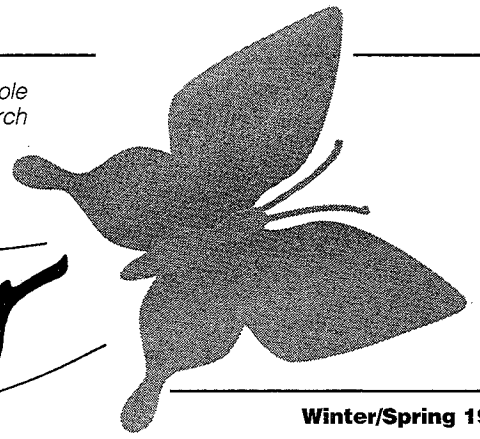


The Flyer



Vol XVIII, No. 2

Winter/Spring 1998

February meeting in Nashville

Commission members hear from partner agencies

In keeping with their meeting theme, "Making the Church Whole: Deep Connections in Communities of Faith," members of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) explored women's issues with representatives from other United Methodist agencies. During the February 19-22, 1998, meeting at Scarritt-Bennett Center, Commission members heard presentations from and conferred with several Nashville-based general boards and agencies: the United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH), General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), and General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM).

UMPH targets women writers

Harriett Jane Olson, vice president, editorial director, and UMC book editor of UMPH, led

a panel of UMPH participants who outlined their own responsibilities and described the common concerns they share with GCSRW.

Judy Newman-St. John, development editor in the Children's Market Book Unit, outlined the guidelines her division uses to avoid gender and other stereotypes.

Mildred Haney, special assistant to the president for Affirmative Action/Employee Relations, explained the agency's efforts to ensure equal opportunities for women. She reported that of the 10 executive staff, 2

on the planning council consisting of executives and leaders, 8 of 21, or 38%, are women; 18, or 43%, of leadership positions are held by women.

Mary Catherine Dean, director of the Adult/General Interest Market Book Unit, explained that the Dimensions for Living book series is targeted to an audience comprised primarily of women and most of the writers are women. Abingdon Press is aimed at a broader audience. Approximately 38% of her unit's books are written by women.

Bob Ratcliffe, senior editor of professional resources, pointed out that his area's focus is academic books on the arts and practice of ministry. Among



Lynn Scott, Director, Continuing Education for Ministry, GBHEM.

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Worship services, Sabbath school fortify members

For many Commission members, worship services, such as those offered at the February 19-22 meeting, represent one of the most important portions of Commission meetings, for these shared experiences embody inclusive language liturgy and hymns, diverse cultural services, and powerful

opportunities for spiritual reflection.

During the opening plenary session on Thursday, Commission members participated in a celebration of word and table in the Scarritt-Bennett chapel. Members of the center's staff organized and led the service against a large, colorful banner designed by Rebecca W. Waldrop, assistant director of spiritual formation and the liturgical arts, for the Commission's 1996 General Conference worship service.

Michael Williams, pastor of Blakemore United Methodist Church, preached for the opening service and through his words introduced the Commission to women and girls who connected them to Wisdom. Other participants included Judy W. Loehr, director of spiritual formation and the liturgical arts, as celebrant;

Angela D. Davis, and Roela Rivera, as liturgists; Doug Grove-DeJarnett, Commission member, as cantor; Diane Saliba, as liturgical interpreter; and Robert Boozman, as organist.

On Friday, the Commission gathered in the Upper Room Chapel for worship. Following an introductory presentation by Upper Room staff, Commission member Rebecca Youngblood served as liturgist for holy communion, assisted by Mark Miller and Sherman Harris.

At the close of the meeting Sunday morning, Commission members worshiped with the congregation of Edgehill United Methodist Church in Nashville, a group strongly committed to social justice and mission concerns in their neighborhood and beyond.

Curricula analysis

On Saturday morning, Commission member Gail Murphy-Geiss offered a Sabbath school presentation on her sociological

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Providing leadership for Commission worship at Scarritt-Bennett chapel are, from left to right, Angela Davis, Michael Williams, Judy W. Loehr, Roela Rivera, Robert Boozman, and Doug Grove-DeJarnett.

Nashville worship services and Sabbath school from page 1

research on gender roles as represented in Sunday School curricula. She conducted content analysis of 1991-1996 curricula for kindergarten and first grade to focus on early and non-readers by studying only pictures without regard for text.

As a United Methodist, Murphy-Geiss chose Cokesbury and David C. Cook resources because they are often considered in local churches. Their identical format made for easy comparison. She also selected other liberal and conservative resources, somewhat based on availability, so the materials did not represent a random sample. The

study also included a small sample of older resources from 1961, 1971, and 1981.

Her findings, as reported in "Gender Role Education in Sunday School," *The Power of Gender in Religion*, ed. Georgie Ann Weatherby and Susan A. Farrell (McGraw Hill, 1996), include the following:

1. All Sunday School materials depicted people in largely traditional gender roles, but only as opposed to non-traditional roles. Indeed, the greatest majority of people were depicted in non-gendered roles.
2. More conservative publishers depicted more people in traditional gender roles

than do more liberal publishers. This hypothesis is supported especially for depictions of modern women. More conservative publishers depicted more women in traditional roles than do more liberal publishers, and in even greater numbers than the older liberal materials.

In addition, no female pastors were depicted in conservative, evangelical publications. Murphy-Geiss enthusiastically pointed out that in United Church of Christ materials, one drawing depicted God as a mother comforting her child. ■

Commission members hear from partner agencies continued from page 1

topics that receive their attention is the place of women in scripture. A primary aim of the area is to offer resources to help congregations address whatever needs may arise.

Following the panelists' presentations, members of the Commission gathered with the UMPH representatives to exchange ideas for future publications and to discuss questions about current publications.

GBHEM seeks pay, gender equity

Commission members were invited to stand up and be counted in a variety of ways during a lively presentation by Lynn Scott, Director of Continuing Education for Ministry, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Scott asked for a show of hands among members on questions such as "Who is an ordained elder?" "Who attends a local church served by a clergywoman?" "Who attended a United Methodist-related college?" Through these and other questions (to which everyone raised a hand), Scott illustrated the broad impact of the ministry of GBHEM.

Scott offered interesting statistics for the 1997-98 appointment year: Since women first received full ordination rights in the Methodist Church in 1956, the numbers have increased to 12% of ordained elders are women; 17.1% district superintendents are women; 18% of active UM bishops in the US are women; and 8% of all UM bishops, active and retired, are women.

Scott pointed out a statistic that received wide publicity last year: for the 1996-97 appointment year, only 1.4% of lead pastors are women; that is, pastors of the 1200 U.S. churches that have a membership of 1000 or more. At this point, 3 of the 65 conferences in the U.S. have never appointed a woman district superintendent. Yet over 100 women have been appointed district superintendents since the 1980s.

The question of pay equity for women continues to challenge the church. Scott reported that women clergy with the same number of years of service, serving the same size church receive 9% less in salary than men clergy. For diaconal ministers, the gap is even larger: men receive salaries that average \$10,266 higher than women.

On the question of the status of clergywomen in local churches, Scott referred to the United Methodist Clergywomen Retention Study, released last fall by the Anna Howard Shaw Center of Boston University School of Theology. Cosponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the study contains detailed statistics and illuminating stories, gathered by Margaret Wiborg and Elizabeth J. Collier.

GCUMM backs local groups

With a vote at 1996 General Conference, United Methodist Men moved from the General Board of Discipleship to become an independent General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM). Joseph Harris, general secretary of GCUMM, briefed GCSRW on their work to support UMMen in the local church.

According to Harris, a target age for GCUMM is 35 years and younger. One of the emphases is small group development. To foster that goal, GCUMM is encouraging a spiritual growth study, entitled *Faith Home*, available through Cokesbury.

On Oct. 15-18, GCUMM is co-sponsoring the 1998 National Black Men's Conference "Brother to Brother" in Atlanta. This Pan-Methodist event, also sponsored by the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, is open to all races and genders.

Harris also pointed out that GCUMM has sponsored breakfasts for United Methodists preceding Promise Keepers rallies as a way

of supporting the 5% of men attending those events who are United Methodist.

As a result of these discussions with general agency representatives, Commission members have developed ideas for future work and continued dialogue with these and other UMC agencies.

Changes in members, leaders

Among other highlights of the meeting was receiving a welcome from Carolyn Henninger Oehler, director of Scarritt-Bennett Conference Center. Oehler was president of the Commission from 1978 to 1984.

Among other business at the February meeting, Commission members accepted a few resignations and elected replacements: Commission member Elsie Crickard resigned and Laura Merrill, South Central Jurisdiction, was elected to the Commission. Doug Grove-DeJarnett, chairperson of Issue Development, Education, Advocacy (IDEA), resigned as chairperson, and was replaced by Dean Yamamoto as new chairperson. Taka Ishii resigned as vice president and was replaced by Darlene Saunders-Ousley as vice president.

Upon recommendation from Evaluation and Review Committee, the Commission decided to reorganize to streamline its work. While members will continue to serve on administrative committees, they will no longer be organized into program work units, but will now work as a committee of the whole through a process of "holy conferencing." ■

Copy Deadlines

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

May 30 Spring/Summer 1998
July 1 Summer/Fall 1998

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

Nashville sights...

Commission meeting provides opportunity for connections

As Commission members and staff lived out the meeting theme "Making the Church Whole: Deep Connections in Communities of Faith," they reached out to representatives from other agencies and local churches. Here is a sampling of scenes.



Representatives from United Methodist Publishing House address the Commission; they are, from left, Bob Ratcliffe, Mary Catherine Dean, Harriett Jane Olson, Mildred Haney, and Judy Newman-St. John.



Joseph Harris discusses with Commission president Joyce Waldon Bright the work of the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

Guests for the meeting include, from left: Laurel Jacobs, Alabama-West Florida CSRW; Lolita Bernhardt, South Indiana CSRW; Harvey Bernhardt, spouse of Lolita; Exie Priddy, Western North Carolina UMW; Dee Wright, spouse of GCSRW member Betty Wright; Doris Morrison, Western North Carolina CSRW; Donna Glenn, Alabama CSRW; Elvyn L. Hamilton, General Council on Finance and Administration budget review liaison; Karlyn Spencer, Little Rock CSRW; Diane Saliba, Tennessee CSRW; Caroline Feist, North Alabama CSRW; and Mary Kerns-Lawson, Tennessee CSRW.



Finance Committee members Phil Fenn, left, and Molly Turner, right, present awards to fiscally responsible Commission leaders during their report: from left, Fenn, Taka Ishii, Betty Wright, Darlene Saunders Ousley, Deborah Kiesey, Joyce Waldon Bright, Francis E.W. Guidry, and Turner.



Choral and instrumental musicians offer prelude to worship at Edgehill United Methodist Church, Nashville.



Monitoring and Research Work Unit offers a re-enactment of the Upper Room sculpture as part of its report to the Commission: from left, Rebecca Youngblood, Charlotte Fitzsimons, Gail Murphy-Geiss, Alice Yun Chai, Cecelia Long (General Secretariat), Beth Brown, Lois Dauway, and Taka Ishii.



Carolyn Henninger Oehler, left, Director of Scarritt-Bennett Center, welcomes the Commission and receives thanks from Stephanie Anna Hixon, member of the General Secretariat, for writing *The Journey Is Our Home*, a history of the Commission.

Status Report

Reconciling Congregation sees grace in Creech verdict

According to a statement released by the Reconciling Congregation Program, the jury decision in the trial of Jimmy Creech is a glimmer of God's grace.

The thirteen United Methodist clergy in Nebraska who comprised the jury sent a message stating that, while our church is not of one mind concerning the place of gay and lesbian persons in the church, it is important to keep everyone at the table. The jury was unwilling to discard a dedicated pastor who believes that God calls him to offer full pastoral services to all persons, regardless of sexual orientation. Furthermore, the jury

However, it is distressing to hear... threaten(ed) withdrawal or reprisals because others on the margins of the church are being invited to join them at God's table.

was unwilling to send a message that lesbian, gay and bisexual persons and their families should be denied access to the ministries of the church.

While we regret that The United Methodist Church is unable to unequivocally welcome lesbian, gay and bisexual persons and their families at this time, we believe that God's Spirit is moving the church toward such a fuller understanding of the inclusive and compassionate Gospel of Jesus Christ. The outcome of the Creech trial is one sign of this progress. However, it is distressing to hear voices of those in the church who threaten withdrawal or reprisals because others on the margins of the church are being invited to join them at God's table.

Reconciling communities and individuals must help the church discern truth amidst myths and misinformation. The decision of the jury in the Creech trial was not an endorsement of same-sex covenant ceremonies. The proceedings of the trial revealed confusion regarding the issue of "same-sex marriage." Marriage is a legal contract—a function of the state. On the other hand, the church blesses covenants, committed human relationships that reflect our ultimate covenant with God. The fundamental challenge facing the church is not about same-sex marriage nor, at its roots, even about same-sex covenants. The real question is whether all persons—regardless of race, age, sex, economic status, physical/mental ability or sexual orientation—are welcome to

participate fully in the life and ministries of the church.

Reconciling Congregation Program statement, March 16, 1998

White House renews effort for women's rights measure

When the White House hosted a high-powered gathering in Washington, D.C., March 11 to announce a push for women's rights, Jane Hull Harvey, an assistant general secretary of the General Board of Church and Society, was among the guests representing 150 women's groups.

President Clinton announced a renewed effort to gain U.S. ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Harvey said. The measure has been endorsed by all other industrialized nations, she said. The few holdouts include Somalia, Sudan and North Korea. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan was a special guest. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and Attorney General Janet Reno were among the speakers introduced by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Methodists Make News, March 13, 1998

Women's Division participates in Capitol Hill talks

Sara Shingler, president of the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, participated in "A Conversation with Women Leaders on Race," a Feb. 6 round-table discussion on Capitol Hill.

She distributed packets to the White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach. They included reports on funding of racial justice initiatives, ministries in the midst of hate, and self-monitoring tolls on institutional racism.

Methodists Make News, Feb. 20, 1998

Hispanic clergywoman honored at SMU

The Rev. Mary Lou Santillán Bárcena Baert—missionary, teacher, communicator, pastor, barrier-breaker, episcopal candidate and much more—was surprised Feb. 1 with a celebration honoring her as one of The United Methodist Church's best-known and most beloved Hispanic leaders.

Recalling Pastor Santillán Baert's 47 years of Christian service—stretching from her Little Mexico neighborhood in Dallas to worldwide recognition—took more than two hours for the nearly 200 well-wishers who gathered at Perkins Chapel on the campus of

Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Hers has been a life of firsts, among them:

- First Mexican-American woman to graduate from Southern Methodist University, earning a bachelor's degree in Spanish in 1947;
- First ordained clergywoman in the Rio Grande Annual Conference in 1977;
- First Mexican-American woman to be an episcopal candidate in 1984.

United Methodist Reporter, Feb. 20, 1998

UMs attend first Promise Keepers clergy conference

Some 200 UM clergy attended a Jan. 15 breakfast, sponsored by the General Commission on UM Men (GCUMM) prior to a Promise Keepers (PK) clergy conference in Philadelphia. The breakfast was held across the street from the conference at Temple University. Some 5,500 persons attended this, the first of nine PK U.S. clergy conferences.

The commission mailed invitations to all UM clergy and plans to host similar breakfasts at five of the clergy conferences to be held in Nashville, Charlotte, Dallas, St. Petersburg, and Indianapolis. More than 1,400 UM clergy have accepted the breakfast invitations. Larry Malone, GCUMM national director of men's ministries, told persons at the Philadelphia meeting that the first priority of the new commission is to establish a partnership with men and women UM clergy. Bishop Porter, chair of the PK board, delivered the invocation at the Jan. 15 breakfast.

Some 20 local members of the Methodist Federation for Social Action and the National Organization of Women met clergy at the gate and handed out leaflets expressing concern about the organization. They also participated in a press conference before the event. Participants in that conference included Laura Montgomery Rutt, national organizer of Equal Partners in Faith, and Dave Heberling, an Eastern Pennsylvania Conference clergy member.

Newscope, Jan. 23, 1998

21 congregations, campus ministries join RCP in 1997

Twenty-one congregations and four campus ministries in The United Methodist Church publicly declared themselves "reconciling" in 1997. Reconciling Congregation Program (RCP), a grass roots movement seeking to counter anti-gay policies and practices in the UMC, now encompasses 140 Reconciling

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Status Report

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Congregations, 20 campus ministries, 6 regional conferences, and numerous other reconciling groups.

In addition, 12,500 Reconciling United Methodist individuals have enlisted in a collective witness to "open the doors of The United Methodist Church to the participation of all people, regardless of sexual orientation."

A major highlight of the RCP this year was a national gathering of 500 Reconciling Congregation members and friends in Atlanta in July for a spirit-filled weekend of worship, study, training, and celebration.

Other RCP highlights in 1997 include:

- The RCP led an ecumenical coalition in publishing *Claiming the Promise*, a groundbreaking curriculum on the Bible and homosexuality;
- A leadership training weekend for local RCP activists was tested and is now being offered regionally;
- A program grant from the Gill Foundation was the first-ever major foundation grant to a religious organization addressing lesbian/gay concerns; and
- National support services were expanded with the creation of a web site (www.rcp.org), the establishment of an intern program, and the acquisition of new computer technology.

Reconciling Congregation Program
press release, Dec. 24, 1997

Churches silent on violence to women, official says

Churches in Kenya and elsewhere often have been silent on the issue of violence against women, according to Wasye Musyoni, gender coordinator for the National Council of Churches of Kenya.

In Kenya, an example of that silence occurred after 19 school girls were killed in an angry stampede by boys, she said.

Musyoni spoke at a World Council of Churches-sponsored forum on violence against women, held in Geneva in late November. The event, held as part of the WCC's Ecumenical Decade on the Solidarity of Women, came up with recommendations for change.

In Kenya, focus on the Ecumenical Decade over the past 10 years has brought some progress for women, Musyoni said. "The church can choose to be silent, but it can no longer choose to ignore women," she explained, adding that the decade's influence has allowed women to connect with each other and find their voices.

Women are also being allowed into some

positions of leadership in Kenyan churches. "Despite the slowness, some tangible gains, some visible signs of solidarity are there," she said.

At the National Council of Churches of Kenya, the former women's desk has been transformed into the gender desk, abandoning a welfare-oriented approach for a more comprehensive consideration of women's issues, especially in terms of relationships with men and with society. Among its goals are advocating for women's full participation in the church and for the economic empowerment of women, according to Musyoni.

On the issue of domestic violence, the gender desk has called upon the churches "to affirm the worth and dignity of women," who are created in the image of God, she said. The gender desk also helps find alternative living arrangements for battered women—there is one shelter in the entire country, in Nairobi—and identifies organizations which will help them seek legal redress.

United Methodist News Service,
Dec. 11, 1997

Foes of women priests want own jurisdiction

Opponents of women's ordination in the Church of England, like their counterparts in the Episcopal Church in the United States,

are moving toward trying to establish an independent and autonomous province, or jurisdiction, within the denomination. Some 500 Anglican traditionalists, gathered for the national assembly of Forward in Faith Sept. 26-27 to map out plans for their future, adopted a resolution seeking "by the end of this millennium...an alternative ecclesial structure" that would link parishes opposed to women priests in a separate Anglican province.

The group has some 7,000 members, and about 750 of the Church of England's 10,000 full-time priests are among them. Its leader, John Broadhurst, last year was named bishop of Fulham and given the responsibility of episcopal oversight of women's ordination opponents in the dioceses of London and Southwark.

In urging approval of a resolution committing the organization to establishing a separate, nongeographical province, Broadhurst argued that the Church of England's present arrangement with dissidents—they are served by three so-called "flying bishops"—is inadequate. "We have not established a long-term solution," he said. "We all know this [use of flying bishops] is an interim arrangement. We look for a parallel jurisdiction. [The Church of England] looks for our extermination."

Christian Century, Nov. 19-26, 1997 ■

Ovations

To **Nora Kizer Bell**, who was inaugurated as president of Wesleyan College in Macon, GA.

To **Rita Nakashima Brock**, a scholar in women's studies and feminist theology, who has been named director of the Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College, which grants fellowships to female scholars, artists, and scientists each year.

To **Margaret Ann Crain**, minister of education at Peachtree Road UMC, Atlanta, who has been named to direct a new program for deacon studies at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL.

To **Susan Henry-Crowe**, university chaplain at Emory University, who has been appointed dean of the chapel and of religious life at the school.

To **Violet L. Fisher**, district superintendent, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, who is the first African American clergywoman to be named dean of the Northeastern Jurisdictional School of Evangelism.

To **Dorothy Irene Height**, 85, a United Methodist and longtime civil rights leader, who stepped down from leading the National Council of Negro Women.

To **K. Cherie Jones**, formerly director of the Emmaus program for the Upper Room, who has been named director of resource initiatives and interpretation.

To **Thalia F. Matherson**, a Dallas public school educator and administrator, who has become the first lay person, woman and African American to serve as executive of the South Central Jurisdiction of the UMC.

To **Joy Moore**, director of women and ethnic ministries at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY, who has been named a Christian Woman Role Model for 1998 by the Ecumenical Coalition on Women and Society.

To **Trudie Kibbe (Preciphs) Reed**, currently dean of the Leadership Institute and director of the graduate program at UM-related Columbia (SC) College and former member of the general secretariat of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (1977-1984), who has been named first woman president of UM-related Philander Smith College, a historically black liberal arts school founded in 1877 in Little Rock, AR.

Resources

And Not One Bird Stopped Singing: Coping with Transition and Loss in Aging, Doris Moreland Jones (Upper Room Books, 1997). This book guides persons through grieving a number of the events that take meaning from our lives. \$9.95.

Choosing to Lead: Women and the Crisis of American Values, Constance H. Buchanan (Beacon Press, 1996). The author shows that while public debate often blames women for the nation's "crisis of values," women's leadership actually has the potential to solve this crisis by redefining the American pattern of adult life and work. \$15.00.

Claiming All Things for God, George D. McClain (Abingdon Press, 1998). As a Christian social activist, the author recognizes the importance of a focused spiritual life in augmenting one's social witness. This book is his attempt to build on the growing intersection in people's lives of action for justice and the inner journey in the Spirit and to offer rituals groups can use to begin to be religious together. \$12.95.

Faith of Our Foremothers: Women Changing Religious Education, ed. Barbara Anne Keely (Westminster John Knox Press, 1997). These stories of twelve women religious educators show how the women transformed the field of religious education, some long before the contemporary feminist movement. \$15.00.

Incrustada en la Pena, Rose E. Arroyo (Upper Room Books, 1998). En un emotivo testimonio personal, Arroyo trata acerca de la crisis de fe que a menudo afecta a personas con enfermedades serias. La crisis puede anadir sentimientos de culpa y de verguenza a la ya dificil condicion de salud que los pacientes experimentan. Las personas que los cuidan pueden tener dificultad para entender las luchas emocionales y espirituales que experimentan los pacientes, haciendoles sentir mas solos. \$7.95.

The Power of Gender in Religion, ed. Georgie Ann Weatherby and Susan A. Farrell (McGraw-Hill, 1996). The contributors to this important text discuss the implications of data gathered on subjects ranging from clergy dropout to gender role education in Sunday school. \$21.95.

The Quotidian Mysteries: Laundry, Liturgy and "Women's Work," Kathleen Norris (Paulist Press, 1998). Though the Madeleva lectures, from which this essay is taken, are devoted to the education and spiritual well-being of women, Norris' reflection on the spirituality of ordinary life is not "for women only." Norris likens domestic chores to liturgy, which also draws much of its meaning and value precisely from the repetition that can be the worst part of it. \$5.95.

Reaching for the Light: A Guide for Ritual Abuse Survivors and Their Therapists, Emilie P. Rose (The Pilgrim Press, 1996). Written by a survivor of ritual abuse, this book offers a guide to understanding and dealing with the impact of ritual and cult abuse. It includes a glossary of medical terms, definitions of ritual abuse and multiple-personality disorder, and survivor stories. \$14.95.

Threadbear: A Story of Christian Healing for Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse, Tilda Norberg (Penn House Press, NY, 1997). This text is an illustrated storybook of Christian healing for adult survivors of sexual abuse. It chronicles steps in the healing process and provides over 40 drawings which serve as healing "icons" and companions for survivors in recovery. \$12.00.

Journal

Conscience, published by Catholics for a Free Choice. The Winter 1997/98 issue commemorates the 25th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* with a collection of original essays by writers,

philosophers, and leaders from the religious, medical and reproductive rights communities. Contact Jon O'Brien, Director of Communications and Education, Catholics for a Free Choice, 1436 U St., NW Suite 301, Washington, DC 20009-3997. Phone: (202) 986-6093. Fax: (202) 332-7995. Email: jon@cffc.igc.apc.org. Website: www.cath4choice.org.

On-line

Voyager Online Public Access: A consortium of three seminaries in the Columbus, OH, area, including Methodist Theological School, has launched an online library cataloging system, creating one of the largest theological collections in North America with more than 360,000 volumes. Anyone with access to the Internet may log on and browse the catalog: <http://tcgc.capital.edu>

Catalog/Order Form: Church Women United resources for international programming. (800) CWU-5551.

Ecufilm: among the newest listings

Diversity is . . . (General Commission on Religion and Race and UCom Productions). This video offers a collection of insights on diversity in our society from a range of theological perspectives, along with biblical references and quotes from different traditions. VHS, color, 15 minutes, suitable for youth and adults. Sale, \$19.95

Praying in the Midst of Life (UCom Productions). Ron DeBene is series leader of six videos addressing the age-old yearning for a deeper relationship with God. The videos offer practical suggestions for deepening one's spiritual life in a chaotic world. VHS, color, 20-30 minutes each, suitable for youth and adults. Comprehensive study guide. Rental, \$18.00, each. Sale, \$29.95 each. Series \$99.90. ■

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

Name _____ Phone _____

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Annual Conference (if United Methodist) _____

IAWM assembly to celebrate faith and women's rights

An exciting Assembly of the International Association of Women Ministers (IAWM) is planned for July 14 to 17, 1998, in Seneca Falls, NY. There members will join with the 150th anniversary celebration of the Women's Rights Convention planned by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other reformers in 1848.

At the assembly IAWM members will participate in Celebrate '98, bring to it the dimension of reflection on contributions of women of faith to the struggle for women's rights, share fellowship as usual, and forward the work of the association.

"Religious Women and Women's Rights" will be the Assembly theme. Keynoters Rev. Betty Bone Schiess and Rev. Dr. Elaine Cleeton will examine the role of religious women in political movements for women's rights in the 19th and 20th centuries.

For further information on the assembly, write to Madeline McDonald, 23 Dennison Ave., Whitesboro, NY 13492.

For a brochure, write to IAWM, c/o Carol Brown, 579 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360.

Women's Division invites Hoover Award applications

The Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, established the Theresa Hoover Community Service and Global Citizen award in recognition of her retirement and service to the Women's Division, The United Methodist Church, and the ecumenical world.

The award is given annually to a young woman, ages 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 grant is 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.

The projected amount of the award for 1999 will be \$5,000-\$6,000. The exact amount will be determined Dec. 31, 1998.

To request an application, contact Women's Division General Administration, Hoover Award, Room 1501, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10115. (212) 870-3600.

Applications open for NYMO scholarships and funding

Each year the United Methodist National Youth Ministry Organization (NYMO) chooses up to four youth to receive college scholarships of up to \$1,000 each. Outstanding leadership in the church as a youth is a major criteria. Application deadline is June 1.

Each year seed money for youth ministry projects is available through the Youth Service Fund. Youth around the world are currently receiving grants for new ministries and special programs, funded by United Methodist Youth. Application deadline is June 1.

Applications are available from NYMO, PO Box 840, Nashville, TN 37202-0840. (615) 340-7184.

Church Women United sponsors Fellowship Day

"Widening the Circle of Hospitality" is the theme of the May 1 Fellowship Day. Church Women United sponsors this annual event that unites Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian women in a common worship experience for the purpose of building healing relationships within their communities.

This year's ecumenical service encourages participants to widen their circle of awareness and hospitality to people in their own areas—those living in their geographical neighborhoods.

For information on local events and resources, contact the national offices of Church Women United, 475 Riverside Dr., Room 812, New York, NY 10115. (800) CWU-5551, press 2, then #, 3339.

Quilt exhibition/symposium set for Portland's First UMC

"The Tie That Binds," a month-long exhibition of historic and contemporary quilts connected to the 150 years of First United Methodist Church, Portland, OR, runs May 1 through June 1 at the church at SW 18th and Jefferson Streets in Portland. Hours will be 10-4 Tuesdays through Saturdays and 12-5 on Sundays.

On Saturday, May 30, a presentation of papers and sharing of other Methodist-related quilts will be presented at the church from 10-3.

In addition, a number of quilts made by and for Methodists across the region will be shared by either the women who made or now own them, or by the public institutions who treasure them. This event represents

the first of its kind in the Northwest—an opportunity to study quilts as visual records of women's experiences in the community of their church fellowship.

For further information, contact Mary Bywater Cross, (503) 292-6350. E-mail: mbquilt@web-ster.com; or First UMC, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland, OR 97201. (503) 228-3195.

Survey explores religion on the Internet

Internet users are being invited to help religious leaders learn how to plan for future use of the worldwide computer network.

United Methodist Communications is sponsoring a research project aimed at discovering the extent and nature of religion on the Internet. Study results will be available on the Internet and sent to religious leaders across denominational lines.

Questionnaires are available on the Internet at: <http://www.religion-research.org/question1.htm> A project description is available at: <http://www.religion-research.org>

UM-related agencies offer adoption services

If you know a couple who wants to adopt a child, several UM-related residential child care and family service agencies offer international and domestic adoption services.

For information, call the UM Association of Health and Welfare Ministries, (937-227-9494). That agency cautions couples to be careful when dealing with adoption agencies that claim to be endorsed by the UMC. ■

Jobs

Campus Minister and Director, Cal Aggie Christian Association, University of California at Davis. Ordained clergy, United Methodist, Presbyterian, or other mainline Protestant denomination. Willing to serve as a campus minister who identifies with multi-cultural issues, racial concerns, and the women's movement, and has experience as a Christian leader affirming sexual orientation inclusiveness. Applications will be considered beginning April 20; starting date July 1. For information and application materials, contact Donna Waterman, CA House 433 Russell Boulevard, Davis, CA 95616. (530) 753-2000.

General Secretary, General Commission on Religion and Race United Methodist Church. This chief executive officer is expected to be committed to a ministry of reconciliation and racial inclusiveness and be able to use the tools of advocacy, monitoring, education, resourcing and research. Apply by June 30 to S.. Clifton Ives, Chairperson, GCORR Search Committee, 900 Washington St. East, Room 300, Charleston, WV 25301. ■

Calendar

June 29-July 2

Wesleyan Heritage Week, Lake Junaluska Assembly, NC. The focus for this third annual conference is "The Ministry of Women Through the Wesleyan Tradition." Among the leaders is Rosemary Skinner Keller. Contact the Ministry Division, (888) LakeJun. E-mail: info@sejac-umc.org.

July 26-30

Praying with Images: A Creative Retreat for Women, Weber Center, Adrian, MI. Led by Meinrad Craighead. Contact Weber Center, 1257 E. Siena Heights Dr., Adrian, MI 49221-1793. (517) 266-4000.

July 30-Aug. 2

Ecumenical Evangelical Women's Caucus Conference, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI. Speakers include Marjorie Zoet Bankson, Meinrad Craighead, Virginia Ramey Mollenkott, and Janice Pope, music leader. Contact Marchiene Rienstra, 66 Lake Shore Dr., Douglas, MI 49406. (616) 857-1643.

July 31-Aug. 2

Poverty: Its Impact. What is the church's response? Lake Junaluska, NC. 1998 Southeastern Jurisdiction Joint Conference for Church Leaders. For program information, call (888) LakeJun. For housing information, call (800) 222-4930. E-mail: info@sejac-umc.org.

Aug. 5-8

Family '98: Tapestry of God's Handiwork Conference will address current family issues and help participants become familiar with concerns predicted to emerge in the next century. Workshops in English, Korean, and Spanish languages will focus on ministry with various types of families and deal with parenting and grandparenting, and blended families. Contact General Board of Discipleship, 1908 Grand Ave., POB 840, Nashville, TN 37202-0840. (615) 340-7200. Fax: (615) 340-7006.

Aug. 26-30

Daring to Hope/Oser L'esperance, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Celebration of the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women in Church and Society. Contact <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca>. (416) 921-7759, ext. 30.

Sept. 11-13

Reflections on the Lord's Prayer, Nashville, TN. Roberta Bondi will lead this conference on spiritual growth. Contact Judy Loehr or Becky Waldrop, Scarritt-Bennett Center, 1008 19th Ave., S., Nashville, TN 37212. (615) 340-7557.

Sept. 13-16

Training of Trainers Workshop, Seattle, WA. A workshop designed to prepare participants to deal with clergy misconduct and to educate others. Contact Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, (206) 634-1903. Fax: (206) 634-0115. E-mail: cpsdv@cpsdv.org. Website: <http://www.cpsdv.org>.

Sept. 18-19

Movement and the Spirit: Healing the Heart, Durham, NC. Led by Carla DeSola and Miriam Therese Winter. Contact Center for Continuing Theological Education, Duke Divinity School, PO Box 90966, Durham NC 27708. (919) 660-3448.

Sept. 26-27

Retreat for Mothers and Daughters (ages 9-12), Providence Lodge, Lake Junaluska, NC. A look at why adolescent girls in this culture begin to lose their power and how mothers and others in community can support girls in holding onto their personal power and self-esteem. Led by Carolyn Mathis and Mary Ann Watjen. Limited to 15 mother/daughter pairs. Contact Holy Ground, PO Box 1459, Skyland, NC 29887. (704) 684-2339. HolyGrnd@aol.com.

Visit the Commission on the web:

www.umc.org/gcsrww

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 <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.

The Flyer

Winter/Spring 1998

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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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The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

in the United Methodist Church

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