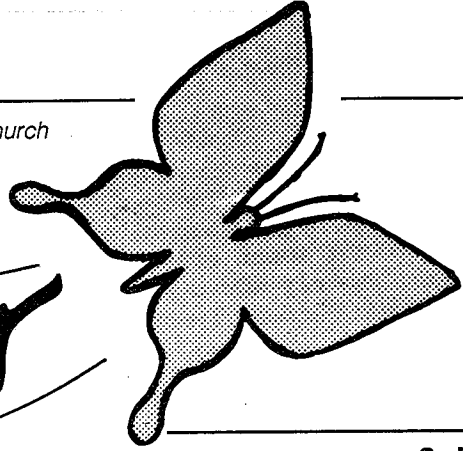


The Flyer



Vol XIV, No. 4

Spring 1994

Feminist theology

Commission backs Women's Division in controversy

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) has come to the defense of the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, that drew fire from conservatives for taking part in a feminist theology conference last November.

At its Feb. 24-27 meeting, GCSRW affirmed a statement drafted by GCSRW members who attended a RE-Imagining Conference in Minneapolis, describing the event in laudatory terms. GCSRW appended a statement of support for participation of the Women's Division in the conference. (See Winter/Spring 1994 issue of **The Flyer** for complete Commission statement.)

The evangelical Good News caucus has sharply criticized the division's paying expenses of staff, board members and others who attended. The caucus focused on controversial aspects of the conference, including prayers addressed to Sophia (the biblical personification of wisdom) and other feminine images of the divine.

Describing the conference sponsored by Minnesota ecumenical groups, the GCSRW

statement says, "The roster of speakers reads like a 'who's who' in the emerging world of womanist/feminist scholars who shared their biblical and theological understandings of God.

"It saddens those of us who rejoice in the diverse expressions of faith, culture and God when other voices misunderstand and misrepresent such a unifying gathering. We affirm the right and gift of women to gather, to reflect, to name, to

receive, and to share with each other, the church and world the fullness of our Christian faith," the group declared.

The group viewed a "video letter" prepared



Susan Sonnenday Vogel, executive vice president of St. Paul's School of Theology, and Lovett Weems, president of St. Paul's, lead the Commission in a visioning process during the spring meeting Feb. 24-27 at Gulfside Assembly at Waveland, MS. (See story, p.3.)

Training event equips advocates for victims of clergy misconduct

About 200 United Methodists at a national "Victims/Survivors Advocates" event this fall will be trained to support victims of clergy sexual misconduct.

According to planners, the Oct. 5-9 event in Kansas City, MO, will equip advocates, primarily laywomen, to help individuals who bring sexual abuse or harassment complaints against United Methodist clergy or other church professionals serving in a ministerial or supervisory relationship.

Co-sponsoring the event will be the General Commission on the Status and Role of

Women and the National Division, General Board of Global Ministries.

Regional church officials have been asked to nominate candidates for training. A planning committee will screen nominations and make the final selection of trainees, seeking racial diversity and the inclusion of "victim/survivors" who are "not themselves still in process" with a misconduct complaint.

"We consider this (advocate training) a critical need in light of the growing number

continued on page 2

by Women's Division officials, responding to Good News. (See sidebar, p.2.) Featuring a conversation between division executive Joyce Sohl and division president Carolyn Johnson, the video is being sent to presidents of district and conference units of United Methodist Women.

Sohl and Johnson emphasize women's ability to evaluate for themselves the merits of theological ideas that are not part of United Methodist tradition.

Ann Sherer, GCSRW president, alluding to the emphasis on Sophia in theology and liturgy, told the Commission, "If it is of God, it will continue no matter what we do. If not, it will wither of itself."

She recalled the short-lived "God Is Dead" movement of the 1960s and remarked, "That did not turn out to be the way we could best talk about those issues.

"Probably we are spending more energy

continued on page 2

Commission backs Women's Division continued from page 1

on learning about Sophia than if the issue had never been raised," Sherer added.

Several members suggested that the criticism of the Women's Division is part of a deliberate strategy to cripple that agency, whose primary mission is to women and children. They compared the situation to attacks on GCSRW when it conducted workshops on sexual identity, attacks culminated in an attempt to persuade the 1988 General Conference to vote GCSRW out of existence.

"We need to monitor and name the kind of strategy being used," said Commission member Diana Loomis, Glencoe, MO.

Los Angeles Commission member Lydia Salazar Martinez warned GCSRW against letting conservative critics set its agenda. "Are we being taken off the track of dealing with the critical issues of violence and abuse toward women?" she asked.

Sandra Daniels, Portland, OR, Commission member said, "The majority of speakers [at the theology event] were women of color. Orthodoxy spoken by the voices of women of color sounds different. They [Good News] put down women of color."

Sherer asked the group to consider the issue of drawing lines about the appropriateness of worship at public events. ■



Liaisons from other general boards and agencies prepare their reports to GCSRW: from left, Jean Caffey Lyles, UM News Service; Jane Hull Harvey, General Board of Church and Society; and Beth Taylor, General Council on Finance and Administration.

Learn about Sophia...

She Who Is. Elizabeth Johnson (Crossroad, 1993)

Wisdom's Feast: Sophia in Study and Celebration. Susan Cady, Marian Ronan, and Hal Taussig (Harper & Row, 1986). A revised and expanded edition of *Sophia: The Future of Feminist Spirituality*.

From the Women's Division in response to Re-Imagining Conference:

"Fact Sheet Concerning the 'Re-Imagining Conference' and the Women's Division of The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries." A statement dated Jan. 4, 1994 which outlines the situation and responds with question/answer format.

"A Message to United Methodist Women." A 10-minute video featuring Joyce Sohl, Deputy General Secretary of Women's Division, and Carolyn Johnson, Vice President of Women's Division, discussing the Re-Imagining Conference.

Both resources are available from the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. (212) 870-3600.

See page 7 for
article, comments on
attacks against
Re-Imagining participants

Quote...

During the Reagan/Bush years, I visited the White House 3 times in 12 years. During the first 12 months of the Clinton administration, I have visited the White House 40 times.

— Jane Hull Harvey, liaison to the Commission from the General Board of Church and Society, commenting on her role as chair of the Interreligious Staff Council.

Training event continued from page 1

of (misconduct) cases already under way across the church," heads of the sponsoring agencies said in a letter to bishops and other leaders.

Bishop Ann Sherer, GCSRW president, and Paul Dirdak, National Division president, said in the letter that "too many stories (are) circulating about complainants who were further victimized by the process, with one of the key missing ingredients for compassion and justice being the availability of a trained advocate."

In an interview, Cecelia Long, member of GCSRW general secretariat, said "survivors" of sexual abuse or harassment and people who have served as advocates will tell their stories.

"Awareness is being raised in the church," Long said. "People have a sense that the system has to be more accountable to people who have experienced abuse. The problem has always been there, but today there's a greater sensitivity to victims."

She added, "Abuse by a minister doesn't go away just because church officials move people around to new pastoral appointments. We need to address misconduct directly."

Feedback from a pilot training event and requests from annual conferences persuaded the sponsoring agencies to offer training for advocates for persons who lodge sexual misconduct complaints, Long said.

Sessions will include segments on theological issues, the psychology of victims, annual conference guidelines on clergy conduct, definitions of misconduct and data on incidence, crisis intervention and counseling skills, legal realities, and training in United Methodist polity and church law on complaints and disciplinary procedures.

The schedule will include worship and Bible study, lectures, drama, videos, workshops and annual conference team meetings.

Site of the event is the Kansas City Hilton Hotel. ■

Looking toward the 21st century

Weems, Vogel lead Commission in visioning process

Helping the Commission look toward the 21st century, Lovett Weems, president of St. Paul's School of Theology, and Susan Sonnenday Vogel, executive vice president of St. Paul's, led the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) in a visioning process during the spring meeting Feb. 24-27 at Gulfside Assembly at Waveland, MS.

The background for the visioning process came from Mary Parker Follett's writings on leadership. Working from Follett's model of multiple leadership, Vogel and Weems explained the characteristics of a vision and led the Commission in constructing a timeline of its history beginning before its 1972 General Conference existence.

The visioning process continued into a second day with consideration of questions such as "From where does vision come?" and "For what do people look to GCSRW?" The process closed to allow for the incubation stage of creativity and will continue as Commission members talk among themselves, go to their homes, and reconvene in the future to wait for the gift of vision.

Leadership changes

Responding to recommendations from the Nominations Committee, Commission mem-



Commission members and staff participate in small group discussions during the visioning process at Gulfside Assembly: From left, Stephanie Anna Hixon, Sandra Daniels, Lois Seifert, and Cecelia Long.

bers welcomed and confirmed their newest member Lydia Salazar Martinez from Los Angeles, CA.

Deb Kieseey was confirmed as the new chair of the Finance Committee, following the resignation of Efrain Maldonado, who

could no longer continue the extensive additional commitment involved in being a part of the Coordinating Committee. His resignation was received with regret and appreciation for his work the past two years. ■

Judicial Council refuses Council of Bishops' request to reconsider three cases; offers clarification on two

The Judicial Council, meeting April 27-29 in Lexington, KY, unanimously refused requests from the Council of Bishops to reconsider three cases, but offered "clarification" of two October rulings on due process for clergy facing disciplinary proceedings and one on covenant services for homosexual couples.

The nine-member court noted that no petitions came from "any of the original interested parties." The council said it is "unusual" to receive such a request and "rare" to find grounds for reconsideration. Members reiterated their declaration that a change in a statute of limitations may not take effect retroactively and that church laws defining chargeable offenses cannot be made retroactive. The 1992 General Conference adopted legislation exempting charges of sexual and child abuse from six-year statute of limitations that was to apply to other offenses.

Members cited a "long-standing principle that legislation must apply prospectively,

not retroactively." The council also defended its ruling that a verbatim record must be kept of a Joint Review process, an initial step in dealing with grievances against clergy, saying it ensures the constitutional right of clergy to fair process.

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, along with other interested parties, had intended to file a brief with the Judicial Council, urging it to reconsider Decision 691, issued by the court last fall. As reported earlier by United Methodist News Service, the Council of Bishops had asked the justices to reconsider Decision 691 and two other cases. Although the Judicial Council said the cases would not be on its spring docket, the group had not ruled out rehearing them at a later date.

The justices had said a change in the denomination's statute of limitations on charges against clergy cannot be made retroactive. Nor can new church laws defining "chargeable offenses" be imposed ret-

roactively, they ruled.

At its February meeting, the Commission said it wanted to express a "sense of urgency about the painful impact this ruling has had on the lives of many victims" of clergy sexual misconduct.

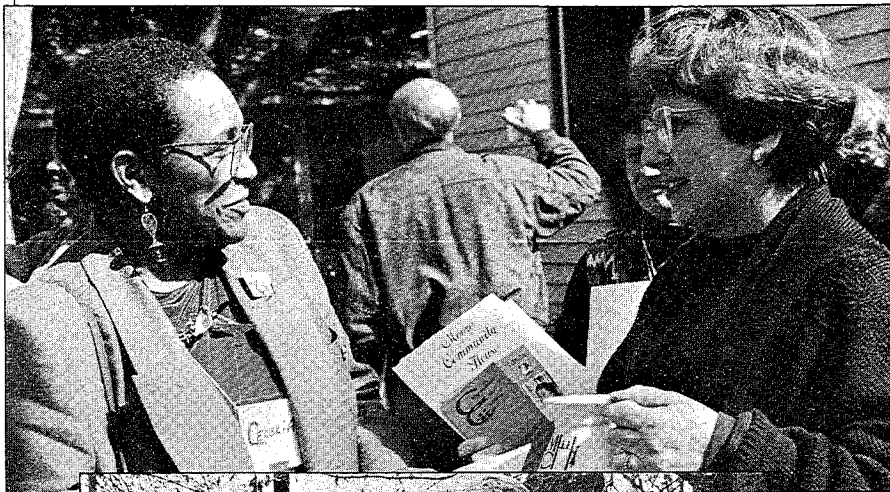
At its February meeting Bishop Ann Sherer, president of GCSRW, said she believed the Judicial Council decision was not targeted at the sexual misconduct issue, "but was in keeping with their understanding of law . . . [and] applies to many kinds of grievances."

Stephanie Hixon, member of GCSRW general secretariat, said, "The church is the church. It is not bound by local or state laws about statutes of limitations." ■

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please send your change of address to: *The Flyer*, GCSRW, 1200 Davis, Evanston, IL 60201. If possible, please include the mailing label from this issue of *The Flyer*.

Commission visits Biloxi facilities...



Clockwise from right:

Apryle and Tabitha Williams perform for the Commission at Moore's childcare facilities.

Carol Burnett, director of Moore Community house, answers questions from Commission member Gary Long.

Commission members Lydia Salazar Martinez and Susan Smalley try out Moore's playground equipment.

Cecelia Long, member of the Commission's general secretariat, and Commission member Anita Wood prepare for a tour of Moore Community House.

Moore Community House, an Advance project of Global Ministries General Bd.

In its ongoing efforts to listen to and interact with local groups in the vicinity of its meetings, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women traveled from Gulfside Assembly to Biloxi, MS, to tour Moore Community House, an Advance project of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Carol Burnett, director of Moore, provided an overview of the programming for children and families. Included are affordable childcare, dropout prevention, adult literacy, and parent support and education. She reported that most people served by Moore live in Biloxi's low-income public housing projects and earn an average of \$4,500 per year. She also outlined the dramatic impact the beachside casinos have had on neighborhoods during the past few years.

When first founded in 1924, Moore's ministry was with Eastern European immigrants. Today the center reaches out to Black, White, and Vietnamese constituency. Most of the Vietnamese families are former "boat people."

Before touring the facilities, the Commission was entertained by a Moore childcare provider's daughters, Apryle and Tabitha Williams. ■

The Flyer

Spring 1994
Vol. XIV, No. 4

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 (ACSRWs). Primary distribution of The Flyer is through the ACSRWs; 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.

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This is a revised reprint of the Fall/Winter 1993 Special Supplement. Please use this resource in the future and accept our apologies for any confusion resulting from the earlier version.

Special Supplement
Spring 1994

Make a difference in The United Methodist Church Offer your service to build coalitions and elect delegates to General Conference 1996

While we are repeatedly invited to take advantage of the multitudes of opportunities to serve and to make a difference in the lives of our local churches, we may overlook the importance of serving beyond the local church. The United Methodist Church's connectional system affords many venues for such service: district, conference, jurisdictional, and general conference.

In this special supplement to *The Flyer*, we outline the process for laity to be elected as delegates to General Conference. Let us emphasize, however, that the election process is only one portion of a larger, more important process—calling forth leadership.

Serving through decision-making is a gift that is critical to the future of our denomination. It is through General Conference that clergy and lay delegates decide on policies and issues and expenditures that shape our denomination's programs and activities for the future. At Jurisdictional Conference we elect bishops to replace those who are retiring. The Annual Conference, the basic governing body, votes on constitutional amendments, on delegates to General and Jurisdictional conferences, and conference financial matters. At each of these levels, the church needs dedicated servants.

When we assess the gifts and graces necessary for effective leadership at General Conference, we recognize that we must each consider more than our own desires for this service of decision-making. We must also consider all those among us who would serve the church well in this role. As those persons become apparent, we must work with others to call them forth and affirm their leadership.

To call forth leadership requires us to build coalitions. Again, our connectional system offers opportunities for gathering together, combining resources, and supporting one another. Such groups as United Methodist Women, racial/ethnic caucuses, and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women seek and support coalition building.

As we work to call forth leadership, we may want to consider raising the questions listed here.

In the beginning...the local church

For laity, the journey toward 1996 General and Jurisdictional conferences begins with the local church, for in that arena future general church leaders learn valuable lessons, gain important experience, and build support for broader church service.

Ask yourself and other potential leaders these questions as you consider your readiness for the journey:

- Have you been a member of the United Methodist Church for two years?
- Have you served actively as a local church volunteer: Sunday School teacher, work area member or chairperson, administrative board member?
- Have you asked your pastor to recommend you to Nominations

and Personnel as a lay member of Annual Conference?

- Are you well acquainted with members of the Administrative Board (Charge Conference), who elect lay members of Annual Conference?
- Have you offered your gifts to the district superintendent to serve as a member of a conference board or committee?
- Do you have a copy of *The Book of Discipline*? Could you find the paragraphs that describe the work of Annual, Jurisdictional, and General conferences?

While being elected as a lay member to Annual Conference is not required for election to Jurisdictional and General conferences, it can be an aid in the process.

On the second and subsequent days . . . beyond the local church

Being present as an observer or lay member can strengthen your opportunity to become elected to Jurisdictional and General conferences. At 1995 Annual Conference, delegates are elected to 1996 Jurisdictional and General conferences.

The Book of Discipline, paragraphs 602 and 614, specifies the formulas for the number of delegates elected to General and Jurisdictional conferences.

#GC delegates = # in formula + 2 or more alternates (next in # of votes received)

#JC delegates = 2 x #GC delegates + 2 or more alternates (next in # of votes received)

Here are some basic questions about preparation for Jurisdictional and General conferences:

- Have you found out the process in your conference for the election of delegates to Jurisdictional and General conferences? Each conference has its own process.
- Have you discussed that process with the district lay leader and the district superintendent?
- Have you been/are you attending district and conference celebrations, schools, mission fairs, and similar gatherings?
- Have you volunteered to serve on district and conference committees?
- Are you prepared to make a thoughtful, prayerful commitment to the time for study and work that precedes these conferences? The time for attending these conferences?

And then . . .

With this sketch of basic steps for preparing to serve beyond the local church come many unanswered questions. Seeking the answers to those questions is itself part of the important process for discerning your own leadership potential and that of others.

For further information, talk with your clergy, district superintendent, lay leader, United Methodist Women president, and lay leadership beyond your local church. The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women welcomes inquiries at (708) 869-7330. ■

Journal issues call for feminist papers

Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society seeks submissions for a special issue on feminist theory and practice, tentatively slated for publication in summer 1996.

Please submit articles (in triplicate) no later than Sept. 1, 1994, to *Signs*, 495 Ford Hall, 224 Church Street S.E., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. For further information about this special issue, contact Joeres or Laslett at *Signs* (612) 625-1813.

Applicants invited for Hoover award

The Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries invites applications for the 1995 Theresa Hoover Community Service and Global Citizen Award. Applications must be postmarked no later than Aug. 1, 1994.

The award honors Theresa Hoover for her service to the Women's Division, The United Methodist Church, and the ecumenical world. Hoover was a staff member of the Division from 1948-1990, and for 22 years was its chief staff officer.

The award is given annually to a woman age 21-35 without regard to race or nationality, who has demonstrated concern for her neighbors and community, shown that concern in service to her community, and exhibits an awareness of the total nature of our responsibilities in today's world.

The projected amount of the award for 1995 is \$7,000 to \$9,000 to be used as a grant for informal study, exploration, learning, research or observation in a subject area of the recipient's choosing in harmony with the current interests of the Women's Division. It is for travel to a country or region other than where the recipient resides.

To request an application, contact Women's Division General Administration,

Hoover Award, Room 1504, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. (212) 870-3600.

Nominations sought for Circuit Rider Award

The General Board of Publication is now accepting nominations for the Circuit Rider Award, which recognizes an individual(s) who has made a highly significant contribution to

membership and attendance growth in a United Methodist Church and/or Sunday school in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

Nomination letters must be postmarked no later than June 30, 1994, to be eligible for the 1994 award. To request a nomination form and further details, contact Circuit Rider Award, ATTN: Dr. Walter H. McKelvey, P.O. Box 801, Nashville, TN 37202. (615) 749-6327. ■

Ovations

To **Heather Buchta** of Las Vegas, NV, who will receive from United Methodist Communications the \$2,500 Leonard M. Perryman Scholarship for Ethnic Minority Students.

To **Linda Joyce Gesling**, a member of Wisconsin Conference in a graduate program at Northwestern University; **F. Rachel Magdalene**, a candidate for ordination in Rocky Mountain Conference in a Ph.D. program at the University of Denver and Iliff School of theology; and **Shelly Ann Matthews**, a member of the Dakotas Conference in the graduate school of Harvard Divinity School, who are among recipients of \$10,000 Dempster Fellowships (named for a 19th-century Methodist preacher) from the Division of Ordained Ministry. All are doctoral candidates with plans to teach religion or related courses in colleges or seminaries.

To **Amy Hill Hearth**, author of *Having Our Say, The Delany Sisters' First One Hundred Years*, who has received the Christopher Award, given annually "for artistic excellence affirming the highest values of the human spirit." The book, which has been on the *New York Times* bestseller hardcover non-fiction list for 18 weeks, tells the story of two African-American women, aged 104 and 102, who recall past-Civil War days.

To recipients of the 1994 Woodrow B. Seals Laity Awards from Perkins School of Theology: **Elizabeth Johannaber** of Dallas, a retired missionary educator who still teaches Korean

and Chinese students, and **Earl and Martha Wilson** of Jackson, MS, who have worked to improve Lake Junaluska Assembly Center and to establish the Mississippi Methodist Rehabilitation Center.

To **Sylvia Jurs**, Wesley-on-East, Rochester, NY, who has been named volunteer of the year by the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries.

To **Shirley A.R. Lewis**, Nashville, executive director of the Black College Fund, who has been named president of Paine College in Augusta, GA. Lewis is the second black woman to take the helm of a United Methodist-related college.

To **Marie Mealiff**, Iowa, who has been awarded the 1994 Conference Health and Welfare Chairperson Award for helping establish a parish nursing program for local churches. The award is presented by the Health and Welfare Ministries Department, General Board of Global Ministries.

To **Kathleen Murphy** of Alexandria, VA, who has been awarded the \$6,000 Stoodly-West Fellowship for graduate study toward a career in religious journalism by United Methodist Communications.

To **Margie Titus**, member of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, who received the Lucy Mashburn Memorial Award for Community Service from the Midland, TX., chapter of Altrusa International, Inc. ■

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 one more year.

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Attacks against Re-Imagining participants called threat to theological participation

Recent attacks against United Methodist women who attended a controversial ecumenical conference show a growing hostility toward "outspoken, creative and courageous women of faith," an ad hoc group has charged.

During a March 8 press conference in New York, on International Women's Day, the group of nine United Methodist women released a formal statement, "A Time of Hope—A Time of Threat," and presented supporting petitions.

The statement, signed by more than 800 UM women, says, "We are convinced that people frightened by fresh theological insights and by challenges to narrow orthodoxy are attempting to discredit and malign women. . . . Creating a climate of witch-hunting, name-calling, and fear destroys Christian community and erodes the church's capacity to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ."

The women who wrote the statement are Beryl Ingram-Ward, Patricia J. Patterson, J. Ann Craig, Bishop Susan M. Morrison, Ruth M. Harris, Jeanne Audrey Powers, Heather Murray Elkins, Peggy L. Halsey, and Barbara B. Troxell. ■

Morrison defends, explains Sophia

Bishop Susan M. Morrison (Philadelphia) has defended a November Re-Imagining Conference in Minneapolis. She says participants did not worship any goddess. She explains that "Sophia," the Greek word for wisdom, is no different than "Logos." "We can sing to God as a mineral ('Rock of Ages' for instance), but we create a crisis when the feminine dimension of God is lifted up," Morrison observes. "What does this say to our sisters, daughters, granddaughters, and others?"

—Eastern Pennsylvania Reporter

Status Report

Standards set for Violence Against Women Act

The General Board of Church and Society's Ministry of God's Human Community signed on to a letter to members of Congress who are on the crime bill conference committee. The letter urged their active support for enacting the strongest possible version of the Violence Against Women Act (VAW).

The more than 45 organizations who signed the letter believe that the act must include certain provisions such as the civil rights remedy for victims of gender-motivated violence. They also stated that involuntary HIV testing of defendants suspected of committing a crime should not be included in the bill.

The letter urged that protections for battered immigrant women must be in the final bill. "Battered immigrant women who are legally in this country because they are married to a U.S. citizen or legal resident face both domestic abuse and inflexible U.S. immigration laws that force them to remain dependent on the abuser with no redress," the letter stated.

The signers urged that every effort possible be made to expand the judicial and legal training in the final bill and that the bill must be tied to the largest and most secure source of funding in order to carry out the many important and innovative programs established in the VAW.

For more information, contact Hilary Shelton, (202) 488-5658.

Christian Social Action, Feb. 1994

Spokane group initiates clergy family project

Aware of the suffering of several pastors' ex-wives, three United Church of Christ clergy, a UCC clergy wife, a UCC pastor's ex-wife,

and a Lutheran pastor's wife have begun meeting in Spokane, WA, to explore the issue of clergy families in crisis.

This group has learned that 1) in Dutch and German churches ex-wives have organized and are raising issues for churches to consider; 2) Lutherans in the Northwest have a consultant working with families; and 3) the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence in Seattle is concerned about clergy wives and ex-wives through contacts with them and other victims of abuse and incest in clergy homes, but it is unable to respond at this time because of limited resources.

The Spokane Council of Ecumenical Ministries Board of Directors voted Dec. 9, 1993, to undertake the responsibility as the non-profit, church-related organizing agent, providing staff support for the project. Spokane is an appropriate place for such a national study to begin, because there have been many clergy and clergy-couple divorces in various denominations. The church needs to be concerned not only as a matter of pastoral care and justice for women, but also as a matter of concern for the experience of women and men in the congregations in which clergy divorce.

The Clergy Families in Crisis Project seeks to determine the extent and dynamics of clergy divorces, learn about positive models for response by judicatories, elicit the experiences of clergy wives and ex-wives, and begin networking wives and ex-wives.

To share names of ex-wives or to participate in the survey in an ex-wife network, or in any aspect of the project, contact Mary Stamp, Spokane Council of Ecumenical Ministries, 245 E. 13th Ave., Spokane, WA 99202, (509) 535-1813 or 624-5156.

Spice, Jan. 1994

Denver woman wins clergy sex-abuse case

Christa Bohrer was awarded \$712,500 March 30 in a civil suit brought against a former United Methodist pastor who pressured her into a sexual relationship that began when she was 12 years old.

Daniel DeHart was a youth minister at First United Methodist Church in Greeley, CO, at the time of the abuse. The ruling in Denver District Court was the second sexual misconduct verdict this year against the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference, which was assessed \$300,000 in the Bohrer case. In January a jury had awarded more than \$163,000 to Diane Winkler, an Aurora, CO, woman who sued the Rev. Glenn Chambers for sexual harassment.

Methodists Make News, April 8, 1994

Bishop credits women with membership growth

Bishop D. Peter Dabale, Nigeria, gives full credit to women in his nation for a membership growth from 26,000 to 95,000. Speaking at a meeting of the General Board of Discipleship, Dabale said more than 9,000 women met in a rural village for a revival. Lay members do most of the evangelizing for the 570 UM congregations in that nation.

Newscope, March 25, 1994

Women found more liberal, cognitively superior

A survey of 1,139 first-year seminary students over a 14-year period finds that women are more theologically liberal than men and they are "cognitively superior to men." [*The Journal of Pastoral Care*, Fall 1993]

Reported in *Newscope*, March 11, 1994 ■

Resources

Dream Theatres of the Soul: Empowering the Feminine through Jungian Dream Work, Jean Benedict Raffa (LuraMedia, 1994). In two parts, this text first uses the language of the ordinary objective world to explain Jungian theory about the purpose, language, and interpretation of dreams. The second part shows how dreams can instruct and guide one toward the empowerment of one's feminine soul. Paper \$15.45.

The Gospel According to Mary: A New Testament for Women, Miriam Therese Winter (Crossroad Publishing Company). According to the author, this "imaginative" text "is not entirely factual, is not exactly fiction." It's written from the viewpoint of Mary, a fictional woman who lived in the first century, as imagined by Winter. \$10.95.

Living in the Lap of the Goddess: The Feminist Spirituality Movement in America, Cynthia Eller (Crossroad, 1993). The text draws on scores of interviews with spiritual feminists, participant-observation in feminist spirituality's rituals and retreats, and a close reading of the movement's many texts. Cloth \$24.95.

Religion and Sexuality in American Fiction, Ann-Janine Morey (Cambridge University Press, 1992). Through the voice of American fiction, this book examines the relations of body and spirit (religion and sexuality) by asking two basic questions: How have American novelists handled the interaction between religious and sexual experience? Are there instructive similarities and differences in how male and female authors write about religion and sexuality? Cloth \$44.95.

REPORTS

Past the Pink and Blue Predicament: Freeing the Next Generation from Sex Stereotypes, written by Faedra Lazar Weiss

with assistance from Heather Johnston Nicholson. The report analyzes differences and similarities between girls and boys and includes recommendations for avoiding gender stereotypes that discriminate against girls. The 25-page report is available for \$2 from Girls, Inc. National Resource Center, 441 W. Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. (317) 634-7546.

Women Faculty at Work in the Classroom, or, Why It Still Hurts To Be a Woman in Labor, Bernice Resnick Sandler. The report documents students' stereotyped views, expectations, and treatment of women faculty and offers strategies for dealing with discriminatory behavior and improving the "chilly climate" for women faculty. The report

is available for \$5 (with a 20 percent discount for 15-99 copies and a 50 percent discount for 100 or more copies) from the Center for Women Policy Studies, 2000 P Street NW, Washington, DC 20036. (202) 872-1770.

AUDIO-VISUALS

WAVE, Women's Audio-Visuals in English: A Guide to Nonprint Resources in Women's Studies, Women's Studies Librarian, University of Wisconsin System. The list represents a selection of English-language films, video productions, filmstrips, slide shows, and audiocassettes produced from 1985 to 1990. Available from U of W, 430 Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706. (608) 263-5754. ■

Calendar

Copy deadlines for Flyer information

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:

June 15 Summer 1994
August 31 Fall 1994

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

June 20-27

The Churches in Solidarity with Women: The Power of God and Power in the Church. Led by Susan Holcomb Craig, Women's Ministries, Presbyterian Church USA, and Anna Case-Winters, McCormick Theological Seminary. Contact Ghost Ranch, HC 77 Box 11, Abiquiu, NM 87510.

June 27-July 1

The Power and the Danger: Women Teaching Girls. Led by Judith Dorney and

Maria Harris. Auburn Theological Seminary, 3041 Broadway, New York, NY 10027. (800) 818-2911.

July 5-10

Growing Toward Wholeness: Exploring New Ways to be Women and Men in Community. Led by Beth Johnson, Vera Swann, Maggie Peery, Nancy Eng McNeill, David Kaylor and others. Contact Montreat Conference Center, PO Box 969, Montreat, NC 28757. (800) 572-2257.

July 21-24

Wind & Fire: Spirituality in Action. Eleventh biennial conference at North Park College, Chicago. Plenary speakers include Miriam Therese Winter, Virginia Ramey Mollenkott, Nancy Hardesty, Rosemary Keller, Ann Sherer, and Jamie T. Phelps. Contact Evangelical and Ecumenical Women's Caucus, 6124 N. Byron St., Rosemont, IL 60018. (708) 299-2256. FAX (708) 299-9967.



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