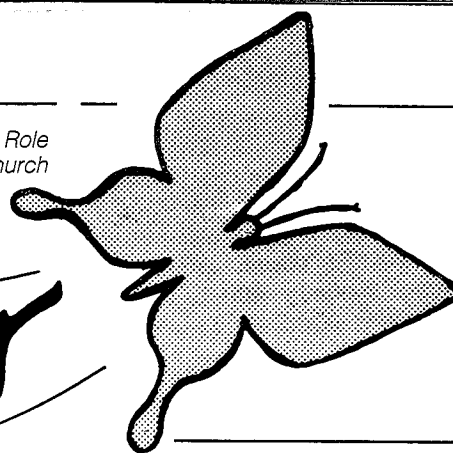


# The Flyer



Vol XVII, No. 2

Winter 1997

## Newly elected women bishops discuss challenges to achieving full, equal participation of women

The United Methodist Church in the U.S., meeting in jurisdictional conferences in mid-July, elected three women to the episcopacy, bringing to nine the number of active women bishops in the U.S., with a total of eleven women elected bishop since Marjorie Matthews in 1980.

To help our readers become acquainted with our three new women bishops, *The Flyer* talked with each bishop about her gifts for the episcopacy and her perspective on the church's movement toward full and equal participation of women. Here is a report of those conversations.

**Susan Wolfe Hassinger**  
*Northeastern, New England Conference*

**FLYER:** What are the gifts you bring to the episcopacy?

**HASSINGER:** I tend to be a visionary, to think long term and big picture. This perspective allows me to help groups look at where they are headed in the future.

Others say that I have the ability to listen and thus to summarize, analyze and recognize where groups are. Then I can help them move from that point to where they would like to be.

I am experienced with conflict resolution. I have the ability to help people recognize their own gifts and try to use them.



Susan Hassinger addresses North Eastern Jurisdiction.

Carolyn Strimms

**FLYER:** At the 1996 General Conference, we celebrated and affirmed the 40th anniversary of full clergy rights for women. What do you see as challenges still ahead of the church as it moves toward the full and equal participation and responsibility of women?

**HASSINGER:** As a conference staff member in Eastern Pennsylvania, I studied statistics on the stained glass ceiling that women continue to bump up against. While the cabinet and bishop there were working hard to remove that ceiling, only a few women were serving in churches with over 200 in average worship attendance or serving as a senior pastor. A few more served as co-pastors.

More hopeful signs indicate that more women are serving as district superintendents and in significant positions on conference staffs. We also have a growing

percentage of women on the Council of Bishops.

But local churches continue to present a significant problem for women clergy. We continue to hear about congregations of all sizes still questioning the leadership of women. And women continue to face more challenges to their leadership than their male counterparts. In particular, Korean clergywomen face a major cultural hurdle with Korean-American congregations.

Churches still have work to do in their valuing of lay women. While there are definitely exceptions, lay women continue to fill primarily nurturing roles, with less opportunity for spiritual leadership and financial and property leadership.

I see an increasing proportion of women involved in congregations over-

*continued on page 2*

## Commission elects new leadership team

At its organizing meeting Sept. 26-29, 1996, at the Holiday Inn, Evanston, IL, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) selected by consensus its leadership team, referred to as the Coordinating Committee, as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

Leading this team for the 1997-2000 quadrennium is Joyce Waldon Bright of Orlando, FL, president; Taka Ishii of New York, NY, vice president; Charlotte Fitzsimons of Baton Rouge, LA, secretary; Francis E. W. Guidry of Houston, TX, Annual Conference and Constituency Services; Douglas Grove-DeJarnett of Johnson City, TN, Issue Development, Education, Advocacy (IDEA); Gail Murphy-Geiss of Colorado Springs, CO, Monitoring and Review; Terri Rae Chattin of Arnold, MD, Legislation; Efrain Maldonado of Caguas, Puerto Rico, Evaluation and Review; Chuck Hefley of Kokomo, IN, Finance; Beth Brown of Union City, TN, Nominating; and Janice Riggle Huie of Little Rock, AR, Personnel.

The Commission is comprised of 43 commission members, reduced from 48 during the 1992-1996 quadrennium. These members range in age from high school youth to older adult, represent 31 annual conferences and Puerto Rico, include 16 racial ethnic persons, and include 18 clergy and 22 lay members.

*See photo, page 3*

## Bishops on challenges

from page 1

all, while men provide key administrative leadership in the midst of declining participation in the whole life of the church. One reason why Promisekeepers is emerging is that a lot of activity in the life of the church has not touched men so that they are spiritually motivated.

So while I am calling for a look at where women are in the life of the church, I am also calling for a new way of being the church. We need to free our laity from administrative responsibilities that focus energy on the survival of the organization rather than focusing energy on lay persons, both men and women, being in mission.

Another grave concern I have for women is the growing number of sexual ethics issues, which predominantly involve women as victim/survivors. I am grieved at the amount of pain that exists. My guess is that the wrongs have been there all along, but we have finally reached a time when these wrongs are surfacing.

Certainly these misconduct situations are damaging to individuals, yet congregations also suffer long after. Moreover, the witness of the church suffers when a sacred trust is broken.

Amid the vast energy necessary to deal with these situations, we know that healing cannot occur until the silence is broken. While we struggle to handle the backlog of work on sexual misconduct and recognize the importance of fair process for all parties, we realize that these energies cannot be expended on outreach and witness.

Even with the efforts of many annual conferences to interpret why this issue of clergy sexual misconduct is so important, I am saddened to see how many persons still don't get it. Understanding the power dynamics seems to be particularly difficult.

### Janice Riggle Huie

South Central Jurisdiction, Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences

#### FLYER: What are the gifts you bring to the episcopacy?

**HUIE:** My gifts are listening carefully to people and to God, hearing deeply, and offering visioning.

I look at the cultural context and look at the gifts of people so that a common vision emerges. We tend to be individualistic, so helping others examine what it means for annual conferences and con-

gregations to share the same dream as a community of faith is important to me. I try to help groups discover what they must sacrifice to make their dreams a reality.

#### FLYER: At the 1996 General Conference, we celebrated and affirmed the 40th anniversary of full clergy rights for women. What do you see as challenges still ahead of the church as it moves toward the full and equal participation and responsibility of women?

**HUIE:** I am deeply touched that I was elected to the episcopacy on the 40th anniversary of full clergy rights for women.



Jane Dennis

Janice Riggle Huie is congratulated by JoAnn Miles, former GCSRW member.

In fact, on one stole I received is a little yellow rose symbolizing that anniversary. I consider it a special gift to be elected on this anniversary; women have much for which to give thanks.

Yet in many annual conferences in which

the gifts of women are being called into ministry, women may have difficulty in recognizing their call. When they test their call in a public arena, it may not be validated by significant persons in their lives. There are large portions of the culture in which it is still not acceptable for a woman to be a pastor. Therefore, the call to ministry for many women lies below the surface and does not get explored.

We need to work at recruitment of women into ordained ministry and then help the appointment system to incorporate the special gifts and needs of women so that we can work together for the

### Current make-up of the U.S.A. Colleges of Bishops

Jurisdiction	Total Active Bishops	White*	Racial Ethnic	Women
North Central	10	8	2	3
Northeastern	11+	6	5	2
South Central	11	9	2	2
Southeastern	13	11	2	1
Western	6	3	3	1

\*Number includes white women.

+Bishop of Puerto Rico is, according to *The Book of Discipline*, a member with voice, not vote. He is included in "active" and "racial ethnic."

benefit of the church. Women bring powerful gifts to the church.

I am forever and always impressed with lay women and their gifts. I am dedicated to helping them recognize their gifts in the ministry and mission of the church and for their gifts to be recognized within local churches and within the larger community as well. The church needs to help women feel the authority to express their gifts.

Another of the continuing challenges is the issue of clergy sexual misconduct. We have a long way to go in that area.

An obstacle to the full and equal participation of women that continues to challenge the church is the minimizing of women's experience. I still sense across the church that motherhood is somehow a lesser vocation than a professional vocation. We continue to overlook the fact that so many younger women have children for whom they are caring. So we need to keep the care of children, along with women, uppermost in our hearts.

The church also has a long way to go to reach out to poor and working class women. We continue to focus on the middle class.

### Charlene Kammerer

Southeastern, Western North Carolina Conference

#### FLYER: What are the gifts you bring to the episcopacy?

**KAMMERER:** One of the best gifts I offer is a deep and abiding faith, a deeply anchored one that I received as a gift through the United Methodist Church and that I nurture on my life-long journey. Others have often told me that they see me as someone whose faith is alive and who



Douglas Grove-DeJarnett

Charlene Payne Kammerer is joined in celebration at her election by her spouse Leigh and son Christopher.

serves as a model for them. This faith is a struggle, yet it brings great joy. Now, serving as a woman bishop in a long-term commitment, I see my faith as a great resource, for I know that I will be sustained.

I also bring a genuine love for people.

to next page

## Election of UM women bishops in U.S.

Bishop	Elected	Jurisdiction
Marjorie Matthews*	1980	No. Central
Leontine T.C. Kelly**	1984	Western
Judith Craig	1984	No. Central
Susan Morrison	1988	Northeastern
Sharon Brown Christopher	1988	No. Central
Ann Brookshire Sherer	1992	So. Central
Sharon Zimmerman Rader	1992	No. Central
Mary Ann Swenson	1992	Western
Susan Wolfe Hassinger	1996	Northeastern
Charlene Kammerer	1996	Southeastern
Janice Riggle Huie	1996	So. Central

\*Retired 1984. Deceased 1986.

\*\*Retired 1988.

I care about people as much as any process or decision. I listen and learn and lead so that people are highly valued in the decision-making process. I enjoy working with groups more than as a Lone Ranger pastor. In my new role, I believe that I have an incredible opportunity to work with the cabinet to build a Christian community. If the community is in place, we can deal with important matters that come before us. Thus, one of my goals is to fashion the cabinet into a community.

Another gift is that I really do have enthusiasm for life. I enjoy people, playing, reading, and traveling. Zest for life is so important to me I intend to safeguard it.

**FLYER:** At the 1996 General Conference, we celebrated and affirmed the 40th anniversary of full clergy rights for women. What do you see as challenges still ahead of the church as it moves toward the full and equal participation and responsibility of women?

**KAMMERER:** One of the great challenges for our church is to be truly open to clergywomen and their exercising their gifts, especially as senior pastors, district superintendents, and bishops. There are many places in the church where women have the experience, commitment, calling, and gifts to serve, yet they are still not given the opportunity to serve.

One challenge for seminarians, both men and women, is to realize that they regard issues of sexism in the church as being behind us, when, in fact, sexism in the church continues. I hear from clergywomen, regardless of age, who are surprised at not being honored in their calling and facing mistrust from that. I wonder why they are surprised. Our seminaries are one place to address that sexism.

Having women on the Council of Bishops is having a wonderful impact on



### New leadership team See story, page 1

The leadership team elected by the Commission, along with the general secretariat, includes left to right: Stephanie Anna Hixon, member of general secretariat; Charlotte Fitzsimons, secretary; Efrain Maldonado, Evaluation and Review; Francis E. W. Guidry, Annual Conference and Constituency Services; Joyce Waldon Bright, president; Taka Ishii, vice president; Beth Brown, Nominating; Janice Riggle Huie, Personnel; Chuck Hefley, Finance; Terri Rae Chatten, Legislation; Gail Murphy-Geiss, Monitoring and Research; and Cecelia Long, member of general secretariat. (Not pictured is Douglas Grove-DeJarnett, Issue Development, Education, and Advocacy.)

service and leadership in the church. I feel truly honored to be with such strong, beautiful and gifted women. It is so empowering to sit among them in a room. Coming from the Southeastern Jurisdiction, I have many times been the only woman in a group. So I feel absolute joy at having both new and continuing sisters in the Council.

Another challenge before the church is our response to the 15 bishops in Denver who took a strong stand on homosexuality. The part that troubles me is the way the five women were singled out as almost being a different class from the others. When the church responds so strangely, it is particularly difficult for women. We have a lot of work to do here.

The whole church faces the challenge that we are fast becoming a global church. We do not know what that means, yet we must pay attention and move with the change. We have much to learn from our brothers and sisters in the Central Conferences where the church is growing very rapidly. These changes can be exciting.

Finally, I think overcoming the sin of racism in our church is very much before us. We have seemed to have resurgent racism in the church and the world. We must deal with it now. ■

## The Flyer

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

**Editor:** Bonny Stalnaker Roth

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

### GCSRW officers:

Joyce Waldon Bright, President/Taka Ishii, Vice-President/Charlotte Fitzsimmons, Secretary

### General Secretariat:

Stephanie Anna Hixon/Cecelia M. Long

GCSRW, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201  
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### Copy deadlines

To ensure inclusion of job announcements, calendar items, and other items for **The Flyer**, please submit by these dates:

March 1, 1997 Spring 1997  
May 1, 1997 Summer 1997

Send to: Bonny Stalnaker Roth, GCSRW, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201. (800) 523-8390. FAX: (847) 869-1466.

# Status Report

## UMW leaders trained to "ride into 21st century"

Attention, members of United Methodist Women!

The chief executive advises you to fasten your seat belts as your annual conference mission team leads you on a ride into the 21st century.

Newly elected conference officers and nominating committee members heard from the Women's Division chief executive that their ride as leaders on this road to mission "will not be easy" and will definitely "involve some very tedious work."

"Our new structure calls us to involve teen women and college and university women. Now friends, they're not going to tolerate the same old stuff—right?" said Joyce D. Sohl, chief executive of the Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.

"The vision [of the organization] they accept. The purpose, they understand. But [it's] how we do it that's going to have to change, as we move into the 21st century."

Some 430 UM women representing nearly every annual conference in the US were given a weekend of intensive workshops on meeting administration and leadership skills.

*The United Methodist Reporter,*  
Dec. 6, 1996

## Historic MARCHA election puts women in majority

For the first time in its 25-year history, MARCHA, the United Methodist Church's Hispanic caucus, elected new leadership with a majority of women occupying seats on its executive committee. The historic election occurred during MARCHA's 25th anniversary meeting Nov. 21-24 at Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, TX.

While MARCHA's past was honored, many participants said a new awareness of the future prevailed. "During the past 25 years MARCHA has been seen as a predominantly male organization," said the organization's new president Mary Sylva of San Antonio, "but now women will be seen in this beautiful ministry."

*Methodists Make News,* Dec. 6, 1996

## Women farmers voice concerns at food summit

Two United Methodists from the United States were among 35 women farmers gathered in Rome to talk about food and rural life issues. They were Denise O'Brien of Atlantic, IA, a member of the planning committee for the Rural Women's Workshop, and Mattie Mack of Kentucky.

Workshop participants expressed concerns about the world food summit sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization going on at the same time in Rome. The women complained that policies put in place by the first World Food Summit in 1974 and more recent trade agreements have led to food shortages, use of poisonous chemicals, destruction of biodiversity and depletion of the soil's fertility by failure to rotate crops. The women food producers' statement said, "Nutritionally sound and safe food is a necessity of life, and production of food is a way of life."

*Methodists Make News,* Dec. 6, 1996.

## Carder calls for equal salaries

"All pastors should have the same salary," according to Bishop Kenneth Carder. Speaking late October to UM-related Union College in Barbourville, KY, Carder said, "There is no ranking of importance. A bishop is not any more important than the custodian at a church...Hierarchical treatment of people is evil; it's sin."

*Newscope,* Nov. 22, 1996

## Judicial Council meets during October

The Judicial Council, meeting Oct. 25 in Jackson, MS, affirmed, in a unanimous opinion, Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader's ruling that the Wisconsin Conference was entitled to adopt a "Resolution to Become a Reconciling Conference." The council noted that the Wisconsin action "clearly only welcomes all people into its churches" in accord with official UM positions.

The church's stance calling homosexuality incompatible with Christian teaching and barring self-avowed practicing homosexuals from the ordained ministry provided the background for two split decisions.

The council sustained (5-3) a ruling by Bishop Raymond H. Owen on a question

as to whether disciplinary standards for clergy can "be applied at any or all levels to lay members of the church." The disciplinary paragraph cited in the request calls for clergy to practice "fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness," among other things. Owen declined to rule on the matter in the belief that the request for a ruling was "an abstract question and hypothetical" and did not refer to a "particular situation or circumstance."

On the other hand, the council voted, 6-2, to send back to Owen a separate request for a ruling on whether a person can be denied "the right to lead and/or participate in activities and programs of the church on the basis of his or her sexual orientation." Owen held this question was also hypothetical. However, the court said the request for a ruling did relate to an action taken by the conference.

*Newscope,* Nov. 8, 1996

## Catholic views may obstruct role of Europe's women

A leading member of Poland's Lutheran minority has said "narrow views" within Eastern Europe's Roman Catholic churches are obstructing the role of women in other denominations as well.

However, she warned that attempts to introduce "Western models" in church life would be thwarted by the "psychological unreadiness" of the region's female population.

"The Catholic Church's dominance here in Poland makes progress more difficult, especially given its legislative influence and tendency to defend its own interests alone rather than general rights in a Christian spirit," said Aniela Szarek, a member of the Lutheran synod's women's commission.

"While the feminist movement has strengthened the will of women in Western churches to fight for their ideas, the restricted role assigned to Catholic women exerts a major pull in the other direction here.

"Even Lutheran women usually choose men to represent them. They lack the time, resources and organization skills of women in countries like Germany," she said.

*The National Christian Reporter,*  
Oct. 11, 1996

## Christians asked to renounce violence against women

The Christian community must renounce all forms of violence against women and acknowledge "the sad truth" that churches are not always a place where women can find protection from violence, a prominent U.S. theologian recently told a meeting in Geneva of the World Council of Churches central committee.

Dolores Williams, who is professor of theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York City and who has a high profile in church discussions of the role of women, said that violence perpetrated against women worldwide was "an atrocious malady."

The Christian community, she said, "must fulfill its mission by renouncing violence against women—physical bruises, emotional scars and spiritual pains."

Bishop John Neil, of the Church of Ireland, reporting on a series of visits to council member churches as part of the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women, said that "the complicity of the church in violence against women surfaced in every visitation report...The sad truth is that the church is not a place where women can find protection, support and advocacy."

*National Christian Reporter,  
Sept. 27, 1996.*

## Campaigner insists church rethink its views on sex

"The church must formulate a new understanding of sexual relations that go to the heart of the old laws and re-evaluate its attitudes towards children," according to the Rev. Ron O'Grady, the international coordinator of ECPAT—End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes.

O'Grady made his comments in a sermon in Stockholm during the first World Congress against Commercial Exploitation of Children. O'Grady, of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Aotearoa/New Zealand, has been a tireless campaigner against the sexual exploitation of children, particularly in Asia, and a key organizer of the Stockholm conference.

About two million children worldwide are believed to be victims of the sex trade. According to O'Grady's organization, in Asia alone more than a million children are sexually abused by adults paying for sex.

*The National Christian Reporter,  
Sept. 13, 1996*



Among the new women district superintendents and conference council directors (identified with title) who attended the training event are, front row, l to r, Katherine Lehman, North Indiana; and Carol Matteson Cox, New York. Middle row, left to right, Teresa L. Hill, Florida; Vicki M. Brendler, Northern New Jersey; Michele Wright Bartlow, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Council Director; and Paula Yuey Mayberry, South Indiana. Back row, left to right, Mary Brown Oliver, faculty; Joyce Fry, West Ohio; Christine Bethke, Wisconsin; Barbara Galloway-Edgar, Southwest Texas; and Susan S. Garrett, Virginia.



New district superintendents not shown in the group photo include, l to r, Tallulah Fisher Williams, Northern Illinois; Nancy Burgin Rankin, Western North Carolina; Rachel S. James, Kentucky; Valerie W. Stultz, East Ohio; and Jaime Potter-Miller, Western Pennsylvania.

## New women cabinet members trained

In August, 80 newly-appointed district superintendents and 6 new conference council directors, of whom 14 are women district superintendents and 1 is a woman conference council director, gathered at Lake Junaluska, NC, for training.

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

## Women's federation urges countries support U.N.

Methodist women from around the globe affirmed their support of the United Nations and adopted a number of resolutions related to women and children during their meeting preceding the 17th World Methodist Conference Aug. 7-15.

The newly renamed World Federation of Methodist and United Church Women called on countries lagging in their U.N.

support to meet their financial obligations. The United States is \$321 million behind in its payment, according to a report made at the assembly.

Later, in her report to the World Methodist Council, federation President Edith Loane of Ireland expressed sadness that "theology and culture are often invoked to condone violence against women, physical and social, emotional and mental." ■



## 150th anniversary of Anna Howard Shaw's birth approaches

The United Methodist Historical Society, meeting Nov. 14-16 in Dayton, OH, began plans to celebrate in October 1997, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Anna Howard Shaw, widely considered to be the first woman ordained clergy in the Methodist tradition.

For resources on celebrating Anna Howard Shaw Sunday and related information, contact the Anna Howard Shaw Center, Boston University School of Theology, 745 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215. (617) 353-3075. e-mail: shawctr@bu.edu.

## Episcopal task force addresses children and poverty issue

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church is taking steps to assist the church in responding to God's call to a new level of dedication and commitment on behalf of children and the impoverished. The Council is working through a task force formed for the Episcopal Initiative on Children and Poverty.

The task force has published a document entitled "Children and Poverty: An Episcopal Initiative—Biblical and Theological Foundations." With this document, the bishops have invited local churches to study and reflect on the biblical and theological foundations which are guiding and undergirding the Council's work.

To obtain a free copy that is fully reproducible, call Cokesbury, (800) 672-1789, and request order number 770473.

## Black pastors brochure supports reproductive choice

Several prominent Black ministers publicly declared their support for women and families facing problem pregnancies by signing on to a brochure entitled "Black Ministers Support Your Right to Choose." Clergy from a broad range of denominations endorsed the brochure.

The brochure was published under the auspices of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC) and its Women of Color Partnership. RCRC will distribute the brochure to women's health clinics, religious groups, and other agencies serving Black women. To order, call the Religious Coalition at (202) 628-7700. Cost is \$1.00 each or \$40.00 for 100.

## Call for papers on American Indian women

The Women's Studies Program at Columbia College of South Carolina invites papers and session proposals on any aspect of the contributions, achievements and challenges of the American Indian woman.

Proposals should include a 250-word abstract and must be postmarked by March 31, 1997. Submissions should include a cover sheet with the following: name, work address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.

All inquiries and proposals should be sent to Paula W. Shirley, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures, 1301 Columbia College Dr., Columbia College, Columbia, SC 20203. Email: pshirley@colacol.edu.

**In Memoriam Gusta A. Robinette**, 91, believed to be the first woman ever appointed a district superintendent in The United Methodist Church, died this summer at a retirement home in Warren, IN. Robinette was ordained in the Sumatra (Indonesia) Conference and in 1959 was appointed a district superintendent.

## Ovations

To **Donna E. Allen**, who has been appointed Instructor of Preaching and Worship at Saint Paul School of Theology and will contribute to the seminary's new specialization in Black Church Ministries.

To **M. Garlinda Burton, Suzanne Story**, and **Amy Brack**, UCom staffers, who received the award of Excellence for Magazines for *The Interpreter* from the UM Association of Communicators. **Burton**, editor of *The Interpreter*, is also serving as news editor for "News Odyssey," a 30-minute program produced by UM Communications for the Odyssey cable network.

To **Heather Murray Elkins**, associate professor of worship at Drew, who has been named associate academic dean at the UM seminary.

To **Dorothy I. Height**, president of the National Council of Negro Women, who has been honored by the council with the creation of the Dorothy I. Height Leadership Institute to provide training for organizational leaders and college students.

To **Terri Heirs, Judy Smith, and Kathy Gilbert**, staffers of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, who received the Award of Excellence for Newsletters for *Colleague* from the UM Association of Communicators.

To **Ruth Hofman**, who was ordained Aug. 24 as the first woman "minister of word and sacrament" in the 139-year-old Christian Reformed Church of North America.

## New newsletter targets sexual harassment, discrimination

Mount Elmore Institute has introduced a new newsletter, "Gender Expertise," for educators and administrators. It will focus on respectful gender behavior in school, and things teachers, principals, guidance counselors and parents can do to reduce sexual harassment and gender discrimination.

To subscribe: Gender Expertise, Mount Elmore Institute, Inc., P.O. Box 241, Montpelier, VT 05601. (800) 229-0100. Subscriptions are \$16 for four issues.

## Jobs

**Associate Director of Intern Program, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University**, Dallas. Work with three colleagues in the supervision of ministerial interns in the Master of Divinity and Master of Religious Education programs. Position begins June 1997. Apply by March 1, 1997. For more information, contact Virgil Howard, associate director of the Intern Program, Perkins School of Theology, SMU, P.O. Box 750133, Dallas, TX 75275-0133. (214) 768-3202. ■

To **Ping Lan** and **Shannon Martin** of the Texas Conference, who received the Award of Excellence for Artwork for "Texas Conference" from the UM Association of Communicators.

To **Nelda Barrett Murraine**, assistant general secretary of the General Board of Church and Society, who has been named associate general secretary of the General Council on Ministries.

To **Sister Helen Prejean**, member of the Sisters of St. Joseph religious order in New Orleans and author of the book *Dead Man Walking*, who has been named the winner of the 1996 Pope Paul VI Teacher of Peace Award by Pax Christi USA, an arm of the international Roman Catholic peace movement.

To **Kathleen A. Thomas-Sano**, who has been named executive director of the National Federation of Asian-American United Methodists.

To **Heather Peck Stahl**, a free-lance journalist, who has been named communications coordinator for The Upper Room in Nashville.

**Bärbel Wartenberg-Potter**, a member of Germany's Evangelical Lutheran Church, who is the first woman to be named secretary general of the Council of Christian Churches in Germany, beginning June 1, 1997. ■

# Resources

**Cleaning Up Biased Language: Toward Creating an Inclusive Society**, The Eighth Day Center for Justice (Revised 1994). This booklet offers a practical guide to addressing and changing sexist, racist, and militaristic language. Available from 8th Day Center for Justice, 205 W. Monroe, Chicago, IL 60606. (312) 641-5151. Fax: (312) 641-1250. \$4.00 per copy; \$3.00 for 10 or more.

**Discovering the Bible in the Non-biblical World**, Kwok Pui-lan (Orbis Books, 1995). This feminist Chinese scholar calls for a more penetrating reading of the Bible. One chapter points out particularly how the Bible is often used to oppress or discriminate against a race or ethnic group. \$17.00.

**The Gift of Anger: A Call to Faithful Action**, Carroll Saussy (Westminster John Knox, 1995). This book may assist people in learning how to evaluate, understand, and effectively express authentic anger, using a three-step technique. \$16.99.

**God's Self-Confident Daughters: Early Christianity and the Liberation of Women**, Anne Jensen, translated by O.C. Dean, Jr. (Westminster John Knox, 1996). This study provides an exhaustive account of the many roles that women played in the early church (confessors, martyrs, prophetesses, and teachers) and their subsequent marginalization by the later church. \$34.00.

**Hear Our Voices: A Resource Directory of Immigrant and Refugee Women's Projects**, compiled by Clair Jung Jin Yoo. (Published by the Nationwide Women's Program of the American Friends Service Committee, ISBN: 0-910092-30-8). Contains profiles of more than 60 organizations in the U.S., with descriptions of services, contact people, addresses, and phone numbers of immigrant and refugee women's programs and projects. Send orders to AFSC, Literature Resources Unit, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. (215) 241-7048. \$10.00.

**Keeping Women and Children Last: America's War on the Poor**, Ruth Sidel (Penguin, 1996). In this sequel to *Women and Children Last*, sociologist Sidel revisits the plight of America's poor women ten years later, with particular focus on the federal government's attempts to dismantle the welfare system. Citing statistics that are both terrifying and profoundly disturbing, Sidel delivers an indictment of the current trends and political maneuvering that threaten to keep America's poor women and children last. \$11.95.

**Mujerista Theology: A Theology for the 21st Century**, Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz (Orbis, 1996). A comprehensive introduction to feminist Hispanic theology by one of the best-known Hispanic theologians. Her essays focus on the major themes of Mujerista theology, emphasizing how this theology is firmly connected to the lives and struggles of Hispanic women today. \$16.00.

**My Sister, My Brother: Womanist an Xodus God-Talk**, Karen Baker-Fletcher and Garth (Kasimu) Baker-Fletcher (Orbis Books, 1996). An African-American theology that promotes survival, resistance, healing, liberation, and transcendence by reviewing the principal themes of systematic theology and contrasting perspectives of womanist and Xodus God-Talk. \$18.00.

**The Power of Naming: A Concilium Reader in Feminist Liberation Theology**, Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza (Orbis, 1996). This global collection of essays emphasizes the character of feminist liberation theology as critical, contextual, particular, and transformative. \$20.00.

**Sexual Abuse Prevention: A Course of Study for Teenagers** (revised and updated), Rebecca Voelkel-Haugen and Marie M. Fortune (Pilgrim Press, 1996). This book explores the issues of sexuality faced by today's teenagers and the role the church should play in response to sexual abuse. This revised edition addresses date rape, stranger rape, and incestuous abuse and looks at the cultural context in which these experiences are occurring. \$8.95.

**A Still Small Voice: Women, Ordination, and the Church**, Frederick W. Schmidt, Jr. (Syracuse University Press, 1996). Drawing from interviews of fifty ordained and seminary-trained women, the author explores the bureaucratic and cultural underpinnings of the church that continues to bar women from positions of authority. He

concentrates on the roles of clergywomen in five denominations—Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Southern Baptist, and United Methodist. Cloth, \$24.95.

**Women Encounter God**, Linda A. Moody (Orbis, 1996). Explores women's constructive efforts to understand God from feminist, womanist, and Hispanic feminist perspectives and proposes a methodology for doing theology across the boundaries of difference. \$16.00.

**Women Resisting Violence: The Struggle for Life**, Mary John Mananzan, Mercy Oduyoye, Elsa Tamez, J. Shannon Clarkson, Mary Grey, and Letty Russell, ed. (Orbis, 1996). Original writings by some of the world's best-known feminist theologians address forms of violence that affect women, including violence that is economic, military, cultural, ecological, domestic, or physical. \$16.00.

**Women's Visions: Theological Reflection, Celebration, Action**, ed. Ofelia Ortega (Geneva: World Council of Churches Publications, 1995). Overviews of women's theological efforts in many settings. \$18.95.

## Prepare for March: Women's History Month

For extensive resources, request a catalog from the National Women's History Project, 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492. (707) 838-6000.

# Calendar

## April 10-12

**Is Nothing Sacred? Retreat for Women Survivors of Sexual Abuse by Pastoral Leaders**, Brown Summit, NC. Retreat is sponsored by CLAY, Inc., Clergy and Laity Together in Ministry. Contact Julie Steele, CLAY, 124 Perdue St., Garner, NC 27529.

## April 17, 11:30-4 p.m. E.T.

**Living Well, Dying Well: Facing End of Life Decisions**, UM Teleconference. A theological/ethical dialogue about quality of life and death choices to be used as a resource for people as they prepare for living to the end of life. Contact: Iliff Institute for Lay and Clergy, (800) 678-3360.

## May 4-7

**Clergy Misconduct: Sexual Abuse in the Ministerial Relationship—Leadership Development for Judicatories: Crisis Response & Management**, Seattle. Training sponsored by the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence (CPSDV). Contact CPSDV, phone: (206) 634-1903; fax: (206) 634-0115; E-mail: cpsdv@cpsdv.seanet.com.

## May 6, 7:30-9 p.m. E.T.

**Family, Community and Media Values**, UM Teleconference. Introduces the National Council of Churches' Media Awareness Year. Focuses on consumerism, substance abuse and citizenship. Addresses dynamics of living in today's media culture. Identifies media messages and proposes guidelines for becoming more intelligent media consumers. Contact UM Teleconference Connection, (212) 870-3802 or e-mail to Travis@interport.net.

## May 15-17

**Is Nothing Sacred? Retreat for Women Survivors of Clergy Sexual Abuse**, Villisca, IA. Retreat is sponsored by Iowa Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. To register, contact Jackie Cordon, RR 1, Box 25, Villisca, IA 50864. (712) 826-8121.

## May 21-23, 1997

**Movements of The Spirit: Readings & Reflections on the Spiritual (Auto) biography**, New York. Leaders are Katherine Kurs and Albert Raboteau. Contact Auburn Theological Seminary, 3041 Broradway, New York, NY 10027 (800) 818-2911.

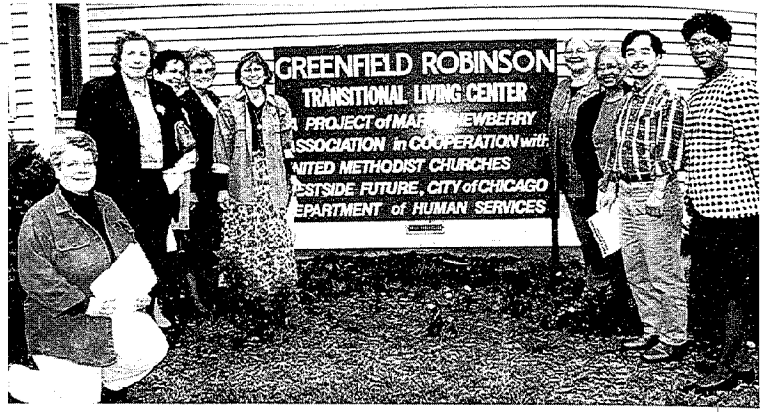
*September meeting team building...*

**GCSRW members tour UM mission sites, Hull House**

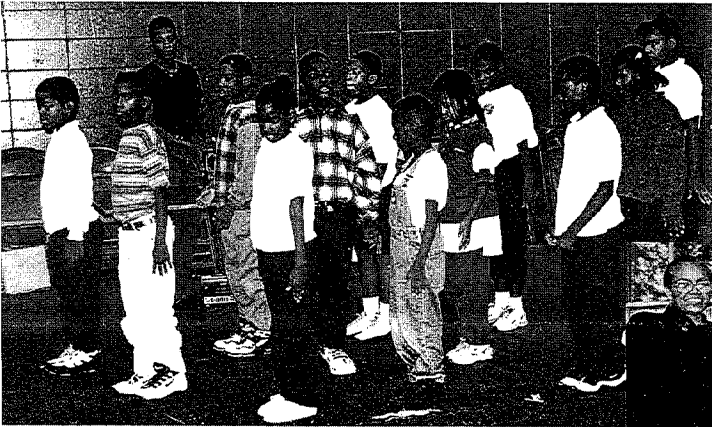
Members of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, during their Sept. 26-29 meeting in Evanston, IL, toured in small groups various Chicago area United Methodist mission sites and an historic settlement house.

Each group received a Chicagoland street map and public transportation information as they embarked on their journeys via bus and train to neighborhoods often overlooked by ordinary tourists. These journeys formed the basis for important team building as members learned to rely on one another in challenging situations.

The sites visited included Jane Addams' Hull House, the Maxwell Street location of Marcy Newberry Association, and Child Serve in the Rogers Park and Humboldt Park neighborhoods.



One group of Commission members visits the Newberry Center on Maxwell St., one of the sites begun by Methodists in the late 1800s. From left are Kim Coffing, Mary Kathryn Pearce, Rose Arroyo, Mattie Mae Rice, Janice Riggle Huie, Betty Wright, Phyllis Ferguson, Taka Ishii, and Ethelyn Taylor, assistant director at the Center.



The children's choir of the Newberry Center rehearses before visiting Commission members, at left, above. At right, children from the Center's after-school program perform for the photographer while listening to a story.



Another group of Commission members tours Jane Addams' historic Hull House. L to R, are Cecelia Long, Margie Briggs, Efrain Maldonado, Sterling Green, Gail Murphy-Geiss; and Lynn Baker. Front are Marta Siaba (on left) and Libby Wright.



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

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