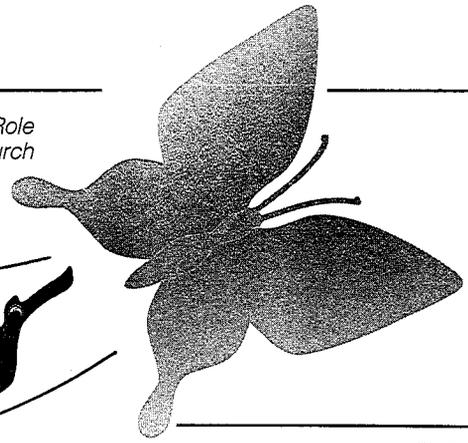


The Flyer



Vol XVIII No. 1

Fall 1997

Stony Point meeting emphasizes diversity...

Commission focuses on Chinese immigrant women

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) learned first-hand from Chinese immigrant women and community leaders the challenges facing those newly-arrived in New York City, as the group continued its emphasis on diversity at the Sept. 25-28 meeting in Stony Point, NY.

On a day-trip to New York City's Chinatown, Commission members listened to women struggling as laborers in sweatshops for less-than-minimum wage and heard of unfair labor practices in dim-sum restaurants.

At the Chinese United Methodist Church in Chinatown, James Law, the senior pastor, moderated presentations by community leaders who explained a variety of urgent needs. Mey Joy Choy, executive director of the Chinese Methodist Center, reported on her not-for-profit daycare and after-school programs, which serve some 200 children ages 3 through 18. Housed in the nearby public school, the after-school program offers homework assistance and Chinese culture activities, along with a summer day camp.

In her presentation, Lillian Moy, program



Lillian Moy, Chinatown YMCA program director, outlines their programming, designed to help youth engage in productive, rather than gang, activities, as James Law, pastor of Chinese United Methodist Church, moderates.

director for the Chinatown YMCA, explained that parents of the youth they serve are often illiterate in both English and Chinese and rely on radio and television for information. The risks for their youth begin with loneliness, in part, resulting from using VCRs as their friends. These youth become bored and turn to street corners as hangouts where

they are then threatened by gangs. As Moy points out, "I can provide these youth with \$2.50 for lunch. Someone else [from a gang] can offer them a beeper." Consequently, joining a gang becomes a source of security and a way of survival.

In addition to its youth programs, the YMCA offers family support programs. One of the newer programs offers young women opportunities to participate in sports. Another important program pairs youth with adult professionals in a mentoring relationship. Through this variety of programs, the facility serves around 150 children per day, totaling 3,000 per year, while they are under contract to serve 2,000 children each year.

Immigration attorney Ted Cox outlined the history of immigration law and implications of the changing immigration laws. His presentation included repeated examples of seemingly absurd immigration injustices carried out within the context of U.S. law.

continued on page 2

Jurisdictional conference calls highlight ACCSRW work

"Keeping the connection connected" would be an appropriate theme for the jurisdictional conference calls organized and led by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW). Held during September and October, these calls offer an opportunity

One of the leading concerns among conference call participants was a response to Promise Keepers.

(ACCSRW) to share questions, ideas, and concerns with one another and with members and staff of GCSRW.

One of the leading concerns among conference call participants was a response to Promise Keepers. The California-Nevada Commission on the Status and Role of Women, for example, is

for chairpersons and staff of annual conference commissions on the status and role of women

working to become better informed about the activities and statements from Promise Keepers.

Restructuring taking place within conferences and local churches has raised a concern for how ACCSRWs can hold women's concerns in the forefront in the midst of these changes. The Oregon-Idaho ACCSRW is operating under their new structure in which Status and Role of Women is combined with Religion and Race, and SRW is not represented on the Council on Ministries. As Cecelia Long, member of the general secretariat, reminded participants, "As restructuring discussions take place, the important thing is to keep the purpose of the Commission in mind. The Commission's mandate has not changed. The directive is to move ahead as though you have been given authority."

From Missouri East came a report on the Values Monitoring

continued on page 2

Focus: Chinese immigrant women *continued from page 1*

Along with the Chinese-speaking congregation served by Chinese United Methodist, the church has a 30-and-under English-speaking congregation which is trying to address "a severe need for a place for teenagers to hang together," according to Mark Granfors-Hunt, associate pastor. Moreover, a unique ministry of the church is serving

(Its) ministry offers a link between those who have moved on and those still in the Chinese ghetto.

as a link of love and support between those who have moved on from the community and those still living in the Chinese ghetto.

Following the presentations at Chinese UMC, Commission members divided into two groups for an experience of historic and contemporary immigration issues. One group walked through the neighborhood to visit the Chinese Staff and Workers Association (CSWA). They were welcomed to this grassroots organization by JoAnn Lum, assistant director. There, a group of women volunteers told their personal experiences of abuses in their jobs as garment workers and restaurant staff: Fun Moe Ery, Yu Hui Chang, Wah Lee and Trinh Duong, a CSWA staff member.

As Trinh Duong so powerfully explained, it was common for persons in China to refer to America as the Gold Mountain. As a student in New York City, she became involved in a hunger strike against exploitive restauranters. That strike became a conversion experience for her, in which she recalled her mother's words as an immigrant worker from years before, "I know that my life is over now that I've seen America."

Meanwhile, the other group of Commission members toured the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, organized in 1988 and located in a building built in 1863 by immigrant Lucas Glockner, to help provide housing for newly arrived immigrants. From 1863 to 1939, this 22-apartment structure at 97 Orchard St. was home to 7,000.

Commission members heard stories telling of the dignity, pride, and respect these immigrants felt for themselves and for one another. They depicted an overwhelming sense of community, a willingness to help each other, such as on holy days and the sabbath when Christian neighbors turned on lights (after the advent of electricity) for their Jewish neighbors.

These experiences are an outgrowth of the Commission's emphasis on diversity, which emerged after a visioning process during the 1993-1996 quadrennium, according to Stephanie Anna Hixon, member of the Commission's secretariat.

"What we recognized is that the Commission has primarily worked on behalf of white, middle-class women in the United Methodist Church," she explained.

Determined to pay attention to "those women who are really overlooked," the Commission's Coordinating Committee has led the group toward learning "about ourselves, about our own diversity as a church," Hixon added.

Diversity training

As another part of its ongoing efforts to learn about and appreciate the church's diversity, Eric Law and Catherine Roskam presented a day-long diversity workshop for the Commission. Using a variety of activities—self

assessment, small group discussion, and dramatic presentation, Law and Roskam invited members to examine their own cultural perspectives and traits, and to recognize the ways our individual outlooks influence our relationships with and regard for others.

Law is the ministry and congregational development officer of the Diocese of New Westminster of the Anglican Church of Canada and has been a consultant and trainer in multi-cultural organization development for over eight years. Roskam, bishop suffragan of New York, has oversight of the 66 congregations of the area, where she continues her work in congregational development, clergy care, and leadership training. ■

Jurisdictional *from page 1*

Team retreat that Long had helped to lead. It provided members equal participation and helped the team to have a common understanding of how they can work in the conference.

An emerging area of programming for ACCSRWs is retreats and mentoring for girls and young women. Nebraska sponsored its first retreat for mothers and their fifth and sixth grade daughters. The event offered an opportunity to address what happens when girls move into more independent adolescence and tend to lose self esteem. Next summer they plan to provide material on gender diversity for junior highs. California-Nevada is exploring the possibility of a mentoring program for young women.

Sexual harassment and misconduct of a sexual nature continue to demand attention. Eastern Pennsylvania, for example, is beginning training on policies and prevention of these problems with local church staff-parish relations committees.

The Anna Howard Shaw Center recently released a report on clergywomen leaving local church settings. Several ACCSRWs have also begun to examine the issue. North Georgia ACCSRW is conducting a study of clergywomen's salaries. Indiana leaders are concerned with the discrepancy of salaries in the conference between men and women clergy. Eastern Pennsylvania will also be collecting data related to female clergy salaries and retention.

In keeping with the Commission's focus on the full and equal participation of all women, Northern Illinois ACCSRW is trying to be a real voice to all women, regardless of race, class or sexual orientation.

Conference calls will be planned twice per year for each jurisdiction. ■

Women's Congress: A spiritual Journey **Coordinator named for Women's Congress**

At the Sept. 25-29 meeting of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Joyce Waldon Bright, president, announced that Ethel Johnson of Columbus, OH, will work with the Commission to coordinate the Women's Congress scheduled for April 14-17, 1999. Using the theme "The Women's Congress: A Spiritual Journey," the purpose for the event is to empower individual women while creating an event that will live on after the event is over.

As the first step in this spiritual journey, Johnson explains, "we will provide a place for inspiration and support. To enable the journey to continue into the future, the event will provide networking, empowering, and resourcing skills to strengthen the body of Christ." Johnson brings to this project a wide range of United Methodist experience as director of Christian Education, associate executive secretary of the New York East Conference Board of Education, and professor of church administration and director of field education at Methodist Theological School.

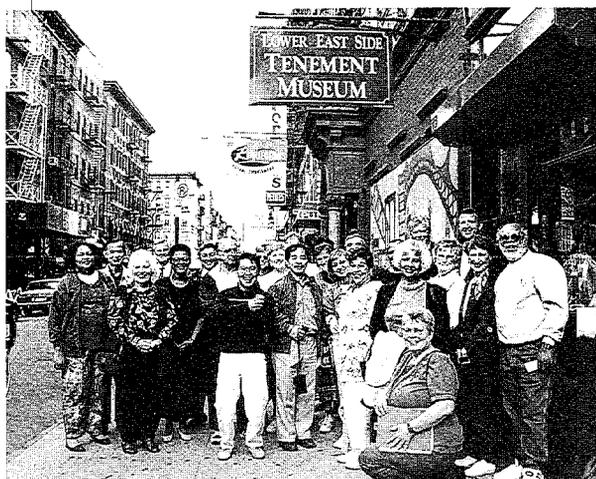
Members of the Commission's design team include Darlene Saunders Ousley, Deb Kiesey, Francis E.W. Guidry, Betty Wright, Joyce Waldon Bright, and Taka Ishii.

The event is slated to take place at Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center in Norcross, GA, near Atlanta.

From Stony Point to John Street to Chinatown...

Commission experiences diversity

During its Sept. 25-28 meeting at Stony Point, NY, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women saw and heard stories of life in New York City's Chinatown. That experience, along with diversity training and other Commission work, contributed to the Commission's ongoing learning and concern for all women in the church.



Commission members prepare to tour the Lower East Side Tenement Museum in New York City's Chinatown.



As part of their diversity training, Commission members consider multicultural issues: from left, Margie Briggs, Beth Brown, Martin Roberson, and Taka Ishii.



Catherine Roskam applies a bandaid to Eric law in their portrayal of the drama "Band Aid," during their diversity training offered at the Commission meeting.



Libby Wright portrays Methodist foremother Barbara Heck in the sanctuary of John Street United Methodist Church, located near Wall Street, which is the oldest continuous Methodist congregation in America. The congregation was founded by Barbara Heck and Philip Embury in 1766.



During dinner at a Chinatown restaurant, Mark Granfors-Hunt, associate pastor of Chinese United Methodist Church, discusses his church's work with Commission members, from left, Phyllis Ferguson, Alice Chai, and Janice Riggle Huie.



Commission member Efrain Maldonado, left, discusses with Peter Lin, grassroots organizer and member of Chinese UMC, the challenges facing the Chinese immigrant community in New York City.



Darlene Saunders-Ousley prepares to lead a Commission worship service, which incorporates portions of her tribe's smudging ceremony and medicine wheel ceremony.

Applications invited for Perryman scholarship

The \$2,500 Leonard M. Perryman Communications Scholarship for Ethnic Minority Students is offered annually in recognition of Mr. Perryman, a journalist for The United Methodist Church for nearly 30 years.

The scholarship aids U.S. ethnic-minority undergraduate students who intend to pursue careers in religious journalism or mass communication and are enrolled in either their junior or senior year in accredited institutions of higher education in the U.S.

Application forms for the 1998-1999 academic year may be obtained by writing to: Scholarship Committee, UM Communications, Public Media Division, P.O. Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202-0320. E-mail: Scholarships @Umcom.umc.org. Web-site: <http://www.umc.org/umcom/>

Completed applications must be mailed by Feb. 15, 1998.

Applications invited for Stooddy-West Fellowship

The annual \$6,000 Stooddy-West Fellowship in religious journalism is offered in recognition of the professional competence and inspired service of Dr. Ralph Stooddy and Dr. Arthur West, leaders in public relations and information services in The United Methodist Church, 1940-1975.

The grant will assist a Christian engaged in religious journalism, or one planning to enter this field, in taking graduate study at a U.S. accredited and approved school or department.

Application forms for the 1998-1999 academic year may be obtained by writing to: Fellowship Committee, UM Communications, Public Media Division, P.O. Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202-0320. E-mail: Scholarships @Umcom.umc.org. Web-site: <http://www.umc.org/umcom/>

Completed applications must be mailed by Feb. 15, 1998.

New Dynamics continues to offer workshops

A three-day workshop "Men, Women and Collegueship," based on the book *A Male/Female Continuum: Paths to Collegueship*, continues to be offered by New Dynamics. The workshop affords an opportunity for consultants, trainers, diversity program managers, and human resource professionals as

well as line managers, educators and others personally interested in these issues to experience the training methods of the multicultural team.

For more information, contact Rianna Moore, P.O. Box 45118, Rio Rancho, NM 87174-5118. Phone: (505) 892-6071. Fax: (505) 891-3445.

GBGM receives collection of papers on women and U.N.

A collection of papers on women and the United Nations dating back to 1945 has been donated to the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries by Esther Wanner Hymer.

The collection will be housed in the Walter Van Kirk Library at the Church Center for the U. N., New York, NY.

Call for Georgia Harkness Scholarship Awards

The Division of Ordained Ministry of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry invites applicants for the Georgia Harkness Awards, given in memory of the life and service of Georgia Harkness (1891-1974), outstanding teacher and theologian.

The purpose of the awards is to encourage women over 35 to prepare for ordained ministry as an elder in the United Methodist Church as a second career. The awards may be applied toward tuition, fees, room and board for the basic seminary degree leading to elder ordination. Typical grants range between \$500 and \$1,500.

Deadline for receipt of application and all documents is March 1. Applications can be obtained from all United Methodist seminaries and the Division of Ordained Ministry—Section of Elders and Local Pastors, Georgia Harkness Scholarship Award, Box 871, Nashville, TN 37202-0871. (615) 340-7409.

Wesley issues call for Denit Fellows Awards

Wesley Theological Seminary announces the acceptance of nominations and applications for the Denit Fellows Program. This special program of leadership preparation is designed to strengthen the church for the 21st century by encouraging women and men of high quality to prepare for ordained pastoral ministry.

The program provides full-tuition scholarships, room, board and educational support for a specially selected group of students as they prepare for pastoral leadership in The United Methodist Church.

To be considered for the Denit Fellows Program, applicants for the Master of Divinity degree for the fall 1998-99 academic year must apply by Feb. 2, 1998, so that they can participate in interviews on Feb. 21.

For further information, contact the Office of Admissions, Wesley Theological Seminary, 4500 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016. (202) 885-8659 or (800) 882-4987, ext. 1. Fax: (202) 885-8585. E-mail to "admiss@clark.net". ■

Copy deadlines

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

Dec. 30, 1997 **Winter 1998**

March 1, 1998 **Spring 1998**

Send to: Bonny Stalnaker Roth, GCSRW, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201. (847) 869-7330. FAX: (847) 869-1466.

Calendar

March 9-11, 1998

Religious Pluralism and Christianity: An African Perspective, New York. Led by Elizabeth Amoah. Contact Auburn Theological Seminary, 3041 Broadway, New York, NY 10027. (212) 662-4315. Fax: (212) 663-5214

March 20-22, 1998

Women's Experience: The Power of Writing in Women's Lives, Chicago. The seventh women's conference sponsored by Gannon Center for Women and Leadership, Loyola University. Leaders include Susan Cahill and Miriam Therese Winter. Contact Women's Conference, Loyola University, Sullivan—200, 6525 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60626. (773) 508-8430.

OUR VISION FOR THE QUADRENNIUM

Making the Church Whole: Full and equal responsibility and participation of ALL women

At the Sept. 25-28, 1997, staff members of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women presented the following reading. We share this presentation as part of our ongoing work to support local church and annual conference efforts on behalf of women in the church.

"WHO ARE WE? WHY ARE WE HERE?"

Suggestions for staging: Two persons with telephones are seated in front of the audience. Scripts should be distributed to all members of audience. Audience is invited to participate by reading the words typed in all capital letters.

(Stage: telephone answerer located in GCSRW office; caller at another location....)

(Stage help to audience— said aloud: "You know those thought bubbles—seen in cartoons...")

(Telephone rings.)

Answerer: Women's Commission, ___(Name)___ speaking.

Caller: Who?

Answerer: The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in The United Methodist Church, ___(Name)___ speaking.

Caller: (Lifting thought bubble on card.) "Super-calla-fraja-listic-ex-pe-ali-docious." General?

Answerer: Specifically **General** Conference — a gathering of church people called United Methodists from all the world, who decided that the church, for its own salvation needs a commission...

Caller: Commission?

Answerer: **Commission...** as in set apart and sent out... into all the world of the Church...to challenge The United Methodist Church, ... to a continuing commitment to the full and equal responsibility and participation of women in the total life and mission of the Church...

Caller: ..on the Status of a Roll...?

Answerer(s): No, **status and role** — the place of someone and someone in place.

In the Wesleyan dictionary — abridged — it may sound like this:

Called into God's loving activity
IN CREATION, COMMUNITIES, NEIGHBORHOODS, HOMES

FROM PEW & PULPIT,

TO CREATION, COMMUNITIES, NEIGHBORHOODS, HOMES

Called into God's loving activity
IN CREATION, COMMUNITIES, NEIGHBORHOODS, HOMES

FROM ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEMBER'S CHAIR & ANNUAL CONFERENCE PRESIDING OFFICER'S CHAIR

TO CREATION, COMMUNITIES, NEIGHBORHOODS, HOMES

Called into God's loving activity
IN CREATION, COMMUNITIES, NEIGHBORHOODS, HOMES

FROM VOTING DELEGATES' SEATS & ELECTED BISHOPS' SEATS

TO CREATION, COMMUNITIES, NEIGHBORHOODS, HOMES

Caller: ..on the Status and Role...?

Answerer(s): Yes, status and role — the place of someone and someone in place.

In God's dictionary — unabridged — it may sound like this:

Called into God's loving activity
IN CREATION, IN THE BELOVED IMAGE OF THE CREATOR

FROM WHEREVER WE MAY BE

TO THE WHOLE OF CREATION

Caller: The General Commission on the Status and Role of ... what?

Answerer: Women.

Caller: Women?

to next page

Special Supplement **WHO ARE WE? WHY ARE WE HERE?"** from page 5

Answerer: Women.

Caller: Which women?

Answerer(s): ALL Women: women of every color, sound, stature and station.

Women with heads that shine and hair that flows free:

DANCING AND CRAWLING, STEPPING OUT AND SITTING BACK,

Women with weaves and rolls and braids and bobs: LABORING AND RESTING, AT HOME AND SOJOURNING,

Women with curls and combs and wigs and veils: SINGING AND SORROWING, BIRTHING AND DYING,

Women in Creation,
IN THE BELOVED IMAGE OF THE CREATOR

Called into God's loving activity
FROM WHEREVER WE MAY BE

Helping to make the Church whole,
FROM INJUSTICE TO JUSTICE,

From betrayal to healing,
FROM MOURNING TO DANCING,

From violation to honoring
THE WHOLE OF CREATION.

Caller: The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

Answerer: Yes.

Caller: Oh, Hello!

End

Reflections on Stony Point

I was a stranger and they welcomed me...

By Ann Torrance-Bachman, Troy Conference Chairperson of Status and Role of Women, pastor of Wolcott and Puffer United Methodist Churches, Morrisville, VT

On Sept. 25-28, 1997, I was accorded a special blessing! I attended the General Commission's fall meeting in Stony Point, NY. I had, along with other chairpersons in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, received an invitation to attend the General Commission's meeting as a visitor.

Having been chairperson of my annual conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women for four years, I was anxious to see what these folks from all over the U.S. and Puerto Rico do when they gather and how it could help me be energized as an annual conference chairperson to do my job. They did not disappoint me.

What I found as I attended these sessions in Stony Point was a very diverse group of women and men who work very hard at many levels. First of all, they work to make sure that they can support the individual annual conferences. This support is done through linkage work with annual conference chairpersons and jurisdictional conference calls, all of which they discuss and report at these meetings. Second, they make sure the funding is there to do the work GCSRW is called to do—to monitor, support, to educate, to deliver materials to those of us

who do this more on a local level. Third, this group comes up with wonderful educational materials and suggestions for educational projects at the annual conference level. Fourth, they monitor and make sure the policies (such as the sexual misconduct policy) that are written by the annual conferences, as well as GCSRW, are implemented and carried out. Then, of course, there are legislative matters to impact the whole denomination.

The energy of this group is amazing. They work many long hours at these sessions and throughout the year to fine tune issues, projects, and vision as they go forward. All this care for these issues in the church as volunteers, and what a committed group it is! They were extremely welcoming to me and even sought out my advice on how to help the annual conferences. I learned a great deal about what it means to be part of the group called GCSRW, which includes laity, youth, clergy including district superintendents and bishops. I cannot relay how much I enjoyed their warmth, singularity of purpose, dedication, spirituality, sensitivity and their ability to have fun and laugh.

For you annual conference chairpersons

out there, when you receive an invitation to one of these gatherings, think twice before you say, "I'm too busy to do this." It will be well worth your time and travel, I assure you. I thank GCSRW for this opportunity. ■

The Flyer

Fall 1997
Vol. XVIII, No. 1

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 Fitzsimons, Secretary

General Secretariat:

Stephanie Anna Hixon/Cecelia M. Long
GCSRW, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201
(847) 869-7330; (800) 523-8390

Permission to reprint is not required; a credit line is requested. This publication is on file with the Women's Collection, Special Collections Dept., Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60201.

Status Report

Commission on UM Men cites agreements, disagreements with Promise Keepers

While noting some areas of disagreement with Promise Keepers (PK), members of the General Commission on UM Men, meeting Sept. 25-27 in Nashville, committed themselves to working with PK "where similar goals and objectives do not conflict." By secret ballot, commission members adopted a 460-word resolution about PK.

Areas of agreement: 1) the seven promises; 2) PK seeks to promote men's ministry in the local church within the existing denominational structures; 3) PK insists that men not start PK groups within their churches and consider it a copyright law violation for those that do; and 4) PK wants to help UM men, who attend their events, to be the best UM men they can possibly be.

Areas of disagreement: 1) UM Men embrace theological diversity while PK embraces more narrow theological parameters; 2) UM Men affirm women in ministry and church leadership whereas there is a diversity of opinion about women in PK; 3) the UMC emphasizes global missions, evangelism, and nurture whereas PK places emphasis on a "catalytic ministry that motivates and trains men for men's ministry in the local church"; 4) the UMC utilizes a connectional structure whereas PK emphasizes congregations; and 5) PK is a para-church and it has tendencies that lead some participants to a "political agenda" or "patriarchal relapse." In these areas of disagreement, the group expressed a willingness to be in "creative engagement with PK to learn from them and for them to learn from us." If these areas of disagreement continue, commission members said they will pray for PK "as we proceed in separate directions."

—*Newscope*, Oct. 10, 1997

Don't abandon anti-racism efforts, Thompson says

The "reign of God" is not so near that "some of the more intentional aspects" of UM efforts against racism can be abandoned, the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) was told Sept. 26 in Chevy Chase, MD.

Barbara Ricks Thompson, general secretary of GCORR, lamented the abandonment of affirmative-action initiatives because people assume there is a level playing field for all people. "I want to remind you the 'level'

playing field still has bumps and potholes, chasms and barriers, to people of color..." said Thompson.

"It is on our shoulders that generations to come must stand and those shoulders must not be bowed from shame because we lost our dream, or because our vision dimmed and we changed the course too soon," Thompson said. She suggested that Promise Keepers' call for "racial reconciliation" falls short of the need to call for "racial justice."

—*Newscope*, Oct. 10, 1997

Hispanic clergywomen hold second consultation

For the first time in 11 years, Hispanic clergywomen in the United Methodist Church came together to talk about their concerns.

More than 60 clergywomen gathered at United Methodist-related Perkins School of Theology for the second Hispanic Clergywomen's Consultation.

Hosted by the school's Mexican-American Program, the Aug. 17-20 gathering allowed clergywomen from the United States, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Bolivia and Chile to share stories of their call and struggles, and to explore future opportunities for ministry.

Director of the Mexican-American program is Minerva Carcaño.

"I knew in my heart that Hispanic clergywomen are hurting," said Lydia Salazar Martinez of Austin, TX, who was consultation chairperson. "To hear it said out loud was powerful, and something we all needed to experience."

She said that one of the major issues the women needed to discuss "was the feeling of isolation we have as we struggle with racism and sexism."

According to Lynn Scott, director of continuing education for clergy in the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), "the power of their stories, their identity as Hispanic women and the gifts of their ministries enrich our church and beyond."

According to Martinez, money for continuing education is not often available for Hispanic clergywomen. "These clergywomen work in rural areas and small churches. Their salaries are very low, especially in Puerto Rico and the Rio Grande Conferences."

The second consultation was sponsored by GBHEM, the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry, the General Commission on Religion and Race, and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

Another purpose of the consultation was to develop strategies enabling Hispanic clergywomen to be viewed by the cabinets as individuals with gifts and graces.

"I think sometimes we are stereotyped and assigned to small Hispanic churches. This was obvious from some of the stories we heard during this consultation," Martinez observed. "We would hope that bishops would see the many dimensions of who we are and our ministry so that we may participate fully in open itinerancy."

A committee was formed from the consultation to do follow-up work on issues raised during the gathering. The women hope to schedule jurisdictional gatherings next year.

—United Methodist News Service
Sept. 11, 1997

Black clergywomen form new group

Some 85 members of Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church recently held their first meeting in Atlanta and began developing strategies to deal with the myriad of justice issues they face within the church.

The group was formed following a vote to dissolve the African-American Clergywomen's Steering Committee of Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR). There are approximately 400 black clergywomen in the UMC.

The new group will relate to BMCR, but it will not be under its leadership. The group 1) elected an executive committee; 2) ratified by-laws; and 3) set goals to a) develop a system of networking, b) understand the appointment process, and c) mentor young women in the ministry.

Elected officers are chairperson—Linda Lee, a district superintendent from Detroit and chairperson of the meeting; vice chairperson—Sherry Townsend, director of teaching ministries, Texas Conference; recording secretary—Charlotte Abrams, Union Memorial UMC, Omaha, NE; administrative secretary—Vanessa Stephens Lee, Federalsburg (MD) Zion UMC; treasurer—Rosa Clements, North Hill UMC, Akron, OH; clarifiers—Neriah Edwards, Aldersgate UMC, Warrenville Heights, OH, and Debra Grady, pastor of Lockerbie Square UMC, Indianapolis, IN; and chaplain—Vivian McFadden.

The group is open to all United Methodist clergywomen of African descent: elders, deacons, local pastors, diaconal ministers, semi-

continued on page 8

Status Report *continued from page 7*

narians, undergraduate students and retirees. The organization will receive its financial support from members' dues.

In appreciation for Bishop Leontine T.C. Kelly (retired), their mentor and leader, the group requested the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to establish a scholarship in her honor. The first Bishop Kelly Justice Award recipient is Joyce Harris-Scott, pastor of Central Avenue UMC, Kansas City. —UM News Service, Aug. 7, 1997

Black clergywomen have an 'appointment with God'

Approximately 400 clergywomen of African, African-American, and Caribbean descent gathered at Atlanta University Center campuses for an Aug. 4-8 convocation called "I Have an Appointment with God."

Opening with a drum processional and music by Cynthia Wilson-Felder, the convocation participants attended worship, workshops, and large sessions to reaffirm their commitments to God, restore their spirits, and reestablish their identity as black women in the ministry.

Preachers from the United Methodist, Roman Catholic, and Baptist churches led in praise, worship and nurture settings. Pastors, professors, attorneys, writers, and counselors from various denominations offered workshops to help them be better witnesses in the world.

The convocation was sponsored by the UM black clergywomen and the Clergywomen's Task Force of Black Methodists for Church Renewal. Other supporters include the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the Women and Ministry unit of the National Council of Churches, and the Urban Outreach Foundation of Urban Ministries.

—UM News Service, Aug. 7, 1997

Episcopal Church makes significant decisions

A proposal to extend Church Pension Fund benefits to surviving partners of lesbian and gay clergy and lay employees was defeated by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. However, meeting mid-July in Philadelphia, delegates agreed to apologize to gay and lesbian members of the church for "years of rejection and maltreatment by the church."

The convention also voted to 1) back efforts to make Jerusalem the capital of two independent states, Israel and Palestine; 2) call for a review of all military training programs such as the School of the Ameri-

cas; 3) call for a study of the ordination of practicing homosexuals; 4) defeat efforts to develop liturgies for same-sex blessings; and 5) mandate that women be given access to the ordination process and acceptance as priests in all dioceses of the church, at the same time protecting the rights of those who disagree.

—Newsweek, Aug. 1, 1997

Agency attorney calls \$119 million verdict "frightening"

Mary Logan, general counsel to the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA), said the \$119 million judgment against the Dallas Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church "should send a chill down all of our spines." The jury made the awards to 11 former altar boys and the family of a 12th who committed suicide, all of whom were molested by a priest.

Ovations

To **Joy Carr**, associate of the Tennessee Conference Council on Ministries, who has been named director of Christian education for the General Board of Discipleship.

To **Ann Die**, president of Hendrix College, Conway, AR, who was elected president of the National Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities of the UMC.

To **Heidi Hadsell**, faculty dean and vice president for academic affairs at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, who is the first woman to be appointed director of the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Institute at the Chateau de Bossey, near Geneva, Switzerland.

To **Joyce Harris-Scott**, pastor of Central Avenue UMC, Kansas City, KA, who received the first Bishop Kelly Justice Award from the newly organized Black Clergywomen of the UMC.

To **Rosemary Skinner Keller**, academic dean, vice president for academic affairs, and professor at Union Theological Seminary, New York City, who received the 1997 Distinguished Service Award from the General Commission on Archives and History.

To **Deborah A. Knowles**, a consultant to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in Nashville, who has been named manager of the Upper Room Fellowship, which provides copies of the devotional booklet to prisons, youth offenders, and chaplains.

To **Linda Lee**, a district superintendent from Detroit, who has been elected chairperson of Black Clergywomen of the UMC.

To **Jane Marshall**, a member of the choral conducting and music theory faculty at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, who received the Roger N.

All church entities need a written policy addressing lay and clergy misconduct, said Stephanie Anna Hixon of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW). Then the policy needs to be monitored and enforced.

Logan said she wants to see ongoing education at all levels of the church because leadership, especially among the laity, changes. People need to know what constitutes misconduct and harassment and what to do about it when it happens, she said.

—Methodists Make News, Aug. 1, 1997

In memoriam

Lois Cummings Seifert, 80, a member of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, 1989-1996, and a widely known Christian educator, died Aug. 25 of cancer at the Pilgrim Place retirement community in Claremont, CA.

Deschner Award for outstanding contributions to the music and worship life of the church from the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts.

To **Victoria Matthews** of Toronto, who was elected diocesan bishop of Edmonton, the eighth Anglican/Episcopal woman serving as bishop worldwide, the fifth serving as diocesan bishop.

To **Joy J. Moore**, pastor of Trinity UMC in Battle Creek, Michigan, who has been named director of women and ethnic ministries at Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, KY.

To **Barbara Nissen**, director of communications for Nebraska Conference, who has been named network specialist for the newly established Conference Resource Team of UM Communications led by Steve Horswill-Johnston.

Deborah Jarrett, administrative assistant for UM News Service, will serve as administrative assistant to the new unit.

To **Christina Odenberg**, who is the first woman to be named bishop in Sweden.

To **Laura Okumu**, retired from UM Communications, who was inducted into the UM Association of Communicators Hall of Fame.

To **Katakshama Paul Raj**, who was installed as bishop of the Good Samaritan Evangelical Lutheran Church on Oct. 27, 1996, in her home parish of Badhachalam, India. She is the first woman to serve as a bishop in Asia.

To **Gloria Shipp**, who became the first aboriginal woman ordained to the priesthood by the Anglican Church of Australia.

To **Shirley Whipple Struchen**, director of communication education and UM Teleconference Connection, named 1997 Communicator of the Year by the UM Association of Communicators.

Resources

Caretakers of Our Common House: Women's Development in Communities of Faith, Carol Lakey Hess (Abingdon Press, 1997). The author argues that caring families and the church can work to provide more positive images for girls than those offered in North American culture. She uses as illustrations biblical stories, excerpts from novels, and an in-depth look at eating disorders. \$18.95.

Confronting Sexual Harassment: What Schools and Colleges Can Do, Judith Berman Brandenburg (Teachers College Press, 1997). This book describes how schools and individual practitioners can confront sexual harassment within their own communities and how schools can become models that educate students to deal with sexual harassment in the larger social setting. \$18.95.

Discerning God's Will Together: A Spiritual Practice for the Church, Danny E. Morris and Charles M. Olsen (Upper Room Books, 1997). Instead of relying on Robert's Rules of Order, the authors offer a spiritual way to practice loving one another in the decision-making process. They present discernment as an interactive means of making decisions. \$11.95.

Homosexuality and the Bible, Walter Wink. This 14-page booklet addresses the Bible's negative view of homosexual activity and moves to the larger question of how we may interpret scripture today by examining Hebrew sexual mores, the problem of authority, and an appeal for tolerance. Order from Fellowship Bookstore, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960. (914) 358-4601. \$1.50 for individual copies. Discounts for larger orders.

One Thousand Paper Cranes: The Story of Sadako and the Children's Peace Statue, Takayuki Ishii (Yohan Pearl Library, 1997). Radiation exposure at Hiroshima left Sadako Sasaki with leukemia. In her last ten months, she began folding paper cranes to regain her health, following the tradition that anyone folding 1,000 paper cranes would have one wish come true. Her resolve inspired her classmates to start a national movement to

remember her and all other children affected by the atomic bomb with a statue. Available from Takayuki Ishii, 201 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011. (212) 243-5470. \$8.00 for single copy; \$2.00 shipping for one book; \$3.00 for more than one. Contact Ishii for information on bulk orders.

Taking Back My Yesterdays: Lessons in Forgiving and Moving Forward with Your Life. Linda H. Hollies (The Pilgrim Press, 1997). Each chapter offers prayer, psalm, and principle for reflection through the week to help release the reader from the past that is blocking the future. \$10.95.

You Can Preach to the Kids Too! Designing Sermons for Adults and Children, Carolyn C. Brown (Abingdon Press, 1997). The book offers a variety of easy-to-implement ideas and help for making any sermon one that is suitable for both children and adults. \$13.95.

PERIODICALS

New Moon Magazine This 48-page, advertising-free, professionally-produced, international magazine contains stories by and about girls and women all over the world. New Moon celebrates girls, explores the passage from girl to woman and builds resilience and healthy resistance to the gender inequities girls experience. Available for \$25/year for 6 issues as a printed subscription or at the web site. Both subscriptions, \$45/year. New Moon, P.O. Box 3587, Duluth, MN 55803-3587. newmoon@newmoon.duluth.mn.us

NWSA Journal: Special Issue on Sexual Harassment (Vol. 9, Summer 1997). This publication of the National Women's Studies Association addresses a range of job settings, case studies, and other issues. NWSA Journal, Indiana University Press, 601 N. Morton St., Bloomington, IN 47404. (800) 842-6796.

AUDIO CASSETTE

The Chalice and the Blade, written and read by Riane Eisler. In a condensed version of her highly acclaimed book, the cassette presents new scripts for living—based on a more socially, economically, ecologically, personally, and spiritually balanced society rather than on

the tension and violence typical of what Eisler calls the dominator way of life. Her vision is the partnership way. To order, call (800) 972-6657, ext. 902; or fax (415) 884-2199. \$17.95 for two cassettes, 3 hours, plus shipping and handling.

WEB SITES

Reports from the Glass Ceiling Commission, a 21-member body appointed by the President and Congressional leaders and chaired by the Secretary of Labor, completed its mandate in Jan. 1996. Vic WorkNet @ILR, the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Martin P. Catherwood Library, Cornell University: http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/library/e_archive/GlassCeiling

UMC boards join coalition to end child labor, sweatshops

The General Board of Church and Society and the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, along with a broad coalition of religious, human rights, labor, women's and students' organizations across the country, are sponsoring a petition campaign calling for an end to child labor and sweatshops. The coalition wants one million people to sign this petition to President Clinton.

This petition is one part of a three-month national mobilization to affirm human rights over sweatshop abuses, initiated on Saturday, Oct. 4 with a National Day of Conscience to End Sweatshops. That day led into the Holiday Season of Conscience, whereby consumers can shop with their conscience. A list of companies who continue to be among the worst violators of human rights will be announced.

For further information, contact Laura Hopkins, Economic Justice Office, GBGM Women's Division, UM Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., NE, Box 56, Washington, DC 20002. (202) 488-5661

Give a Gift to Celebrate Women's History...

Have you considered giving The Flyer as a gift to a friend or to yourself to celebrate Women's History Month in March? It's easy

Yes, I would like to give a gift of **The Flyer**:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$7.50 for one year | <input type="checkbox"/> New subscription |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$12.50 for two years | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |

to do. Simply complete the order form below and mail it with your check today. Your subscription will guarantee four issues of **The Flyer** for one year.

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

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Annual Conference (if United Methodist)



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



**ECUMENICAL DECADE
CHURCHES IN
SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN
1988-1998**

See story below...

Plan now to celebrate "Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women 1988-1998"

The Ecumenical Decade of the Churches in Solidarity with Women began in 1988 as a program of the World Council of Churches. The Decade has been a global ecumenical strategy to enable the churches to respond to the challenges to move forward in their commitments to women.

The Ecumenical Decade emphasized four themes:

- 1** Participation of women in the life of the churches, and affirmation of their contribution to the theological, spiritual and administrative life of the churches.
- 2** The global economic crisis and its impact on women.
- 3** The context of violence against women in church and society.
- 4** The context of racism and xenophobia and their impact on women.

To mark the conclusion of the Ecumenical Decade, the World Council of Churches is organizing the Decade Festival, Harare, Zimbabwe, Fall 1988 to:

- Provide an opportunity for women to celebrate their gifts to the churches and society.

- Reflect on the past ten years and evaluate how far the churches have come in their solidarity with women.

- Challenge the churches and the WCC to act in solidarity with women in the years beyond 1988 by providing a clear and practical program of action.

As the churches of the world prepare to celebrate the Decade, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) calls all women to join in the preparations for celebrating the Decade and beyond through a variety of projects.

The Ecumenical Decade is committed to intentional inclusion of younger women and girls in all activities. All persons are urged to create ways for full participation of young women and girls in these projects. The committee especially invites girls and teen women to send gifts that reflect their creativity: stories, songs, artistic expressions.

Quilt Project needs volunteers

A craft tradition that is unique to the U.S. is the quilt. The U.S. committee hopes to have 1,200 or more baby or lap quilts made by groups throughout the U.S. to be given as

gifts to the participants at the festival and then taken home to be shared with their communities all over the world.

The committee invites interested women to call together a group in their community to create a quilt together as they reflect on their collective understanding and experience of the four themes of the Decade. Quilts need to be submitted to the address below by June 1, 1998, so they may be shipped to the festival.

To obtain specific quilt guidelines, contact Jeannie H. Lee, Church Women United, 475 Riverside Dr., Suite 500, New York, NY 10015. (800) CWU-5551, prompt #2. Fax: (212) 870-2338.

For further information...

For Decade posters and brochures, contact Augsburg Fortress Publishers, (800) 328-4648. For general information and to make financial contributions to support the WCC Decade Festival, contact Ecumenical Decade, c/o National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, 475 Riverside Dr., Rm. 812, New York, NY 10015.

