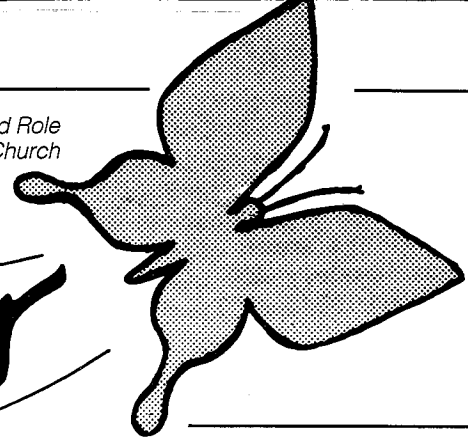


The Flyer



Vol XVI, No. 4

Spring/Summer 1996

Quadrennial meeting high points...

General Conference adopts GCSRW sexual abuse/harassment resolution, others affecting women

At its quadrennial meeting in Denver, April 16-26, the 1996 General Conference adopted with a few strengthening amendments a resolution proposed by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, "Sexual Abuse Within the Ministerial Relationship and Sexual Harassment Within The United Methodist Church." The legislative body added a proposed new section, Paragraph 71H, within "The Nurturing Commu-

nity," regarding sexual harassment.

The resolution and additional item in the Social Principles contain these key purposes:

- To clarify the issues
- To continue to challenge the church to be responsive
- To name the entities within the church for taking responsibility.

Other legislation proposed by the Com-

mission achieved these results:

■ *Paragraph 313:* This item related to family leave for diaconal ministers was not considered by the legislative committee because of the focus and direction of ministry paragraphs related to diaconal ministry and the order of deacon. There was, however, an amendment to paragraph 449 which adds diaconal ministry as a category of clergy eligible for family leave.

■ *Paragraph 2203:* General Conference adopted this item clarifying that the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women provides resources for the local church work area on status and role of women.

■ *Paragraph 2203.7:* General Conference adopted this item clarifying that the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women assists local churches and annual conferences in the role of advocate.

The Commission continued to monitor this decision-making body as it addressed issues which have an impact on the status and role of women in the church. Among those decisions that are particularly important in this regard are the following:

■ *Restructuring:* Answering a cry from local churches that *Discipline*-mandated work areas and other structural requirements are burdensome, General Conference approved allowing each congregation to organize itself. Subsequently, the conference approved strategy for reducing by about one-third the number of voting directors of the 13 UM agencies. Delegates also accepted a process for studying the overall structure, with a report to be presented to General Conference 2000.

■ *Ministry study:* After three decades of studying the nature of ministry, delegates

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Raquel Martinez, right, leads opening singing at the Orientation for Women Delegates at 1996 General Conference. Christine Keels, left, and Deborah Kiesey, center, served as moderators.

Orientation for women delegates offers information and inspiration

"Do what you have the power to do," proclaimed Janice Riggle Huie, delegate from Southwest Texas Conference, as she addressed participants in the Orientation for Women Delegates, sponsored by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) and the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries.

Huie and 15 other women provided leadership for this morning-long session preceding the afternoon opening of 1996 General Conference on Tuesday, April 16, at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. *continued on page 4*

'How will we be remembered?'

GCSRW offers Sunday worship at General Conference

"Who will remember us and how will we be remembered?" asked Graciela Alvarez Delgado in her sermon at the worship service offered by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women on Sunday, April 26 in the Colorado Convention Center.

Bishop Alvarez, episcopal leader of the Conferencia Anual de Mexico, challenged her listeners to reflect on how it is that we are a blessing, as we recognize our need for God and think about how we respond in faith to the needs around us. She drew parallels between the story of the sinful woman cleaning Jesus' feet in Luke 7:36-50 and our experiences of forgiveness and grace and our call to bless Jesus with our faith in Christ's redeeming power.



Cynthia Wilson-Felder leads singing at service.

The service opened with singing led by Cynthia Wilson-Felder, diaconal minister of music at Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta, who also served as one

of the music directors for 1996 General Conference. Piano accompaniment was provided by Jonetta Johnson-Page, staff musician at Ben Hill UMC.

Liturgist for the service was Francis E.W. Guidry, pastor of Boynton United Methodist Church, Houston, and a member of the Commission. The special liturgy was developed with the leadership of Douglas Grove-DeJarnett, diaconal

minister of music at Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church, Johnson City, TN, and a member of the Commission. Ann Brookshire Sherer, episcopal leader of the Missouri Area and president of the Commission, served as celebrant.

Also featured in the service was Celebrants Sacred Dance Choir from the Rocky



Serving communion during Commission worship service are, from left, Graciela Alvarez Delgado, Ann Brookshire Sherer, and Francis E. W. Guidry.

Mountain Conference. Members of the group include Dory Ann Duncan, Marilyn Herrman, Valerie Langston, Carol Matchett, Chuck Tedlock, and Carla Ficke, coordinator of the ensemble and associate pastor of University Park United Methodist Church, Denver.

The service took place before a stunning banner entitled "Sarah's Circle," created by Eva M. Heibert Klink. The design was originally developed for Women's Inter-Seminary Conference at Iliff School of Theology.

General Conference legislation from page 1

affirmed two separate offices of ordained ministry: permanent deacons, who pledge to serve God and the church through word and service to the community; and elders, called to service, word, sacrament and order.

The new plan eliminates the two-step ordination process. Diaconal ministers may choose to pursue ordination as deacons.

■ Recognizing in Paragraph 71A the damaging nature of family violence—"verbal, psychological, physical, sexual."

■ Adding to the second paragraph of 71F on human sexuality a concern about the destructive nature of "exploitative, abusive or promiscuous" sexual relations in marriage.

■ Rejecting the "erroneous notion that one gender is superior to another" in a new subparagraph on "Women and Men" in paragraph 71.

Among resolutions approved by General Conference are the following:

■ Condemning clinic violence and seeking common ground between "those who call themselves" pro-life or pro-choice.

■ Affirming membership in the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights.

■ Recognizing and responding to the many faces of HIV/AIDS in the USA.

■ Reducing the risk of child sexual abuse in the church.

■ Condemning global racism as a violation of human rights.

■ Ratification of United Nations covenants and conventions by the U.S.

■ Condemning the use of rape in times of conflict and war.

■ Supporting the demand for apology and reparations to the Korean "comfort women" who were forced to serve as sex slaves for Japanese troops during World War II.

General Conference also witnessed affirmation and celebration of the 40th anniversary of full clergy rights for women, made possible by the action of the 1956 General Conference. Dale Fooshee, a member of Kansas East delegation, was granted a personal privilege to voice the affirmation and commendation for the ministry of thousands of clergywomen.

As delegates applauded, each clergywoman delegate received a yellow rose in recognition of her service. (See the upcoming issue of *The Flyer* for more on this historic event.) ■

The Flyer

Spring/Summer 1996
Vol. XVI, No. 4

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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Printed on recycled paper. ♻️

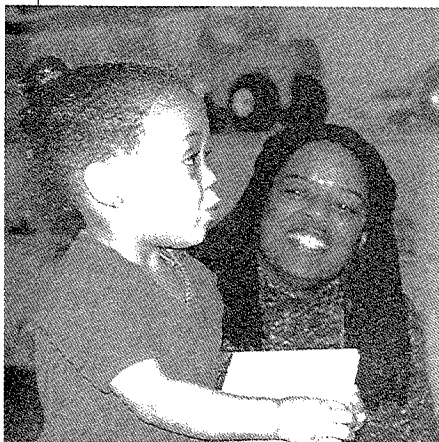
GCSTW closes the quadrennium...



The Rocky Mountain Conference representatives offer a panel discussion of the conference's Sexual Ethics Response Team. From left, John Boyle, Ed Paup, Paula Murphy, and Tommie Gleaton.



Ann Brookshire Sherer cuddles a child in the day care center of Warren Village.



Commission member Sandra Daniels listens to a child sing at Warren Village.



Commission members JoAnn Miles, center back, and Susan Smalley, right back, rest with their new friends on the Warren Village playground.



Mary Ann Swenson, episcopal leader of Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Conferences, at right, welcomes the Commission by presenting a "Welcome the World" T-shirt celebrating the 1996 General Conference to Ann Brookshire Sherer.

UMC continues to struggle ...

Fifteen bishops take historic stand on homosexuality

Fifteen United Methodist bishops—11 active, four retired—released a statement at General Conference on April 18 expressing "pain...over our personal convictions that are contradicted by the proscriptions in the (Book of Discipline against gays and lesbians within our church and within our ordained and

Central Jurisdiction. Nevertheless, the bishops affirmed their commitment to uphold the *Discipline*.

The 11 active bishops signing the statement were Judith Craig, West Ohio; William W. Dew, Jr., Alaska Missionary and Oregon-Idaho; Calvin D. McConnell, Pacific North-

censed, but others saw their words as courageous. After lengthy closed sessions, the entire Council of Bishops issued a statement April 23 in the *Daily Christian Advocate* saying they did not agree on all the issues but were "committed, collectively and individually, to teach and uphold our church's doctrine and discipline. ...Together we remain open to God's continued guidance."

During the second week, the 1996 General Conference refused to change the church's long-held statement that "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching" and that "self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be accepted as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church."

On the other hand, the conference maintained policies that "affirm God's grace is available to all," "supports basic human rights and civil rights for homosexual persons," and "condemns violence against gays and lesbians." Delegates added a new statement opposing discrimination against homosexuals in the U.S. military.

The final vote to retain the "incompatible" clause was 60 percent to 40 percent, closer than on the same issues in previous General Conferences. ■

Portions of this report adapted from *Daily Christian Advocate*.

OPEN THE DOORS!

문을 열어 두세요

¡Abre las puertas!



At the Open the Doors press conference sponsored by the Reconciling Congregation Program (RCP), Diana Chalfant witnesses to the discrimination she experienced as an athletic coach at a United Methodist-related college. She was fired for alleged lesbian incidents without being given details of the allegations. On right is Mark Bowman, director of RCP; at left, rear, Karen Oliveto, chairperson of the board of directors of RCP.

diaconal ministers." This break follows a tradition of a similar break in 1964 over the question of segregation imposed through the

San Mateo, CA; and Melvin G. Wheatley, Jr., Laguna Hills, CA.

Some delegates and bishops were in-

west; Susan M. Morrison, Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware; Fritz Mutti, Kansas East and Kansas West; Donald A. Ott, Detroit and West Michigan; Sharon Zimmerman Rader, Wisconsin; Roy I. Sano, California-Pacific; Mary Ann Swenson, Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone; Melvin G. Talbert, California-Nevada; and Joseph H. Yeakel, Baltimore-Washington.

Retired bishops signing the statement were C. Dale White, Newport, RI; Jesse R. DeWitt, Naperville, IL; Leontine T.C. Kelly,

Women delegates

continued from page 4

The group gathered with singing led by Raquel Martinez, from Nebraska and editor of the new Spanish Hymnal presented during General Conference, and moved directly into worship led by Terri Rae Chattin, delegate from Baltimore-Washington Conference. Christine Keels, Women's Division director and delegate from Baltimore-Washington Conference, and Deborah Kieseey, member of GCSRW and delegate from Iowa Conference, served as moderators.

Bishop Ann Brookshire Sherer, president of GCSRW, and Dr. Carolyn E. Johnson, president of Women's Division, explained the purpose and overview of the orientation and later addressed theological issues before General Conference. Gen-

eral Conference Secretary Carolyn Marshall and Petitions Secretary Odell Thompson, explained General Conference organization, balloting, status of legislation, consent calendar, and *Daily Christian Advocate*.

Betty Suzuki, Women's Division director and delegate from California Nevada Conference, and Martha Forrest, GCSRW member and delegate from North Georgia Conference, entertained delegates with their rendition of skills for coping with General Conference. Ressie Mae Bass, Women's Division staff and delegate from Florida Conference, and Sally Ernst, GCSRW member and delegate from Western Pennsylvania Conference, focused on skills for floor and committee procedures.

Speaking about issues of concern to women were Minerva Carcaño, delegate from Rio Grande Conference, on the state of the connection; Carolyn E. Johnson and Ann Brookshire Sherer on theological issues before General Conference; Shantilata Yohan, president of North Georgia UMW and delegate from North Georgia, on issues in the church and the world; and Jeannie Trevino-Treddle, delegate from Central Texas Conference, on an inclusive church.

Delegates gathered in groups according to their legislative committee assignments to discuss strategies for electing officers and supporting one another.

Terri Rae Chattin led the group in a closing worship and commissioning. ■

Please note—

You may now call the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women toll free. Just use our new 800 number: **800/523-8390**

The Episcopal Address: General Conference 1996

Bishop Judith Craig, West Ohio Conference, is the first female bishop to deliver an episcopal address. The following are excerpts from the 1996 General Conference Episcopal Address, as printed in The Daily Christian Advocate, Daily Edition, Vol. 3, No. 2.

United Methodists are part of a world fellowship. Our global nature is made visible by the largest number of delegates in our history from Central Conferences: 138 delegates from the Annual Conferences of our 6 Central Conferences. In addition, there are 10 delegates from those with whom we have concordat relationship, 33 from affiliated autonomous churches in the Methodist family, and two observers from Russia.

The United Methodist Church is alive and well around the world. While many lament and wring their hands with worry and despair about the Church, there are signs of God at work all around us and within us. There is so much good in the Church, we could, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "dig a tunnel of hope through every mountain of despair."

What has the agenda of this General Conference to do with the images we have seen, with the global concerns of God? How will our debates and decisions make visible the Body of Christ in the midst of creation's joy and wounds? The wind of God's spirit sweeps across places of deprivation, violence, fear and denial of dignity. We must welcome that wind blowing us to decisions and lives that reveal the reign of God.

We labor here in response to the Creator who looked on all that was made and said, "Behold, it is very good." That same Creator now weeps over impoverished cities and villages, ravished lands, polluted streams, depleted soil, poisoned air, fractured humanity. The weeping God beckons us to become God's healing presence in human communities and all the created order.

Humankind has lost its sense of reverence. We see the loss when life is robbed of meaning and dignity by unequal opportunity and unjust distribution of the basic goods that sustain life. The poor rise in number and sink in despair as political and economic systems continue to protect the comfort of the few at the expense of the many. Poverty strips human beings of their dignity and robs them of hope for the abundant life our Gospel promises. The Gospel of Jesus Christ stands against the forces that hold people in the captivity of poverty.

Loss of reverence relentlessly assaults the young of the world. Children are abused by images of carelessness with life. They both see and experience that carelessness daily. Our young are hungry and malnourished. They are dislocated and orphaned by war. They are held hostage to the power struggles of people without conscience. Children are scarred and deformed by systems that do not give first attention to their need for shelter, safety, education and nurture. The terror of carelessness with the lives of children is real in every nation, from the poorest and war torn to the richest where no declared wars are fought. Do you know the United States is the only industrialized country in which children are the largest segment of the population who lives in poverty?

Loss of reverence touches youth in their teens. A generation is at peril, hungry for help in standing over against the temptation to instant gratification and the altering of reality with drugs and alcohol. Their sense of future is blocked by walls of economic and

educational limitations, blinding them to opportunity and inviting short-term goals that undermine long-term well-being. Values and morals are challenged and twisted by alternative views of life that are inconsistent with the Gospel vision.

As a Council of Bishops, we believe the Church can offer no more powerful sign of steward responsibility than making the welfare of children and youth the first concern. To that end we urge this General Conference to keep the image of the most powerless of people—the poor, children, youth, women—always in the forefront as we do the work given us to do.

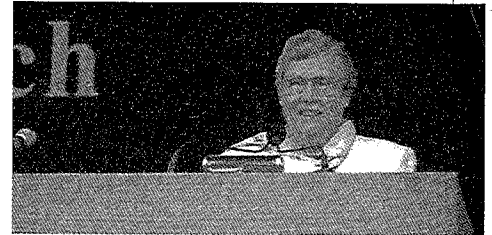
In the very near future your Bishops will be inviting you to major attention through an Episcopal Initiative addressing issues of children and poverty. All else we do will be wasted if we do not engage in shaping the future so that it offers life abundant instead of squeezing life out of the next generations.

God's continuing revelation requires us to claim what we already know and keep listening for what God has yet to teach us about divine grace and its reach. Some look at us and wonder how we can pronounce the limitless grace of God and then call together huge assemblies to define who and what falls beyond that limitless grace. The church we order must be an open house where Jesus sits at the doorway and welcomes all who come, regardless of whether the townspeople think it proper or not! It is an offense to God to define so carefully and describe church so rigidly as to create a family tree that says most clearly who is not welcome. It is unfaithful to focus so much on our own internal life that we have nothing left to give as moral leaders and stewards of the whole of God's creation.

God watches us, perhaps with Divine angst, to see if we who claim to be faithful will indeed act faithfully. The poor, the oppressed, the young and the old listen for the Word spoken in language they can comprehend and recognize in actions that reach their needs. Can we speak God's forgiving, nurturing Word in 21st Century languages and practices? O, please God, make us able to answer with a resounding "Yes!"

We move toward the new millennium as part of a wounded world. We are ourselves a wounded community. Our wounds, sign of sin still resident within us, cry out for healing. When they are healed, our message of redeeming hope will have integrity and power in the larger human community among whom God places us. Our announcement of reconciliation begins with confession of those places in our personal and institutional lives wherein we are not reconciled. Our invitation to holiness is accompanied by a fresh determination to live holy lives ourselves. Our call to justice includes ordering life within our own body in ways that are just.

We mark forty years of benefitting from the gifts of women as elders in full conference membership. That gift rises out of a century of history, dating back to the ordination of women as elders in the United Brethren Church as early as 1889.



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Episcopal Address: 1996 continued from page 5

We celebrate thirty years of having removed from our midst the scandal of formal segregation in the Central Jurisdiction. All our legislation and covenant agreements testify that racism and sexism are sins that must not live in Christ's Church.

Sadly, we know legislation does not guarantee practice. It is difficult to find words to express our outrage at continuing discrimination against women and people of racial ethnic heritage. It lingers in every circle of the church's life. An unrelenting migration toward homogeneity unmasking a myopic vision of God's richly diverse creation. The exclusion of persons because of race, gender or status of any kind flies in the face of God's intention to embrace all who name the name of Jesus. Allowing congregations to participate in sinful patterns of discrimination surrounding them is faithless sinking into the ways of culture rather than shaping culture according to God's creation plan.

We call all who bear the name of Christ—United Methodist Bishops included—to confess the sad truth that we continue to participate in institutions and practices that favor Caucasians and males in overt and covert systemic exclusion. Let us repent that we may be led to just behavior.

We are grieved and puzzled by the rising number of allegations of clergy sexual misconduct. That so many of our covenant community seem insensitive and irresponsible about appropriate relationships and pastoral propriety is cause for lament. We join you in seeking to create just ways to respond.

We know the crucial distinction between the sure redeeming love of God for all who sin and the requirements that make one worthy of the sacred trust of the office given with consecration and ordination. We insist that those who carry the precious privilege of ordination and consecration maintain the exemplary lifestyle required by the call of Christ and affirmation of the Church.

Our ways of responding to clergy misconduct must evidence swift, just and gentle care for all the aggrieved—the ones primarily wounded, those in secondary and tertiary circles of disruption, and the wounders themselves. We cannot ignore or be inconsistent in our response to this offense in the Church.

God's gift of sexuality is good! Even as we claim that creation truth, our cultures are bombarded with twisted and demeaning exploitation of sexuality—pornography, promiscuity, the breakdown of covenant relationships. Within the Church our struggle to understand the expression of human sexuality has become painful and divisive.

We yearn for a holy community that embraces sexuality as a good gift of creation rather than something about which to be embarrassed or to interpret and define in ways that exclude persons from full participation in the life of the Church. In cultures saturated with images, abuses and excesses that belittle and demean holy intimacy, the Church is the only community with the possibility of teaching the strength of the divine blessing on human bonding and fidelity.

We affirm the sanctity of marriage. At the same time we are called by a gracious Christ to live with a spirit of welcome for persons of many realities and persuasions. We have much to learn about our human nature and what it means to be created in the image of God. Let us bind ourselves in common search for God's continuing revelation about Divine creation intention, especially the meaning and employment of the beautiful gift of our sexuality.

How shall we respond to the woundedness around and among us? So much of life waits for the healing touch of the Gospel.

Sometimes it is mediated through human institutions, in systems and structures by which life is ordered. The General Conference is responsible for providing order and visible framework for United Methodism. That organization makes possible our carrying the Gospel's healing touch.

Remember United Methodists are part of the whole Body of Christ, in relationship with persons who live in other rooms in the grand Household of Faith. Our unity with other communions in councils of churches and covenant relationships moves us toward God's vision of the Church made whole.

The Council of Bishops has put before you the opportunity to place United Methodists in formal relationship to Churches in Covenant Communion. We urge you to debate and act in light of the world's need to see and hear a unified witness to Christ.

We are a people of The Word, the Holy Bible. We gather to write two books: *The Book of Discipline* and *The Book of Resolutions*. Those we write must never take the place of the first. Our books must not interpret and order life in any way contrary to the always fresh and contemporary Word of God. Therein lies the tension of our work—an ancient body of truth guiding a contemporary and emerging expression of new things God is doing.

We who are your bishops believe that what you decide and order will make a difference in how both the Church and world recognize the continuing revelation of God among us and through us. So crucial and relevant do we believe your work to be that we issue an invitation.

We invite you to Holy Conferencing. We urge you to claim with confidence our rich heritage that trusts God to offer wisdom through the gathering of varieties of thought and convictions in conferencing. We believe debate can be prayerful expression, honoring the Holy resident among all and within each. It is possible to disagree with another's ideas while still claiming oneness in Christ. That flavor is what we hunger for in this General Conference.

We invite you to step out of party spirit and walk together in Holy Spirit. We urge you to turn from being slaves to predetermined agendas, no matter how thoughtfully and prayerfully prepared, to a free embrace of the will of the One to whom we belong. We invite you, we urge you, to remember where we began: at the Table. We invite you to create an atmosphere of hospitality and mutual respect that comes from sharing around that Table.

The Table stands in between the old and new covenants, bringing together as one movement the continuing activity of the God of all covenants. At the Table one part of God's salvation drama is completed as another waits to be realized in the future.

There were tensions at the table where the twelve sat with their Teacher. Jesus named his betrayer. The disciples quarreled among themselves about greatness. Jesus had to remind them about servanthood. But Jesus stayed at that table. He sat there in the midst of that broken community and gave them a sign of healing and wholeness.

In times of conflict and differing opinion what does it mean to stay at the Table? We believe all that we do can be transformed toward God's will if we will stay at the Table. Our invitation is to heed the call of the Table to re-member lest we pass by on our own way still dis-membering the Body of Christ.

We invite you to your moments of self-revelation and search, equally confident that God will bless the church and the world through a General Conference earnestly praying and listening for God's guidance. May it be so, in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

In Our End is Our Beginning'

Denver Commission meeting looks at ongoing challenges

"In Our End Is Our Beginning" was the theme of the final meeting for the quadrennium of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW). Held in Denver, Feb. 22-25, the meeting featured a look ahead toward the issues that continue to challenge women in the church.



Pat Callbeck Harper

Pat Callbeck Harper, a consultant on gender equity in education from Helena, MT, led a briefing and discussion in preparation for the 1996 General Conference. Harper pointed out that politics is the intersection of power

and conscience. She finds it helpful to remember that politics is the *what* of change, while spirituality is the *how* of change. In that context, the group reflected on 2 Timothy 1:7, "for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."

Harper outlined for the group the process that would be used for monitoring the participation of women during General Conference. She also led the 12-member Commission monitoring team in training for their role. The team will assess the numbers of women, laity and ethnic minority persons who speak or serve in leadership positions

during General Conference plenary sessions and committee meetings. Monitoring results will be made available daily during the 10-day legislative meeting.

Joining Harper in a discussion of the 1996 General Conference, general secretariat members Stephanie Anna Hixon and Cecelia Long offered a preview of the state of the connection, including issues such as the proposed reduction in size of general agency boards, the proposed relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries, the Korean Missionary Language Conference, and the restructure and renaming of church bodies. They also discussed theological issues such as the ministry and baptism studies and the Consultation on Church Union. Among other key concerns are sexual abuse and harassment and human sexuality.

Rocky Mountain Conference team

Representatives of the Rocky Mountain Conference spoke about the conference's work with churches through their clergy misconduct response team during a plenary session on Feb. 23. Panel participants were Tommie Gleaton and Paula Murphy, laity; Ed Paup, clergy assistant to Bishop Mary Ann Swenson; and John Boyle, chancellor.

Paula Murphy, a therapist and member of the response team, explained that when a clergyperson has been accused of sexual misconduct, members of the team respond quickly—usually within a week—to inform the congregation of what is happening and

to open a process for dialogue. An interim pastor with extensive counseling experience steps in to work with small groups within the congregation. "The conference shows that it recognizes the pain of church members," she pointed out, "and unless we show openness, the feelings go underground."

Tommie Gleaton indicated the range of their work as he has travelled 26,000 miles in nine months through Colorado, Utah and Wyoming and has helped train over 2,000 United Methodists on sexual misconduct issues.

"We view clergy sexual misconduct as a justice issue," declared Ed Paup, "and we are submitting legislation to the 1996 General Conference to more adequately address the needs of the church in these situations."

As John Boyle emphasized, "The rest of the community holds the church to a much higher standard. The church is expected to provide a safe place for families and children. So we have to approach these matters as our faith tells us."

Worship, visit to Warren Village

As with many meetings of the Commission, some worship services were led by local clergywomen Jane Youtz Riecke, pastor of Warren United Methodist Church in Denver, and Karen Hurst, associate pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Denver. In keeping with the meeting theme taken from "Hymn of Promise" by Natalie Sleeth. Hurst shared some of her experiences caring for Sleeth during her last six months of life. Commission members Francis E. W. Guidry and Douglas Grove-DeJarnett also led worship services.

Commission members visited children at Warren Village, a United Methodist-related organization, providing housing, family services, and child care to members of low-income, single-parent families since 1974.

The heart of Warren Village's success stems from the social contract which every resident lives by as they move toward becoming self-sufficient. According to Naomi Taggart, resources director, "Warren Village was the first of its kind of self-sufficiency program in the U.S. All residents are required to work and go to school."

More than 2,200 residents have graduated from its two-year program with a sense of accomplishment and the education, job and life skills necessary to succeed. Commission members were visibly moved by their time spent playing with children attending the Learning Center, licensed to serve 189, half of whom come from resident families. ■

Fly

Applicants invited for Hoover

The Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries invites applications for the 1997 Teresa Hoover Community Service and Global Citizen Award. Applications must be postmarked no later than Aug. 1, 1996.

The award honors Theresa Hoover for her service to the Women's Division, The United Methodist Church, and the ecumenical world.

The award is given annually to a woman age 21-35 without regard to race or nationality, who has demonstrated concern for her neighbors and community, shown that concern in service to her community, and exhibits an awareness of the total nature of our responsibilities in today's world.

To request an application, contact

Women's Division General Administration, Hoover Award, Room 1504, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. (212) 870-3600.

Women's health organization offers current information

Women's Health America Group offers women resources to become more educated and active in their health care and in the care of their families.

Individual membership offers *Women's Health Access*, a national newsletter; *The Info Log*, the complete women's health resource directory; Physician Referral List; telephone consultation; Women's Health America credit card; and discounts on various items.

Membership is \$25 per year. For more information, call (800) 222-4767. ■

Status Report

California clergyman surrenders credentials

Thomas Warmer, under suspension as pastor of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Coronado, CA, surrendered his ministerial credentials Feb. 19 after a church court denied seven pre-trial motions to drop the charge of immorality against him.

Warmer was charged with lying to an investigating committee appointed in 1994 after earlier charges of sex abuse against him were dropped. Four women who were in the youth group at the church Warmer served in 1968-70 had accused him of sexually abusing them during that period. After a Judicial Council decision on the statute of limitations, those charges were deemed outside the statute, but the investigating committee recommended bringing charges against him for lying, a morals offense.

Methodists Make News, Feb. 23, 1996

Ecumenical leader proposes girls' education initiative

The Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCC), is proposing an interfaith effort in the U.S. and abroad to promote education for girls, including training about sexuality.

Girls have a right to education, Dr. Campbell, said, but she added that such an effort also would lessen poverty, result in lower rates of teenage pregnancy and foster informed family planning.

"It is a common-ground issue that can engage both opponents and supporters of abortion," Dr. Campbell told a conference on women, poverty and population held in Washington Feb. 9-10.

The conference was based on action plans adopted at the United Nations' World Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994, and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

"We have been torn apart by the brutal debate on the issue of abortion," Dr. Campbell said, noting that the NCCC does not take a stand on the question because its 32 member communions hold differing views.

"Religious belief must be respected," she said, "but it must also be made clear that the full range of (educational) options should be made available.

"The education of the girl-child must include education about their bodies as well as their minds," said Campbell.

The National Christian Reporter,
Feb. 23, 1996

Survey: Clergy health good, wives have stress

A comprehensive study on the state of clergy health has revealed that most enjoy good health, physically and spiritually, but that the wives of clergymen are feeling substantial stress.

Sponsored by the Clergy Family Network, the Cornerstone Project of the Episcopal Church Foundation and the Church Pension Group, questionnaires were sent to a sample of clergy and spouses at the beginning of 1995. About 1,100 people from 65 dioceses responded—915 clergy and 178 lay spouses.

"Almost 80 percent of the clergy find that their expectations about their ministry career and financial situation are about or better than what they had expected," said the

report. About a third reported, however, that they had thought seriously in the last year of leaving church-related ministry.

A similar percentage of clergy and spouses "feel more healthy than unhealthy physically." The lay wives of clergy, however, "have poorer overall health than any other group," the survey discovered.

"Nearly a third of the lay wives are in fairly poor overall health and twice as likely as clergymen to be feeling close to burn-out physically, spiritually and emotionally." They were also the most likely to worry about sufficient resources for retirement.

The salaries of women in the clergy did not differ significantly from their male colleagues, within the same ordination period.

The National Christian Reporter,
Feb. 23, 1996 ■

Calendar

Sept. 24

Building Hospitable Community: Confronting Bias...Countering Xenophobia, 1:00-3:00 pm EST. This satellite teleconference, sponsored by National Council of Churches' Ecumenical Networks, will address community tensions created by xenophobia (fear of the stranger) and anti-immigrant bias and will lift up creative ways to build communities of mutual hospitality. Hosts for downlink sites are welcome ASAP: Bryan Hooper, UM Teleconference Connection, 475 Riverside Dr., Suite 1948, New York NY 10115-1948. (212) 870-3802. Fax: (212) 870-2171. Ecnnet: HOOPER Internet: travis@interport.net

Sept. 28

Gender and Power—Women and Racism: What Happens When Gender and Race Concerns Come Together?

Lincoln NE. A seminar, sponsored by the Nebraska Conference Commissions on the Status and Role of Women and on Religion and Race, offers a panel discussion of the theme in the context of the faith community. Contact Ruby Thelander, (402) 488-4815.

Oct. 24-26

Power Equity Group in Theory and Practice, Milwaukee, WI. Workshop, sponsored by Milwaukee United Methodist Clergywomen, to provide experience and a theory that will enable participants to function in groups in which equity and diversity are valued and to increase participants' skills in working with and in groups, whatever their organizational structure. Contact Equity Associates, NDA, Inc., 21 Shore Drive, Laconia, NH 03246. (603) 524-1441.

Oct. 27-29

Working Together: Men and Women Looking to Collegueship and Team Building in the New Millennium, Phoenix. 1996 annual conference of National Association of Gender Diversity Training. Contact 1996 NAGDT Conference Registrar, 11774 E. Becker Lane, Scottsdale, AZ 85259. (602) 451-6010. Fax: (602) 860-6525.

Oct. 27-30

Let the Amen Sound from the People Again!—a how-to worship workshop, Nashville, TN. Leaders are Don Sallers, Diedra Kriewald, James R. King, Jennie Lou Smith, Judy W. Loehr, and Becky Waldrop. Contact Martha Pilcher, Scarritt-Bennett Center, 1008 19th Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37212-2166. (615) 340-7587.

Nov. 1-3

Exploration 96: For Such a Time as This!, Dallas/Fort Worth airport. Fourth national gathering for youth and young adults considering ordained ministry. Contact Division of Ordained Ministry, UM General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, P.O. Box 871, Nashville, TN 37202-0871. (615) 340-7397. Fax: (615) 340-7048.

Nov. 8-10

Power Equity Group in Theory and Practice, Durham, NC. See workshop details/contact information for Oct. 24-29 workshop.

Nov. 15-17

Power Equity Group in Theory and Practice, Phoenix, AZ. This workshop is held in collaboration with the National Association of Gender Diversity Training. Contact NAGDT, 11774 E. Becker Lane, Scottsdale, AZ 85259 (602) 451-6010. ■

Resources

An Invitation to Presence: A Guide to Spiritual Disciplines, Wendy Miller (Upper Room Books, 1995). A user-friendly approach to the world of spiritual disciplines of listening, seeing, and acting. \$10.95.

And a Time to Die: The Pain and Love of a Journey Home with AIDS, Frances Bontrager Greaser (Herald Press, 1995). An account of confronting first the shock of learning her son has AIDS and is a homosexual, then the grief of life fading into death. Appendix offers advice and guidance for caregivers and visitors of persons with AIDS. \$9.95.

And Still We Rise: An Introduction to Black Liberation Theology, Diana L. Hayes (Paulist Press, 1996). This book explores the sources of Black liberation theology in the Black historical experience, its development and its possible future. It takes readers from the roots of Black theology in Africa, through the revivals of the 18th and 19th centuries, the Civil Rights and Black power movements, to the beginnings of a systematic theology of liberation. \$12.95.

The Arts of Ministry: Feminist-Womanist Approaches, Christie Cozad Neuger, editor (Westminster John Knox, 1996). This book brings together the best in feminist and womanist scholarship that deals with the work of ministry. It offers the most relevant, effective, and transformative approaches to ministry as it develops a feminist and womanist practical theology. \$21.99.

Dictionary of Feminist Theologies, Letty M. Russell and J. Shannon Clarkson, editors (Westminster John Knox, 1996). A collaborative project of dozens of leading scholars, this book provides a tool for all who wish to learn about the growing fields of womanist, mujerista, Asian feminist, and white Euroamerican feminist studies in religion. Hard cover \$39.00.

The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version, ed. Victor Roland Gold, Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr., Sharon H. Ringe, Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, Burton H. Throckmorton, Jr., and Barbara Withers (Oxford University Press, 1996). This version respects the rich metaphors of Scripture and brings out the underlying meaning in texts that are frequently obscured by their exclusionary language. Human language, God-language, racist stereotyping, and anti-Semitism are just a few of the areas that have been addressed in this new version. Prices range from \$14.95 to \$44.95.

Restoring the Soul of a Church: Congregations Wounded by Clergy Sexual Misconduct, ed. Mark Laasar and Nancy Hopkins (Alban Institute, 1996.) A handbook for those who work with congregations. Specific topics are addressed through case studies and first-person testimonies. Contact The Alban Institute, 4550 Montgomery Ave., Ste. 433N, Bethesda, MD 20814-3341. (800) 486-1318, x244. \$19.95 plus \$3.90 postage and handling.

Rock, Shepherd, Friend: Enriching our Images of God, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (1996). This four-session study is designed to help Christians look at the ways we image and talk about God. The leader's guide gives background material, lesson plans, and workshops for group members. Available from GCSRW. \$1.00 per copy; \$.75 for orders of 100 or more copies.

We Were Baptized Too: Claiming God's Grace for Lesbians and Gays, Marilyn Bennett Alexander and James Preston (Westminster John Knox, 1996). This book challenges the church to take seriously its understanding of baptism and communion as a means of grace, justice, and liberation. \$16.99.

You Have Stept Out of Your Place: A History of Women and Religion in America, Susan Hill Lindley (Westminster John Knox, 1996). Author chronicles the struggles and successes of scores of American women from the colonial period through the mid-1990s and presents experiences of women in various geographic, ethnic, racial, and denominational backgrounds. Hard cover \$35.00. ■

Jobs

E. Stanley Jones Professor of World Evangelism, Methodist Theological School in Ohio METHESCO, Delaware, OH. A non-tenured position, renewable up to three years, with the possibility of continuance. Contact Academic Dean, METHESCO, 3081 Columbus Pike, P.O. box 1204, Delaware, OH 43015-0931. (614) 363-1146. ■

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:

July 10	Summer 1996
September 1	Fall 1996

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

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Ovations

To **Dori Lynn Baker**, Northern Illinois Conference, and **Andrea D. Green Price**, North Carolina Conference, who are among the recipients of the Dempster Graduate Fellowships awarded by the Division of Ordained Ministry, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

To U.S. First Lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, who addressed a session of the 1996 General Conference with insight and inspiration.

To **Wanda Eichler**, Pigeon, MI, who was re-elected to a four-year term as president of the United Methodist Rural Fellowship.

To **Cathleen M. Falsani**, a student at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, who is the winner of the 1996-97 Stood-

West Fellowship for graduate study in religious journalism.

To **Rosemary Skinner Keller**, academic dean at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, who has been named academic dean and vice president for academic affairs and professor of church history at Union Theological Seminary.

To **Victoria Eunkyung Nam**, Pittsford, NY, who is the recipient of the 1996-97 Leonard M. Perryman Communications Award for Ethnic Minority Students from United Methodist Communications.

To **Jeanne Audrey Powers**, General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, who has been named 1995 Newsmaker

by the Minnesota Women's Press for challenging the official church position on homosexuality.

To **Roela Rivera**, who has been named director of studies at Scarritt-Bennett Center.

To **Caterine Roskam**, the first female bishop in the Diocese of New York and the fourth in the Episcopal Church, who was consecrated as suffragan bishop at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

To **Cheryl Trent**, who has been named assistant general secretary of membership and organizational development for the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries.

To **Jackye Waiters-Lee** of Dallas, who has been elected chair of the National Black Methodists for Church Renewal. ■



Cookie hospitality: From left, Beverly Eyestone, Shirley Kula, Pauline Armstrong, and Darlene Kennedy, representatives of United Methodist Women from the Fort Morgan (Colorado) United Methodist Church, pre-prepare for a General Conference cookie break. Some 120,000 cookies were prepared by churches throughout the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Conferences for the 1996 General Conference.

General Conference coverage continues in Summer issue...

- General Conference 1996 celebrates 40th anniversary of full clergy rights for women: photo of clergywomen delegates
- GCSRW offers monitoring ministry during General Conference
- Brief history of journey toward full ordination rights for women



The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women
in the United Methodist Church
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