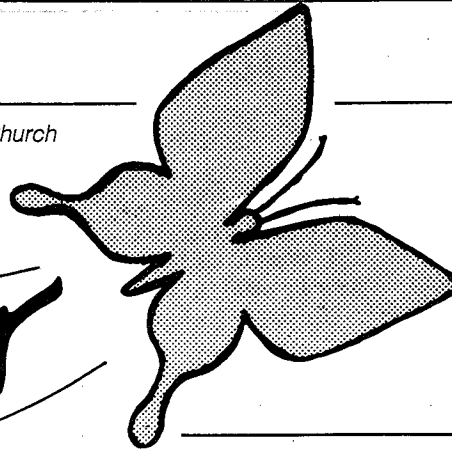


# The Flyer



Vol XIV, No. 1

Summer 1993

## U.S. Committee of Ecumenical Decade issues call to action

The U.S. Committee of the Ecumenical Decade, 1988-1998: Churches in Solidarity with Women has issued a call to action to the U.S. denominations, the local-regional councils of churches and other ecumenical bodies. This call recommends that the focus for the second half of the Decade shift to these bodies to implement the goals of the Decade.

In recognizing that many of the communions have designated representatives and resources to enable the work of the US Decade Committee during the first half of the Decade, the Committee celebrates its own and others' accomplishments on the Decade theme. Here are a few highlights:

- The National Council of Churches of Christ mission study on the Decade theme with the basic textbook and supplementary materials produced by Friendship Press. (*Churches in Solidarity with Women* was a United Methodist Women study book in 1992-1993.)
- The development of the packet, "Into Action...A Resource for Participation in the Ecumenical Decade" and the Spanish edition, "Dios Tambien Me Llama a Mi."
- The five consultations already conducted or planned by the Decade Committee itself on: Sexuality and Spirituality,

Women's History (Anti-Slavery and Suffrage Movements), Men in Support of the Decade, Women and Their Political Engagement, and the Mid-Decade Review and Celebration Event.

- Church Women United's World Community Day, 1993, focused on the Decade with the theme, "Healing the Church."
- Undergirding and promotion of the primary national Decade Conference Nov. 4-7, 1993, in Minneapolis, entitled "Re-imagining," undertaken by the Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Minnesota Councils of Churches.
- The development of an ecumenically committed core of national staff and volunteer persons, resourcing one another and developing a continuing ecumenical network.

To insure the effective transition from a national ecumenical Decade Committee for the implementation in member churches, the Committee has named a Transformation Team that includes Thelma Adair and United Methodist Bishop Forrest Stith, Committee co-chairs, and Marge Christie, Patricia Rumer, Ann Smith, and Jeanne Audrey Powers. ■

## National linkup Teleconference planned on sexual abuse in the Church

Faith communities among local congregations, district, annual conference, and interfaith groups have an important opportunity to link with similar groups across the country on May 10, 1994, for a teleconference "Healing Broken Lives and Communities," Sexual Abuse in the Church: Prevention and Healing.

This one-day event, being produced at the United Methodist Communications studios in Nashville, is an interfaith presentation designed for local church members, pastors, and other professionals. An interfaith program planning committee has been convened by Cecelia Long, member of the general secretariat of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW).

Leadership for the teleconference will include such resource persons as Marie Fortune, executive director of the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence; and Larry Graham, professor, Pastoral Care and Psychology, Iliff School of Theology.

Participants will receive a packet of materials that includes a comprehensive interfaith and secular resource list for further study of the issues.

For more information, watch future issues of **The Flyer**, or contact GCSRW, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201. (708) 869-7330. ■

## VISN plans week of programs on violence against women

Local congregations have a special opportunity to participate in a televised study, "Violence Against Women: What Is the Response of the Faith Community?"

The Women's Television Project, a coalition of producers and communication representatives from the VISN (Vision Interfaith Satellite Network) faith group membership, will produce for VISN a special week of programming on the theme, from Nov. 15-19 at 9 p.m. EST.

The purpose of the week is to break the silence in the faith community around issues of violence against women and to em-

power congregations to become places of safety and education.

Each evening's program will feature an introduction by a host presenting the selected program and highlighting the themes and issues of abuse as they impact the religious community.

The concluding program on Sunday, Nov. 21 at 9 p.m. EST will be a live 90-minute viewer call-in special featuring a moderator and recognized panelists in this field.

To receive more information on study guides and resource materials, contact VISN, 74 Trinity Place, Suite 800, New York, NY 10006. (212) 502-0738. FAX (212) 602-0736. ■

# Status Report

## Holy Communion not to be refused

The Division of Ministries is to assure Conference that the British Methodist Church finds it "unacceptable" for anyone to "refuse to receive Holy Communion when a woman presbyter presides at the Lord's Supper" simply on the grounds of her gender.

The assurance comes within the recommended reply from the Memorials Committee to a memorial from the Cumbria Synod asking that Conference directs all college and training course principals to ask all candidates for presbyteral training and ordination if they fully recognize the ministry of women presbyters—and if they do not that their candidature be discontinued.

The issue arises from a reported incident at Wesley College, Bristol, when it is understood there were those who allegedly declined to receive Holy Communion from the woman minister conducting the service.

*(British) Methodist Reporter,*  
June 24, 1993

## Women's Division files suit against SEC

A lawsuit against the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has been filed by the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries. The suit, filed March 3 with a U.S. District Court in New York City,

seeks to reverse SEC rulings that bar inclusion of certain shareholder resolutions in proxy statements.

The New York City Employees' Retirement System and U.S. Trust Company of Boston have joined in the suit. Connie Takamine, Women's Division treasurer, cited "gradual erosion" of shareholders' ability to offer resolutions on affirmative action and employment-related issues as the impetus for the court action.

UM News Service

## Episcopal Church adopts sex-abuse policy guidelines

After nearly a year's worth of revisions, the Episcopal Church has adopted a policy on sexual harassment and abuse that establishes procedures for filing complaints, investigations and sanctions against offenders.

The new guidelines were adopted by the denomination's Executive Council in the spring at a meeting in Mundelein, IL. According to church officials, the policy is the first by a major denomination to cover not only employees but volunteers as well. Like several other denominations, the Episcopal Church has been hit with a number of cases of sexual misconduct in recent years—frequently involving misconduct by clergy.

*Christian Century,* March 17, 1993

## Court rules VA ban on female chaplains illegal

A federal agency's policy that blocks women from serving as Roman Catholic chaplains at Veterans Administration hospitals is illegal, a federal appeals court ruled recently.

But the court's decision does not mean women can start lining up for Catholic chaplaincy posts. The court, in one portion of its decision, said it is illegal for a federal agency to bar someone from a job because of gender. But it also upheld a Veterans Administration policy that requires chaplain applicants to obtain endorsement from their denomination. The Catholic Church has endorsed only priests, and women are barred from the Catholic priesthood, a situation over which the state has no control.

*The National Christian Reporter,*  
April 16, 1993.

## UMC offers relief to Bosnia

If the peace agreement holds, a United Methodist Committee on Relief refugee housing project in Zenica Bosnia, should be running by June. UMCOR expects to invest about \$300,000 in the project. Donations for UMC emergency work in the former Yugoslavia can be made to Advance No. 333350-1.

*The United Methodist Reporter,*  
May 21, 1993

**Calling all laity, pastors, church professionals and others**

## HEALING BROKEN LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

### SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE CHURCH: PREVENTION AND HEALING

MAY 10, 1994

A one-day interfaith teleconference designed for participation by communities of faith. Plan now to convene a gathering in your church or community. For more information, watch for future issues of **The Flyer**, or contact:

**General Commission on the Status and Role of Women**  
1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201  
(708) 869-7330

## The Flyer

Summer 1993  
Vol. XIV, 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 72 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:**


Ann Sherer, President/Joyce Waldon Bright, Vice-President/John Campbell, Secretary

### **General Secretariat:**

Stephanie Anna Hixon/Cecelia Long

GCSRW, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201  
(708) 869-7330

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Printed on recycled paper. 

## Women in UM History Grant invites proposals

The General Commission on Archives and History invites proposals for Women in United Methodist History Research Grant for 1994.

The purpose of the grant is to provide seed money (travel, support services, etc.) for research projects relating specifically to the history of women in the UMC or its antecedents.

To apply, a candidate must submit an application containing several documents. Submitted proposals should be postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 1993. Grant recipients will be announced by May 1, 1994.

For more information, contact Susan M. Eltscher, Assistant General Secretary, General Commission on Archives and History, P.O. Box 127, 36 Madison Ave., Madison, NJ 07940. (201) 822-2787. FAX 201-408-3909.

## Open Hands becomes ecumenical

*Open Hands*, a quarterly magazine for ministries with lesbian, gay and bisexual persons, published its first ecumenical issue in March.

Published for the past eight years by the Reconciling Congregation Program (United Methodist), *Open Hands* is now being published in conjunction with *More Light* (Presbyterian), *Open and Affirming* (United Church of Christ), and *Reconciled in Christ* (Lutheran) programs. Congregations in each of these programs have publicly declared that they welcome persons regardless of sexual orientation.

Although expanding in size and scope, *Open Hands* continues to be available for an annual subscription of \$16 (four issues) with single copies for \$5 from *Open Hands*, 3801 N. Keeler Ave., Chicago, IL 60641. (312) 736-5526. ■

## Did you know...

Women ages 18 to 50 experience far more stress than women over 50. That's one of the findings of a Wisconsin Conference survey of 3,231 women. Nearly 61% of women from 18 to 32 said they have concerns about stress in their lives; 66% of women 33 to 50 shared that feeling. However, only 37% of women 51-65 reported stress, and only 16% of women over 65. About 11% of the younger women felt discriminated against because of their gender; nearly 8% of women over 50 and 4% of women over 65 shared that concern. The least surprising finding is that 60% of women 18-32 and 69% of women 33-50 are concerned about managing two lives. Only 33% of women 50-65 and 6% of women over 65 have that concern. Nearly 52% of the women surveyed said they were concerned about male images of God.

—Wisconsin Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women (Newscope, June 4, 1993)

## Ovations

To **Geraldine Bell**, an active member of Highland Heights United Methodist Church in Atlanta, who has been named National Volunteer of the Year by Joint Action in Community Service, Inc.

To **Arnetta Beverly**, a former deputy sheriff of Davidson County, NC, and a graduating student at United Methodist-related Duke University Divinity School, Durham, NC, who was awarded a Jameson Jones Preaching Award.

To **Wanda Durrett Bigham**, who has been named the 13th president of Huntington College, Montgomery, AL. Her appointment brings to seven the number of women presidents among 87 UM-related senior colleges and universities.

To **Elizabeth Dole**, president of the American Red Cross and an active United Methodist, who was awarded the Norman Vincent Peale Award for Positive Thinking.

To **Muriel Alice Fitzjohn**, Freetown, Sierra Leone, who recently became the first UM cleric outside the U.S. to be endorsed as a chaplain by the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries.

To **Beryl Ingram-Ward**, a UM clergywoman, who protests the mass rapes of women and girls by Serbian troops, as part of the "Women in Black" demonstration held every Wednesday near the United Nations.

To **Carmen Peña Garay**, who was ordained as the first woman pastor in the Nicaraguan Baptist Convention. She is pastor of Hebron Baptist Church in Juigalpa, Nicaragua.

To **Sherry Heath**, Piqua, OH, who was re-elected to a second year as president of the

Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries.

To **Jeneane Jones**, General Board of Global Ministries electronic media director, who received an award of excellence from the Religious Public Relations Council.

To **Rosemary Skinner Keller**, a professor at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL, who become the first female academic dean of the United Methodist-related school. She will also carry the title vice president for academic affairs.

To **Rosemarie Koehn**, who has been appointed the first woman bishop of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. She has become the first woman bishop in the Nordic churches and the third Lutheran woman bishop worldwide—after Marie Jepsen in Germany and Ulring Larson in the U.S.

To **Marybelle H. Landrum** of Ashland, OH, who has been named the 1993 recipient of a \$1,000 Women in UM History research grant to study Epworth-Euclid UMC in Cleveland, OH. The congregation has recruited eight women for the UM ministry, including Bishop Judith Craig (Columbus, OH).

To **Perla Luna**, a United Methodist from San Antonio, TX, who has been awarded by United Methodist Communications the \$2,500 Leonard M. Perryman Scholarship for ethnic minority students.

To **Tsitsi Moyo**, Africa University's top theological student and a 28-year-old mother of four, who, for years, had been denied an education because of her gender.

To **Marjorie Suchocki**, Inghram professor of theology at the United Methodist-related School of Theology at Claremont (CA), who has become the first female academic dean of the school and will also carry the title vice president for academic affairs.

To **Tallulah Fisher Williams**, pastor of Hartzell Memorial UMC in Chicago, who was elected chair of Black Methodists for Church Renewal. She is the first clergywoman to hold that office. ■

## Calendar

### Oct. 15-17

**Women and Healing.** Explore the history of women as healers, the values women bring to healing and the ways women today are finding to heal themselves and others physically, emotionally and spiritually. Grailville, 932 O'Bannonville Road, Loveland, OH 45140. (513) 683-2340.

### Nov. 4-6

**Global Women's Theological Colloquium.** In celebration of the World Council of Churches' Women's Decade: "Re-imagining God, Church, Community." Contact Sally Hill, Twin Cities Metropolitan Church Commission, 122 W. Franklin, Rm. 100, Minneapolis, MN 55404.

### May 10, 1994

**Healing Broken Lives—Sexual Abuse in the Church: Prevention and Healing.** A teleconference for interfaith local and regional groups. (See article on front page.)

# Resources

A survey of resources, predominantly new ones recently released.

**The Body of God: An Ecological Theology**, Sallie McFague (Fortress Press, 1993). The author develops a striking and novel vision of the universe, one that takes seriously and radically both contemporary science and the incarnational commitments of the Christian tradition. Paper \$12.95.

**Church in the Round: Feminist Interpretation of the Church**, Letty M. Russell (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993). Ideas of the Christian church are changing, and Russell envisions its future as a partnership and sharing for all members around a common table of hospitality. Paper \$14.99.

**The Garden of Eden and the Hope of Immortality**, James Barr (Fortress Press, 1993). A reading of the story of the Garden of Eden, not as a tale of the origins of sin and death but as a tale of a chance of immortality that was briefly accessible to humanity but quickly lost. Paper \$10.95.

## New in the series

### Gender and the Biblical Tradition

**Her Image of Salvation: Female Saviors and Formative Christianity**, Gail Paterson Corrington (Westminster/John Knox, 1993). This study examines the image of the savior and the experience of salvation—two concepts that are inextricably entwined. The author asserts that Christianity sets aside female images of salvation by emphasizing the maleness of Jesus. Paper \$19.99.

**Let the Oppressed Go Free: Feminist Perspectives on the New Testament**, Luise Schottroff (Westminster/John Knox, 1993). This collection draws together recent studies by a leading European scholar of aspects of the New Testament of special interest to women. Paper \$17.99.

**The Joy of Service: Life Stories of Racial and Ethnic Minority Deaconesses and Home Missionaries** (General Board of Global Ministries, UMC, 1992). This book shares the great stories of active and retired women who have answered God's call to serve humanity. Paper \$3.00.

**Moving the Mountain: The Women's Movement in America Since 1960**, Flora Davis (Simon & Schuster, 1991). This narrative tells of the people, politics, and events that shaped the second wave of feminism and the women who challenged sex discrimination in their communities, schools, workplaces, and homes. Paper \$14.00.

**Out of the Skin Into the Soul: The Art of Aging**, Dorothy Albracht Doherty and Mary

Colgan McNamara (LuraMedia, 1993). This book gives people of all ages a chance to reflect deeply on the significance of the second half of life. Drawing from five classic, award-winning children's tales, the authors create a model for aging not as a "downhill" time, but as time to go down into the soul and live with great depth from a lifetime of stored riches within. Paper \$14.95.

**Preaching as Weeping, Confession, and Resistance: Radical Responses to Radical Evil**, Christine M. Smith (Westminster/John Knox, 1992). The author believes preaching is an interpretation of our present world and an invitation to a profoundly different world. She invites us to encounter and name the radical evils such as handicappism, ageism, sexism, heterosexism, white racism, and classism. Paper \$14.99.

**Readings in Her Story: Women in Christian Tradition**, Barbara J. MacHaffie (Augsburg Fortress, 1992). A collection of 74 important Christian documents and passages by and about women. These primary sources range from Genesis to contemporary publications on significant events, personalities, and issues of women's religious histories. Paper \$13.

**Sensuous Spirituality: Out from Fundamentalism**, Virginia Ramey Mollenkott (Crossroad, 1992). This book reaches across the chasms that divide people of faith over issues that cluster around sexual matters. The author models a means for social change. Paper \$12.95.

**Sexual Abuse in Christian Homes and Churches**, Carolyn Holderread Heggen (Herald Press, 1993). A psychotherapist specializing in sexual abuse addresses the horror of broken sexuality for survivors of abuse, for perpetrators, and for the church and offers hope for healing. Paper \$9.95.

**Sexual Power: Feminism and the Family in America**, Carolyn Johnston (The University of Alabama Press, 1992). The author tackles the history of family issues by focusing on the power that women have historically exerted. She argues that the gradual growth of feminist consciousness lies not simply in oppression and feelings of victimization but, paradoxically, in a growing sense of the empowerment of women as wives and mothers. Cloth \$36.95.

**This Is My Body: Creativity, Clay, and Change**, Marjory Zoet Bankson (LuraMedia, 1993). This text celebrates the process of change in the parallel journeys of clay making and soul making. Each chapter contains journal questions and a group question for individual and group study. Paper \$14.95.

**The Will to Arise: Women, Tradition and the Church in Africa**, Mercy Amba Oduyoye and Musimbi R.A. Kanyoro, eds. (Orbis Books, 1992). To be an African woman and a

Christian in the late 20th century present complex challenges that these authors point out. The range of countries and denominations represented helps to stress the range of new possibilities emerging in Africa for the world church. Paper \$16.95.

**Women, Religion and Sexuality: Studies on the Impact of Religious Teachings on Women**, Jeanne Becher, ed. (Trinity Press International, 1991). Report by the World Council of Churches' Sub-Unit on Women as it looks at sexuality across religious traditions. Paper \$14.95.

**WomanWitness: A Feminist Lectionary and Psalter**, Miriam Therese Winter (Crossroad, 1992). The book contains 50 services for women of the Hebrew Scriptures, the second volume following *WomanWisdom*. Includes readings, psalms, prayers, and discussion starters, along with biographical information on the woman celebrated and background on the historical and scriptural context. Paper \$16.95.

**Women Respond to the Men's Movement: A Feminist Collection**, ed. Kay Leigh Hagan, forward by Gloria Steinem (HarperSanFrancisco, 1992). A compilation of articles written by prominent feminists whose diverse perspectives articulate the hopes and suspicions many women feel regarding the future of the men's movement and of feminism. Paper \$12.00.

## Video

**Questions of Faith for Youth**. A six-part video series released by UM Communications in which ethnically diverse high-school and college-age students consider the impact of drug abuse, peer pressure, racism, sexuality, their understanding of God and Christ, and their hopes for the church. Rent \$18. Buy \$29.95 each tape; \$159.90 series. Ecuifilm, (800) 251-4091.

## Booklet

**Indicators of Institutional Racism, Sexism and Classism: Some Suggested Responses**, The Inclusiveness and Justice Standing Committee, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. In its introduction this booklet credits the pioneering work of the General Board of Global Ministries with laying the cornerstone for this booklet. Included are indicators and issues from the areas of personnel, program/administrative, governance, and institutional climate. Order from: Office of Inclusiveness and Justice, National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 880, New York, NY 10115. (212) 870-2915. Single copies \$2.50. Bulk rates available.

## Acosamiento sexual en la Iglesia Metodista Unida: Prevención, intervención y apoyo de póliza

Como una denominación, la Iglesia Metodista Unida ha tomado un papel como líder entre las iglesias en fomentar un conocimiento elevado del problema de acosamiento sexual. Un paso en el proceso fue el estudio en 1990 de "Acosamiento Sexual en la Iglesia Metodista Unida" avanzado por el Concilio General de Ministerios que puso la fundación para reconocer la extensión y grado de seriedad de este problema.

Otro paso vino en 1992 en la Conferencia General con la aprobación de la resolución "Acosamiento Sexual y la Iglesia Metodista Unida", avanzado por la Comisión General del Estado y Papel de Mujeres (GCSRW). Conforme con la resolución, GCSRW ha trabajado cooperativamente con varias agencias de la iglesia dirigidas a confrontar la cuestión de acosamiento sexual.

Tenemos una oportunidad para proveer un ministerio importante a nuestras norte americanas y sociedades globales por discursos sobre acosamiento sexual en una manera clara y poderosa en nuestra iglesia propia.

Este guía está disponible para ayudar las iglesias locales y las Comisiones del Estado y Papel de la Mujer en las conferencias anuales para confrontar la cuestión de mala conducta sexual en las agencias de la iglesia.

### Significados de términos en relación con acosamiento sexual

Unos de los obstáculos en discutir los temas de acosamiento sexual y mala conducta sexual es la falta de comprender lo que es conducta aceptable y apropiada. Las siguientes definiciones reflejan los conceptos contenidos en el trabajo de GCSRW; guías de la Comisión de Igualdad de Empleo (EEOC); y de la "Investigación y Recursos de Acosamiento Sexual; Un Informe en Progreso", preparado por el Concilio Nacional de Investigación de Mujeres, noviembre 1991.

**Discriminación basado de género** es tratamiento negativo y desigual basado sobre el género. Acosamiento sexual y acosamiento por causa de género son dos formas de discriminación basado de género.

Acosamiento sexual está definido en el Libro de Resoluciones 1992 como un pecado, específicamente algún avance sexual o demanda no solicitada ni provorada, sea verbal o física, que es percibida por el recipiente como insulto, intimidación o coercitivo.

Acosamiento sexual es explotación de una relación de poder, incluso la creación de un ambiente antagónico o abusivo en la area de empleo, o conducta que negativamente molesta a un/ una individuo en su capacidad de cumplir con su trabajo en su empleo.

Según definiciones de EEOC, algunos avances sexuales; no solicitados; solicitudes para favores sexuales; y otra conducta

verbal o física constituye acosamiento sexual cuándo las siguientes condiciones existen:

- Cuándo alguien somete a un favor sexual y tal es un término o una condición de empleo.

- Cuándo alguien somete a acosamiento sexual y es una provisión implícita o explícita de lograr o mantener empleo.

- Cuándo alguien somete o rechaza tal conducta y es una base para decisiones de empleo y determinaciones de promociones individuales; traslados; misiones de empleo; y/o evaluación del trabajo.

- Cuándo el acosamiento sexual afecta el trabajo del empleado o forma un ambiente de intimación, antagónico u ofensivo en el lugar de empleo.

Criterio básico en determinar si un ambiente es antagónico es fijarse si la conducta de una persona molesta la manera de que un/una individuo puede conducir su trabajo o si establece un ambiente de intimación, antagónico u ofensivo en el lugar de empleo.

**Acosamiento basado sobre el género** es conducta no solicitada ni deseada específicamente dirigido a un género. Aunque no específicamente en términos sexuales, acosamiento basado sobre el género es conocido en maneras de conducta que forma un ambiente antagónico o abusivo en el lugar de empleo. Ambos, acosamiento sexual y acosamiento basado sobre el género son explotaciones de poder y son consideradas como discriminación delante de la ley.

**Explotación sexual** no es ético y en algunos estados en esta nación es considerado conducta contra la ley cuándo es contacto sexual entre terapeuta o consejero y un cliente. Cualquier contacto sexual con un cliente es considerado una explotación del papel profesional y la confianza y responsabilidad que el consejero o terapeuta tiene con su cliente. Consentimiento por parte del cliente no es una defensa legal para explotación sexual.

**Mala conducta clero/ministerial** es una violación de confianza sagrada y la responsabilidad fiduciario de un ministro ordenado, pastor local, o ministro laico. Cuándo esta violación envuelve contacto sexual o conducta sexual, esto puede ser llamado mala conducta sexual. Unas relaciones entres adultos que dan consentimiento dentro del contexto de la iglesia puede ser llamado mala conducta clero/ministerial.

**Mala conducta sexual** incluye explotación sexual; mala conducta clero/ministerial; cualquiera forma de conducta sexual criminal; y unos aspectos de acosamiento sexual.

**Abuso sexual** es una transgresión sexual del cuerpo por la fuerza. Abuso sexual puede ser violación sexual; asalto sexual; incesto;

(continued on next page)

exhibición indecente; violación sexual estatutario; involuntario o voluntario contacto sexual con un niño o una niña; promoción de prostitución; pornografía con niños; asalto indecente y asalto indecente y agravado. Abuso sexual es también un asalto interno; una violación premeditada de integridad sensible; una acción de violencia.

**Asalto sexual** es una acción sexual por la fuerza contra la voluntad de una persona.

### **Estrategias para acción para la conferencia anual**

Tal como está resumido en la resolución "Acosamiento Sexual y la Iglesia Metodista Unida" en el Libro de Resoluciones, 1992, página 449, y como se dirige en la resolución "Acosamiento Sexual y Mala Conducta", y fue declarado por el Consejo de Obispos en noviembre 1991, cada conferencia anual debe poner en práctica un plan para erradicar e impedir acosamiento y mala conducta sexual.

Lo siguiente puede servir como guía para estrategias para acción para la conferencia anual:

Como fue declarado por el Consejo de Obispos, "Ser vigilantes en asegurar que pólizas y guías sean claras y eficaces sobre acosamiento sexual, y que se establezca procedimientos de mandar una queja. Esto se debe hacer en práctica dentro cada área episcopal".

■ Tener entrenamiento y un conocimiento elevado para un cuerpo de administración y congregaciones específicamente las con quienes está en relaciones con los ministerios ordenado y diaconal; estudiantes, facultad y administradores de las instituciones educacionales relacionadas con la Iglesia Metodista Unida.

■ Asegurar que las pólizas son aplicadas, primeramente por diseminar información sobre acosamiento sexual y el proceso que seguir si hay pregunta; hacer claro que retaliación es prohibido; y que haya entrenamiento para personas que tienen quejas en relación de acosamiento sexual.

■ Evaluar el progreso de cada conferencia anual en impedir y erradicar acosamiento sexual. Esto incluirá repasar y poner al día las pólizas y procedimientos. También, se formará un grupo específicamente encargado con la tarea de supervisar este procedimiento o utilizar instrumentos para evaluar el conocimiento elevado, entendimiento y repuesta para impedir y erradicar acosamiento sexual y mala conducta sexual.

■ Desarrollar significados claros de conducta que cae bajo las pólizas y procedimiento de acosamiento sexual. El Libro de Disciplina del 1992 contiene el proceso para mandar quejas; la conferencia anual debe tener pólizas para ayudar aclarar la Disciplina.

■ Promover comunicación y cooperación entre grupos de personas que responden a cargos de acosamiento sexual y mala conducta sexual.

■ Establecer enlace entre varios puestos de la conferencia anual: Obispo, la Junta de Ministerios Ordenados, la Junta de Ministerios Diaconal, la Junta de Laicos, Comité de Pastor/Personal y Parroquia, y la Comisión del Estado y Papel de Mujeres.

■ Promover que grupos hagan relaciones sobre el tema de acosamiento sexual y poner en acción una fuerza de tarea que

incluye las personas de los grupos anteriormente citados e incluir consultantes con pericia y también algunas personas que son víctimas de acosamiento sexual.

■ Que estas pólizas sean aprobadas por la conferencia anual y que estas pólizas sean sincrónico con otros documentos que pertenecen a declaraciones de ética y acuerdos de clero.

■ Como fue resuelto por el Consejo de Obispos, conducir la iglesia en desarrollar un ambiente de hospitalidad donde no solo hay ausencia de acosamiento sexual sino que se encuentra un ambiente de bienvenida, respeto e igualdad.

### **Instrucción sobre violencia sexual para La Congregación**

Imprimido de nuevo con permiso: De "Crossing the Boundary: Professional Sexual Abuse" (Cruzando el límite: Abuso sexual profesional) Un recurso desarrollado en 1991 por el Mennonite Central Committee: U.S. Women's Concerns and the Mennonite Conciliation Service, Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500. (717) 859-3889. Cuesto del paquete: \$5.00

- Planear un sermón o serie de sermones sobre el tema
- Ofrecer un electivo para la Escuela Dominical o Educación Cristiana
- Incluir el tema durante el tiempo de niños.
- Diseñar un evento especial, utilizando un profesional fuera de la iglesia
- Añadir recursos en la biblioteca con temas de abuso sexual
- Poner a la disposición para todos los recursos que se encuentran en la comunidad tal como agencias de socorro para mujeres, Centros de crisis cuando ha sido violado, servicios de consejo.
- Enseñar a clero y a líderes laicos como tomar nota si hay abuso o acosamiento de un profesional o pastoral, y seguir el asunto con compasión y sinceridad.

### **Ayuda disponible de la Comisión General del Estado y Papel de Mujeres (GCSRW)**

La Comisión General del Estado y Papel de Mujeres (GCSRW) recibirá comunicaciones de individuos y grupos de la Iglesia Metodista Unida que tengan preguntas sobre acosamiento sexuales y mala conducta sexual. GCSRW puede ayudarles en las siguientes maneras:

■ Consejo sobre pólizas de acosamiento sexual y mala conducta sexual; muestra de pólizas; ayuda en desarrollar pólizas; y repaso de pólizas corriente.

■ Compartir recursos que son particulares y pertenecen a la Iglesia Metodista Unida sobre acosamiento sexual y mala conducta sexual

■ Ofrecer educación y entrenamiento, incluso prevención, intervención, apoyo de póliza, y compartir recursos teológicos y de devoción.

■ Información actualizadas con respecto a la Iglesia Metodista Unida y cambios en lugares seculares en los Estados Unidos.

■ Apoyar or parte de individuos y grupos.

■ Asistir obispos, conferencias anuales, iglesias locales, Consejos, agencias, y individuos en la Iglesia Metodista Unida.

■ Si tiene preguntas o quiere pedir recursos de la Comisión General del Estado y Papel de Mujeres (GCSRW), pongase en contacto con ellas en la dirección: 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201 (708) 869-7330. ■

# OPTIONS FOR ACTION

This special offering of *Options for Action* includes ideas for local church action. While the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women is mandated to serve annual conferences, the Commission recognizes that local church work areas on the Status and Role of Women may benefit from exchanging ideas on their own programs.

## Anona UMC celebrates women

The Storm of the Century on March 13 and an accompanying power failure could not stop the women of Largo, FL, for long,



Kitty Johnson, member of Work Area on the Status and Role of Women, helps dramatize the story "The Parable of the Naked Lady" during Anona UMC's Celebration of Women

although it did postpone their event. But on April 18, nearly 80 women attended a Celebration of Women at the Anona United Methodist Church of Largo.

Sponsored by the Work Area on the Status and Role of Women, the event featured

Judith Ochshorn, professor of women's studies at the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg. Ochshorn spoke on "Early Women Pioneers."

The event closed with a worship service that included a short drama, "The Parable of the Naked Lady," adapted from a story by Ann Spurgeon, found in a collection *Women Guides*, by Rosemary Radford Ruether.

Among the leaders in planning this event was Mary Dawn Pyle, assistant to the Anona UMC pastor, who is also chairperson of the St. Petersburg District Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

For more information, contact Anona UMC work area chairperson Lois Ambler, 12501 Ulmertown Road West, #141, Largo, FL 34644-2731. (813) 596-7293.

## Service emphasizes Ecumenical Decade theme

A special worship service at Otterbein Home Church, sponsored by the local church Work Area on the Status and Role of Women, emphasized the theme "We Belong Together."

Through a presentation of hymns, poetry, and dramatic reading, the script, written by Mary Caroline Maves, led worshippers through a history of the status and role of women in the church and into the present with highlights of vital issues facing women and men today.

This theme echoes the theme of 1992 United Methodist

Women's study materials supporting the World Council of Churches' theme 1988-1998 Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women.

As the leader explained in the opening, "It is *not* a decade of women for women. The Ecumenical Decade is a time for men and women to work together to bring about changes in ecclesiastical and social structures that are obstacles to women's full personhood and participation."

This local church, located on the campus of Otterbein Retirement Home, holds weekly Wednesday afternoon services that are led by various church groups. The script used for this service could be adapted by other groups and personalized to include their own local stories.

For more information, contact work area chair Virginia Smith, 4662 Thrush Court, Lebanon, OH 45036. (513) 933-9291.

## Retreat introduces support for victims of domestic violence

The Status and Role of Women Work Area and the United Methodist Women of Trinity United Methodist Church, Waverly, IA, served as co-sponsors of a retreat to introduce to the community the Cedar Valley Friends of the Family Domestic Violence Services.

On a Saturday morning in January, participants heard from a panel of local counselors, lawyers, and members of the Friends of the Family organization. Panelists discussed the scope of the problem of domestic violence, the crisis line established in the community, and the referral services for counseling and legal assistance available through the crisis line.

This community organization grew out of a study of domestic violence done in 1991 by Church Women United. Subsequently, a community committee organized to address the problem.

For more information, contact Evelyn Hickle, SRW chair of Trinity UMC, 1307 2nd Ave., S.W., Waverly, IA 50677. (319) 352-1026.

## Tucson church adopts sexual harassment policy

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Tucson, AZ, received approval of its sexual harassment policy at the Sept. 1992 meeting of the Administrative Board. The effort began in Jan. 1992 when the Committee on Status and Role of Women and Church and Society co-sponsored an information forum and follow-up workshop.

The document makes clear St. Mark's opposition to the sin of sexual harassment and states its commitment to deal resolutely with any problems within the local church. The policy also asserts St. Mark's affirmative responsibility to create an environment of hospitality and to actively encourage respect, equality, and kinship for all persons in Christ.

To receive a copy of the policy and a report on the diverse activities of this local church CSRW, contact Patricia Davis Brandt, CSRW chairperson, St. Mark's UMC, 1431 West Magee Road, Tucson, AZ 85701. (602) 742-3587. ■

# Jobs

Please contact prospective employer when possible to confirm that search is continuing.

**Dean**, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas. Ph.D. or equivalent. Must be a United Methodist. Demonstrated achievement in administration. Effective leadership skills. Deadline Oct. 15, 1993. Contact James F. Jones, Jr., Dean of Dedman College and Vice Provost, Chair of the Search Committee, 203 Dallas Hall, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275-0235. (214) 768-2440.

**Systematic Theology**, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas. Ph.D. or equivalent degree. Demonstrated competency in teaching and scholarship required. Date of appointment, rank, and salary negotiable. Deadline Oct. 15, 1993. Contact W. J. A. Power, Chair, Theology Search, Perkins, Dallas, TX 75275-0133. (214) 768-2320.

**Poppele Chair in Health and Welfare Ministries**, Saint Paul School of Theology. A theologically trained scholar with expertise in

gerontology preferred. Ph.D. Rank open. Apply by Oct. 1, 1993, for first consideration. Contact Judith L. Orr, Academic Dean, SPST, 5123 Truman Rd., Kansas City, MO 64127. (816) 483-9600. ■

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## General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

# FALL MEETING



September 23-26, 1993

Mount Sequoyah

Fayetteville, Arkansas

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