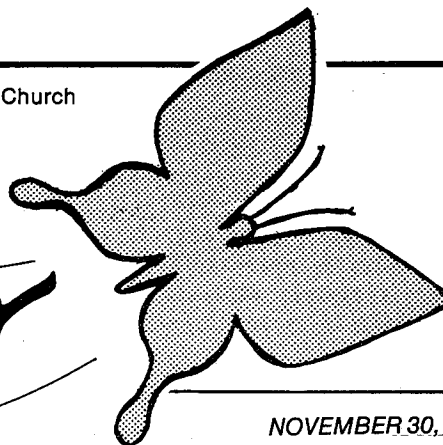


The Flyer



VOLUME I, No. 9

NOVEMBER 30, 1979

GSCRW STUDIES CLERGY SPOUSES, FAMILIES; REAFFIRMS STAFF MODEL, RECOMMENDS GOD LANGUAGE STUDY



Ellie Amico, GCOSROW member, introduces Wisconsin COSROW actors for playlet "Mrs John Wesley Revisited" written by Norma Taylor Mitchell, No. Ala. COSROW chpn., and professor of history, Troy State Univ.

She was head of the annual conference commission, a member of the Conference Council on Ministries, a very active lay person. The church was her home, her family. But when she separated from her husband, an ordained minister, she felt suddenly isolated and estranged from those in the conference network.

In her heart she knew that she had just as much right as he to participate in the church, but another part of her said, "This is (his) arena; the Church is his vocation, his livelihood and maybe there's not room for both of us.

"My first Annual Conference after separation was particularly agonizing," she said. "There we both were with lots of people (close to 2,000), some of whom are old, dear friends, yet, I felt like an outsider.

"What is being done nation-wide for ex-clergy wives?" the woman asked in a letter to GCSRW shared at the commission's annual meeting September 27-30 in Madison, Wis.

"Where does an ex-clergy wife turn? All the ministers she knows are friends. And how can I effectively serve the Church as the ex-wife of one of her own?"

"I need to know that I am not alone in what I am dealing with," the woman concluded. "And, I really do need some practical alternatives for how I can personally continue to be a part of the work of the Church and minimize my discomfort at the same time."

The woman's distress and that of other clergy spouses and families, were the special emphasis at the Commission's meeting. The Commission has identified women in clergy families as one of the constituencies within its disciplinary mandate.

Several hours were spent exploring the conflicts which sometimes arise between the covenants of marriage and ministry. This special emphasis was one in a continuing series of presentations at commission meetings to enrich and inform members of significant women's issues.

The focus included, in part, a report from the Commission to Study the Itinerary which will be on the agenda of the General Conference. Rose Thomason and Nelia Kimbrough, both members of the Commission also served on that study Commission.

As follow up to the presentations at the meeting, additional recommendations will be drafted for Commission action at its February, 1980 meeting. Some petitions may be written to be forwarded to General Conference.

Exploration of the emphasis included worship, drama and lecture. In the opening worship, commission members were invited to inventory their own list of covenants. On Friday evening the lives and partnerships of five clergy wives from history were illuminated through a play written by Dr. Norma Taylor Mitchell, chairperson of the North Alabama COSROW, and professor of history at Troy State. Players in "Mrs. John Wesley—Revisited" were members of the Wisconsin Conference COSROW.

On Saturday afternoon, Yale Divinity Professor Letty M. Russell,

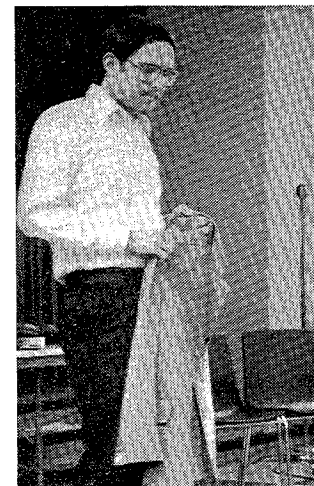
(Cont. on pg. 7)



Dr. Letty M. Russell, theologian, author, professor, addresses the general COSROW at annual meeting.



George Butchee, SW TX pastor, actor and co-author in original dramatic vignettes.



Connie Butchee, dramatist and co-author of four clergy family vignettes.

OPTIONS FOR ACTION

(From the minutes of the Annual Conference Commissions)

- ♀ **NORTHERN ILLINOIS**—More than 70 persons attended a two-day seminar in mid-October led by Perkins Professor Victor Furnish (a member of the conference) on his book, "The Moral Teachings of Paul." In early November the CSRW brought in an Asian-American, Black and White for a consultation of marginalized persons. To continue efforts to make leadership sensitive to the issues, recommendations resulting from the consultation will be shared with the Conference Council on Ministries and other groups. The commission also sponsored a conference-wide workshop in November on the Church's Ministry to Separating and Divorced Persons with issue groups focusing on sexuality, guilt and failure, loneliness and grief, and children and divorce.
- ♀ **SOUTH INDIANA**—Letters urging the establishment of programs for displaced homemakers and of an Indiana Commission on the Status of Women were sent to Indiana legislators. CCOM was asked by COSROW to form a joint committee to explore the concerns and frustrations of clergy spouses. A statement of support for the Reverend Marjorie Swank Matthews' candidacy for Bishop was issued to the press.
- ♀ **DETROIT**—List of clergy ex-spouses being compiled for on-going project. Sixty women attended Workshop for United Methodist Secretaries of the Conference; they are trying to form a Society for support and sharing with at least one goal to publish a newsletter. COSROW voted to provide seed money up to \$300 for the purposes of advocacy with other kinds of support forthcoming.
- ♀ **SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND**—Goals adopted for the coming year include resourcing workshops in local churches, child care for daytime meetings and cash reimbursement for evening meetings (advocacy for this concept hopefully to spread to other conference agencies and to the annual conference and local churches), advocacy on women's issues (specifically pressing for training and leadership of women for leadership positions within the hierarchy).
- ♀ **IOWA**—An inclusive worship resource entitled "The Everyone Book" was printed and distributed by the Iowa CSRW at annual conference. The commission supported Maureen Williams in reworking (to make inclusive) and publishing a book of poems and impressions on the Assembly of United Methodist Women in 1978. (order from Maureen Williams, 1915 Sixth Avenue, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 51501, for \$2.50)
- ♀ **WESTERN NEW YORK**—Copies of the Board of Discipleships' list of inclusive names for God were printed and distributed at Annual Conference along with a booklet outlining guidelines for inclusive language. CSRW also voted to support the W. Virginia resolution on inclusive language. Resolution urging next Annual Conference to hold a service to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ordination of Anna Oliver and the life of women in the church was adopted. CSRW members noted that when annual conference members ranked 34 topics women's issues received the lowest priority and Christian Education the highest. Singles ministry and women's issues had to be added from the floor. At the annual conference luncheon CSRW members asked interested persons to cover the costs of postage to receive The Flyer. "Many gladly paid \$1 for The Flyer," reported Adele Hyla Brewster, CSRW chairperson.
- ♀ **KANSAS EAST**—Funding received from the Annual Conference is enabling the CSRW to do a comprehensive survey of ministers, spouses and family members on the difficulties and joys of being a part of a minister's family.
- ♀ **WEST VIRGINIA**—Commission-sponsored workshop on ministers' wives, "Whatever happened to Mrs. Simon Peter?" received mixed reviews; one commission member noted ministers' wives see the problems as personal but not systemic. Two CSRW members will serve on the Ethnic Minority Local Church Task Force. Commission members have taken responsibility for writing 500-800 word articles for the monthly Methodist Magazine. Members discussed the history and origin of the COSROW in the conference at October meeting. Local Church Resource packet mailed to the Coordinated Mailing list includes information on worship, Biblical resources and study books, women in ministry, pastor-parish relations, non-sexist weddings, and domestic violence.

ON THE CALENDAR

- December 7-8 **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS** Sponsored by the UMC Board of Global Ministries to discover how, why and where the Affirmative Action statement adopted by the Health and Welfare Ministries Division is working. Friday afternoon and evening and Saturday morning in San Francisco, California. Agenda includes Biblical reflections, how to initiate an affirmative action program, case studies, statistical information. Contact: Chas. Kellogg, Health & Welfare Division, 1200 Davis St. Evanston, IL 60201.
- January 8-10 **WOMEN IN MINISTRY CONFERENCE** Sponsored by women in the Northern and Southern New Jersey Conferences. Learning sessions with lecture and experience, half in the area of politics, half in spirituality. Contact: Lanie B. Price, Chairperson of Continuing Education, Southern New Jersey Conference, 57 Messenger Lane, Willingboro, New Jersey, 08046.

- January 11-12 **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS** Sponsored by the UMC Board of Global Ministries in San Antonio, Texas. (see above)
- January 14-16 **BLACK WOMEN'S INTERDENOMINATIONAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE** (Atlanta, Georgia) Theme: "Here Am I, Send Me: Identities, Directions, and Energies In The Ministry". Open to ministers, seminarians, lay persons. Topics of discussion include maintaining identity in different racial settings, life/preaching styles, team ministries, the pastor as wife and mother. Registration fee: \$30 plus \$7.50 per night for housing. Registration deadline December 7, 1979. Contact Brenda Bush, Interdenominational Theological Center, 671 Beckwith Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30314.
- February 1-3 **WOMEN IN NEW WORLDS: Historical Perspectives on the United Methodist Tradition.** Convened by the Commission on Archives, UMC, under the auspices of the Women's History Project. Netherland Hilton Hotel, Cincinnati, OH. Contact: Hilah F. Thomas, Rm. 1700B, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10027. (see related story).

FLYER CONGRATULATES, WELCOMES GC DELEGATES

Beginning with this issue of the Flyer, the newsletter of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, General Conference delegates will be receiving the next several editions. The Commission took official action to do this, recognizing that delegates will receive a great deal of legislative material between now and Indianapolis and the Flyer can provide some additional human interest information about the Commission (COSROW).

The newsletter is designed primarily as a resource link with annual conference commission membership. Circulation is managed through annual conference channels. In addition, copies are circulated to bishops, general agency staff, General Councils on Ministries and Finance and Administration, Seminary presidents, deans, libraries, and conference council directors and communicators. It is shared on an exchange basis with ecumenical counterparts to the COSROW. The Flyer is sent free, with costs for both production and parttime editor included in the annual budget of the general Commission. It was produced initially on a 10 issues a year basis and revised in February 1979 to six issues a year. Sample copies of Volume I will be available at the Women's Center in Indianapolis.

WOMEN'S CENTER, ORIENTATION AT GC

Recognizing that many women delegates are new to the General Conference, the Commission and the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries have agreed to co-sponsor an Orientation session the morning of April 15th and a women's center for resourcing throughout the 10 days of the conference.

Preliminary arrangements have been made with the business manager of General Conference to hold the orientation session in the convention center. It will be possible to have lunch on site so no one who attends the orientation will need to miss the opening of General Conference. More details will be forthcoming in future issues of the Flyer.

The Women's Center will be located in the small ballroom on the lobby floor of the Atkinson Hotel, just one block from the Convention Center. It will serve as a gathering place and an information center. Other events of interest to women will also be scheduled during the conference.

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION AT GC INCREASES

When General Conference convenes in Indianapolis, April 15-25, 1980, there will be 230 women among the 912 delegates from the U.S. Among the 230 will be 21 clergywomen and 28 racial ethnic minority women delegates. Accurate data are being compiled for women's representation for central conferences. Women will comprise 25.2% of the conference delegates, an increase of 4.2% over 1976 and an increase of 11.8% over 1972. The charts below display the distribution of women among the total delegations to both the General and Jurisdictional Conferences over the past three quadrennia.

Summary Of Women Delegates To Jurisdictional Conferences			
Year	Women	() indicates number of clergywomen	
		TOTAL	
1972		(0)	259/1950
1976	22.3%	(25)	430/1928
1980	26.4%	(40)	507/1920

U.S. Delegates To General Conferences Percentage Of Women			
Year	Women	() indicates number of clergywomen	
		SUMMARY	
1972	13.4%	(0)	123/912
1976	21%	(10)	189/900
1980	25.2%	(21)	230/912

'HEED SIGNS OF TIMES' THOMPSON URGES GC HEADS

Methodists heading toward General Conference must faithfully interpret the winds and the signs of the times and be prophetic in their response, Barbara Thompson told annual conference communicators and heads of delegates Nov. 2. If Methodists fail to do that, she said, "We will have failed ourselves and our church, and have fallen short of the high calling in Jesus Christ."

Thompson, who many will recognize as the first president of GCSRW, gave the keynote address at the press briefing on General Conference issues in Indianapolis. One of only a few women to speak during the three-day briefing, she called for transformational leadership and a turn away from the "navel-gazing exercises" the church seems prone toward.

"I think the church needs and should have prophetic leadership," Thompson said.

She chastized those navel-gazers who call for getting the house—the United Methodist Church—in order *before* setting the world straight.

"I submit that the manifestations of classism, sexism and racism in our world are not going to put themselves in cold storage and wait for us to get more names on the rolls of local churches," she said. "The exploitation of the disadvantaged, disenfranchised and disenfranchised of the world is not going to pull over to a rest stop in the railroad of life while our gospel train steams through with Bibles for pagan souls."

Thompson called for a change in the techniques of evangelism to

reach those who have been shut out by traditional, patriarchal, colonialist endeavors. "The times in which we live dictate the empowerment and enablement of those who have stood at the back surviving on crumbs, waiting for a chance to sit at the table and share a meal," Thompson said.

Among those to be reached are women who have rejected the patriarchal theology and practices of the church, Thompson said. In describing the fullness of God, "we cannot limit that fullness by placing our human constraint of maleness upon God. The total church must accept its responsibility in healing this wound and in addressing in a positive fashion the rights of women to exercise choices—the choice to be or not to be employed, the choice to continue or to terminate pregnancy.

"The time is present for us to envision what the community called United Methodists should be and to stretch to make it happen," Thompson said, urging support for ecumenism. She serves on the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

Clear messages about Methodist priorities will be broadcast as the General Conference makes priorities for the next quadrennium, Thompson told the more than 150 delegates, reporters and agency staff at the briefing. She expressed particular interest in ensuring the continuation of the Ethnic Minority Local Church Missional Priority, stating that the present fragmented funding route was designed to thwart effectiveness and is a further manifestation of racism.

NO. OF WOMEN CLERGY GROWS

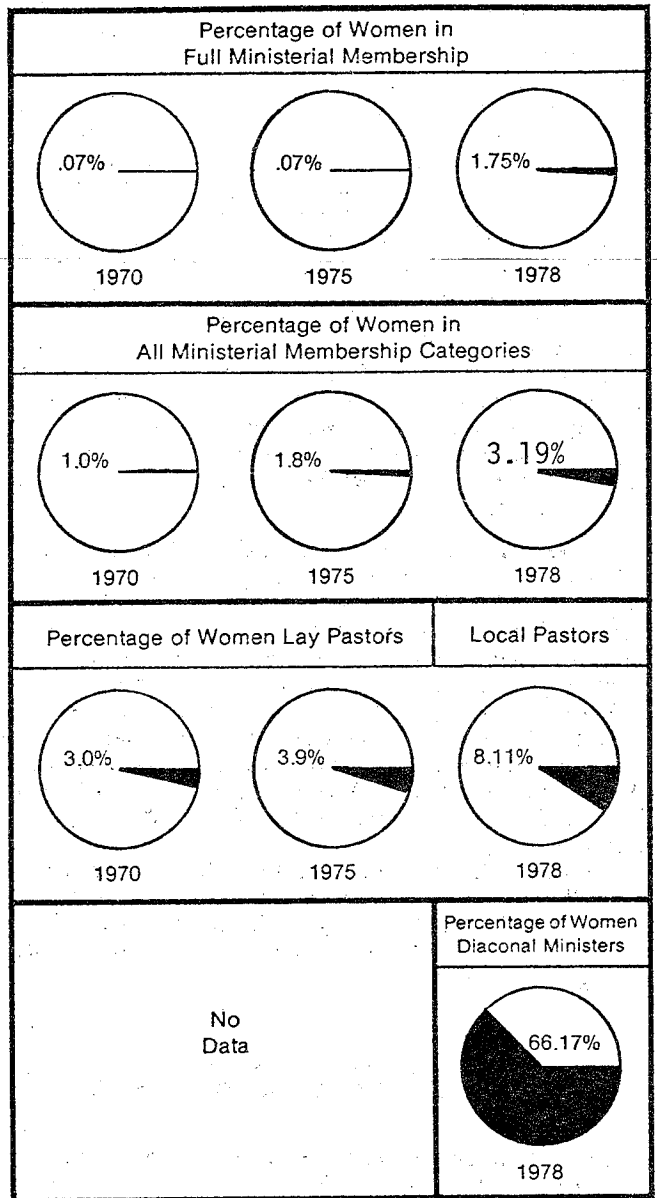
Pictures of ordination classes from two 1979 annual conferences give witness to the growing numbers of women entering ordained ministry. Among the seventeen elders in Northern Illinois class are seven women; in Detroit Conference there are six women among fourteen deacons.

In preparation of its report to the 1980 General Conference the Commission has replicated research done in 1970, and updated in 1974 in a number of arenas. The chart displays the increases in women in professional ministry over the 8 year span. Data were taken from the 1978 annual conference journals and also includes a few women clergy in the retired relationship. Other aspects of the research include a survey to determine the participation of women in decision making of 1057 local churches, randomly selected; a profile of women lay members of annual conferences; a display of women in general boards and agencies and a tally and comparison of general and jurisdictional delegates who are women. A full report of the research will be published as a Research Bulletin by GCOM.



Deacons ordained at the 1979 Detroit Conference were (L-R): front row—David McKinstry, Janet Sivia, Nancy Campbell, Janey Gaston and Richard Dake; second row—Cherie Boeneman, Earl Grice and Sondra Willobee; third row—Thomas Sims, Mildred Hiner and Charles Vinson; back row—Gerald Fuller, Mark Karls and Charles Hall.

PROFESSIONAL MINISTRY THE PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN PROFESSIONAL MINISTRY BASED ON ANNUAL CONFERENCE JOURNALS, 1970, 1975, 1978



Seventeen elders in Northern Illinois Conference include seven women. Elders are (L-R): seated—Linda Lou Bacon Eller, Carol Marie Noren, Greta Louise Schumm MacDonald, Talluah Fisher Williams, Kay Bevans Dillard, L. Louise Mahan, and Linda Rachel Howland; standing—John Jeffery Auer III, Guido Mendez, Tom James McFarland, Joe A. Davis, Larry Wayne Jones, Michael B. Morris, Patrick Robert Bruns, Gary L. Curl, Steven Frank Bullmer, and Eddie L. Robinson. (photo: Chuck Peterson)

PETITION ON GOD LANGUAGE APPROVED, GCSRW SEEKS SUPPORT

A petition to establish a study commission on language about God was approved by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women at its September meeting. The commission seeks supporting petitions from annual conference commissions and other interested groups.

PETITION TO ESTABLISH STUDY COMMISSION ON LANGUAGE ABOUT GOD

To: The Members of the 1980 General Conference
From: The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Introductory Statement

As United Methodists, our history is set within a tradition where the Word of God is central, Biblical preaching is crucial, and the ways we express our witness to God's Word are vital. We are deeply aware that our written and spoken language (words, images, symbols, gestures) not only reflect our culture and behavior but also shape our culture and behavior. The way we use language influences our perceptions of ourselves and our beliefs about God.

God, whom we worship and serve, transcends all human gender designations, for God is neither male nor female, but inclusive of both (see Genesis 1:27). Yet God is often described in metaphors drawn from human experience. We note that most such metaphors are of masculine images, which do predominate in Scripture. We further note that Biblical imagery for God include feminine as well as masculine metaphors (see Deuteronomy 32:11-12, 18; Psalms 51:1, 131:2, Isaiah 46:3, 459:14-15). Jesus taught and lived out of inclusive images of God. In parables, for example, Jesus used similes for God's action which included a woman searching for a lost coin, a shepherd seeking a lost sheep, and a father embracing a prodigal son (Luke 15).

We are aware that many women and men feel themselves excluded from relationship with God when God is imaged only as "King", "Lord", "Father", or referred to as "He". These same persons have known themselves included when God is imaged in both male and female titles. On the other hand, we recognize that there are persons who believe it is necessary to use theological terms of masculine gender if we would be true to the sacred images of God.

We received with appreciation the "Guidelines for Eliminating Racism, Ageism, and Sexism from United Methodist Resource Materials" approved by the General Council on Ministries in November 1978 and published in July 1979. These guidelines deal with language about human beings. We believe there is a further theological task of utmost urgency in the church, which this petition seeks to address.

The Petition

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women petitions the General Conference of 1980 to establish a quadrennial Study Commission on Language About God.

A. The Task of this Study Commission shall be:

1. To inquire into the power and meaning of words, symbols, images about God as are commonly used in the Church;
2. To examine images of God which are prevalent in the Church in liturgy, hymnody, preaching, teaching, publications, and legislative bodies;
3. To identify ways in which language about God leads to limiting relationships among persons; and to identify ways in which language about God enables discernment, wholeness (salvation), and reconciliation among persons in the church and the society;
4. To document and take account of work in this area already completed or in process by agencies of the United Methodist Church (e.g., the Section on Worship of the Board of Discipleship), other denominations, ecumenical agencies, and groups within the larger society;

5. To explore images of God which are an essential part of Biblical material and historic Judaeo-Christian tradition, but which have been lost in recent history;
6. To suggest parallel studies and workshops to be held in each Annual Conference concerning language about God—its power, its relationship to language and behavior among humans, its possibility in enabling redemptive change in the church and the society, and its influence in the full worship of God—during the last two years of the quadrennium 1981-84;
7. To report to the 1984 General Conference, making recommendations regarding the use of inclusive language about God as it is expressed in liturgy, hymnody, preaching, teaching, publications, and legislative bodies of the United Methodist Church.

B. The Composition of and Funding for the Study Commission:

The Study Commission on Language About God shall consist of twenty-one members chosen to represent geographic, sex, and ethnic diversity. Three members shall be selected by each Jurisdictional Conference—one lay woman, one lay man, one clergy (woman or man). There shall be six members-at-large, one person to be named by each of the following agencies: the Board of Discipleship, the Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the Commission on Religion and Race, the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the Council of Bishops, and the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries. The member-at-large, named by each of these agencies, may be staff, agency member, or another designated individual. There shall also be two regular non-voting consultants, one each to be named by the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns and by United Methodist Communications. The Study Commission may invite other consultants on an occasional basis as needed.

The budget of the Study Commission for the quadrennium shall be in the amount of _____* to cover travel and per diem expenses for the twenty-one members and expenses of consultants as invited by the Study Commission.

The Study Commission shall be convened by the Section on Worship of the Division of Evangelism, Worship, and Stewardship of the Board of Discipleship. The organizational and first full meeting of the Study Commission shall be held no later than January 31, 1981.

Adopted by the Commission on the Status and Role of Women
In session September 30, 1979
At Madison, Wisconsin

_____ President
_____ Secretary

*Funding is being negotiated and will be voted in February 1980.

How to Petition General Conference

Paragraph 609 of the 1976 *Book of Discipline* explains the process for petitioning the General Conference. The paragraph reads as follows:

"Each petition should deal with one issue or with one paragraph of the *Book of Discipline*. In the interest of economy of time, materials and money, the submission of large numbers of identical petitions is to be discouraged. One petition signed by a number of individuals is to be preferred."

The deadline for petitions to be received for the 1980 General Conference is March 1, 1980. Petitions should be mailed to the secretary of the General Conference. His address is: The Rev. Newell Knudson, PO Box 5098, Eureka, Calif. 95501.

WOMEN'S HISTORY CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

Who were Jarena Lee, Mattie Sleeth, Mary Goucher, and Charlotte Maxeke?

How did the struggle for women's *laity* rights and leadership differ among the five uniting denominations?

Was the office of deaconess created "to charm men's fears"?

How has the role of the clergy wife changed over nearly two centuries?

These questions, and many others equally provocative, will be addressed at an upcoming "first" for women—the first national conference on the history of women in the United Methodist tradition, sponsored by the Women's History Project of the General Commission on Archives and History on February 1, 2, and 3, 1980.

Called "WOMEN IN NEW WORLDS: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE UNITED METHODIST TRADITION," it will be convened at the Netherland Hilton Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio. Registration is open, and a gathering of five hundred persons is anticipated. The two and one-half day program will explore our history from British Methodism to the present, highlighting the ethnic and geographic richness of our past. This unusual conference features scholarly papers, workshops, and panel discussions on a wide variety of topics, including missions at home and abroad, women's role in racial and social reform, notable Methodist leaders, and women's piety and art, to name just a few. Early on Sunday, a specially planned worship service will be held.

Some sample sessions at "WOMEN IN NEW WORLDS" include:

"Church Women's Relation to Episcopal Power"

"Georgia Harkness: Theologian, Poet, Pastor, Teacher"

"Trampling Out The Vintage" (the Woman's Christian Temperance crusade)

"Christian Teachings on Women and Womanhood"

One focus of the conference will be instruction for women on retaining and arranging their church archives for the future. Also offered is a workshop on collecting oral history.

Scholars and resource persons for the conference will be drawn from a broad spectrum of church and women's historians, United Methodist elders, and active lay persons. It is hoped that those attending "WOMEN IN NEW WORLDS" will represent diversity. Scholars (in church history, women's history, women and religion), members of Conference Commissions on Archives and History, United Methodist churchwomen and clergywomen, and members of all branches of the United Methodist and other religious traditions are invited.

On-site registration begins Friday at 4 p.m. on the third floor of the Netherland Hilton Hotel. The opening session, with keynote address by Kathryn Kish Sklar ("A New World of Protagonists: Historians' Changing View of American Women in Religion and Society during the Last Decade") begins at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday morning's sessions begin at 9 a.m. with the last of the day's programs at 8 p.m. Sunday begins with an early service of worship at 7:30 a.m.

Pre-registration is required for "Women in New Worlds." The fee will be \$15 through Dec. 31, 1979. Registrations received after Jan. 1, 1980, must be accompanied by a fee of \$20. If space is available at the beginning of the conference, walk-in registrants will be accepted for the \$20 fee. Make checks payable to "Women in New Worlds" and send with registration form to General Commission on Archives and History, P.O. Box 488, Lake Junaluska, N.C. 28745.

Registration and program materials are available from the General Commission at Lake Junaluska. Other correspondence should be sent to Ms. Hilah F. Thomas, Project Coordinator, Women's History Project of the United Methodist Church, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1700B, New York, NY 10027.

Free child care will be provided for children under the age of ten; such children must be pre-registered. Cards for reservation of hotel space at the conference will be sent upon receipt of the registration form and fee.

MARJORIE MATTHEWS ENDORSED FOR 1980 BISHOP

Participants at the recent meeting of the North Central Jurisdiction Women's Caucus of the United Methodist Church held in Indianapolis November 1-3 unanimously endorsed the Rev. Dr. Marjorie Swank Matthews as candidate for Bishop in 1980.

Dr. Matthews, a District Superintendent in the West Michigan Conference for the past five years, draws upon thirty years of experience as both a lay and an ordained member of the church. As a founder and as a member of the faculty for the West Michigan Conference Native American Pastors School, Dr. Matthews has been instrumental in providing self-help skills for Native Americans.

"We feel that Dr. Matthews is a highly qualified candidate for the office of Bishop," summarized Rev. Peggy L.T. Garrison, convener of the meeting. "Dr. Matthews can provide the compassionate and unifying leadership which will be required in the 80's."

FIVE MEET WITH COUNCIL OF BISHOPS



Presenter to the April 18, 1979 Dialogue with the Council of Bishops (l. to r.) Lydia M. Saenz, Carolyn R. Oehler, Trudie Kibbe Preciphs, Rev. Sharon Zimmerman Rader and Rev. Gerald Heilman. In addition to presentations to the full Council, opportunity was provided for discussion with an administrative committee on issues of mutual concern (e.g., clergy families, clergy couples, clergy divorce). A compendium of resources were given to each bishop for future reference.

Pat Broughton, freelance writer, has assumed editorship of the FLYER on a new bi-monthly schedule. Out of circulation since March, 1979 (Volume I number 8) the FLYER will complete Volume I with this issue and a December 30 issue. Issues for 1980, Volume II, will be published on the last days of February, April, June, August, October and December.

THE FLYER, named after the Commission's butterfly symbol, is published as a communications link with the Annual Conference Commissions. Items for possible insert should be sent—by the 25th of the month preceding publication—to THE FLYER, c/o the Commission office. No permission is needed to reprint; a credit line is requested. Annual Conference Commission members should send address changes to their chairpersons, not to the Commission office.

Next Issue: Dec. 30

Patricia Broughton, Ed.

GCSRW SEPTEMBER MEETING

(Cont. from pg. 1)

author of the just published book, "The Future of Partnership," offered theological reflections on partnership.

Begin with the new Testament model of redemption, Jesus' relationship with his disciples she urged, naming the elements of partnership: trust, struggle and most importantly—service.

"Characteristics of partnership," she said, "include serendipity, synergy, caring and a willingness to go beyond oneself.

"One plus one doesn't equal two or one, as usually thought in marriage partnership," Russell said. "One plus one equals three or more. When partnership happens, there is always a multiplication, not only through children, but through release of energy and in other ways."

How partnership does and doesn't work was explored Saturday evening as Connie and George Butchee of the Southwest Texas Conference presented four dramatic vignettes they had written especially for the commission meeting.

Playlets focused on the effect of itineracy on clergy families, on clergy divorce, on adjustments for dual careers and on clergy couples. With each vignette the Butchees developed the story to the point of decision and then invited Commission members to dialogue about possible outcomes. Russell then framed a theological context from which to explore the issue further.

While exploring new models of partnership with Russell and through dramas, the commission also reaffirmed its own model of staff leadership, the three-member executive Secretariat. Criticism of the model had come from the General Council on Ministries (GCOM).

The commission's personnel committee evaluated and reviewed the Secretariat individually and collectively and recommended to the Commission the nomination of the three, Kiyoko Kasai Fuki, Trudie Kibbe Preciphs and Nancy Grissom Self to the GCOM for election.

"The model does work," the commission said. "We like it and our professionals like it. The executive secretariat model provides a pluralism mirror for the whole church. We experience diversity with unity, shared responsibility, mutual support and positive, strong leadership models for women and men through the church within the executive secretariat."

In her president's report, Carolyn Oehler noted that in the evaluation and review report written by GCOM, the secretariat-staffing model is called "a weak leadership model for women. The consensus style is labeled inefficient and leading to a lack of clarity. The liaison relationship we're warned not to formalize. And programming for formerly neglected group is labeled inappropriate for our mandate."

The negative evaluation was perceived by Oehler as part of the increasing conflict in the church between hierarchical systems and attempts at alternatives.

Oehler stressed the importance of how things get done, saying that is perhaps more important than what gets done. "To gain the whole world and lose our souls is to gain nothing."

In action taken during the four-day meeting, the commission added sexual orientation to its list of "hiring without regard to." The list now includes race, color, sex, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, physical handicap, and religious preference.

A letter sent by the Commission to Joan Clark, who was fired from the United Methodist Women's Division staff when she came out as a lesbian, informs her that because of her struggle the Commission has revised its personnel policy.

"As you journey on the road to justice, know that we are walking along that same road and that we rejoice in your rejoicing and weep in your weeping, your sisters and brothers in the struggle," a mailgram sent to Clark concludes.

A mailgram was also sent to the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries, informing it of the personnel policy decision, and expressing solidarity in the struggle for justice for all women in the church and society.

The Commission also decided to focus on racism, sexism and Native American concerns at its February 1980 meeting. Other decisions which will be put into petitions for consideration at General Conference include

1) asking that the Church's Social Principles be changed to reflect the desirability of shared responsibilities for parenting by women and men, and that consideration be given to both parties in dual career families of the church and in society when relocation is considered.

2) recommending that the preamble statement of the Social Principles use "Creator" instead of "Father" as a reference to God.

3) using the appointment of a study commission on language about God. (see related full text of petition on page 5).

4) asking that Social Principles legislation

- affirm the importance of women in decision-making positions at all levels of church life,
- eliminate sex role stereotypes in activity and portrayal of family life and in all aspects of voluntary and compensatory participation in the church and society,
- promote and safeguard the freedoms and general welfare of all people.
- affirm belief in the responsible consumption of food and energy and in the ownership of property as a trust from God.

In other legislation, the commission recommended:

5) deletion of "insofar as possible" from a paragraph mandating each board, committee, council and work area in the local church to be representative of the age level, sexual, cultural, racial/ethnic membership, as well as the economic, social and theological orientation of the congregation.

6) asking the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee to undertake a new responsibility "to prepare the congregation for the reception of the new minister by developing better understanding of his or her gifts, graces and family needs and by facilitating full acceptance without regard to race, ethnic origin, color or sex, thereby being fully consistent with the commitment to open itineracy".

7) reaffirming the commission's purpose as advocate, catalyst and monitor on behalf of women in the church.

The commission also

8) adopted a 1980 budget of \$224,480.

9) Initiated as part of the advocacy function a consultation with psychological testing specialists on the issue of psychological testing of possible ministerial candidates by boards of Ordained Ministry with special regard to imagery, language, intent, interpretation, as relates to women including racial/ethnic women.

10) Approved recommendations to United Methodist seminaries calling for consideration to be given to hiring racial/ethnic minority women, development of more affirmative action plans and expanding the number of women in policy-making roles.

11) Asked a Disciplinary change that would alter the sentence in which ministers "offer themselves without reserve to be appointed and to serve, after consultation as the appointive authorities may determine (present wording is "appointed and to serve as their superiors in office may direct").

12) Voted to send the Flyer to all General Conference delegates to better acquaint them with the work of the Commission and important women's issues.

COMMISSION TALENT SCOUT

TO APPLICANTS AND EMPLOYERS: To inquire about openings, applicants should write directly to the employers listed, not to the Commission. Employers submitting listings are asked to send information—including application deadline and salary range—to the Executive Secretariat, CSRW—1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201 (312) 869-7330.

1. **PRESIDENT OF GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY:** To begin before September, 1980. Must be an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church, experienced in the field of theological education and administration, proven fund-raiser, skilled in management. Five-year commitment and doctorate or record of scholarly achievement desired. To nominate a candidate or to apply, contact: Chairperson, Presidential Search Committee, Post Office Box 1031, Evanston, IL 60204.
2. **DEAN, PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY:** Contact Dean Alan B. Coleman, Cox School of Business, SMU, Dallas, Texas, 75275.
3. **FACULTY POSITIONS, ILIFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY:** Appointments beginning fall, 1980, for a tenure track appointment in preaching, a three-year terminal appointment in Bible, a three-year terminal appointment in theology. Favored candidates will have seminary and doctorate degrees. Contact the President's Office, The Iliff School of Theology, 2201 South University Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80201.
4. **ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE COMMISSION ON REGIONAL AND LOCAL ECUMENISM AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY FOR CHRISTIAN/JEWISH RELATIONS:** National Council of Churches of Christ, U.S.A. Salary: \$21,000-\$24,000. Contact: Lynn R. Best, Dept. of Personnel, Room 520, National Council of Churches of Christ, U.S.A., 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027.
6. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BLACK METHODISTS FOR CHURCH RENEWAL (BMCR) Chief Administrative Officer for the Black Caucus of the U.M.C. Lay or ordained clergy person with knowledge of the United Methodist Church. Salary Range: \$16,000-\$18,000. Contact: Bessie Givhan, P.O. Box 584, Greenville, Mississippi 38701.**
7. **DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:** 3,000-member church seeks person to develop Christian Education programs for children infancy through sixth grade. Contact: Dr. Jerald Jackson, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Lynndale at Groveland, Minneapolis, MN 55403 or phone (612) 871-5303.
8. **DIRECTOR OF YOUNG CHILDREN'S EDUCATION, BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP:** Section on Church School Teaching and Learning, Division of Education. Contact: Office of Personnel, United Methodist Board of Discipleship, P.O. Box 840, Nashville, Tennessee 37202 or telephone (615) 327-2700, ext. 485. If interested inquire immediately.
9. **PROGRAM ASSOCIATE IN PRISON MINISTRY, ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S CENTER OF CHICAGO:** Half-time position for person with experience in developing community resources and organizing. Salary range: \$6,000-\$7,000 plus benefits. Position available after Jan. 1, 1980. Racial minority candidates sought. Contact: Ecumenical Women's Center, 1653 W. School St., Chicago, IL 60657 or phone (312) 348-4970.
10. **PROGRAM COORDINATOR, ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S CENTER, CHICAGO:** Responsible for facilitating the over-all operation of the EWC and developing and implementing programs in the areas of Life of Women in the Church and Women in Professional Ministry. Must be ordained minister or a professional religious affiliate, understand sexism, racism, classism. Three-year commitment expected. Salary range: \$15,000-\$17,000 plus benefits. Racial minority candidates sought. Contact: EWC, 1653 W. School St., Chicago, IL 60657 or phone (312) 328-4970.
11. **AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL OFFICE** and other positions: The AFSC, a religious (Quaker) organization committed to social change, peace, human rights and non-violence and resisting injustice, poverty throughout the United States and in a number of Third World developing nations, seeks applicants to fill a number of positions. As an Affirmative Action employer, it desires women, Third World men and women, gay men and women, disabled persons and ex-prisoners. Contact: American Friends Service Committee, Personnel Office, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 10102, or phone (215) 241-7105.
12. **ART DIRECTOR, PROMOTION AND BENEVOLENCE INTERPRETATION DIVISION, UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS:** Will create or supervise creation of all printed materials. College degree in art or equivalent required plus five years experience in commercial art studio or agency. Minimum Salary \$16,450. Write to Dr. Readus J. Watkins, Associate General Secretary, United Methodist Communications, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201. Deadline: December 15, 1979.



the commission on the status and role of women
the united methodist church

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evanston, illinois 60201
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Committed to Christ-
Called to Change