Assembly in Orlando, FL, in May, called upon the U.S. Senate to ratify the United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The U.S. is the only western democracy that has not endorsed the document, adopted by the United Nations in 1979.

*United Methodist News Service,*  
July 21, 1998

### Bishop Kammerer roars in on a Harley

Western North Carolina Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer dazzled 900 young confirmands in Hickory, NC, June 30, when she roared in on a Harley Davidson motorcycle wearing a black leather bomber jacket with the UM insignia on one sleeve and symbol representing the office of bishop on the other. The annual event celebrates young people who have completed confirmation classes in the same year.

*Methodists Make News,* July 24, 1998

### Methodist women press for U.S. payment of U.N. dues

Members of United Methodist Women are pressing Congress to support full payment of U.S. dues for the United Nations. A vote on that funding could occur this summer, according to Anna Rhee, executive secretary for public policy for the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries. The vote is particularly important because the U.S. is in danger of losing its vote in the U. N. General Assembly. As of June 15, the U.N. reported the U.S. debt was about \$1.5 billion.

*Methodists Make News,* July 17, 1998 ■

## Calendar

**Nov. 13-15, 1998**

**Exploration 98: Light the Fire...God's Call to Ordained Ministry,** Los Angeles.

A three-day event to provide an opportunity for committed young people, ranging from high school juniors up to 24 years of age, to hear God's call to ministry, to challenge them to explore their gifts for ordained ministry as deacon and elder in the UMC. Contact the Division of Ordained Ministry or check the Internet at [www.gbhem.org/explo/index.html](http://www.gbhem.org/explo/index.html). Division of Ordained Ministry, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, P.O. Box 871, Nashville, TN 37202-0871. (615) 340-7397. Fax: (615) 340-7395.

### Change of Address

Please send your change of address to: *The Flyer*, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, 1200 Davis, Evanston, IL 60201.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If possible, please include the mailing label from this issue of *The Flyer*.

## E-mail, another way to petition General Conference

For the first time, persons who want to send petitions to General Conference can do so by e-mail. The 1996 General Conference amended *Discipline* Para. 507 so that petitions could be sent by e-mail. Previously, three signed copies were required of all petitions.

To electronically file a petition, write Petitions@UMPublishing.Org. You may attach a MicroSoft Word file or a Word Perfect file. You may also use strike-thru and bold to indicate copy you wish deleted from a disciplinary paragraph and copy you wish added. Your petition should address only one paragraph of the *Discipline*, unless two or more paragraphs in the *Discipline* are so closely related that a change in one affects the others. Or your petition should address only one issue if it is a resolution.

You may also send petitions by regular mail to Sheila McGee, petitions secretary, P.O. Box 801, Nashville, TN 37202. All petitions must be received by Dec. 3, 1999 (150 days prior to the May 2 opening of General Conference). Last quadrennium, the petitions secretary processed 8,000 petitions from individuals, agencies, churches, and annual conferences. Because of duplications, these proposals were combined into 3,070 different pieces of proposed legislation.

## UM agency doubles communications scholarships

United Methodist Communications (UMCom) is offering additional scholarships in the 1999-2000 academic year in a move aimed

at meeting the need for more trained communicators in the denomination.

UMCom currently offers two scholarships annually to students entering the field of religious communications. UMCom's \$6,000 Stoddy-West Fellowship is given to a graduate student, and the \$2,500 Leonard M. Perryman Communications Scholarship for Ethnic Minority Students is awarded to a college junior or senior. UMCom will begin offering an additional scholarship in each program specifically for United Methodists.

For details, see UMCom's web site, [www.umc.org/umcom/scholarship](http://www.umc.org/umcom/scholarship) or write to Scholarship Committee, UMCom, P.O. Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202.

## New racism series becomes available

A new booklet published by the United Methodist Church explores racism and provides a basis for dialogue on the subject. "Confronting the Sin" is the first in an eight-part series of anti-racism study-and-action guides produced by the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Board of Church and Society. Copies of the first guide are available from the Service Department of the Board of Church and Society, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002, for \$2.50 each, or in quantities of 10 or more, \$2 each.

You may call the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women toll free. Just use our new 800 number:

**800/523-8390**

## Free video previews available from CPSDV

The Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence (CPSDV) now offers free previews on most videos. With a security deposit using credit card or check, organizations in the U.S. and Canada may preview videos for one month.

CPSDV offers a number of award-winning videos for purchase and rental, as well. For a catalog of videos, books, and other publications, contact CPSDV, 936 North 34th St., Suite 200, Seattle, WA 98103. Phone: (206) 634-1903. Fax: (206) 634-0115. Web site: [www.cpsdv.org](http://www.cpsdv.org).

## Watch for PBS documentary on "A Woman's Place"

On Nov. 27, Maryland Public Television (check local listings for day and time) premieres a television documentary, "A Woman's Place: Can New Law Change Old Ways?"

The documentary answers the question through the lives of three women in South Africa, India and the United States. Each has dedicated her life to making tradition and justice see eye to eye. ■

## Jobs

**Academic Dean, United Theological Seminary**, Dayton, OH. Appointment begins with 1999-2000 academic year. Applicants should have a Ph.D. or equivalent degree, classroom teaching experience, commitment to scholarly work, and an active interest in the church. Contact F. Thomas Trotter, Educational Consultants, 75-136 Kiowa Dr., Indian Wells, CA 92210. E-mail: [tomtrot@earthlink.net](mailto:tomtrot@earthlink.net). ■

## 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 four issues of **The Flyer** for one year.

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

- |  |   |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$7.50 for one year   | <input type="checkbox"/> New subscription |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$12.50 for two years | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal          |

Send your check to: **The Flyer**, The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, 1200 Davis, Evanston, IL 60201.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Status Report

## Black clergywomen 'reconcile the waters' on Atlantic cruise

Black clergywomen of the United Methodist Church took a symbolic four-day journey through Atlantic waters to pay tribute to their foremothers and to affirm their collective and individual ministries.

More than 70 clergywomen paid their own way to Miami and the Bahamas to become part of "reconciling the waters" on a Sept. 14-18 cruise through waters that first carried their ancestors to slavery. The annual meeting of the Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church included a reconciliation service in the deepest part of the cruise ship, in remembrance of the Africans who were transported in the bowels of the slave ships.

In addition to services of affirmation and healing, the clergywomen discussed their desire for African-American clergywomen to become bishops. Other areas of dialogue included the impact of the denomination's appointment process on African-American clergywomen, as well as networking and providing pastoral support to each other in their ministries.

*Methodists Make News, Sept. 25, 1998*

## Women urge ratification of U.N. resolution

Several female members of the U.S. House of Representatives have joined in urging senators to ratify a United Nations resolution on the rights of women. Their support was announced at a Sept. 10 press conference called by Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA).

Afterward, members of United Methodist Women (UMW) and the Women's Division staff of the General Board of Global Ministries delivered 10,000 letters of support for the treaty to senators. The letters, written at the UMW Assembly in May, were sorted and given to the individual senators representing each writer. (See page 6 for related article on Seneca Falls event.)

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, a treaty passed by the U.N. General Assembly almost 20 years ago, was subsequently endorsed by all the Western democracies except the U.S.

*Methodists Make News, Sept. 11, 1998*

## Bishop completes bicycle ride across America

Mary Ann Swenson, bishop of the Denver Episcopal Area, and her spouse, Jeff Swenson,

have successfully finished their tandem bicycle ride across the U.S. They rode up to the Revolutionary War Monument to Victory in Yorktown, VA, at about noon on Sept. 2, and officially ended 4,059 miles of riding. Their 58-day journey took them through 11 states.

"The high of the trip for me was the immersion into creation, the experience of nature, wild flowers and the animals," Swenson said. "The lows were how we have been destructive of creation. I came home with a new sense of desire to read again the episcopal statement, "In Defense of God's Creation," and to look for new ways to defend God's creation for future generations."

The ride took the couple through the four states of the bishop's area, including Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Utah, plus a corner of Idaho.

*Methodists Make News, Sept. 11, 1998*

## Conference declares rights of older women

A "Nashville Declaration on Older Women's Rights" was drafted during an Aug. 27-30 convocation at Scarritt-Bennett Center.

Dozens of United Methodists joined women from other faith and secular groups at the official preparatory event for the United Nations' International Year of Older Persons in 1999. Global Action on Aging, an international grassroots citizen's group that focuses upon issues of concern to older persons, sponsored the event, in partnership with the Stanley Foundation.

The two-page Nashville Declaration, shaped by the 100 participants from the United States, Europe, Africa and Asia, was presented to Ambassador Julia Alvarez from the Dominican Republic, who gave the conference's keynote address. The declaration will be presented to the U.N. General Assembly at its session on the International Year.

The declaration calls for older women to have:

- access to free education and lifelong learning;
- access to barrier-free environments and clean air, water and soil;
- freedom from hostile social environments and negative attitudes about older women;
- access to comprehensive, long-term health care;
- representation in the political process; and
- provisions for economic security and opportunities for self-sufficiency.

Drafting the declaration was just one

result of the four-day dialogue about the increasing isolation, poverty and marginalization of older women.

*United Methodist News Service, Sept. 1, 1998*

## Most clergy support reproductive choice, survey shows

Protestant and Jewish clergy strongly favor reproductive choice, according to a new survey by the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, a national pro-choice group of 42 mainline faith organizations.

In the survey, sent to 4,000 clergy of conservative and liberal Christian and Jewish organizations, 92 percent of the respondents agreed that every woman should be free to decide when to have children according to her own conscience and religious beliefs.

The percentage was higher than average among Jewish and United Methodist respondents, with 88 percent favoring a woman's right to a safe and legal abortion.

*The Interpreter, Sept. 1998*

## Lambeth Conference approves resolution on sexuality

The Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops, meeting in Canterbury, England in August, approved 526 to 70 a resolution on sexuality. The statement says that: 1) abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage; 2) all faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the body of Christ; 3) homosexual practice is incompatible with scripture, but irrational fear of homosexuals should be condemned; and 4) same-sex unions cannot be legitimized.

*Newscope, Aug. 28, 1998*

## Prominent singer breaks tradition, ordains sister

Famed gospel singer and pastor the Rev. Andrae Crouch and his twin sister, the new Elder Sandra Crouch, hope her ordination by him Aug. 1 will push their denomination, the Church of God in Christ, closer to dropping its ban on ordained women pastors.

"I believe that when you have a sense within yourself that God is calling you to work in a particular part of the ministry, that no matter what gender you are, you should be able to answer that call," Sandra Crouch said in an Aug. 4 interview.

Her brother, a multi-Grammy Award

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