

The Flyer

Vol XIX, No. 4

Fall/Winter 1999/2000

Commission practices being the church amid disagreement; passes legislation

"To the people called United Methodists, with the hope that, through prayer and holy conferencing, we will engage each other in love and grace as we deal with issues upon which we disagree..." thus begins a resolution from the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) being offered to the 2000 General Conference. The resolution urges the church to "pause in reflection on the process of disagreement." "Engaging each other in love and grace" captures the essence of the Commission's Sept. 23-26 meeting in Birmingham, AL.

As the Commission engaged in holy conferencing on the petitions and resolutions brought forward from the Legislation Work Unit, members struggled to be the church amid disagreement, very much in keeping with the process outlined in their res-

olution "Being Church Amid Disagreement." The resolution describes a process in which groups focus on questions that help participants discern one another's positions and hear other's feelings as well as ideas. It also urges groups in the midst of controversy to "practice a ministry of mindfulness" in which participants may share where they agree; practice sharing, hearing and repeating back one another's positions; use facilitators to maintain safe discussion spaces; and share what they are willing to risk for the sake of justice and compassion. (For the full text of this resolution and all legislation submitted by GCSRW to the 2000 General Conference, see the web site at www.umc.org/gcsrwl/.)



Commission members engage in holy conferencing as they discuss petitions for the 2000 General Conference: from left, Phyllis Ferguson, Francis E. W. Guidry, Deb Kiesey, Margie Briggs, and Doug Grove-DeJarnett.

On a resolution to delete ¶65C of *The Book of Discipline*, which states that "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual union shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches," 32 Commission members voted by written ballot 17 in favor, 14 not in favor, and 1 abstain. That petition failed because under the Commission's rules for legislation, a resolution fails if there are four or more "no" votes. Then an alternate resolution on ¶65C also failed with a vote of 20 in favor, 12 not in favor, and 0 abstain. This resolution offered replacement language: "Ceremonies which celebrate holy covenants between persons of the same gender shall be offered in those congregations which have recorded their approval through the Administrative Board or the Church Council and by ordained clergy persons who have expressed their commitment to inclusiveness and willingness to be celebrants."

GCSRW worships, plans for General Conference

At the Sept. 23-26 meeting, members of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women celebrated the success of the April gathering Women's Congress: A Spiritual Journey.

In keeping with the inspirational spirit of the Commission-sponsored gathering, opening worship for the September meeting included Wise Women from Women's Congress. Johnetta Johnson Page led music from the keyboard; Kappitola Williams offered liturgical dance; and Janet Wolf preached. Assisting with worship were GCSRW members who attended Women's Congress: Darlene Saunders Ousley, Francis E.W. Guidry, Joyce Waldon Bright, Terri Rae Chattin, Phyllis Ferguson, Rose Arroyo, and Takayuki Ishii.

On Sunday morning, the Commission members joined Highlands United Methodist Church in Birmingham for their worship service.

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Commission practices being a church from page 1

Other legislation approved

Another resolution calls the church to move from solidarity with women to accountability and action on behalf of women. Specifically, this resolution urges the church to demonstrate its commitment in a number of areas:

eradication of violence; economic justice, racism, xenophobia, and full and equal participation of women in the church. The resolution replaces an existing one that focuses on the Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women, which was celebrated by the World Council of Churches (WCC) from 1988 to 1998. At the 1998 meeting of the WCC in Harare, Zimbabwe, Decade celebrations recognized the evidence of women being in solidarity with one another, but also recognized that churches are not consistently in solidarity with women.

The resolution asks the church to seek the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Moreover, it outlines a number of opportunities for general boards and agencies, along with local churches, districts, and annual and central conferences, to study and work to carry out their commitment in the areas listed above.

Sexual harassment continued to receive strong commitment as the Commission endorsed a resolution "Eradication of Sexual Harassment in The United Methodist Church and

Society." This resolution, which replaces an earlier resolution, calls for continued vigilance and action to eradicate this violence. The resolution also seeks to clarify and educate clergy and laity about the term *sexual harassment* and its meaning both in the U.S.

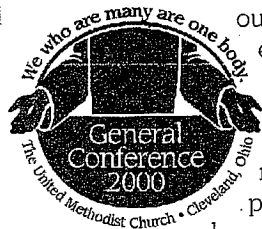
and around the world. As it points out, while the term is considered in the U.S. to refer to a legal concern within the workforce, many international communities recognize sexual harassment as part of a continuum of violence. This distinction offers an important challenge for the church and all United Methodists living in the U.S.A.

Reaffirming the necessity of the pursuit of full participation of all women, Commission members endorsed a resolution "Goals and Recommendations for Full Participation of All Women," replacing the original resolution which led to the formation of GCSRW. Contained in the resolution is an outline of United Methodist commitment and progress toward full and equal participation of women. Yet the resolution also outlines the ways in which the church has fallen short of that goal and a vision for continuing the work.

Central to this vision is parity, which means participation comparable to representation in the body as a whole. Thus, as women have learned over the last 30 years, it is not enough to be present at the table where decisions are made or to be a member of a committee or a board where pro-

grams and policies are shaped. Even with a seat at the table, inequities and unjust treatment create barriers to full participation. Not only is it important, states the resolution, for the Commission to continue its work, but it is imperative that the many parts of the United Methodist connection attend to the concerns of women, as well.

With the resolution "Sexual Ethics within Ministerial Relationships in the United Methodist Church," the Commission urges more intense cooperative effort to prevent clergy and lay sexual misconduct through training and education with a team convened by GCSRW and including representatives from General Board of Global Ministries, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, General Council on Finance and Administration, GCSRW, and General Board of Church and Society. The resolution outlines the ways in which all facets of the church may contribute to this important work. ●



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on the web:*

www.umc.org/gcsrww

**Fall/Winter 1999/2000
Vol. XIX, No. 4**

The Flyer

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

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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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Petitions for 2000 General Conference

The following petitions were submitted by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women for consideration by 2000 General Conference. The full text of these petitions is available on the GCSRW web site at www.umc.org/gcsrww.

Being Church Amid Disagreement

Churches in Solidarity with Women: From Solidarity to Accountability

Replaces Book of Resolutions, p. 157 and p. 237

Eradication of Sexual Harassment in The United Methodist Church and Society

Replaces BOR, p. 481 and 483

Goals and Recommendations for Full Participation of All Women

Delete "Equal Rights of Women, p. 244 of the BOR, and "Goals and Recommendations on Participation of Women," p. 256 of the BOR; replace with suggested text

Sexual Ethics within Ministerial Relationships in The United Methodist Church

Replaces BOR, p. 128

Amendment to Paragraph 4, Article IV, and Paragraph 117

GCSRW worships

from page 1

Commission members continued their preparation for 2000 General Conference by naming a Monitoring Team and heard reports from other planning groups. As part of its disciplinary mandate to monitor participation of women, the Commission will again send a Monitoring Team to General Conference to keep the body accountable for its commitment to hearing women's voices. The team, as approved, includes John Campbell,



Pastor Emily Freeman Penfield greets Charlotte Fitzsimons and Karl Baumgardner at Highlands UMC, Birmingham.

Doug Grove-DeJarnett, Sherman Harris, Aquilino Javier, Seini Liti, Lydia Martinez, Susan Smalley, Virginia Tarver, Linda Thomas, and Betty Wright. Alternates are Alice Yun Chai, Chuck Hefley, Mary Kathryn Pearce, Mattie Mae Rice, and Anita Wood.

Thanks to the teamwork of Gail Murphy-Geiss and Karl Baumgardner, the Commission reached consensus, with one person standing outside consensus, on the statement "God's Inclusive Grace," which will be used as a mission statement for the Commission's internal life and work. (See sidebar, "God's Inclusive Grace," for text.)

Deb Kieseey presented a report from the task force charged with planning a worship service on Sunday, May 7 in the midst of General Conference. ●

"God's Inclusive Grace"

A mission statement for GCSRW

Preamble

The Scriptures reveal to us a picture of a God who loves and cares for all people. This vision of God is further revealed in Isaiah: "for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord God who gathers the outcasts of Israel. I will gather yet others." (Isaiah 56:7b-8). Jesus Christ invites us to bring the Good News of God's grace and compassion to everyone. Christ reminds us of the breadth and depth of God's grace and mercy encompassing all women and men and children. Christ invites all and includes all in his message of God's grace.

The very nature of the Good News of Jesus Christ is inclusive. The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) believes that we truly honor God and celebrate the presence of Christ in and among us when we provide and promote compassion, intercession, and ministry to and for all of our sisters and brothers.

Resolution

Whereas, "[t]he primary purpose of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women shall be to challenge The United Methodist Church, including its general agencies, institutions, and connectional structures, to a continuing commitment to the full and equal responsibility and participation of women in the total life and mission of the Church, sharing fully in the power and in the policy-making at all levels of the Church's life. Such commitment will confirm anew recognition of the fact that The United Methodist Church is part of the universal church, rooted in the liberating message of Jesus Christ, that recognizes every person, woman or man, as a full and equal part of God's human family." (Par. 2102, The 1996 Book of Discipline);

Whereas, "[h]omosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth. All persons need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self." (Par. 65G, The 1996 Book of Discipline); and

Whereas, the members of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women hold diverse opinions on the issues of homosexuality in relation to Christian teaching, yet are committed to seeking areas of agreement;

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women commits itself to a message of grace available to all persons, a ministry of Christ-like hospitality, and a vision of inclusiveness through continued openness to the full participation of all people, which includes gay men and lesbians, indeed all marginalized persons, in its life and work, encouraging mutual respect, inclusive dialogue, and growth in compassion.

Sept. 25, 1999

Worth repeating...

"The challenge for theological education is not only for us to be together in the church and to live in a way that reflects the fact that we are related to each other, but also to live in a manner that reflects our responsibility for each other."

—Linda E. Thomas, anthropology professor at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL, speaking at an October conference on the Women of Color Scholarship and Mentoring Program.

Status Report

Women's Division adopts social action resolutions

Proposed resolutions on issues ranging from adoption to hate crimes have been approved by the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, for consideration by the 2000 General Conference. The division's action occurred during its Oct. 15-18 annual meeting.

A resolution on international and cross-racial adoptions encourages adoptive parents to affirm the cultural and racial background of the child, supports increased financial assistance to middle- and lower-class families considering adoption, and supports policies enabling more foster care families and extended family members to adopt children in their care.

United Methodists would create resources, fund local networks, organize letter-writing campaigns, support legislation and take other measures against hate crimes in a resolution on that issue.

In an effort toward "responsible travel," United Methodists would respect codes of conduct and cultural practices of other countries, raise awareness about sex tourism, and advocate for international policies that hold the travel industry accountable for their impact on the environment, local economies and local traditions.

A resolution on "Pillars of Peace for the 21st Century" creates a new policy statement on the United Nations. The pillars are political, economic and legal accountability, liberation and empowerment, peace and conflict resolution, human dignity and rights, and preservation of the environment.

In a resolution on child soldiers, United Methodists would work to implement recommendations of the World Council of Churches, which include calling for an immediate end to the recruitment and participation of children as soldiers and promoting international standards on the issue. The denomination also would offer humanitarian assistance to children traumatized by their experiences as soldiers.

Other resolutions call upon United Methodists to renew their historic support for public education and encourage both clergy and laity to use biblical

language that reflects the diversity of the church.

Women's Division directors also: Decided to join the Coalition of People for Better TV, which works to protect the public interest during the television industry's transition to digital TV technology.

Agreed that United Methodist Women should be involved in the Global Media Monitoring Project II, to begin in January. The project monitors the images of women presented on television and radio and in the newspapers.

—United Methodist News Service,
Oct. 19, 1999

Committee upholds Dell verdict; adjusts suspension

An appeals committee has decided to uphold the suspension of United Methodist pastor Gregory Dell for performing a same-sex union but limit the term of that suspension.

The decision was released to principles in the case on Sept. 17 and was the result of an Aug. 9 hearing at the O'Hare Radisson Hotel in Rosemont, IL. The North Central Jurisdiction Committee on Appeals ruled that the Rev. Gregory Dell, who was then pastor of Broadway United Methodist Church in Chicago, had committed a chargeable offense under church law, as determined at a church trial last March.

"In sum, the Committee finds that the verdict was supported by clear and convincing evidence and was well within the discretion of the Trial Court," the decision said. However, the committee disagreed with the indefinite suspension placed upon Dell as a penalty. "The Trial Court's failure to

specify a finite period of time for the suspension is found to be an error of church law allowing the Committee to vitiate (invalidate) the penalty and impose a penalty which is not 'higher' than that imposed by the Trial Court," the decision said.

In fixing the suspension from July 5, 1999, to June 30, 2000, the committee said it found Dell's intentional violation of the church's mandate to be a "very serious infraction." It also agreed with the trial court that the suspension could be lifted if Dell submits a document to his bishop stating he will comply with the section of the United Methodist Book of Discipline that prohibits pastors from conducting same-sex union ceremonies.

Next May, the issue of same-sex unions is expected to be addressed in Cleveland during the United Methodist General Conference. Dell was elected as a General Conference delegate by his annual conference but cannot be seated or have voice or vote because of the suspension.

—United Methodist News Service,
Sept. 20, 1999

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Ovations

To **Cynthia Abrams**, a member of the Seneca Tribe, who has been appointed executive director of the National United Methodist Native American Center, Claremont, CA, which develops programs to assist in the recruitment and training of Native persons for the ordained ministry.

To **Marilyn Alexander**, former executive director of development, alumni relations and public relations at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, who has been named interim director for the Reconciling Congregations Program, a program aimed at bringing full inclusion for all in the church, including gays and lesbians.

To **Marilyn Clements**, who has been named executive secretary for economic justice of the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries.

To **Estella B. deCarlotto**, the president of the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, who received the World Methodist Peace Prize in Buenos Aires, in recognition for the organization's efforts over the past 22 years to recover the children and grandchildren of persons who have been detained and have subsequently disappeared during a military dictatorship.

To **Laurie Day**, Caldwell, ID, who has received the Theresa Hoover Community Service and Global Citizen Award from the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, to examine the changing roles of women in Kenya.

To **Eunice Dharmaratnam**, who is the recipient of the 1999-2000 Racial Ethnic Minority Fellowship awarded by United Methodist Communications. She is working with Lynne DeMichele in the Indiana Area Communications Office of the United Methodist Church.

To **Dana Greene**, who is the first woman to have been named as dean of United Methodist-related Oxford College in Oxford, GA.

To **Christiana Koisey Hena**, a native of Liberia serving as a United Methodist medical missionary in Russia, who was presented the Anna Eklund Award for Distinguished Missionary Service by the General Board of Global Ministries.

To **Mildred Hutchinson**, social activist and current chairwoman of the Los Angeles United Methodist Urban Foundation, who was honored on her 105th birthday by Claremont (CA) School of Theology at a special chapel service and luncheon at the seminary Oct. 6.

To **Susie M. Johnson**, director of programs at The Africa Fund, New York, who has been named executive secretary for public policy of the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries.

FYJ

First Methodist-Benedictine monastery opens in Minnesota

Mary Ewing Stamps, in cooperation with St. John's Abbey of Collegeville, MN, has established St. Brigid of Kildare Monastery, a Methodist-Benedictine monastery of women in Collegeville.

Although not officially affiliated with the United Methodist Church, the monastery grew out of a resolution adopted by the 1984 General Conference and turned over to The Upper Room to implement. The monastery is named after St. Brigid, who is credited with bringing religious life to the women of Ireland.

The monastery will follow the rule of St. Benedict, laid out by the monk who established the Benedictine order 1,400 years ago.

For more information on St. Brigid's of Kildare Monastery, e-mail Dr. Stamps at mestamps@juno.com.

UM Foundation expands scholarship program

The United Methodist Church's Double Your Dollars for Scholars program is increasing the number of scholarships it offers to 325, with most of the new awards going specifically to racial minorities.

The United Methodist Foundation

To **Judith L. Weidman**, on leave as general secretary of United Methodist Communications, who has been named the 1999 Duke Divinity School Distinguished Alumna. An ordained United Methodist minister who earned her master of divinity from Duke in 1966, Weidman has worked in church communications and journalism for 34 years.

In memoriam

To **Louise H. Branscomb**, a founding member of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women who served from 1972 to 1982, who died June 16, 1999. She was also a leader in the Wesleyan Service Guild and a member of the Methodist Board of Mission from 1964 to 1972. A graduate of the Johns Hopkins University Medical School, she practiced gynecology in Birmingham from 1931 to 1975 and obstetrics from 1931 to 1944. She was a bold advocate for women, the laity, and minorities in the church and in society.

matches \$1,000 for local churches raising that amount for a member of their congregation who plans to attend a UM-related college or seminary. In 2000, the program will provide \$1,000 matching scholarships to the first 325 eligible applicants. The increased number includes 75 scholarships specifically designated for Hispanic, Asian and Native American students. These scholarships will be divided equally among the three groups from a grant provided by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Applications will be accepted after Feb. 1. For more information on Double Your Dollars for Scholars or other programs of the UM Foundation for Christian Higher Education, call (800) 811-8110, visit www.umfche.org online, or write to P.O. Box 340005, Nashville, TN 372030005.

UMCom invites scholarship applications

United Methodist Communications (UMCom) is accepting applications for the Leonard M. Perryman Communications Scholarship for ethnic minority students and the Stoodly-West Fellowship for graduate study in religious journalism. The scholarships are for the 2000-2001 academic year.

The \$6,000 Stoodly-West Fellowship allows a graduate student pursuing a career in religious journalism to study at an accredited graduate school or department of journalism. The agency also awards a \$2,500 Leonard M. Perryman Communications Scholarship for Ethnic Minority students in religious communications. In each category, two scholarships will be given to students, one of which is designated for a United Methodist. Deadline for receiving applications is March 15.

More details are available at www.umc.org/umcom/scholarship/html; by sending an e-mail to Scholarship@umcom.umc.org, or by writing to Scholarship Committee, United Methodist Communications, P.O. Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202.

Web Listing Delegates elected to General Conference and jurisdictional conferences are listed at www.umc.org/gc2000/delegates

Resources

The Battle for America's Families: A Feminist Response to the Religious Right, Anne Bathurst Gilson (Pilgrim Press, 1999). Contending that the Christian right operates by an ideology of control, manifested sexual politics and economic politics, the author seeks to shift the moral focus from judgement to justice. \$19.95.

The Call to the Soul: Six Stages of Spiritual Development, Marjory Zoet Bankson (Innisfree Press, 1999). This spiritual road map is designed for people seeking to understand and nurture their spiritual growth. Each stage is portrayed in mythological archetypes, with biblical and personal stories, and reveals a pattern of spiritual transition that offers understanding and comfort in the face of life changes. \$14.95.

Feminist and Womanist Pastoral Theology, ed. Bonnie Miller-McLemore and Brita Gill-Austern (Abingdon Press, 1999). This collection of essays has three-fold aim: (1) to identify the many changes occurring in definitions of pastoral theology, care, and counseling; (2) to define and develop new methods and approaches; and (3) to show the implications of these changes for congregational care and theological education. \$22.00.

Gospel Days: Reflections for Every Day of the Year, Joan Chittister (Orbis Books, 1999). The author concentrates on familiar Gospel passages and asks what those words mean to us now. She helps us to do what monastics call *lectio*, the reflective reading of Scripture in ways that change our lives. Topics include guilt, shame, and healing, seeing the invisible, goodness, suffering and endurance, prayer and solitude, grief, forgiveness, gratitude, faith in difficult times, anxiety, and passion for life. \$14.00.

Grace Sufficient: A History of Women in American Methodism, 1760-1968, Jean Miller Schmidt (Abingdon Press, 1999). Focusing on women's religious lives rather than women's religious activities, the author looks at women's diaries, letters, spiritual autobiographies, and accounts of their pious lives and holy deaths that appeared as obituaries in publications like the *Methodist Magazine*. \$30.00.

Heart Whispers: Benedictine Wisdom for Today, Elizabeth J. Canham (Upper Room, 1999). The author offers insights from the sixth century monk to help find a place of inner security and daily rhythm that balances work and rest, study and play, prayer and compassion. \$12.95.

Home By Another Way, Barbara Brown Taylor (Cowley Publications, 1999). A selection of new sermons that moves through the church year with themes of faith, doubt, grace, anger, and jubilation. \$11.95.

Homosexuality and the Christian Faith: Questions of Conscience for the Churches, ed. Walter Wink (Augsburg Fortress, 1999). Church leaders clarify the biblical witness and biblical authority, the nature or character of homosexuality and sexual orientation, and many related topics. \$14.00.

I Never Knew That Was in the Bible! The Ultimate A to Z Resource to Common Expressions and Curious Words That Come From the Bible, ed. Martin Hugh Manser (Nelson, 1999). This fully illustrated resource shows how hundreds of today's colorful, everyday expressions come from the Old and New Testaments and gives the stories behind hundreds of other words and phrases. King James Version expressions are illuminated

by comparison with the way they are translated in eight major 20th-century Bible versions. \$19.99.

Mother Love: Reinventing a Good and Blessed Future for Our Children, Esther Davis-Thompson (Innisfree Press, 1999). Drawing on the wisdom of the Black community, yet speaking across class and economic lines, the book presents a vision for renewing the emotional and spiritual lives of children, families, and communities. \$12.00.

Night on the Flint River: An Accidental Journey in Knowing God, Roberta Bondi (Abingdon Press, 1999). Bondi reflects upon a profound experience of God's love and grace in an unexpected moment and shows how to pay attention to how God uses these moments for our good. Hardcover, \$17.00.

A Prayerbook for Spiritual Friends, Madeleine L'Engle and Luci Shaw (Augsburg Fortress, 1999). Here is a collection of read-aloud, read-together prayers with reflections on the authors' experience of prayer and settings that might enhance the experience. \$10.99.

Praising God: The Trinity in Christian Worship, Ruth Duck and Patricia Wilson-Kamer (Westminster John Knox, 1999). How can we worship the Christian God, traditionally prayed to as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and be faithful both to Scripture and to contemporary feminist critiques of patriarchal language and thought? Establishing theological foundations for inclusive language about the Trinity, they conclude with new worship resources expressing trinitarian faith in accessible contemporary language. \$22.00.

Promesas Quebrantadas, Perspectivas Religiosas acerca de la Violencia Domestica. This Spanish version of the award-winning video "Broken Vows" tells the stories of six battered women from diverse religious traditions and shows how religious teachings have at times been misinterpreted in ways that justify and perpetuate abuse. It also offers positive suggestions about how religious communities can help abused women and can join in the effort to end domestic violence. Includes study guide and package of brochures for the audience. For information about previews, purchase, or rental, contact the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, (206) 634-1903. Fax: (206) 634-0115. E-mail: cpsdv@cpsdv.org. Web site: www.cpsdv.org.

Return to Babel: Global Perspectives on the Bible, ed. John R. Levison and Priscilla Pope-Levison (Westminster John Knox, 1999). Each

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Options for Action

Ethnic women sponsor retreat in Pacific Northwest

"Reconnecting, Remembering and Rejoicing" was the theme of a one-day retreat for ethnic women of the Pacific Northwest Conference, held Oct. 23 at Calvary United Methodist Church in Tacoma, WA. Fifty-four women gathered to reconnect with each other, remember their heritage and foremothers, and rejoice in their gifts as ethnic women and children of God.

This retreat, sponsored in part by the Commission on Ethnic Ministries, was hosted by Calvary Women's Fellowship under the leadership of Luana Pitoitua. Included in the day was a small group discussion of two questions: How can the United Methodist Church be more responsive to ethnic women? How can ethnic women help this process? The findings from this discussion will be presented to Bishop Elias Galvan, Conference Council on Ministries, United Methodist Women, Conference Commissions on the Status and Role of Women and Religion and Race, and to the Vision and Oversight Committee.

For more information, contact Phyllis S. Ferguson, 10050 43rd Place, N.E., Seattle, WA 98125. (206) 293-2996.

Calendar

February 5

Writing Your Art Out: Discovering the Sacred Through Word and Image, Nashville. Karla Kincannon and Karen Turner will direct participants combining art and journaling, allowing for your individual gifts of the spirit to more fully emerge. Contact Scarritt-Bennett Center, 1008 19th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212-2166. (615) 320-4600. Web site: www.scarrittbennett.org.

Feb. 17-20

"This Far By Faith": Organizing to End Domestic Violence in African American Communities, Atlanta. This second annual Black Church and Domestic Violence Institute is sponsored by the Black Church and Domestic Violence Project. Contact Denise McInnis, GCDVP, 1020 DeKalb Ave., NE, Suite 11, Atlanta, GA 30307. (404) 658-9003. Fax: (404) 658-1070. E-mail: bcdvorg@aol.com.

March 17-19

Prisms and the Stories of Life, a Women's Retreat, Nashville. Grace Imathieu will lead women in exploring storytelling through the prisms and lens of our own personal experiences. Contact Scarritt-Bennett Center, 1008 19th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212-2166. (615) 320-4600. Web site: www.scarrittbennett.org.

March 26-29

Clergy Misconduct: Sexual Abuse in the Ministerial Relationship, Daytona Beach, FL. Leadership development for judicatories focusing on crisis response and management. Contact Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, (206) 634-1903. Fax: (206) 634-0115. E-mail: cpsdv@cpsdv.org. Web site: www.cpsdv.org.

March 27-29

Women's Lives, Voices, Solutions: Shaping a National Agenda for Women in Higher Education, Minneapolis. This national conference is also planned as a teleconference. It will be a national conversation with students, faculty, and staff throughout the U.S. to discuss key issues that affect the education, advancement, and success of women in higher education. Contact the National Teleconference for Women in Higher Education, University of Minnesota, Office of the Associate Vice President for Multicultural Affairs and Academic Affairs, 432 Morrill Hall, 100 Church St., S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455. Web site: www.umn.edu/women/wihe.html. E-mail: wihe@tc.umn.edu.

March 30-31

Women and the Word, Boston. This 16th annual preaching event is sponsored by the Anna Howard Shaw Center and features leaders Christie Neuger, Christine Smith, and Rosetta Ross. Contact Anna Howard Shaw Center, 745 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215. (617) 353-3075. E-mail: shawctr@bu.edu.

April 2

Reclaiming Our Sexual Lives as an Act of Grace, Asheville, NC. Rita Nakashima Brock is the leader. Contact Holy Ground, (828) 236-0222 or HolyGrnd@aol.com.

April 7-9

Southeastern Women's Studies Association Conference, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. Speakers include Dorothy Allison, author of *Bastard Out of Carolina*, and Joyce Scott, an artist who draws on the African-American quilt making tradition. Contact womens_st@appstate.edu. (828) 262-7603.

April 14-15, 2000

The Color of Violence: Violence Against Women of Color, University of California, Santa Cruz. The purpose of this conference is to analyze the connections between sexual and domestic violence in communities of color and the political and economic structures of violence nationally and globally. The gathering will provide an opportunity to develop analyses and strategies toward both goals: first, challenging violence within communities of color, and second, shifting the focus of the dominant anti-violence against women movement away from a purely gender-based politic. Contact Andrea Smith, 123 Felix St., #4, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Phone: 831-460-1856. Fax: 831-459-3733. E-mail: andysm@cats.ucsc.edu.

Sept. 10-13

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

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of ten historically significant biblical texts is interpreted by international scholars—a Latin American, an African, and an Asian. This book is the first to combine interpretations from several global contexts on key biblical texts. \$19.00

Rhetoric and Ethic: The Politics of Biblical Studies, Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza (Augsburg Fortress, 1999).

Focusing on Paul and his interpreters, a leading feminist biblical critic questions the apolitical ethos of biblical scholarship and argues for an alternative rooted in a critical understanding of language as a form of power. \$19.00.

Sacramental Living: Falling Stars & Coloring Outside the Lines, Dwight W. Vogel and Linda J. Vogel (Upper Room, 1999). What does it mean for ordinary people to live sacramentally? The authors seek to answer this question. \$12.95.

Spiritual Lemons: Biblical Women, Irreverent Laughter, and Righteous Rage, Lyn Brakeman (Innisfree Press, Inc., 1999). For any woman who has ever struggled with anger, shame, or envy, Brakeman's retelling of the stories of biblical women opens up gifts hidden in difficult emotions. Includes journaling suggestions and group exercises. \$12.95.

Victim to Survivor: Women Recovering from Clergy Sexual Abuse, Nancy Werking Poling, ed. (United Church Press, 1999). This important text offers the stories of six women who were sexually abused by their pastors and who tell in their own voices what they did about it. In their personal journeys of healing, they demonstrate a tenacious faith, grounded in gospel truth—compelling church leaders to acknowledge this hurtful hypocrisy, advocate for healthy pastoral relationships, and call perpetrators to accountability. \$15.95.

Women Saints: Lives of Faith and Courage, Kathleen Jones (Orbis Books, 1999). In contrast to most accounts of saints that are heavily weighted toward men, the author offers forty women of extraordinary variety from many centuries, cultures, and continents. \$20.00.

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