

# The Flyer

Vol XIII, No. 1

Summer 1992

## General Conference Wrap-up: Orientation, worship, affirmation

Aside from reading the Daily Christian Advocate, United Methodists enjoy access to a variety of sources for details on what happened at General Conference 1992. What follows is a synopsis of some of the highlights that may hold particular interest for Flyer readers.

Pre-General Conference 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, included nearly 500 women participating. During the session, participants suggested names as nominees for legislative committee officers. Several women were elected to leadership, including five chairs of the twelve legislative committees.

Overall mood of General Conference, according to accounts from the GCSRW monitoring team, communicated concern for change and reform particularly related to church structure and budget. The result was lengthy debates about general funds and narrow margins in voting about location of the General Board of Global Ministries, and UMCare.

Language about abortion and responsible parenthood remains unchanged in *The Book of Discipline* and *The Book of Resolutions*. The delegates voted to maintain language regarding homosexuality, adding a paragraph

on the civil rights of homosexual persons and recommending the model of the committee for churchwide study. (See related article "General Conference moves to relocate GBGM and retains language on homosexuality.")

The Commission sponsored worship on May 10, led by monitoring team members and staff and attended by more than 500 participants. The service allowed time for stillness and meditation. Among Commission members planning the service were Elizabeth Lopez Spence, Bill Mullette, Craig Wilkins, and Winonah McGee.

A particularly important event for the Commission occurred on May 14—a celebration of the Commission. The first celebration happened during an afternoon break in the plenary session when friends of COSROW provided twentieth birthday cakes for General Conference delegates. After the break, the calendar called for voting on a petition to "celebrate and support" the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. The petition was approved by a vote of 706 to 182. [The text of the petition appears on page 2.] ■

## General Conference legislation—the status of issues important to GCSRW

Among the numerous legislative items of concern to the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, many were approved with relatively minor changes. Here are some highlights of legislation whose exact wording is subject to editing of *The 1992 Book of Discipline*. (A more complete listing of the status of GCSRW legislation is available upon request from the Commission office, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201. (708) 869-7330)

The General Board of Church and Society will advocate for just federal legislation. Appropriate church bodies will assess the effectiveness of the Church's efforts to eradicate sexual harassment.

**Preamble to the Social Principles (Par. 70):** We the people called United Methodists affirm our faith in God our Creator and Father, in Jesus Christ, our Savior, and in the Holy Spirit, our Guide and Guard. (Calendar #1355)

**Family Leave for Ordained Ministers (Par. 448):** Will be a new paragraph probably between 448 and 449. The only change made to the original legislation, which contains provisions for entering and exiting that are similar to Leave of Absence and was submitted by GCSRW, was to add a sentence "They can participate in conference health and pension plan through their own contributions." A significant difference from Leave of Absence is that while on Family Leave, the clergy member would be eligible for member-

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ship on conference committees, commissions or boards. (Calendar #1808)

**Ordained Minister's Salary While on Maternity/Paternity Leave (Par. 449.4):** Amended (4) The ordained minister's compensation will be maintained for no less than the first eight weeks of the leave. (Calendar #1808)

After Par. 706.5 add new paragraph on **Child and Dependent Care during Sessions and Meetings:** "It is strongly recommended that the Annual Conference provide for child and dependent care both during the sessions of the Annual Conference and meetings of the Annual Conference boards and agencies." (Calendar #344)

**Responsibility of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (Par. 2203.7):** Add at the end The commission in its role as advocate shall assist the councils, boards, commissions, schools of theology and other related institutions in eradicating the problems of sexual harassment by de-

veloping policies and procedures for addressing these problems. (Calendar #654)

Other legislation related to the work of the General Commission includes the following:

◆ Resolution that Anna Howard Shaw Day may be celebrated each year, Feb. 14, as a time to remember the continuing struggles

## **The United Methodist Church is committed to inclusiveness in our church, but females and males are not yet equally represented in policy- and decision-making bodies.**

of women and men to be equal in every aspect of their common life. (Calendar #194)

◆ Related to Par. 453, 2622, 2623 in Chapter VIII which addresses grievance and investigation procedures, guidelines on changes. Some changes were statute of limitations changed from two to six years; for sexual or child abuse there is no limitation; leave of absence shall not be considered part of six years. (Calendar #1005, 1153, 1159, and others)

◆ Resolution on Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse was approved. This document lists action items for local congregations, annual conferences and general agencies. (Calendar #1530)

◆ Report on Biblical and Theological Language submitted by General Council on

Ministries was approved. The report calls for *Words that Hurt, Words that Heal: Language about God and People* to be kept in print by the UM Publishing House. This report also calls on GCOM and GCSRW to work together to inform the denomination about the study guide and to encourage churchwide use. (calendar #224)

The new *Book of Worship* was approved 809-149 by delegates and becomes the first worship book since the UMC was formed in 1968.

The resource contains more diverse references to God than ever before, including "parent," "mother and father," "Grandfather, Great Spirit," and "Author of Life." However, references to the Deity as "O Mother God" were struck down. ■

## **General Conference petition supports work of GCSRW**

**SUBJECT: Celebrate and Support the Ongoing Work of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women** Calendar #668

Progress has been made by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women toward eliminating sexism in our church from 1972-1992.

The United Methodist Church is committed to inclusiveness in our church: but females and males are not yet equally represented in policy- and decision-making bodies, especially in administration and finance. [footnote 1]

The United Methodist Church stands in opposition to the sin of sexual harassment in our church and in society [footnote 2]; however, sexual harassment in our church continues to victimize both females and males, both clergy and laity. [footnote 3]

Be it resolved that the United Methodist Church:

◆ celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the General Commission's efforts to be advocate, catalyst and monitor for a gender inclusive church;

◆ affirm the work and the necessity for

the continuance of the General Commission in its ministry;

◆ support the work being done by the General Commission throughout the entire church to educate United Methodists in understanding and responding to the issues of sexual harassment through training, resources, policies and procedures; and

◆ support the work and funding of the General Commission to strengthen effective participation and insure equitable representation of females in policy- and decision-making positions at all levels in our church as encouraged by United Methodist disciplinary guidelines.

[footnote 1] "Survey on the Participation of Women in the Local Church," General Commission on Status and Role of Women, 1991.

[footnote 2] "Sexual Harassment in Church and Society in the USA," Book of Resolutions, adopted 1988.

[footnote 3] "Sexual Harassment in the United Methodist Church," Office of Research, General Council on Ministries, November 1990. ■

### **The Flyer** Summer 1992 Vol. XIII, No. 1

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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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# SIGHTS OF GENERAL CONFERENCE 1992



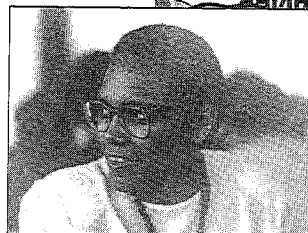
Pat Callbeck Harper, left, coordinator of the Commission's General Conference monitoring team, and Barbara Gurtler, Commission member from Central Illinois, track legislation.



Craig Hoskins, General Counsel of General Council on Finance and Administration, answers questions during a sexual harassment briefing sponsored by GCSRW.



Cecelia Long, member of Commission general secretariat, at left, listens to delegate concerns, while fellow member, Stephanie Hixon, above, prepares delegate materials.



Commission members and friends celebrate the 20th birthday of the Commission during a General Conference afternoon break.



Representatives of Commission delegates, monitoring team and staff are from upper left, front row, Waymon Hollis, Lois Seifert, Warren Urbom, Becky Haase, Joetta Rinehart, Sam NeSmith, and Anita Wood. Back, from left: Randy Day, Barbara Gurtler, Joanne Lindstrom, Arturo Maine, Don Williams, Cecelia Long, Judith Hill, Stephanie Hixon, Bill Rinehart (spouse of Joetta), Pat Callbeck Harper and Don Mendenhall.



Elizabeth Lopez Spence leads the worship service May 10 for all General Conference participants.

# Status Report

## Decade-long program for women disappoints

Amid claims that mainline churches have ignored concerns of women, the World Council of Churches is taking steps to bolster disappointing participation in the "Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women, 1988-1998," a decade-long program aimed at improving the status of women in church and society.

Speaking before participants at a worldwide gathering of Anglican women in Salvador, Brazil, the director of the program, Aruna Gnadason, announced that small teams of representatives will be sent to each of the council's 346 member churches to encourage participation.

Between Easter and Pentecost this year, Gnadason said, churches will be asked to rededicate themselves to the Ecumenical Decade during worship services under the theme "Stand Together with Hope."

—*The United Methodist Reporter*, April 17, 1992

## Germans elect first Lutheran woman bishop

A 47-year-old pastor in Hamburg, Germany, has become the first woman ever to be elected a Lutheran bishop—an event that critics say could lead to schism.

Bishop-elect Maria Jesper will be consecrated this summer as spiritual leader of the 950,000 Lutherans who make up 60 percent of the population of Hamburg and more than 95 percent of the Protestants there.

In her acceptance speech, Jesper promised to work to overcome the possibility of a schism in the church, which had been threatened by conservatives before the vote.

One of the strongest supporters of the candidacy of a woman was Jesper's opponent, Helge Adophsen, who said during discussions in the days before the vote that he was surprised by the opposition to Jesper based solely on her sex.

—*Religious News Service*, April 6, 1992

## Anglicans ordain women priests

Archbishop Peter Carnley of the Anglican Diocese of Perth in Australia ordained ten women as priests on March 7 despite strong opposition from church traditionalists.

Carnley proceeded with the ordinations before a packed house at St. George's Cathedral in Perth even though the Anglican

Church of Australia has not yet approved the ordination of women—and despite a plea from the church's top official, Archbishop Keith Rayner, that no women be ordained until the issue is discussed at the church's General Synod in July.

Three Anglican priests and a Perth layman sought to block the ordination through the courts, but a justice of the West Australian Supreme Court ruled that the ordinations could go forward because the church had not explicitly barred the ordination of women.

—*Christian Century*, March 18-25, 1992

## Women mark 100 years in General Conference

When 303 laywomen and clergywomen from the U.S. and Puerto Rico took their seats May 5 in the United Methodist General Conference at Louisville, they marked the 100th anniversary of women as delegates to the top legislative assembly of a predecessor body of today's United Methodist Church.

In 1892 the Methodist Protestant Church argued for two days about whether to seat four women elected as delegates by their annual conferences, but finally decided to do so by a 77-48 vote. The Methodist Episcopal Church recognized laywomen as delegates in 1906, and the Methodist Episcopal Church South, in 1922. Two women were seated for the first time in the 1983 United Brethren in Christ General Conference, but women

from the Evangelical Church had to wait for creation of the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1946.

—*Methodists Make News*, March 29, 1992

## More women enroll in seminaries

According to a *USA Today* USA SNAPSHOT, the Association of Theological Schools reports that 16,720 women were enrolled in more than 200 theological seminaries in the U.S. in 1989. The women made up 29 percent of total enrollment, up from 11.8 percent in 1973.

—*New Women, New Church*, Feb. 1992

## Groups work for inclusive episcopacy

More than 50 persons representing the Women's Leadership Team, Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Methodists Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans (MARCHA), and the Rio Grande Conference met Feb. 3 at Perkins School of Theology and formed the Coalition for an Inclusive Episcopacy.

In addition to supporting the six episcopal candidates from the South Central Jurisdiction, members are asking that women, Hispanics, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, and native Americans be part of an "inclusive episcopacy." Members of NFAAUM and the Native American International Caucus expressed their support.

—*Newscope*, Feb. 21, 1992

## Ovations

To **Chestina M. Archibald**, Nashville, and **Kathryn B. Pigg**, Washington, United Methodist campus pastors, who have received Baker Awards for graduate study from the United Methodist Board of Higher Education.

To **Evelyn S. (Lynn) Caterson**, an attorney from Absecon, NJ, and chair of Southern New Jersey Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and **Susan Henry-Crowe**, university chaplain at Emory University, Atlanta, who have were elected at General Conference to serve on the Judicial Council. The nine-member council now includes two laywomen and one clergywoman.

To **Ann Thompson Cook**, active member of Dumbarton United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore Annual Conference, who has been named executive director of the

Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights. Members of the coalition include the General Board of Church and Society and the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries.

To **Ruby Galloway Farish**, member of Boston Avenue United Methodist Church in Tulsa, who was selected to present the Laity Address to the 1992 General Conference.

To **Carolyn H. Oehler**, Northern Illinois Conference, who was elected vice president of the United Methodist National Association of Conference Council Directors.

To **Nancy Webb**, Baltimore, who has been elected co-chairperson of the Association of Physically Challenged Ministers of the United Methodist Church. ■



## IN CELEBRATION OF ANNUAL CONFERENCES... A SAMPLING OF THEIR WORK

The Flyer is pleased to celebrate the work of Annual Conference Commissions on the Status and Role of Women (AC/CSRWs) with this special supplement offering highlights of some exciting programs reported to the General Commission.

More highlights will appear in coming issues, so other annual conferences are encouraged to share ideas by sending descriptions to The Flyer, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201.

We want to take the liberty of returning to annual conference commissions the greeting sent from the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference CSRW to the General Commission: "May the work that you are doing continue to be valued and honored for the ways it is giving life and vision to the ministries of women within the United Methodist Church."

### **Sexual harassment policies and other actions addressing violence against women**

Now that General Conference has approved the resolution "Sexual Harassment and the United Methodist Church," United Methodist bodies are called to develop policies addressing sexual harassment and to educate their members on the issue. A number of UM bodies have already begun work on this issue, including actions taken by AC/CSRWs.

**California-Nevada:** In 1991, this AC/CSRW presented a resolution to annual conference that read in part:

Therefore be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference through the Board of Discipleship Standing Committee on Education and the District Councils on Ministry provide educational resources/workshops in District training events to assist the local church in understanding the issue of sexual harassment within the local church.

The resolution also called for various conference bodies "to develop clear policies and procedures related to sexual harassment, establish grievance procedures for victims, and recommend procedures for dealing with the offender(s)." The committee was asked to report to the 1992 Annual Conference and to distribute policies as directed throughout the conference.

For more information, contact Ellie Charleton, 2340 Gila Way, Sacramento, CA 95864. (916) 489-2340.

**Detroit and West Michigan:** The Cabinets and Boards of Ordained Ministry of these conferences approved a document entitled "Policies and Procedures for Dealing with Clergy Sexual Misconduct" in 1991.

The document includes a definition of sexual misconduct, standards for clergy conduct, responsibility for the victim(s), procedures for investigation, the judicial process of The United Methodist Church, reconciliation and rehabilitation, and records.

In addition, each district held one-day events in the fall and the spring to raise consciousness about power and accountability, to explore implementation and administration of the policies, to

provide a setting for frank discussion, and to face the complexity of conflicting theological, ethical, psychological, and social values in pastoral work.

For more information, contact Karen Poole (Detroit), 400 E. Grand River, Bright River, MI 48116. O: (313) 229-8561. H: (313) 227-1197. Laurie Haller (West Michigan), Hart United Methodist Church, 308 State Street, Hart, MI 449420. (616) 873-3516.

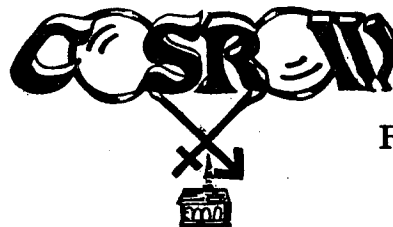
**Northern Illinois:** This AC/CSRW developed a detailed sexual harassment policy, "No More Silence," that was adopted in June 1991. In addition to including a theological statement, a definition of sexual harassment, a statement on how to recognize sexual harassment, and the detailed policy itself, the document specifies training and consultation teams; suggested administrative, education, training, and publicity responsibilities of annual conference; and a list of telephone numbers of persons to whom sexual harassment may be reported.

For more information, contact Sue Wescott (co-chair), 1460 N. Sandburg Terrace, #2801, Chicago, IL 60610. (312) 664-3119. Darreyl Marie Young (co-chair), 9227 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL 60619. O: (312) 737-0692. H: (312) 995-7117.

**Minnesota:** This AC/CSRW helped the annual conference organize and its members are involved in two important, but controversial task forces. The one called Sexual Exploitation has the purposes of reviewing existing policies and procedures on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and of creating new policies and procedures to cover the needs and concerns of victims, offenders, and the involved congregations.

The other called Healing and Redemption has the purpose of developing training to assist clergy and laity to provide support to women who may be faced with making an abortion decision.

For more information, contact Susan Clark Harris (co-chair), P.O. Box 362, 110 2nd St. N.W., Aitkin, MN 56432. H: (218) 927-3031. O: (218) 927-6226. Susan Dunlop (co-chair), 448 Morgan Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55405. H: (612) 374-2181. O: (612) 625-6269.



According to 1990 GCOM Survey:

77.2% female clergy and 23% female laity have observed or experienced incidents of sexual harassment.

50.1% laity and 34.6% clergy who experienced sexual harassment said it occurred at a church social function.

(Paid Advertisement)

Ad run in Southern New Jersey AC/CSRW ad campaign.

## IN CELEBRATION OF ANNUAL CONFERENCES...

### Videos dramatize stories

**Minnesota:** This AC/CSRW has developed a musical video and score to explore and expand our images of God.

*Images of God* is written by Kay Schroder-Hacklander, assisted by Don Arnold. Produced by Candid Video and Prospect Park UMC, this 45-minute video and score offer a worship experience or provide a resource for a production by a group or choir.

The video portrays one group's interpretation of this work which blends song, poetry, prose and movement to challenge, renew and expand our thinking about God in our lives. The work has parts for 10 or more persons, including vocal soloists and chorus, pianist, flutist, trumpeter and percussionist.

Full sets (one video and ten score books) are available at \$35.00 each; sample sets (one video and one score book) at \$15.00 each; and extra score books at \$5.00 each. Contact Minnesota Annual Conference, Attn: Cleone Hagmann, United Methodist Office, 122 West Franklin Ave., Room 400, Minneapolis, MN 55404. Make checks payable to Minnesota Annual Conference.

**Southern New Jersey:** "A Tale of Two Genders" is the title of a 30-minute videotape that focuses on four major issues for the church: the status of women in the church documented by statistics; use of and monitoring for gender-inclusive language; the genderlessness of God; and Ecumenical Decade for Solidarity with Women, 1988-1998.

The video includes several stopping points for audience participation and includes a Leader's Guide and Participants' Guide.

To order the video and guides, send a check for \$30 (includes copying costs plus handling and shipping), made payable to Southern New Jersey Annual Conference to Lynn Caterson, SNJ CSRW, 904 Marlborough Ave., Absecon, NJ 08201. (609) 646-9677.

### Workshops, retreats for education and support

**Peninsula:** District training workshops are designed to help local Status and Role of Women chairpersons to understand their role, to offer them support, to equip them for ministry, and to commission them for service. A detailed outline, including materials needed and explanations (with time allotted) of each segment, could serve as a model for other AC/CSRWs.

For further information, contact Mildred Hamilton, 213 Branch St., Berlin, MD 21811. (301) 641-0475.

**Alabama-West Florida:** The theme of this year's annual women's retreat for spiritual growth was "A Woman's Journey." Sponsored by AC/CSRW, participants were led by Marjory Zoet Bankson, author of "Seasons of a Woman's Life," a unit in the



OBSERVES

### Local Church Annual Conference Lay Delegates

AREA	% WOMEN
SNJ Conference	
Central District	55%
NE District	53%
NW District	59%
SE District	68%
SW District	63%
NNJ Conference	55%

(Paid Advertisement)

Ad run in Southern New Jersey AC/CSRW ad campaign.

1991 United Methodist Women's Program Book, and also of *Braided Streams* and *Seasons of Friendship*.

For more information, contact Jane Walker, 1110 Collinwood St., Opelika, AL 36801. (205) 745-3912.

**Florida:** "Women and Men Working and Living Together in Harmony" was the title of a special event sponsored by AC/CSRW. Barbara Riddle, then senior pastor at First United Methodist Kissimmee and now district superintendent of the Jacksonville District, and her associate pastor Jorge Acevedo served as keynote speakers. Also featured was a panel of men and women in various home and work arrangements.

For further information, contact Emily Ann Zimmerman, 945 40th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33703. (813) 527-0905.

### Two more ideas for raising consciousness

**California-Pacific:** This AC/CSRW developed a resolution for Annual Conference in 1991 entitled "United Methodist Investment Policies and Women." In part, the resolution reads:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Section D.4 of the Guidelines for the Investment Counselors of the California-Pacific United Methodist Foundation: Prohibited Securities or Transactions include:

*"No funds shall be invested in companies whose directors and/or executive management are exclusively male ..."*

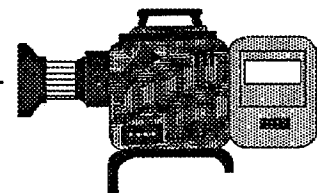
For more information, contact Dulce Proud, First UMC of La Puente, 15701 E. Hill St., La Puente, CA 91744. O: (818) 336-1927. H: (818) 961-6029.

**Southern New Jersey:** To monitor and report on the status of women in the church, this AC/CSRW began an advertising campaign in 1990. Published in *United Methodist Relay: Voice of the New Jersey Area*, these ads focus on statistics that illustrate the role of women.

For further information, contact Evelyn Caterson, 904 Marlborough Avenue, Absecon, NJ 08201. (609) 646-9677. ■

Images of God

Images of God



Graphics from Minnesota AC/CSRW videotape.

# Resources

This listing of resources contains recent publications on issues important to women.

**Ambassador of Reconciliation: A Muriel Lester Reader**, Richard Deats (New Society Publishers, 1992). A compilation of writings of this gifted writer and storyteller who dedicated herself to peace and justice for the poor. Paper \$14.95.

**The American Woman 1992-93: A Status Report**, edited by Paula Ries and Anne J. Stone for The Women's Research and Education Institute (W.W. Norton & Company, 1992). This new edition features four chapters on women in their roles as political players and much more. Paper \$12.94; hard \$24.95.

**Can Women Re-image the Church?** by Rosemary Chinnici (Paulist Press, 1992). Through details of the lives of four women, this book speaks of a new vision, a new way of thinking that incorporates the voices and thoughts of women within a theological world that understands and supports them. Paper \$6.95.

**Christian Parenting: Raising Children in the Real World**, Donna Sinclair and Yvonne Stewart (Westminster/John Knox, 1992). Using real life examples, these parents offer down-to-earth guidance and sensitive theological reflection for Christians raising children amid the realities of today's world. Issues discussed include materialism, competition, sexuality, and conflict. Paper \$11.95.

## CATALOG

**The Company of Women**, a merchandise catalog to benefit victims of domestic violence and rape. The Company of Women, 6 South Broadway, P.O. Box 742, Nyack, NY 10960-0742. (800) 937-1193.

**Drawing from the Women's Well: Reflections on the Life Passage of Menopause**, Joan C. Borton (LuraMedia, 1992) Using the metaphor of the village water well, Borton explores themes of renaming one's experience, grieving losses, allowing empty space, letting go, knowing and choosing, creating community. Menopause is viewed as a sacred event that opens a woman to the deeper movement of embracing something new. Paper \$10.95.

**Gift of the Dark Angel: A Woman's Journey through Depression toward Wholeness**, Ann Keiffer (LuraMedia, 1991). The story of Keiffer's struggle with depression as she loses health, hope, and finally all reason to live. This book celebrates the capacity of the human spirit to triumph over emotional and physical pain, to be transformed by suffering. Paper \$12.95.

**Gospel of Grace: The Way of Salvation in the Wesleyan Tradition**, Kenneth Cain Kinghorn (Abingdon, 1992). The theme of this book is that God, as loving parent, reaches out through grace to bring each person into a grow-

ing and personal relationship with God. This book is the first in a series called "We Believe," a series written for United Methodist laypersons to advance self-understanding and identity by communicating approved UM doctrine directly from General Conference approved documents. Paper \$7.95.

**Investment That Counts: A Guide to Socially Responsible Investing for People of Faith** (1991). This brochure created by the Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South offers more background on socially responsible investing and lists lots of resources: people, organizations, and publications. Copies of the brochure are available free upon request from the Resource Center, P.O. Box 7725, Durham, NC 27708. (919) 687-0408.

## NOW IN PAPERBACK

**Is Nothing Sacred?** The Story of a Pastor, the Women He Sexually Abused; and the Congregation He Nearly Destroyed, Marie M. Fortune (HarperSanFrancisco, 1992). Named the 1990 Book of the Year by the Academy of Parish Clergy, this book demonstrates that churches are obligated by their own mission to expose sexual misconduct by clergy. Paper \$10.00.

**New Creation: Christian Feminism and the Renewal of the Earth**, Catharina J. M. Halkes (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992). Book reveals the false and catastrophically damaging images at the root of the oppression of women and the rape of the earth's resources, and shows the complex link between feminist theology and the ecology movement. Paper \$13.95.

**A Personal Grief & A Reasonable Faith**, Norma E. Sawyers (Dogwood Publishing, 1991). A two-book volume describing a mother's journey from tragedy to triumph in understanding the Christian faith. \$11.95.

**The Twelve Steps in the Bible: A Path to Wholeness for Adult Children**, Michele S. Matto (Paulist Press, 1992). This collection of scriptural reflections offers two biblical meditations on each of the Twelve Steps, accompanied by suggestions for prayer and journal keeping as well as poetry and hymns. Paper \$7.95.

**Women as Interpreters of the Bible**, Patricia Demers (Paulist Press, 1992). This work shows the history, the accomplishments, and the shortcomings of women from the medieval visionaries to the present-day scholar who have emerged from vastly different cultural contexts to interpret the Bible. Paper \$12.95.

**The Woman in the Pulpit**, Carol M. Noren (Abingdon, 1991). The author offers an examination of women as preachers: the call to preach, role models, ways of exercising authority, and disclosures through preaching. Paper \$12.95.

**Worship Resource for HIV & AIDS Ministries**, Patricia D. Brown and Adele K. Wilcox. This resource from the General Board of Global

Ministries' Mission Education and Cultivation Department includes an order of Sunday worship, services of healing and anointing, suggested sermon topics, personal prayers, and information about relating to AIDS victims. To order, write Service Center, GBGM, 7820 Reading Rd., Caller #1800, Cincinnati, OH 45222-1800. For information, (513) 761-2100 (no phone orders taken). Resource is Stock #1683. Cost is \$2.50 plus \$1.50 shipping.

## SECOND IN THE SERIES—

### Gender and the Biblical Tradition

**Second volume—No Longer Be Silent: First Century Jewish Portraits of Biblical Women**, Cheryl Anne Brown (Westminster/John Knox, 1992). Brown studies the portrayal of women in *Biblical Antiquities*, attributed to Philo, and *Jewish Antiquities* of Josephus, two documents that characterize women differently than their biblical prototypes. Text offers new perspectives on the subject of women in Judaean-Christian tradition during the Graeco-Roman period. Paper \$17.95.

**First volume—Far More Precious than Jewels: Perspectives on Biblical Women**, Kathryn Pfisterer Darr (Westminster/John Knox, 1991). ■

## More on violence against women...

**If You Have Been Sexually Abused or Harassed...A Guide to Getting Effective Help in the ELCA** (1991). This booklet, published by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Commission for Women, provides basic definitions of sexual offenses which may occur in the church and sketches the kinds of harm which result. The booklet emphasizes practical help for victims. It includes a guide for actions which may be taken by complainants and explains the options and procedures available for dealing with complaints. To order code no. 69-5115, contact ELCA Distribution Service, 426 S. 5th St., Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440. (800) 328-4648. \$1.00 per copy, plus postage and handling.

**Step Forward: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace**, Susan Webb (MasterMedia, 1992). A basic guide to the topic for managers, harasser, and victims, as well as other interested readers. \$9.95. ■

## UMW Summer Schools emphasize Decade

Around the world United Methodist Women's Summer Schools of Christian Mission include a study on the World Council of Churches "Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women, 1988-1998."

The resource book is entitled *We Belong Together: Churches in Solidarity with Women*. Written by Sarah Cunningham and published by Friendship Press (1989), the book is available from UMW representatives and the General Board of Global Ministries.

## VOCAL to hold first national conference

VOCAL—Victims of Clergy Abuse Linkup—is sponsoring its first annual national conference, "Breaking the Cycle of Silence," on Oct. 16, 17, 18 at Arlington Heights, IL.

The conference features a keynote address by Marie Fortune on Friday evening. Saturday offers a number of concurrent sessions. Sunday activities include panel discussions and an ecumenical celebration.

A discounted early registration fee is available to *Flyer* readers until July 31.

For further information, contact VOCAL, P.O. Box 1268, Wheeling, IL 60090.

## Violent Relationships: Wholeness and Holiness

A seminar on Violent Relationships: Wholeness and Holiness, will be held at Oklahoma State University at Stillwater, OK. Oct. 1-3. Speakers: Sarah Bentley, Anne Hubbard Delaplane, David Delaplane, and Mary Pellauer. Contact Bobbie Henderson, c/o DAVIS, 1419 E. 15th St., Tulsa, OK 74120.

## Trainer trainings address clergy misconduct

The Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence announces upcoming training events for trainers, "Clergy Misconduct: Sexual Abuse in the Ministerial Relationship."

The events are co-sponsored by and located at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, on Aug. 12-15; and at Scarritt Bennett Center in Nashville, TN, Sept. 13-16.

Workshop leaders are Marie M. Fortune, executive director of the Center, and Elizabeth A. Stellas, also from the Center.

For more information, contact Pacific

School of Religion, (800) 999-0528, x212; or Scarritt Bennett Center, Studies Program, (615) 340-7587.

## UM related job openings

■ Registrar and assistant to dean, Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Contact Frederick Tiffany, Academic Dean, METHESCO, P.O. Box 1204, Delaware, OH 43015-0931. (614) 363-1146.

■ World Division treasurer, General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). Contact Raymond Jones, (212) 870-3600. Deadline 9/1.

■ Editor, *Response Magazine*, Women's Division, GBGM (see above). Deadline 8/17. ■

## General Conference moves to relocate

### GBGM, retain language on homosexuality

Two actions taken by General Conference will have significant implications for women into the coming quadrennium: the vote to move the General Board of Global Ministries out of New York City and the vote to retain the church's stance on homosexuality.

General Conference voted 485-470 to move GBGM; however, an amendment to the relocation task force report will delay the selection of a site until 1996.

The original recommendation was that a site selection committee find a new location by the end of 1994 and that GBGM move by the end of 1995. Although some delegates argued that now is the time for relocating the board, the amendment to delay passed 504-461.

By a vote of 710-238, the church retains its stand on homosexuality. Delegates defeated 372-594 the report of the minority

(originally the majority report from the Committee to Study Homosexuality) on the legislative committee, which called for eliminating the "incompatibility" language (par. 71F).

In addition to retaining the language in par. 71F, other approved recommendations call for: (1) developing study resources consistent with the Social Principles, which support ministry to *and with* (italicized insert added) homosexual persons...*with the understanding that these resources will reflect diversity of informed viewpoint* (italicized section approved by a vote of 478-468-4); and (2) requesting The United Methodist Publishing House to develop resources with the help of an advisory committee appointed by the Council of Bishops.

Delegates also supported a new par. 71G, which addresses the human and civil rights of gays and lesbians (approved 739-210-8). ■



**The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women**

in the United Methodist Church  
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