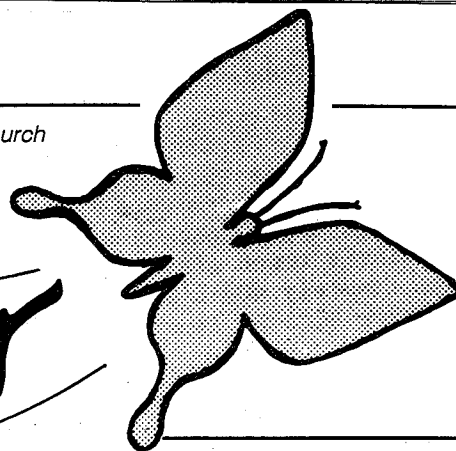


The Flyer



Vol XV, No. 1

Summer 1994

Capacity participation Conferences to send some 200 for advocate training

Some 200 persons from nearly 50 annual conferences have been nominated by their respective conferences to participate in the first United Methodist-sponsored training for victims/survivors advocates. The Oct. 5-9 event in Kansas City, MO, will train participants to support victims of clergy sexual misconduct.

Among the leaders is Elizabeth Stellas, a staff member of the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence in Seattle.

Co-sponsors of the event are the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women and the National Division, General Board of Global Ministries.

According to planners, the event will equip advocates, primarily laywomen, to help individuals who bring sexual abuse or harassment complaints against United Methodist clergy or other church professionals serving in a ministerial or supervisory relationship.

Sessions will include segments on theological issues, the psychology of victims, annual conference guidelines on clergy conduct, definitions of misconduct and data on incidence, crisis intervention and counseling skills, legal realities, and training in United Methodist polity and church law on complaints and disciplinary procedures.

The schedule will include worship and Bible study, lectures, drama, videos, workshops and annual conference team meetings. ■

Elders is keynote speaker for GCSRW annual meeting

U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders will present the keynote address at the annual meeting of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in Washington, D.C., Sept. 22-25.

In keeping with the overall theme "Moving on with God's Vision: Women Making Things Happen," Elders will discuss the status of women and health care in the U.S.A. This prominent United Methodist will make her address at historic Foundry United Methodist Church.

Following Elders' presentation, a panel of four United Methodists will respond and then Commission members will join the dialogue.

According to Joyce Waldon Bright, vice president of GCSRW, "The Commission is honored to have this opportunity to meet with Joycelyn Elders. As we work to bring about the full and equal participation of women in The United Methodist Church, we remain mindful of



U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders

the multitude of issues that confront women beyond the boundaries of our denomination. Certainly, health care is one concern we all hold in common." ■

1994 Annual Conferences report continuing action

As summaries of annual conference reports have been published in Newscope (June 10, 17, 24; July 1), we have selected the following excerpts addressing issues of particular concern to women.

Sexual harassment and misconduct

General Conference 1992 passed a resolution requiring that sexual harassment policies and grievance procedures be in place in each annual conference, general agency and UM-related institution before Jan. 1, 1995. In working toward that goal, the following conferences took related action this year:

California-Pacific adopted a 16-page policy statement on ministerial sexual abuse.

Desert Southwest adopted "Policies and Procedures for Dealing with Clergy Sexual Misconduct," including a process to seek healing and restoration for all victims including the abused persons, families, and the congregations.

Detroit approved policies and procedures for dealing with clergy sexual misconduct, replacing those of 1991. In Oct. 1993, the Judicial Council refused to rule on the constitutionality of those guidelines because they had not received approval by Michigan's two annual conferences. The conference also adopted sexual harassment policies and procedures that will apply to all conference/

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COSROW serving as advocate,
catalyst, monitor to keep covenant

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district personnel and volunteers.

Eastern Ohio passed a sexual ethics policy that establishes response teams to deal with charges of clergy sexual misconduct, gender harassment, sexual abuse or other similar complaints.

Eastern Pennsylvania adopted revised sexual ethics and conduct policies.

Florida agreed to establish sexual misconduct policy for clergy and diaconal ministers, but asked for a declaratory decision by Judicial Council on the matter.

Kansas West adopted a sexual misconduct policy that includes counseling for victims, accused persons, and the church.

Little Rock approved a conference sexual harassment policy.

Memphis adopted a resolution to appoint a task force composed of laity and clergy to develop a policy on professional sexual misconduct.

Minnesota addressed issues related to clergy sexual misconduct in a new conference policy and in a training session for the laity.

Nebraska sharpened a clergy sexual misconduct policy.

North Arkansas approved a conference sexual harassment policy.

North Carolina adopted a clergy sexual misconduct policy and urged local churches to adopt a similar policy for lay employees and volunteers.

North Georgia adopted policies on sexual ethics and agreed that all clergy and diaconal ministers should be educated in ethical sexual conduct.

Northern New Jersey amended and adopted a sexual harassment policy.

Pacific Northwest agreed to provide training for pastors and PPR committees on issues related to clergy sexual misconduct and to seek counsel from the ethics committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry about ways the conference can respond compassionately, ethically, legally, and financially to victims of clergy sexual misconduct.

South Carolina adopted guidelines for use with sexual abuse, misconduct or harassment in the church.

Southern New Jersey reaffirmed a sexual abuse policy passed last year and fine-tuned it to conform to a Judicial Council mandate.

Southwest Texas approved a sexual harassment policy for all clergy and diaconal ministers within the conference.

Tennessee approved continuation of the Sexual Misconduct Task Force.

Texas passed a sexual harassment policy.

Troy adopted a policy on ministerial conduct.

West Michigan adopted policies for dealing with clergy sexual misconduct. The Judicial Council had ruled that the guidelines were not legal because the conference had not acted upon them. The assembly also adopted a "Sexual Harassment Policy."

West Ohio passed the "Ministerial Sexual Ethics Policy."

West Virginia adopted a sexual misconduct policy for ordained and diaconal ministers.

Western New York adopted a sexual harassment policy.

Western North Carolina adopted a definition of and a policy on sexual misconduct.

Western Pennsylvania adopted a sexual harassment and abuse policy.

Abortion

Dakotas defeated a petition calling for restricted abortion coverage in a national health-care plan and instead insisted that the plan be consistent with UM Social Principles.

Iowa supported its Board of Church and Society's participation in a statewide religious coalition for reproductive choice.

North Carolina adopted a study of viable abortion alternative ministries.

South Georgia established a subcommittee of the Board of Church and Society to promote the "sanctity of unborn human life."

West Virginia passed a resolution stating "life begins at conception."

Other

Central Texas: Women comprised 12 of the 16 ordained elders and 9 of the 16 ordained deacons.

Florida asked churches to have an "All Women Sunday."

Kansas East adopted a conference policy statement for the protection of children and youth, which shall apply to all paid and unpaid staff, whether lay or clergy, who have any direct or indirect contact with children and/or youth who participate in any activities or events sponsored by the conference.

Little Rock established a ministry to aid "displaced clergy spouses" experiencing divorce.

Memphis heard Charlene Payne Kammerer, senior pastor of St. Paul's UMC (Tallahassee), as the first woman to be Memphis Conference preacher. Ora Bell Peck, the first woman to achieve full connection in the conference, retired.

Peninsula-Delaware passed a resolution to seek solutions for domestic violence and child abuse.

Rocky Mountain received a status report from the conference chancellor on recent court cases and pending litigation involving clergy sexual misconduct.

South Indiana approved a motion that the Cabinet prepare a plan of action to end the disparity in clergy salaries between men and women.

Southern New Jersey passed a resolution calling for the appointment in each church of a "first-call recipient," available to victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Virginia elected its first-ever woman lay leader, Darlene Amon of Suffolk.

Yellowstone called for greater response to domestic violence and sexual abuse. ■

The Flyer

Summer 1994
Vol. XV, No. 1

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

Editor: Bonny Stalnaker Roth

The GCSRW, a national agency of the UMC, acts as an advocate, catalyst, and monitor to ensure the full participation and equality of women in the church.

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(708) 869-7330

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Printed on recycled paper. 

Ovations

To **Barbara A. Boigegrain**, an executive with the Towers Perrin consulting firm in San Diego, who was elected general secretary of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. She is the first woman to be named permanent general secretary of the board.

To **Mary Cartledge-Hayes**, a probationary member in the South Carolina Conference, who received the Jameson Jones Preaching Award for excellence in preaching at the Divinity School of Duke University.

To **Judith Craig**, bishop of Ohio West, who was chosen to be the first woman to deliver the episcopal address at the 1996 General Conference in Denver.

To **Eileen Freeman**, pastor of First United Methodist Church of Port Jefferson, NY, who was named Parish Pastor of the Year by the Academy of Parish Clergy at its international conference in Cleveland.

To **Cherie and Gerald Garland** of Ashland, OR, founder of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays; **Dorothy and Alfred Ale** of Bellingham, WA, retired missionaries and social activists; and **Jeanne Knepper** of Portland, a gay-rights activist, who received Lee and Mae Ball Awards from the Methodist Federation for Social Action.

To **Mary Alice Gran**, who has been named director of children's ministries in the Christian education unit of the General Board of Discipleship.

To **Jean Hawxhurst**, youth minister at Aldersgate UMC in Lexington, KY, who has received a scholarship to attend the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, Switzerland, from the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.

To **Mary Ann Haxton** of Springfield, IL, who

was elected co-president of Methodist Federation for Social Action, effective in January.

To **Gail E. Long**, who has been named manager of computer systems for the General Council on Finance and Administration.

To **Ute Minor**, who is the first woman to serve a full-time United Methodist appointment in Germany. She has been appointed to a Berlin church and is a sister of Bishop Ruediger Minor of Moscow.

To the **North Georgia Commission on the Status and Role of Women**, who has received a research grant from the General Commission on Archives and History to videotape oral histories of conference clergywomen.

To **Carolyn H. Oehler**, a Chicago UM laywoman, who has been named executive director of Scarritt-Bennett Center, a conference-retreat facility operated in Nashville, TN, by the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries. She is a former president of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women and headed the task force that reported *Words That Hurt and Words That Heal: Language About God and People* to the 1984 General Conference.

To **Betty Purkey**, church and community worker in Scott County, VA, who has been named to work with deaconesses and mission personnel in the National Division of the General Board of Global Ministries.

To **Diane Riestroffer**, assistant professor at Boston University School of Theology specializing in Christian education and United Methodist history and doctrine, who is the 1994-95 recipient of the Esther E. Edwards Graduate Scholarship. She will complete her dissertation at the University of Wisconsin in December.

To **Ginny Underwood**, a Comanche-Kiowa

associate producer at KOCO-TV, an ABC-TV affiliate in Oklahoma City, who has been named coordinator of a newly created Native American Communication office of UM Communications.

To **Emily Vance**, an executive secretary for the General Council on Ministries, who has been elected president of the Professional Association of UM Church Secretaries.

To **Judith Weidman**, executive editor of the New York-based Interfaith Religious News Service and clergy member of Northern Illinois Annual Conference, who has been elected general secretary of United Methodist Communications in Nashville.

To **Shirley Whipple-Struchen**, a United Methodist Communications staff executive, who has been elected vice-president of the Religious Public Relations Council. ■

7,000 join live satellite worship during assembly

A national live satellite worship service celebrating the fruits of mission laborers throughout the church highlighted the 1994 Assembly of United Methodist Women.

The once-every-four-years international meeting is sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries Women's Division, parent body of the 1.2 million-member organization.

This year, for the first time, at least 7,000 women participated in the program at 115 teleconference sites across the country.

Singing, praying, and dancing along with 11,300 women representing 70 countries that packed the Cincinnati convention center, the women were all challenged under the theme "Count Me In!"

Responding to spontaneous "alleluias" from the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic audience, UMW national president Carolyn Johnson told the body that they must reflect on what it means to be "100 years and counting, 1 million strong and growing."

"United Methodist Women need to tell kindling stories to light the fires of mission," said Johnson of West Lafayette, IN. As national president of UMW, she also heads the mission board's Women Division.

Johnson continued, "We have to reaffirm that we are available to Christ. One way to do that is to reaffirm that we are available to be a presence to children and to youths."

New ways to fan the historical United Methodist flame of mission were uplifted throughout the four-day meeting. ■

Northern Illinois Conference opens 24-hour sexual harassment hotline

Northern Illinois Conference, in cooperation with the Northern Illinois Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women (CSRW) and Board of Ordained Ministry, has opened an 800 telephone number sexual harassment hotline for NIC constituents.

The 24-hour hotline, "No more silence, no more tears," aims to help callers learn appropriate boundaries and bring an end to their victimization and powerlessness.

The hotline is staffed by an employee assistance counselor from Kelly Associates, who puts the caller in touch with a CSRW advocate. This advocate can help the caller become aware of boundaries and what the caller can do about keeping them appropriate. The advocate will also explain the grievance procedure for intervention in clergy sexual abuse, if that is the situation, and will stand with the caller in what the caller decides is best for the situation.

The number is 1-800-235-0525. All calls are anonymous. For more information, call Northern Illinois CSRW, (312) 380-5060, ext. 236. ■

Resources

The Courage to Heal: A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse, Ellen Bass and Laura Davis (HarperCollins, 1994). This third edition contains numerous changes, including the addition of a new section, "Honoring the Truth," which is a response to the backlash against survivors of child sexual abuse. Paper \$22.50.

Crossing to Avalon: A Woman's Midlife Pilgrimage, Jean Shinoda Bolen (Harper, 1994). A tale of the mid-life pilgrimage of this psychiatrist and Jungian analyst. Bolen explores images of the Goddess and draws on images from *The Mists of Avalon* as she describes sacred sites in England and Scotland. As part of her journey, she reflects on the challenge of the middle years: to find meaning and purpose in our lives. Hardback \$22.00.

Expanding Images, Minnesota Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women (1982, 1990). A thoughtful examination of inclusive language in booklet form. Available from Minnesota CSRW, Room 400, 122 W. Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404. \$5.00, includes printing and handling.

Faith and Your Child (From Birth to Age 6) and (From 6 to 12 Years Old) (Channing L. Bete Co., Inc.). These Scriptographic® Booklets are easy-to-read guides to living one's faith in a way that offers young ones encouraging, loving role models. These and other counseling and family ministry booklets, along with bro-

chure and order form, are available from the publisher. (800) 628-7733. Paper \$1.00; discounts for large quantities.

Family Violence: The Compassionate Church Responds, Melissa A. Miller (Herald Press, 1994). Targeted to the local church, the book guides readers through such issues as the survivor's healing, power dynamics in the family, congregational response to survivors and offenders, and hard faith questions. Paper \$9.95.

Helpmates, Harlots and Heroes: Women's Stories in the Hebrew Bible, Alice Ogden Bellis (Westminster/John Knox, 1994). This comprehensive book shares the work of many feminist biblical scholars. Each chapter contains a bibliography and study questions. Paper \$19.99.

Minding the Body: Women Writers on Body and Soul, ed. Patricia Foster (Anchor, 1994). A collection of writings by fiction and non-fiction writers. The authors include Doris Grumbach, Margaret Atwood, Naomi Wolf, and Nancy Mairs. Hardback \$21.00.

Nobody Owns Me: A Celibate Woman Discovers Her Sexual Power, Francis B. Rothluebber (LuraMedia, Inc., 1994). A narrative journal of one year in the life of a woman living in a religious community as she learns how to awaken the sacred fire living in her body. \$12.95.

Sexuality and the Sacred, ed. James B. Nelson and Sandra P. Longfellow (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994). The authors address what our sexual experience reveals about God, the ways we understand the gospel, and the ways we read scripture and tradition and attempt to live faithfully. Paper \$24.99.

The Stronger Women Get, the More Men Love Football: Sexism and the American Culture of Sports, Mariah Burton Nelson (Harcourt Brace & Company, 1994). An insightful examination of women in sports and the accompanying discrimination and abuse in light of the increased popularity of male-dominated sports. Hardcover \$22.95.

Survivor Prayers: Talking with God about Childhood Sexual Abuse, Catherine J. Foote (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994). The author offers survivors a way of exploring the impact that abuse has had on their relationship with God. Paper \$8.99.

Trauma and Recovery: The aftermath of violence—from domestic abuse to political terror, Judith Lewis Herman, M.D. (Basic Books, 1992). Text outlines the spectrum of human adaptation to the full range of traumatic events and develops an overview of the healing process with a new conceptual framework for psychotherapy with traumatized people. Hardcover \$27.00.

JOURNALS

Daughters of Sarah: Women and Violence. The Summer 1994 issue includes important articles, statistics, and resources on violence against women. Copies are available for \$3.50 each; subscriptions are \$18 for one year (4 issues). Send check or money order to Daughters of Sarah, 2121 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, IL 60201.

In God's Image. The Spring 1994 issue of this quarterly journal is a special edition on Chinese women, focusing on women's social status in general and on women in the church. Available from Asian Women's Resource Centre for Culture and Theology, 35 Chungchongno 2-Ga, Sodaemun-Ku, ChungChongno P.O. Box 16, Seoul 120 - -650, Korea. ■

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:

Sept. 30 Fall 1994

Nov. 30 Winter 1995

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

Calendar

Oct. 10-14

A Call to Shalom: Becoming All that God Intends, Orlando, FL. National Conference Christian Educators Fellowship, The United Methodist Church. Leaders include Bishop Leontine T.C. Kelly, Leonard Sweet, Tex Sample, Janice Riggie Huie, and Cynthia Wilson-Felder. Contact National CEF Registration, c/o Dona Strieb, Alamo Heights UMC, P.O. Box 6826, San Antonio, TX 78209.

Oct. 19

Violence in the Media. A teleconference from 7:30-9:30 pm sponsored by United Methodist Communications. See article under **FYI**, page 8.

Oct. 20-21

Clergy Misconduct: Sexual Abuse in the Ministerial Relationship. Sponsors: Dept. of Pastoral Care, University of North Carolina Hospitals; Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South (RCWMS); and Women's Ministry Unit, New Hope Presbytery. Leaders: Terry Purvis-Smith and Bonnie Pettjohn. Con-

tact RCWMS, 332 W. Main St., Suite 608, Durham, NC 27701.

Oct. 24-25

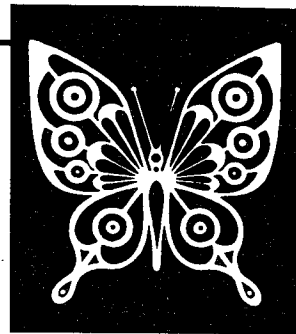
A Conference on Women and Violence. Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Western NC Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC. Speakers: Elizabeth and David Dodson Gray. Contact Beth Turner, (704) 669-2921.

Oct. 24-28

Candler Women's Week: Liturgies That Shape Our Lives. Speaker: Heather Murray Elkins. Contact Candler School of Theology, Bishops Hall, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322.

Oct. 28-30

The Politics of Women's Health. Focus on two major areas: the state of research on health issues specific to women and the provision of health care to women of different racial, ethnic, and economic circumstances. Contact Grailville, 932 O'Bannonville Road, Loveland, OH 45140. (513) 683-2340. n



Serving throughout the church as advocate, catalyst, monitor

The life and work of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) are grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Judeo-Christian scriptures. Therein is God's profound desire for justice and peace.

In many ways the church, the body of Christ, has followed the world, embracing and institutionalizing patriarchy, with its attendant sexism, rather than living out of the vision of justice and mutuality.

The General Commission is both a confession of participation in this sin and a commitment to the church's mission to embrace more fully the promise of the gospel: Fullness of life for all persons. Throughout our connectional system, we serve the church by helping the church keep its covenant to reflect the fullness of the ministry of Christ.

This supplement is the first in a series of tools designed specifically for use by Status and Role of Women persons throughout the connection.

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

The primary purpose of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women is to challenge The United Methodist Church to a continuing commitment to the full and equal participation of women in the total life and mission of the church (*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (1992), Para. 2202).

To carry out that purpose, we serve as advocate, catalyst, monitor to empower women and to transform the church so that an inclusive people of God might be in ministry and mission to a hungering and hurting world.

Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women

In harmony and close connection with the General Commission, the Annual Conference Commission seeks to foster an awareness of issues, problems, and concerns related to the status and role of women with special reference to their full participation in the total life of the church (Para. 2203).

How elected. The basic membership of the Conference Commission is nominated and elected by established procedures of the respective Annual Conferences. *The Discipline* (Para. 741) details the representation and diversity of membership. The chairperson shall be a woman. Some Annual Conferences name district conveners as additional links within the conference.

Basic responsibilities. The Annual Conference Commission serves as **advocate** by developing ways to inform and sensitize conference leadership on issues that affect women and by initiating cooperation with United Methodist Women throughout the Annual Conference to achieve full participation of women in the decision-making structures;

As **catalyst** by focusing on major priorities of issues related to women and to enlist the support of the bishop, Cabinet, and conference staff in policies, plans, and practices related to those priorities; and

As **monitor** by being informed about the status and role of all women in the total life of the conference. Data are gathered,

updated, and disseminated, which relate to all facets of the conference, including the local church.

Local Church Work Area on the Status and Role of Women

The Work Area on the Status and Role of Women helps the local church keep its covenant by fostering an awareness of the meaning of the church's continuing commitment to the full and equal responsibility and participation of women in the total life and mission of the church.

How elected. The local church chairperson is elected by the Charge Conference on nomination of the Committee on Nominations and Personnel or from the floor for a term of one year. The chairperson shall be a woman (Para. 250; 262.9). Not every local church can organize a work area; however, a member of the Administrative Council or other group could volunteer to Nominations and Personnel to be designated to carry forth the goals of the work area.

Basic responsibilities. The work area serves as **advocate, catalyst, and monitor** by recommending program opportunities for worship, fellowship, witness, study, nurture, and service with persons and groups which confirm anew the liberating message of Jesus Christ that recognizes every person, woman or man, as full and equal part of God's human family (Para. 262.9).

Basic Resources

Guidelines for Leading Your Church: 1993-1996. Status and Role of Women, and also the *Council on Ministries* (Abingdon Press). Available from Cokesbury or Discipleship Resources.

The Flyer, quarterly newsletter of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201. Available through the Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women (ACCSRW) or by individual subscription directly from GCSRW.

The Interpreter, monthly program journal for local church leaders. Seven copies are provided free to each local church; additional subscriptions available at a nominal cost; ask your pastor or order from United Methodist Communications, 810 Twelfth Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203. Look in the IdeaMart for the column on the Status and Role of Women.

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. The basic reference for our church's organization.

Additional Key Tools

Guidelines for Eliminating Racism, Ageism, Handicappism, and Sexism, prepared by the General Council on Ministries. Available from The United Methodist Publishing House at no charge.

Indicators of Institutional Racism, Sexism, and Classism: Some Suggested Responses. Available from the Office of Inclusiveness and Justice Standing Committee, National Council of The Churches of Christ, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 880, New York, NY 10115. (212) 870-2915. \$2.50.

Into Action, a resource booklet for local participation in the World Council of Church's Ecumenical Decade 1988-1998: Churches in Solidarity with Women. Available from the Service Center.

Telling Their Stories: The History of Women in the Local Church. A Resource Packet. Prepared by the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940.

Words that Hurt and Words that Heal: Language about God and People. New Edition (Graded Press, 1990).

For additional information and assistance, contact the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201. (708) 869-7330.

Status Report

UMs support bipartisan bill

Executives of the General Board of Church and Society have joined other groups and denominations supporting the Employment Nondiscrimination Act of 1994.

The bipartisan bill, introduced into both houses of the U.S. Congress, would prohibit work-place discrimination based on sexual orientation. As written, the bill exempts small businesses, religious organizations and the military but applies to Congress.

Supporting the bill are the Rev. Thom White Wolf Fassett, general secretary of GBCS, and Jane Hull Harvey, staff executive in charge of human relations issues.

The United Methodist Reporter,
July 8, 1994

Memphis Conference rejects "invitation"

Members of the Memphis Annual Conference recently rejected a resolution by Maxie Dunnam and Tom Dyer in support of "An Invitation to the Church" issued in April by an ad hoc group of United Methodists.

The "invitation" asserts that the church is in peril of abandoning the Christian faith. In its place the conference adopted a resolution urging United Methodists "to study the 'Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task' [section of the *Book of Discipline*] as a means to deepen our commitment to faithful discipleship as United Methodist Christians."

The United Methodist Reporter,
July 8, 1994

US Supreme Court refuses to review clergy misconduct case

The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to review a Colorado clergy misconduct case, thereby keeping intact a state court ruling calling for the Colorado Episcopal Diocese to pay a Denver woman more than \$700,000. The high court, without comment, sent the case back to the Colorado Supreme Court, which had ruled that Mary Tenantry was due \$728,000 in her civil suit against the diocese and former Colorado Bishop William C. Frey.

Paul Robinson, an Episcopal pastor whom she accused of luring her into a sexual relationship when she went to him for counseling, was dropped from the suit after he declared bankruptcy. The U.S. Supreme Court's refusal to hear the case also leaves standing the Colorado court's ruling that church authorities are responsible for appropriate hiring, screening and supervision of pastors.

Christian Century, June 15-22, 1994

Catholic bishops back female altar servers

Clearing the way for the widespread use of altar girls in the 59 million member Roman Catholic Church, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops endorsed a Vatican ruling allowing both sexes to serve at the altar.

In April, the Vatican announced that girls would be allowed to serve as altar servers. But the final decision was left up to local bishops "after hearing the opinion" of their national bishops' conferences.

The motion to endorse the change was overwhelmingly approved on a voice vote, the conference announced.

Ruth Fitzpatrick, coordinator of the Fairfax, VA-based Women's Ordination Conference, said like generations of boys before them, many female altar servers may come to aspire to the priesthood.

Chicago Tribune, June 23, 1994

Church of England offers severance to priests

The Church of England will have to spend \$4.5 million over the next several years compensating some 200 Anglican clergy who are leaving the church because they disagree with the church's ordination of women priests.

The British Parliament has approved legislation authorizing Anglican clergy who cannot in conscience continue their ministry in protest over the women's ordination issue to receive stipends for at least three years after their resignations. Those 50 or older are, in effect, given early retirement with a pension for life.

The United Methodist Reporter,
June 10, 1999

Bishops to study "wisdom" concepts in scripture

In the wake of the "Re-Imagining Conference," the Council of Bishops agreed to conduct a "theological analysis of the concepts of wisdom" found in Scripture and in church history.

Meeting May 1-6 in Rochester, NY, the bishops made no specific reference to the Minneapolis conference, but Bishop Bruce P. Blake said the denomination was experiencing "doctrinal ferment." Bishop R. Sheldon Duecker, chair of the teaching concerns committee that brought the recommendation, was authorized to appoint a task force of bishops to conduct the theological analysis. That report will be brought to the

bishops at their Oct. 29-Nov. 4 meeting at Lake Junaluska.

While the statement did not mention the November conference, the debate did. Bishop William R. Cannon (retired) called the council action "inadequate," saying that "certain things emerged from that conference that we can't countenance."

Bishop Blake, secretary of the teaching concerns committee, said UMs often attend events where positions do not fall within UM guidelines. He said the bishops have a teaching role, but they do not have a responsibility to prepare critiques of specific conferences. Bishop David J. Lawson said, "This proposal seeks to broaden discussion that desperately needs to be broadened." He encouraged exploration of theological matters without "motivation that is political, power-seeking, money raising.... Let's do it graciously, not stridently, so the church will be wiser and better informed."

Newscope, May 13, 1994

Appalachian Committee addresses "Re-Imagining"

The UM Appalachian Development Committee has adopted a statement regarding the controversy over UM involvement in last fall's "Re-Imagining Conference." The committee said charges of heresy are troubling, "particularly because a common experience of women in Appalachia is that theology has been used to silence, limit, and oppress women." They said, "Our hope and prayer is that this ongoing dialogue and discussion will not create mean-spirited accusation and/or divisions but rather place before us some of the difficult realities of the diverse church we seek to serve and strengthen."

Newscope, May 13, 1994

Shakers see Christ in woman as well as in Jesus

They call themselves Christians, but Shakers' views differ in some fundamental ways from mainstream Christianity.

While focused on the resurrected Jesus, Shakers speak of "Christ-Spirit"—a quality they believe was manifest most fully in Jesus. But they believe the Christ-Spirit was also manifest in founder Mother Ann Lee, Buddha, Plato and others.

God, who is seen as pure spirit, possesses all that is feminine and masculine and so is called "Mother God" as well as "Father God."

All humans, too, are seen as both male and female.

The National Christian Reporter,
May 13, 1994

continued on next page

Jobs

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

Professor of New Testament Interpretation, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL. Associate professor or above with particular emphasis upon the Gospels and Acts. Effective teacher; capable of guiding doctoral research and relating authentically to diverse cultural and theological perspectives. Begin Sept. 1995. Apply before Oct. 15 to Dean Rosemary Keller, G-ETS, 2121 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60201.

Seminar Designer, Women's Division Church Center for United Nations, General Board of Global Ministries, New York City. Responsible for planning, designing, staffing, and implementing Seminar Program on National and International Affairs in New York City. Contact Peter J. Rice, Director of Human Resources, GBGM, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. (212) 870-3600.

Director of Council on Ministries, Central Illinois. Applications for and detailed information about qualifications and responsibilities may be obtained from Mary Kathryn Pearce, P.O. Box 515, Bloomington, IL 61702-0515, or call Linda Jaspers (309) 828-5092. Deadline for applications is Sept. 1. Election to be confirmed Dec. 3; employment to begin July 1, 1995.

Associate Director, Conference Council on Ministries, East Ohio. Focus of portfolio: leadership development, education and age levels. Starting date negotiable. Deadline for application is Oct. 11, 1994. For more information, contact Mareyjoyce Green, Chairperson, Staff Supervisory Committee, East Ohio Conference Council on Ministries, 8800 Cleveland NW, P.O. Box 2800, North Canton, OH 44720. (216) 499-3972.

Openings at Candler School of Theology, Emory University:

Christian Ethics, tenure-track position. Starting fall 1995. PhD, teaching experience preferred. Application deadline: Oct. 10, 1994.

Contact Professor Jon Gunnemann, Candler School of Theology, Bishops Hall, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322.

Director of Programs for Women in Theology and Ministry. Starting fall 1995. PhD in the area of applicant's academic specialty. Experience with religious communities at both local and denomination level is expected. Application deadline: Oct. 3, 1994. Contact Gail O'Day (see previous address). (404) 727-4169.

Old Testament tenure-track position. Starting fall 1995. Completed PhD preferred. Preference given to applications received by Nov. 5, 1994. Contact Professor E. Brooks Holfield (see previous address). (404) 727-6319.

Sociology of Religion, tenure-track position. Starting fall 1995. Completed PhD preferred. Preference given to complete applications received by Oct. 20, 1994. Contact Professor Steven Tipton (see previous address). (404) 727-6320. ■

Status Report

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Church secretaries explore sexual harassment and grief

Some 250 secretaries, meeting April 14-17 in Overland Park, KS, moved beyond skill training to tackle the tough issues of sexual harassment and grief. Stephanie Anna Hixon, member of the general secretariat of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, told the Professional Association of UM Church Secretaries that they are in key positions to help liberate people from fear, a common response to sexual harassment.

Comparing the work place to a playground, Hixon stressed the importance of establishing boundaries. Children on an unfenced playground tend to stay close to a building and to each other, she said. With a fence, they play more freely, using the entire

space. Likewise, "with a stated code of ethical agreements, you know what to expect in each other."

Robert Deits, author of *Life After Loss* and pastor of Velda Rose UMC in Mesa, AZ, said sexual harassment and grief have much in common. People tend to ignore unpleasant experiences and pretend nothing has happened, said Deits. "A clergy move, the end of a marriage or a relationship, or the loss of a job, or even a limb, should be recognized as events when grief is necessary," he said.

Newscope, April 29, 1994

African women hold first symposium

More than 200 African women crowded into a Mutare conference room for the first international symposium on higher education for African women. Participants discussed ways to break down long-standing gender barriers.

They urged the UMC to increase the number of women representatives in church-wide agencies to reflect the 80% female majority in Africa churches. They also urged Africa University to increase the percentage of female trustees, faculty, staff, and students.

Newscope, April 29, 1994

Clergywoman supports Anglican counterparts

When Marion Warman and 35 other women were ordained recently in London as the first female priests in the Church of England, Marian Crawford was among those who stood during the service in a show of support.

A British Methodist clergywoman, Crawford said, "I wanted to be alongside all the women there who were being ordained and affirm my belief that the Anglican Church has made the right decision."

The National Christian Reporter, May 20, 1994 ■

You can help support women in the Church—Subscribe to *The Flyer*

The Flyer invites you to subscribe and thus demonstrate your support for women in the United Methodist Church. As the primary communication tool of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, **The Flyer** offers its readers updates on women's issues and resources for annual conference and local church women's groups.

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Annual Conference (if United Methodist) _____ Send your check to: **The Flyer**, The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, 1200 Davis, Evanston, IL 60201.

UMCom sponsors teleconference: Violence in the Media

United Methodist Communications is sponsoring "Violence in the Media," a teleconference on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 7:30-9:30 pm (EST). The focus is to come to grips with the vast scope of the media violence problem, to share research on the impact of the violence, to dialogue with persons searching for solutions, and to share action strategies and resources to implement change.

Coordinators for satellite downlink sites are needed immediately. Please contact Shirley Whipple-Struchen, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1901, New York, NY 10115. (212) 663-8900. Fax: (212) 663-2746.

Participants sought for study on clergywomen leaving pulpits

More women are entering the ordained ministry than ever before, but they leave local pulpits at a faster rate than their male counterparts.

Staff members of the Anna Howard Shaw Center at United Methodist-related Boston University School of Theology are seeking to pinpoint reasons why the denomination's ordained women are disappearing from local-church pastorate more quickly than their male counterparts.

According to Margaret Wiborg, center director, the study consists of:

- A survey to be mailed to 3,000 ordained women; and
- In-depth interviews with clergywomen in local churches and seminaries and in other church-related jobs, as well as women who

have left the church permanently.

Those wishing to participate in the study or to give a current address for a former clergywoman may contact Beth Collier (primary researcher), Anna Howard Shaw Center, Boston University School of Theology, 745 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215. (617) 353-3059.

Research opportunities

The Center for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Illinois offers a Fellowship Program for postdoctoral scholars to engage in collaborative and multidisciplinary research on women and gender, primarily in the areas of work, health, and culture.

Applicants may, but are not required to, hold academic appointments elsewhere. Appointments are salaried (\$17,500 per semester) and carry full faculty fringe benefits and privileges. Scholars in any discipline may apply.

For more information about deadlines and the 1995 program, contact Alice Dan, Director, CRWG, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1640 West Roosevelt Road, Room 207, Chicago, IL 60608. (312) 413-1924.

The Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute, Radcliffe College offers several fellowship programs. The Bunting Fellowship Program offers research opportunities to women scholars, scientists, visual and performing artists, musicians, creative writers, and other practitioners at the postdoctoral or equivalent professional stage to complete a substantial project in their field. Fellows receive a \$30,000 stipend.

The Science Scholars Fellowship Program supports women scientists at the postdoctoral level who are U.S. citizens. Fellows receive a \$32,000 stipend. Deadlines are Oct. 15, 1994 for appointments from Sept. 1995 to Aug. 1996.

Important women's health resource available

Women's Health Access™ is a bimonthly newsletter published by Women's Health America, Inc., Madison, WI. The newsletter offers the latest developments concerning prevention, diagnosis, treatment and self-help tips on women's health, including menopause, osteoporosis, premenstrual syndrome, infertility, endometriosis and cancer. Women's Health Access also features book and educational video reviews, interviews with leading health experts, helpful tips, and news on health care and pharmaceutical products.

For a complimentary newsletter and catalog call (608) 833-9102, or write Women's Health America, P.O. Box 9690, Madison, WI 53715. Newsletter subscriptions are \$30 for two years or \$18 for one year. ■

Judicial Council

Judicial Council will tackle 23 agenda items when it meets Oct. 26-29 in San Francisco. Nine of the items on the docket relate to grievance procedures and sexual harassment/misconduct/ethics policies. ■



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