

The Flyer

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Summer 2000

General Conference 2000...

Women gain in leadership roles, but lose ground on path to full/equal participation

At the 1996 General Conference we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women. That milestone symbolizes the significant progress the United Methodist Church has made toward bringing about the full and equal participation of women in the church. At the close of the 2000 General Conference, which met May 2-12 in Cleveland, we can celebrate the leadership provided by women as delegates, officers of legislative committees and subcommittees, worship leaders, bishops, executives of general agencies, and many other roles.

Significant legislative proposals from the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (see box on page 4) and Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries were approved by delegates. Among the Women's Division items are a res-

olution reaffirming the use of diverse biblical metaphors, as well as language that reflects the diversity and inclusiveness of humanity, in worship and publications, a resolution decrying recruiting and training of children as soldiers and the targeting of children, especially girls, for sexual abuse and gender-based violence; and a

resolution calling for the church to educate and advocate against hate crimes against people of color, gay men and lesbians, U.S. religious minorities, and women.

Yet any celebration of the 2000 General Conference must be tempered with the recognition that women stand to lose some hard-won ground along our journey toward full and equal participation. Votes on the status of our homosexual sisters continued the church's history of exclusion. The decision to change the formula for determining General Conference representation threatens to reduce the proportion of women elected as delegates to the next qua-



Arun Gandhi, right, grandson of Mohandas Gandhi, addresses gathering May 10 to protest UMC and other denominations' anti-homosexual policies. L to r: Rodney Powell, civil rights leader; Yolanda King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Susan Morrison, bishop of Troy and Wyoming (NY) Conferences; and, forefront, Mel White, Soulforce leader. (See story, p.12.)

drenial meeting. The male-dominated body voted to restrict a woman's right to make medical choices about her own body during pregnancy. (Of the 830 U.S. delegates, 324, or 39%, were women. Of the 992 total delegates, 359, or 36% were women.)

Moreover, lack of sufficient translators highlighted the fact that we need to move farther along on our journey toward being a truly global church. This justice issue limited the full and equal participation of some delegates from Africa.

In this issue of *The Flyer*, we offer an overview of these and other key actions taken, along with a collage of

Late-breaking news...

Three African American women elected bishops!

As this issue was going to press, Beverly Shamana, Western; Violet Fisher, Northeast; and Linda Lee, North Central, had been elected to the episcopacy of The United Methodist Church. These three women are the second, third, and fourth African American women, respectively, to be elected bishop. Leontine T.C. Kelley, elected by the Western Jurisdiction in 1984, was the first. ●

General Conference 2000: Some gains, losses from previous page

visual images of women participating in the 2000 General Conference.

Lack of language translators

By Thursday morning, the third day of conference, the Legislative Committee on Church and Society had voted by 60% to suspend its work until adequate language interpretation could be provided for delegates from South Congo, Tanzania, and North and Southwest Katonga.

After a long discussion, the delegates called for all steps possible to be taken to correct any inequities in interpretation in the 10 legislative committees. Failing that, the delegates would be given the privilege of being reassigned to committees where adequate interpretation was available.

While plenary sessions were translated into five languages—French, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Swahili, translators for two languages were provided for each legislative committee. The General Board of Global Ministries arranged for translators according to specifications and funding provided by the Commission on General Conference. Adequate funding for translators for the 2004 General Conference has been approved.

Change delegate formula

One of the most significant decisions made at this General Conference was the vote to change the formula for determining how many delegates an annual conference can elect for General Conference. The measure increases the number of delegates from the Southeastern and South Central Jurisdictions.

According to the distribution of delegates for the 2000 General Conference, only 39 percent (324 of 830) of U.S. delegates were women. Within jurisdictions, the Western elected 57 percent women (32 of 56) delegates; the Northeastern elected 47 percent (75 of 160); North Central elected 38.5 percent (70 of 182); South Central elected 37.5 percent (60 of 160); and Southeastern elected 32 percent women (87 of 272). Thus, with Southeastern electing 32 percent and Western electing 57 percent women delegates from their regions, this redistribution could potentially decrease the overall proportion of U.S. women delegates in the future.

Moreover, the representation of racial ethnic women could potentially decrease, as well, because the West has historically led in this area. "We hope that in the future the South Central and Southeastern Jurisdictions will work to increase the proportion of women and racial ethnic persons in their delegations," emphasizes Cecelia Long, member of the general secretariat of GCSRW.

Restrict reproductive choices

Following the presentation of a minority report and a move to refer the matter to the General Board of Church and Society, delegates passed legislation calling for an end to the use of dilation and extraction form of late-term abortion, so-called "partial birth abortions." The new church position

provides an exception only when the physical life of the mother is in danger and no other medical procedure is available, or in the case of severe fetal anomalies incompatible with life. The church position does not provide for an exception for the health of the mother.

Approximately six weeks after the close of General Conference, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Nebraska law prohibiting so-called "partial birth abortions." It said the Nebraska law violated a woman's constitutional rights by imposing an undue burden on her decision to end her pregnancy. Similar to the UMC's new position, the stricken Nebraska law did not provide for an exception for the health of the mother.

Other actions

Among the hundreds of decisions made at General Conference, the following actions highlight decisions of particular importance to women:

- Adopted a constitutional amendment calling for commitment to eliminating racism in every aspect of church life.
- Asked GCCUIC to sponsor a series of dialogues in the quadrennium on homosexuality and church unity, but continued the ban on funding groups that advocate the homosexual lifestyle.
- Opposed a call for GCFA to monitor all levels of the UMC to ensure that no UM funds are spent to support or oppose abortion.
- Called for capital punishment to be abolished in the U.S. and all nations of the world.
- Called for banning most handguns and automatic weapons in all nations where the UMC has a presence.
- Raised several concerns about women and Social Security and referred a resolution opposing the privatization of Social Security to GBCS.
- Affirmed the significant mission of the four UM-related women's colleges.
- Asked UM publishers to collaborate in a study of ways to facilitate progress toward the goal of using only "processed chlorine-free paper" and to report on progress to the 2004 General Conference.
- Added a new paragraph to the Social Principles (Para. 66) that declares "all individuals living with HIV and AIDS should be treated with dignity and respect," and urged the church to "provide educational opportunities to the family and the community."
- Urged UMs to avoid purchasing products made by workers who are being exploited because of their age, gender, or economic status.
- Called for the West African Peace Keeping Force to be deployed immediately to keep the peace in Sierra Leone alongside the UN mission in that African nation.
- Agreed to support financially, politically, and spiritually the peace initiatives in the Congo by the All Africa Conference of Churches and Bishop Fama Onema.
- Condemned the violent outbreaks between rebels and the Philippine government in 14 localities in Mindanao.
- Urged respect for the rights of religious minorities in India.
- Urged the United Nations to lift the 10-year-old sanctions against Iraq. ■



Cynthia Wilson, Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta, conducts singing during opening worship at 2000 General Conference May 2.

Anybody Listenin'?... **Subcommittee reports on Monday aft.:**

Committee	Female % comm.	Female particip.
Church & Society	38%	32%
Conferences	38%	29%
Discipleship	40%	33%
Faith & Order	33%	48%
Financial Admin	20%	22%
Gen & Jud Admin	36%	22%
Global Ministries	39%	60%
Higher Ed	47%	43%
Indep Comm	25%	24%
Local Church	34%	29%

(bold=parity or above)

Legislative Committee presentations to floor:

The inclusiveness in leadership style of the committees is evident as the docket items are presented. Many committees intentionally plan for a diverse panel of their officers and subcom chairs to present docket items. We celebrate this intentional shared leadership, and encourage it for all committees in the remaining days.

Presiding Officers Committee – Alert:

In the first six days of GC, we have observed an overwhelming majority of Anglo male bishops serving as presiding officers.

Observations about plenaries:

In Mon. morning business session, females (32% of delegates) were 38% of the speakers, greater than parity. Laity (50% of GC) participated at 46% and racial ethnic persons at 34%.

We recognize several requests from the body to make decision making more inclusive: reading the ballots aloud, providing sign language interpretation, and printing pictures of nominees. (Caution: appearance is not a reliable predictor of racial or ethnic self-identity)

On Tuesday morning, Bishop Sprague recognized persons at every microphone on the floor except #1, and males and females participated equally.

Is there a “gender bar” on gun control issues?

During Church and Society Legislative Committee debate on gun control, female participation increased dramatically, reaching equitable participation. When the issue came to plenary, males made 72% of the speeches.

Information provided by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women’s Monitoring Team

This sample box from *The Daily Christian Advocate*, prepared by the GCSRW, appeared on May 10. (Copyright 2000 by The United Methodist Publishing House and reprinted with permission.)

GCSRW continues ministry of monitoring women’s participation

Women lifted their voices in praise, challenge, question, outrage, reconciliation, and prayer throughout the 2000 General Conference, in Cleveland, May 2-12. Many times those voices inspired and led others to reflect on God’s spirit moving among the body. Hearing those voices in itself would have been cause for celebration in the last century, when women were often absent from discussions and, when present, were not heard. Today we expect to hear women’s voices in most church settings, yet many women continue to go unheard.

Because of the disparity between women’s and men’s participation in church groups, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women continued its ministry of monitoring.

Here are excerpts from *The Daily Christian Advocate* of observations made by GCSRW monitors during General Conference committee meetings and plenaries:

On subject matter affects participation, May 8:

In **Faith and Order** where females are 34% of the group, females participated at 26% on topics of Jesus Christ in Ministry and Role and Care of Clergy, but participated at 41% on topics of the Natural World and Nurturing Community.

In **Church and Society**, female participation increased dramatically in

discussion of gun control.

In **Local Church**, females are 28% of the group and participated at 21% during discussion of associate membership, professing language, inclusive language, doctrinal standard for charge conference members, scouting. Clergy are 58% of the group at 79% participation.

On witness of persons on floor of conference during votes on homosexuality issues, May 11:

A principle of inclusiveness is that until our bias and prejudice are raised to a conscious level, we are unable to change our behaviors and their impact on others. In this way, the witness during the session was a peaceful way to raise to active consciousness that those about whom we legislate are indeed real and present with us, even as we legislate. While the motion failed to work together in a discernment process, we encourage the church and our local congregations to use the resolution “Being Church amid Disagreement” (approved by this General Conference) as a resource.

On officers elected by legislative committees, May 4:

Officers elected: 4 of 10 chairs, 3 of 10 vice chairs, and 8 of 10 secretaries are female delegates. Might an observation of gender role stereotyping be valid? ☐

Monitoring the Church

When a large group of people makes changes that affect even larger numbers of people, how do we monitor ourselves to ensure that we make changes to improve rather than diminish the inclusiveness of the UMC?

To what extent has the church empowered women to achieve full and equal participation?

Following are some monitoring tools to help the UMC continue to be mindful of how its decisions affect the participation of women and racial ethnic persons.

- ☐ Who is proposing this item/action? Who is supporting it and why? Who is opposing it and why?
- ☐ How does this proposal affect the empowerment and full participation of women in the United Methodist Church? Laity and clergy? Ethnic and racial minority persons? Youth and young adults? Older adults? Central Conference members? Others?
- ☐ What will this proposal cost? What will not be done if this proposal is funded/adopted?
- ☐ If this proposal were approved, will it enable more United Methodists to be effective in ministry and mission? Who will be enabled and how? Does this proposal address an important social justice issue clearly and is its purpose sufficient to enable us to take prayerful and considered action? ☐

Pre-General Conference Orientation for Women Delegates...

Attracts 500; encourages networking, collaboration

Some 500 women delegates and guests gathered for Pre-General Conference Orientation for Women Delegates on the morning of May 2, preceding opening worship at the 2000 General Conference. This event is co-sponsored by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women and the Women's Division,

General Board of Global Ministries.

The orientation, designed to connect women across conferences and to alert them to processes and issues, received

high marks from participants. Especially valuable were the table conversations

within legislative committees.

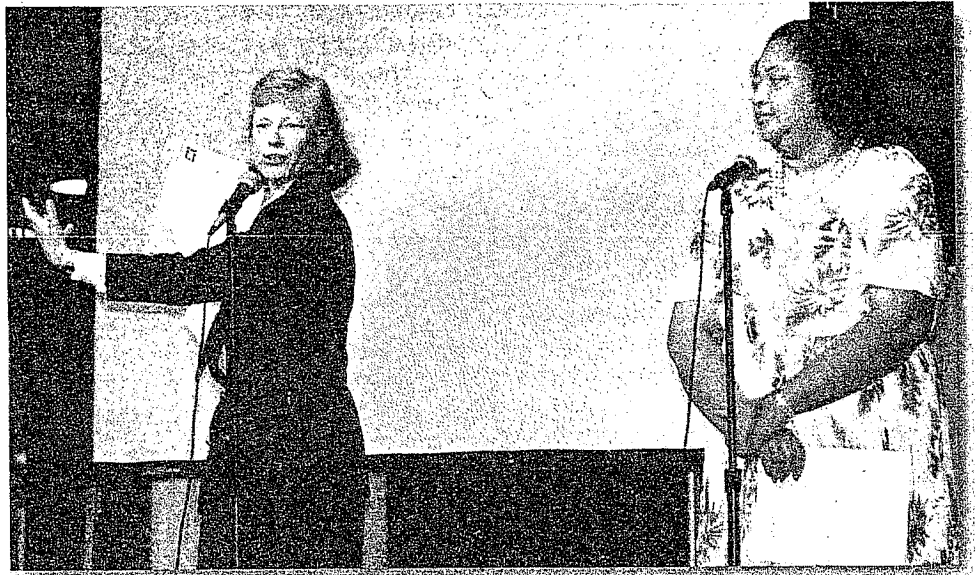
As one woman commented, "It was helpful to hear from the voices of experience...to know of whom we newcomers can ask questions."

Another participant pointed out the value of time for small groups to strategize about electing legislative committee officers.

Presentations included leadership from both GCSRW and Women's Division, along with other featured speakers. Sara S. Shingler and Joyce Waldon Bright, presidents of Women's Division and GCSRW, respectively, welcomed the participants to the orientation. Music was led by Jenni Yeoh and Mark A. Miller. Serving as moderators for the morning's presentations were Francis E.W. Guidry and Mee Sue Park.

Leading off the presentations with information about the organization and processes of General Conference were Mollie M. Stewart, chairperson of the Commission on General Conference, and Carolyn M. Marshall, secretary of General Conference.

A number of presenters addressed issues of concern to women: Carolyn E. Johnson, Connectional Process Team and related connectional issues; Terri Rae Chattin and Christine Keels, legislation of concern to women and children; Sandra Kelley Lackore, bud-



Terri Rae Chattin, left, and Christine Keels outline legislation of particular concern to women and children during the Pre-General Conference Orientation for Women Delegates, co-sponsored by GCSRW and Women's Division.

get processes; and Sally Curtis Askew, role of the Judicial Council at General Conference.

The orientation closed with wor-

ship commissioning of delegates, prepared by Joan Chapin and Mary Kathryn Pearce. ●

How GCSRW resolutions, legislative proposals fared at 2000 Conference

Here are highlights of resolutions and legislative proposals submitted by GCSRW to the 2000 General Conference. For the full text of these items, see the web site at www.umc.org/gcsr.

- Being Church Amid Disagreement: Concurrence as amended by legislative committee
- Churches in Solidarity with Women: From Solidarity to Accountability: (Replaces previous resolutions on the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women 1988-1998.) Concurrence as amended by legislative committee
- Eradication of Sexual Harassment in The United Methodist Church and Society: (Replaces previous resolutions on sexual harassment.) Concurrence
- Goals and Recommendations for Full Participation of All Women: Concurrence
- Sexual Ethics within Ministerial Relationships in the United Methodist Church: (Replaces previous resolutions on sexual misconduct; provides update on survey of church and renews the position of the denomination.) Concurrence
- P. 4 Article IV: Proposed amendment to "Inclusiveness of the Church": The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women proposed adding "gender, marital or family status, age, and disability" to the paragraph. Non-concurrence
- P. 117: Proposed amendment to Section IX. Called to Inclusiveness: Non-concurrence

Worth repeating . . .

Kathryn Bannister, accepting a certificate honoring her for serving with distinction in the World Council of Churches on its Central Committee during the last 7 years and now as one of the reigning presidents of the World Council of Churches, referred to her service as pastor of a local church in Kansas and her ecumenical work for the WCC by saying:

"...for me, they are two parts of a whole and...those things must be kept together, so that we become ecumenical in all that we do in our local place and in what we do as a church out in the world."

Janet R. Ellinger, commenting on her arrest on the conference floor, as a spontaneous response to the situation by herself and her brother John, when asked why she joined the group:

"I remembered Maxie Dunnam's quote at the end of Disciple III, 'If the church is not a home for everyone, it is not the church.'"

Janice Riggle Huie, preaching at General Conference on May 5:

"What incredible arrogance for one part of the body of Christ to consider pruning another part of the body of Christ...In fact, for one part of the body of Christ to hurt or diminish another part of the body of Christ—it is to wound Christ's own self."



Susan Laurie, one of the protesters arrested on the floor of General Conference, reflecting on her experience:

"Our movement has come out of the closet to delegates and others who do not want to hear and see us.... Our energy comes from the fact that we do not make this stand for ourselves but for others who cannot be here."

Rev. James Lawson, a United Methodist retired clergy and civil rights leader who worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., speaking dur-

ing the outdoor protest against the negative language regarding homosexuals in *The Book of Discipline* on the Cleveland Convention Center mall, drew parallels to the civil rights movement:

"Immorality is the charge aimed at the Black community for 400 years."

Dr. Janice Love, being honored for more than 20 years' service representing *The UMC* in the ongoing and continuing work of the World Council of Churches:

"And most personally, to the people I call my ecumenical mothers: United Methodist Women and the Women's Division..., who nurtured in me, very early in my life, a great passion to reach across these deep differences, indeed these chasms, that divide us in our church, our Christian family, and our world."

Mollie M. Stewart, North Alabama lay delegate, chairperson of the Commission on the General Conference, commenting on how she was surviving the very trying days of conference:

"I survived segregation. God is my strength, God is in charge, and I am a free woman."

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, Rocky Mountain Conference, preaching during final morning worship:

"No matter what our words have been, no matter how many votes we have taken, if the world is not different because you and I have come here, then it's because you and I have put something other than Christ at the center of our lives."

Bishop Woodie W. White, Indiana, speaking during a news conference on homosexuality:

"As a bishop, I expect no pastor ever to close the door or membership to a person of homosexual orientation."

Bishop Calvin McConnell, in a letter donating the stole he received at his consecration as bishop in 1980 to the Shower of Stoles Project:

"I find it increasingly difficult to wear this stole which was given to me as an affirmation of my ministry when

there are others who have been denied the right to enter or continue in their ministry solely because of their sexual identity."



Martha Juillart, left, and Calvin and Velma McConnell display Bishop McConnell's stole, offered to the Shower of Stoles project.

Jane Tews, Desert Southwest, withdrawing her name from nominees for Judicial Council (Tews had been elected to a four-year term, by the 2000 General Conference but had to relinquish her newly-elected position. A Judicial Council ruling, on site at General Conference, on a petition to eliminate the mandatory retirement age of 70 for Judicial Council members made a current member of Judicial Council eligible to serve another four years. Thus, the earlier election of Tews was rendered invalid. The Western Jurisdiction has not had a Judicial Council member for more than 30 years.):

"...Needless to say, in 48 hours I went from a great deal of joy to a great deal of despair. Unfortunately, despite assertions from a number of delegates from the floor that this was not a political process, many believe that this judicial election was extremely politicized, and worse, that judicial integrity has been called into question.... In an effort to bring this election back to higher ground, and in an attempt to alleviate any feeling that I may be entitled to the position as an alternate because of all that has happened, and because I do not want to be a bone tossed to the Western Jurisdiction and all those who have felt completely disenfranchised by many actions of the General Conference, I respectfully withdraw my name."

Traci West (New York), in context of floor debate on language declaring homosexuality as incompatible with Christian teaching:

"The Word of God says, 'Let a

continued on page 11

Sights from the 2000 General C



Among the many visual images from 2000 General Conference, *The Flyer* highlights a few photos from events sponsored by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW), along with others featuring women and their contributions.

To view United Methodist News photos from General Conference, visit the web site at www.umns.umc.org/gc2000news.

A group of participants in the Pre-General Conference Orientation for Women Delegates discuss strategies for electing legislative committee officers. The event was co-sponsored by GCSRW and the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries. (See story on page 4.)



Students of the Africa University Choir contribute their beautiful music to worship on May 5.

Marcia McFee, front, leads worshipers in celebration and praise during the GCSRW-sponsored service on Sunday, May 7



Bishop Judy Craig, West Ohio, claps her hands to the music while presiding at 2000 General Conference on May 10. Assisting her and seated behind are Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader, Wisconsin, and Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel, retired.



A volunteer in a demonstration outside the Cleveland Convention Center holds silhouettes representing people who have been killed by acts of violence because of their sexual orientation.

Conference

Photos by **Bonny Stalnaker Roth**

The Agape Children's Handbell Choir from Agape Methodist Church in Parnu, Estonia, plays an Estonian hymn during May 11 morning worship.



These Youngstown (East Ohio) District volunteers were among those serving some 2,300 cookies to delighted General Conference participants. From left are Janet Grafton, Irene Wagner, Edith Thornton, Dot Gungle, Kathleen Odell, Patricia Christ, and Eleanor Frost. This monumental effort involved 58 churches contributing 40 dozen cookies each. Early every morning two school buses arrived bringing some 70 volunteers to work on site.



Esther Miyahara-Cho, former member of GCSRW, presents the Advancing Korean Ministry Plan to the 2000 General Conference.



Mollie Stewart, chairperson of the Commission on General Conference, explains some General Conference processes to participants in the Pre-General Conference Orientation for Women Delegates, co-sponsored by GCSRW and Women's Division, GBGM.



Parents proclaim their love for their gay son during a rally on May 6, sponsored by Reconciling Congregation Program.



Margie Briggs, member of GCSRW, reads scripture during the May 7 worship service sponsored by GCSRW. Behind her are, from left, Marie Rivera, former member of GCSRW, and Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, Arkansas, member of GCSRW.

Status Report

Outrage greets Southern Baptist Convention proposal

Leaders of the national multi-faith, multi-racial organization Equal Partners in Faith (EPF) expressed dismay and outrage following the release May 18 of a proposed statement of belief declaring women should no longer be ordained as pastors. The statement to be voted on by messengers to the June 13-14 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Orlando, FL, includes the phrase: "While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture."

"It is deplorable that a committee of white, heterosexual men would lead people of faith back to the barbaric ages of patriarchal oppression of women," stated Steven Baines, Executive Coordinator of EPF and a Southern Baptist minister. "Women within the denomination should be insulted

that mere men would deny the call of an inclusive God in the lives of thousands of women serving the church. People of all faiths should be alarmed and speak out against this 'spiritual rape' happening at the hands of Southern Baptist leaders."

Critics and supporters alike are saying the statement is likely to pass at this year's convention, which has been controlled by ultra-conservatives since 1979. "Southern Baptists in the last two years have relegated the position of women in society to little more than the kitchen and the bedroom," stated Rev. Meg Riley, Chair of EPF's Women of Faith Initiative and an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister. "We are concerned that the continued arrogance shown by SBC leaders to women, homosexuals and people of other faith traditions will erode the fabric of diversity and inclusion which has made this country a land where genuine worship can flourish."

Proposed changes to the Baptist Faith and Message also included prohibitions against homosexuality and demanded that Christians have a mandated duty to proselytize people of other faith traditions to Christianity. This statement of belief is the centralized teachings of the Southern Baptist denomination, which claims nearly 16 million members.

Rev. Baines concluded in his statement, "It is poor Biblical scholarship to base this decision on a Scripture text in 1 Timothy, which requires women not even to speak in worship assemblies. I wonder how many Sunday School classes and worship services could actually happen this Sunday in Baptist churches if leaders actually took the Bible literally."

—United Methodist CALLED OUT:
called_out@hotmail.com, May 18, 2000

Editor's note: The measure was passed. Details, more coverage of women's ordination in the next issue of The Flyer.

Ovations

To women elected to serve as officers of legislative committees at 2000 General Conference:

Donde P. Ashmos, Southwest Texas, vice chairperson of Conferences; **Judy J. Benson**, Oklahoma, secretary of Local Church; **Margie M. Briggs**, Missouri West, secretary of Independent Commissions; **Terri Rae Chattin**, Baltimore-Washington, chairperson of Church and Society; **Pat Deal**, North Texas, secretary of Church and Society; **Janet L. Forbes**, Rocky Mountain, secretary of General/Judicial Administration; **Christine Harman**, Kentucky, chairperson of General/Judicial Administration; **Christine Dean Keels**, Baltimore-Washington, chairperson of Global Ministries; **Youngsook Kang**, Rocky Mountain, vice chairperson of Global Ministries; **Katharine W. Lehman**, North Indiana, vice chairperson of Higher Education and Ministry; **Mary-Elizabeth M. Moore**, California-Pacific, secretary of Faith and Order; **Deborah L. Pritts**, North Central New York; secretary of Conferences; **Phyllis R. Rodriguez**, Wisconsin, secretary of Financial Administration; **J. LaVon Wilson**, Illinois Great Rivers, chairperson of Higher Education and Ministry; and **June B. Willson**, South Carolina, secretary of Discipleship.

To **Sally Curtis Askew**, Bogart, GA, Southeastern Jurisdiction, who was re-elected as secretary of the Judicial Council.

To women elected to serve on the University Senate: **Charlene Black**, associate vice president for academic affairs and dean at Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA; and **Trudie Kibbe (Preciphs) Reed**, president of Philander Smith College, Little Rock, AR.

To **Mary A. Daffin**, an attorney from Houston, TX, South Central Jurisdiction, who was elected to serve on the Judicial Council.

To **Committee on Church and Society**, who suspended their work until adequate language interpreters could be found to allow Central Conference delegates to participate on committees.

To **Martha Juillerat**, who collected and organized the Shower of Stoles Project, as a witness to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people of faith.

To **Carolyn Marshall**, who continued to provide gracious leadership as secretary of General Conference and has been elected to serve again as secretary of 2004 General Conference.

To **Marcia McFee**, liturgical dancer and worship leader, who designed and led worship on Sunday, May 7, sponsored by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

To **Cynthia Wilson**, who blessed General Conference plenary sessions with her musical leadership and singing. ☉

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*.

Flyer

Join worldwide moratorium on the death penalty

You are invited to endorse a worldwide moratorium on the death penalty, as a first and necessary step toward the full protection of human rights for all. The Moratorium 2000 campaign is a global effort to change our perception of capital punishment.

You can get involved in many ways. Add your signature to the Moratorium 2000 petition which will be delivered to the United Nations on Human Rights Day, December 10 and help gather other signatures at church, campuses, workshops, meetings, rallies, and concerts. For more information, go to www.moratorium2000.org.

Ecumenical Women establish web site

Ecumenical Women 2000+, a group that includes United Methodists, has established a web site that provides information on issues affecting women around the world. The coalition, which monitors issues at the United Nations, offers information, action alerts, worship resources and other Internet links through its new web site at www.ew2000plus.org.

Ecumenical Women 2000+'s goals include working within its members' faith traditions to raise the status of women and human rights; promoting dialogue between faith communities and the United Nations; offering a perspective of liberation and justice for women to the U.N. community; and collaborating with other nongovernmental organizations on women's issues. The coordinating team for Ecumenical Women includes the United Methodist office for the United Nations, which has representation from the General Boards of Global Ministries and Church and Society.

GBCS urges UMs ask White House, Congress to help children and families

New budget surplus forecasts (\$4.6 trillion over the next 10 years) offer the United States an unprecedented opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of our children and poor working families. The General Board

of Church and Society (GBCS) is urging all United Methodists to ask the White House and members of Congress to invest this surplus to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are addressed.

For more information, contact Eliezer Valentín-Castañón, Program Director/Children, Church/Govt. Relations, GBCS at (202) 488-5657; or visit the GBCS web site at www.umc-gbcs.org.

Native People features two Cherokee women

Voices of Native People, a publication of the Native American Communications Office of UM Communications, features, in the April 2000 issue, an interview with Geneva Welch and Lish Sneed, both of the Eastern Band of Cherokee.

The article, "The Elder's Project: 'First, dedicate yourself to God...,'" is available from NACO, P.O. Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202. Phone: (615) 742-5414. Fax: (615) 742-5413. Email: rbuckley@umcom.umc.org.

Jobs

Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, is seeking candidates to fill the following faculty positions for Fall 2001. Applications will be reviewed after the stated deadline for each search. For full consideration the application must be postmarked on or before the deadline, but applications will be accepted until a candidate has been selected.

Historical Theology: Candidate whose teaching and research integrate historical and constructive approaches to the study of Christian theology. Tenured or tenure-track appointment, preferably at the rank of Associate or full Professor. Concentration in the medieval, Reformation, and/or early modern period is desirable. Review of applications will begin on or about September 11, 2000. Address inquiries/applications, with a CV and three references, to Historical Theology Search.

New Testament: Candidate will hold a Ph.D. or equivalent degree, have demonstrated achievement in the field of New Testament, especially Pauline studies, and have interest and ability in interpreting the New Testament in its theological as well as its literary and historical dimensions. Rank and salary open. Review of applications will begin on or about October 15, 2000. Address inquiries/applications, with a CV and three references, to New Testament Search.

Old Testament/Hebrew Bible (three faculty appointments). The previously announced search for the W.J.A. Power Professor of Biblical Hebrew and Old Testament Interpretation is continuing. Senior appointment for a candidate with demonstrated achievement as a scholar and teacher. Address inquiries/applications, with a CV and three references, to Power Chair Old Testament Search.

Two new searches: Candidates for these positions will hold a Ph.D. or equivalent

degree, have demonstrated achievement as teachers and scholars, and have interest and ability in interpreting the Hebrew Bible in its theological as well as its literary and historical dimensions. Tenured or tenure track, rank and salary open based on experience and qualifications. Review of applications will begin on or about November 1, 2000. Address inquiries/applications, with a CV and three references, to Old Testament Search. Address for inquiries/applications: Perkins School of Theology, SMU Box 750133, Dallas TX 75275-0133. Website: www.smu.edu/~theology.

Boston University School of Theology, Boston, is seeking candidates to fill the following positions for Sept. 1, 2001.

New Testament and Christian Origins who specializes in Pauline correspondence. Rank and salary are open. Responsibilities include teaching on both the M.Div. and the Th.D./Ph.D. levels. A published scholar who is able to integrate historical reconstruction with literary and theological analysis. Demonstrated competence, not only in the Pauline literature, but also in its religious, historical, and social contexts. Apply by Nov. 15 to Dr. Robert C. Neville, Dean, Boston University School of Theology, 745 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215. (617) 353-3050.

Religion and the Social Sciences. Rank and salary are open. Responsibilities include teaching masters and doctoral students in the School of Theology and the Graduate Division of Religious and Theological Studies in programs of social ethics, religion and society, practical theology, and other areas for which the social sciences are relevant. A published scholar with an earned doctorate in sociology, political science, anthropology, economics, or another social science. Apply by October 15 to Dr. Robert C. Neville, details above.

Resources

100 Christian Women Who Changed the Century, Helen Kooiman Hosier (Baker Book House, 2000). From Twila Paris to Mother Teresa, Amy Carmichael to Joni Eareckson Tada, this collection of vignettes offers insights into the lives of a hundred women who literally changed the 20th century. \$14.99.

The Befuddled Stork: Helping Persons of Faith Debate Beginning-of-Life Issues, ed. Sally B. Geis and Donald E. Messer (Abingdon Press, 2000). Focusing on abortion, reproductive technology, and human cloning, this book will help one think theologically as one struggles with contemporary ethical issues. \$14.00

Children in War, Alan Raymond and Susan Raymond (Harper Collins, 2000). Since 1990 over two million children have died in wars. This is the tragic story of war told through the voices of children in Bosnia, Israel, Rwanda, and Northern Ireland. \$19.95.

Daughters of Dignity: African Women in the Bible and the Virtues of Black Womanhood, LaVerne McCain Gill (Pilgrim Press, 2000). By reading about the strength, courage, and faith that propelled generations of their foremothers, African-American women will be empowered to raise strong families and have productive careers. \$16.95.

Feminist Liturgy: A Matter of Justice, Janet R. Walton (Liturgical Press, 2000). The author examines four aspects of feminist liturgies: the historical context in which they developed, the tasks and principles that guide them, the possibilities they offer, and application to regular institutional liturgies. Her goal is the development of liturgies that will be true for all of us. \$9.95.

Houses: A Family Memoir of Grace, Roberta C. Bondi (Abingdon Press, 2000). Over the course of the chapters, each of which is more or less structured around a particular house in which Bondi or one of her foremothers lived, Bondi reconstructs how she came to be who she is; how, in particular, the women and the houses in her past, and in her foremothers' pasts, shaped her life and their lives. \$25.00

The Long March, Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick (Beyond Word Publishing, 2000). This true story of the Choctaw Nation after the Trail of Tears, endorsed by the Choctaw nation of Oklahoma, is appropriate for older children, youth, and adults. In the story, Ghoona, a young Choctaw, must decide

whether to answer the Irish people's plea in 1847 for relief during the potato famine. In the process, he hears of the Long March from his grandmother. \$14.95.

The Loyal Opposition: Struggling with the Church on Homosexuality, ed. Tex Sample and Amy DeLong (Abingdon Press, 2000). The collection offers a multi-faceted argument that the gospel requires a commitment to the full inclusion of all persons in the body of Christ. \$16.00.

The Luminous Web: Essays on Science and Religion, Barbara Brown Taylor (Cowley Publications, 2000). In these talks on the dialogue between science and Christian faith, the author suggests ways we might close the gap between spirit and matter, between Sunday and Monday. She invites us to discover new insights along with her and gives us a map and a compass to see these wonders for ourselves. \$10.95.

The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions, Marcus J. Borg and N. T. Wright (HarperSan Francisco, 2000). Two well-known theological scholars—a conservative and a liberal—debate the most important biblical questions of our time and discuss what these differences mean for Christians today. \$15.00

More Than Chains and Toil: A Christian Work Ethic of Enslaved Women, Joan M. Martin (Westminster John Knox, 2000). Mining the grimmest depths of the Black experience in America, the author uncovers knowledge of considerable value to current debates in economic ethics and offers a provocative alternative to current ethics of work. \$24.95.

Politics, Religion, and the Common Good: Advancing a Distinctly American Conversation about Religion's Role in Our Shared Life, Martin E. Marty with Jonathan Moore (Jossey Bass, 2000). The preeminent authority on religion in America shatters myths and stereotypes concerning the role of politics in government. \$22.50.

Say It Loud: Middle-Class Blacks Talk About Racism and What to Do About It, Annie S. Barnes (Pilgrim Press, 2000). The author has interviewed nearly 200 Black men and women, mostly college students from middle-class families, to find out what their experiences of racism have been. Text includes ideas for countering acts of racism. \$16.95. ☉

General Conference by the numbers...

Delegates: 992
Items sent to petition secretary: 14,000
Different proposals: 1,998
(mailed petitions are frequently duplicates)
Pieces of legislation passed: 1,578
(several proposals are grouped together)
Hours spent in plenary sessions: 69
Hours in committees: 36
Cookies prepared: 250,000
Number arrested (including 2 bishops): 224
Bishops supporting demonstration: 13
Pages in *Daily Christian Advocate*: 2,564
Announcements in the DCA: 58
Tables on plenary floor: 180
Distance in feet from presiding officer to back row: 220
Stoles in "Shower of Stoles": 206
Unanimous votes: 0
Bishops: 135 (68 retired)
Miles of network computer cable: 3

—*Newscope*, May 19, 2000

Summer 2000
Vol. XX, No. 2

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.

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Printed on recycled paper.

Calendar

Sept. 10-13

Clergy Misconduct: Sexual Abuse in the Ministerial Relationship, Seattle, Washington. Training of trainers workshop. Contact Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, (206) 634-1903. Fax: (206) 634-0115. E-mail: cpsdv@cpsdv.org. Web site: www.cpsdv.org.

Sept. 20-23

Appalachian Assembly IX, Charleston, WV. The UM Appalachian Development Committee sponsors this gathering, which offers a special emphasis this year on hospitality and inclusiveness for the growing numbers of racial ethnic persons in the region. Contact N. Sharon Leatherman, P.O. Box 2231, Hagerstown, MD 21741-2231. Phone and fax: (301) 791-7355. Email: UMADC@aol.com.

Oct. 26-28

Millennial Gathering of the Re-Imagining Community, Minneapolis. Featured presenters will include Rebecca Walker, Rev. Kathy Black, and Delores Williams, Mary Daly, and Thandeka. Registration will be limited to 1,000 registrants on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration deadline is October 12. For more information or to request registration materials, contact the Re-Imagining office. 122 W. Franklin Avenue, Room 7, Minneapolis MN 55404-2435. Voice: 612-879-8036. Fax: (612)879-8464. Web site: www.reimagining.org. E-mail: reimaginer@aol.com.

Dec. 28-31

Young Woman, Rise Up, St. Charles, IL. This national gathering of teens and college/university women is sponsored by the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries. For more information and scholarship information, contact the UMW president in your conference.

March 9-11, 2001

Women's retreat for survivors of sexual abuse by clergy, Lacey, WA. A retreat at St. Placid Priory, featuring Billie Mazzei. Contact Billie Mazzei, (360) 438-2595. E-mail: bmazzei@stplacid.org.

*Visit the Commission
on the web.*

www.umc.org/gcsrww

Worth repeating from p. 5

woman learn in silence with full submission. I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over a man. She is to keep silent.' The Word of God says, 'Slaves obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling in singleness of heart as you obey Christ.' The Word of God repeatedly says that women must be submissive. Every woman here, every woman here, if she were to obey the true teachings of the Word of God, would be silent. Every Black person, every African here, if they were to obey the true teachings of God about obeying our masters would be on our knees to our White brothers and sisters and saying 'Massa, I obey you as I would obey Christ.' I say to you, church, this is our opportunity not to use the Bible one more time as a club to beat up our brothers and sisters. Admit we are divided on this issue, seize this opportunity to step into the grace of God and embrace the love of Jesus Christ for all of us. Is there not enough hate, enough war in your countries, is there not enough prejudice, is there not enough use of the Bible to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation? Let us say no to the world and worry about the outcasts. Worry about the one that Jesus calls us to worry about: the oppressed. I ask you, church, seize this moment and oppose this main motion, vote no." ☉

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.

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

For better health for women and a healthier environment for our children, our newsletter is printed on chlorine-free, acid-free paper.



Arrest bishop, 180 others in gay policies protest

More than 180 people, including Bishop Joseph Sprague of Northern Illinois, were arrested May 10 at General Conference for engaging in civil disobedience as a way of protesting United Methodist policies regarding homosexuality.

The arrests followed a rally and a march around the Cleveland Convention Center, while delegates inside the building were in worship and heard a sermon by Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey.

Outside, about 300 people participated in a rally organized by Soulforce, a coalition of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and heterosexuals from a variety of faith backgrounds. The group was pushing the United Methodist Church and other mainline denominations to fully accept sexual minorities in the life of the church.

After the rally, groups of 13 to 25 people took turns blocking the convention center driveway and were led away by police. They were

charged with aggravated disorderly conduct.

Bishop C. Joseph Sprague was among the first protesters arrested. At least nine other active or retired United Methodist bishops participated in the rally but were not arrested.

—UMNews, May 10, 2000

Shower of Stoles project available for display

The display of over 200 unique United Methodist liturgical stoles by the AMAR Coalition (UM groups working for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons in the church) during General Conference is available for display at conferences, local churches, and other church gatherings.

These stoles, collected from United Methodists within the past year, are part of an ecumenical collection of over 800 stoles from gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people of faith from all over North America, along with supportive persons and congregations.

Martha Juillerat, Director of the Shower of Stoles Project, and former

Copy deadlines

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

Sept. 15, 2000.....Fall 2000
Dec. 15, 2000.....Winter 2001

Send to:
Bonny Stalnaker Roth
GCSRW1200 Davis St.
Evanston, IL 60201

(800) 523-8390.
You may also submit information through e-mail: gcsrww@gcfa.org.

Presbyterian minister, stated that "this Shower of Stoles is displayed with the profound hope that God's loving church will someday fully recognize and accept the gifts of its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members."

To arrange for a display, contact Shower of Stoles Project, 57 Upton Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55405. (612) 377-8792. E-mail: stoleproj@aol.com. ☐