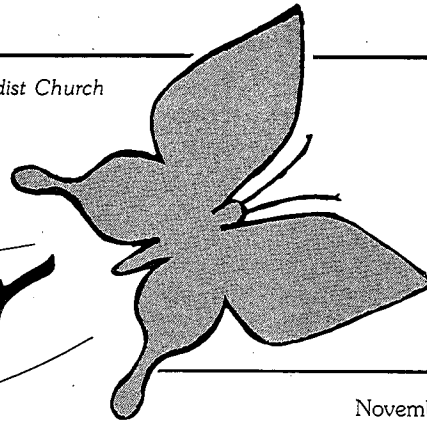


# The Flyer



Volume X, No. 1

November, 1988

## GCSRW elects inclusive leadership for 1989-92

In keeping with its tradition of inclusive leadership, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women at its organizing meeting elected a Black clergywoman, a White laywoman and a Native American laywoman to its top leadership.

Elected president at the September meeting was Rev. Linda Thomas. Joetta Rinehart will serve as vice-president, and Winonah McGee as secretary.

Members of the GCSRW affirmed the agency's commitment to all forms of inclusiveness, twice asking the nominating committee to rework its proposed slate of officers in order to be more racially inclusive. The committee's process was hindered, it indicated, by the unavailability of racial ethnic men.

Five of the eleven members elected to the agency's coordinating committee are racial ethnic persons, four are men, four are clergy. Each of the five jurisdictions is represented.

"It is important, in tackling one of the major issues of the church—sexism—to have the kind of multi-cultural perspective that we have in the Commission," Thomas said.

The new president said a major part of her vision for the GCSRW this quadrennium is education about what sexism is. "We must tell the stories of women, men and children, and how their lives are affected by sexism."

"Having five women bishops, 43 women district superintendents, several thousand United Methodist clergywomen, and thousands more laywomen in significant positions of leadership does not mean sexism does not exist in the United Methodist Church. As long as there is one report of sexual harassment, as long as there is sexual abuse of girls and boys, sexism exists."

"In my Black tradition we have a song: 'We Shall Overcome.' Until all women can sing, 'We Have Overcome,' the work of the Commission is unfinished."

GCSRW members together struggled at the organizing meeting with how to communicate the functions and importance of the General Commission, particularly in light

of the narrow vote at the 1988 General Conference sustaining the existence of the Commission.

The Rev. Sharon Rader, of East Lansing, Mich., led theological reflections at the commission meeting, focusing on the Commission's role in the next quadrennium under the church-wide theme of "Celebrate and Witness."

"We can't witness until we identify what we celebrate," she said. "To celebrate, we must be clear about our mission."

As the basis for theological reflection, she read Jesus' question to the disciples in Mark 8:29: "Who do you say I am?" After a meditation, members shared their responses with

one another.

GCSRW members Saturday night celebrated the contributions of former General Secretariat member Geneva Dalton, who left in August to take a position as Assistant General Secretary with the General Council on Finance and Administration.

After reaffirming its affirmative action plan to have at least one half of the General Secretariat racial ethnic persons, the GCSRW is proceeding with its search process for a third member of the General Secretariat. Four candidates for the position are being interviewed in November. The new member of the GS is expected to begin January 1.

## And then there were five Jurisdictional conferences elect two women bishops

For those who wonder whether episcopal elections have been soiled by increasing politicization, the 1988 election of the Rev. Dr. Susan Murch Morrison, 45, as bishop at the July Northeastern Jurisdictional conference stands in stark relief.

For Morrison's election as the fourth woman bishop in the United Methodist Church came without campaign, without politics, without conference or agency endorsement. Her "campaign," in fact, was initiated by a single write-in vote on the sixth ballot.

Morrison, although very well known among United Methodists, was not among the original field of 14 endorsed candidates for the single opening in the ranks of United Methodist bishops in the Northeast.

Morrison described herself as amused but also a little embarrassed when the initial vote was announced. On the next ballot, she got two votes, and on the next, 16. Morrison relates that as she decided to withdraw her name, and prepared to stand to do so, a man sitting next to her tugged her sleeve and



Bishop Susan Morrison

told her, "Susan, let what happens happen."

Morrison sat down and let her name stay in contention. Votes for her jumped from 46 to 87 votes on the 11th ballot, then from 115 to 161 on the 13th. By the 12th ballot she was the leading candidate. On the 18th ballot she received 255 of the 392 votes counted; 236 were needed to elect. No previous Northeastern episcopal election has taken this many ballots.

(cont. on page 4)

# Options for Action

*Annual Conference Commissions are encouraged to send minutes of their meetings to the GCSRW, along with resources, program announcements, anything that can be shared with the GCSRW and other Annual Conference Commissions. This section of "The Flyer" is designed as a network for ACCSRWs.*

**Alabama-West Florida**—A 20-page booklet for local churches has been prepared and sent out to help local chairs of status and role of women. The booklet contains suggestions, a list of inclusive hymns, a list of 800-telephone numbers with help for women and families. The CSRW conducted a special training day in September for all women elected to district and conference boards, commissions or agencies and for local church SRW chairs.

**California-Nevada**—With the cooperation of United Methodist Women and clergywomen, the CSRW sponsored a day in October "Celebrating Women in Leadership." Carolyn Henninger Oehler, past president of the GCSRW and director of the Northern Illinois Conference Council on Ministries, delivered the keynote address. Workshops focused on spiritual resources, women's sexuality, minister's spouses in leadership, sexual harassment in the church, movement in liturgy, women in local church leadership, biblical foremothers, mental wellness, ministry with deaf persons, ministry to young women, caregiving for/with the elderly, local church CSRW and power.

**East and West Ohio, Detroit and West Michigan**—Members of four annual conferences, along with a number of other women are in the midst of planning a gathering to be held in Toledo March 31-April 2, 1989. "WomenVision," sponsored by the bishops and women of the four conferences, hopes to gather 700 persons to "celebrate visions and voices of women and give an opportunity to share faith journeys." Bishop Judith Craig will be the keynote speaker. Worship leaders are Dr. Heather Murray Elkins, professor at Drew University, and Dr. Sharon Zimmerman Rader, minister at East Lansing University UMC. At least one nearby conference CSRW is considering going en mass in a car or van. For more information/to volunteer contact Joyce Stanton, Associate Council Director of the Detroit Conference and chair of the conference, at 155 West Congress, Suite 200, Detroit, MI 48226.

**Iowa**—Along with the Spiritual Formation Division of the Iowa UMC, the CSRW sponsored a retreat, "Spirituality and Sexuality," with Dr. Dody Donnelly, author of "Radical Love: An Approach to Sexual Spirituality."

**Minnesota**—"What in the World Are We Doing—And Why are We Doing It?" was the topic given to GCSRW General Secretariat member Nancy Grissom Self in addressing the fall CSRW retreat. Self also provided resources for vespers and matins, including "Glancing Visions of God," a newly-created inclusive image film by Carolyn Henninger Oehler.

The CSRW also helped sponsor a workshop, "Women: Economic Justice, Politics and the Church" in October. Other sponsors included a Presbyterian women's unit and a local seminary.

## Fujiu receives Marjorie Matthews award

Celebrating her contributions in raising the status and enriching the role of women in church and society, the Northern Illinois Conference CSRW awarded General Secretariat member Kiyoko Kasai Fujiu its Marjorie Matthews Award for 1988.

Northern Illinois Conference Council Director, Carolyn Henninger Oehler, in presenting the award, said the award was also to support and celebrate the work of the GCSRW and Fujiu's role in that.

Fujiu joined the GCSRW in 1977 with a portfolio of Third World Women's Concerns. Since 1981, she has staffed the Monitoring and Research work unit which monitors seminaries and general boards and agencies.

Oehler, noting the narrow vote at the 1988 General Conference that sustained the GCSRW, cited some of the GCSRW's accomplishments, including sponsoring the first national gathering of clergywomen (1975), the Hispanic Women's Consultation (1985) and the Native American Women's Consultation (1987). She also pointed toward the Commission's work in inclusive language, which impacted the new hymnal, and the Commission's work on homophobia, which provided a catalyst for the church-wide study authorized at the 1988 General Conference.



GCSRW General Secretariat members Kiyoko Kasai Fujiu (right) and Nancy Grissom Self, honored on separate occasions for their contributions.



**Pacific Northwest**—A policy on Racial/Sexual Discrimination or Harassment, co-sponsored by the CSRW and conference Commission on Religion and Race, will be distributed to all church employees at all levels, following its adoption at the 1988 Annual Conference.

Further approved was a recommendation that the two commissions conduct cross-conference training on the racial/sexual discrimination or harassment policy with the assistance and invitation of the district superintendents. The approved recommendations also created a Committee on Human Rights to resolve grievances in these areas.

## Self named "Barrier Breaker"

Naming her as one who has chipped, poked, knocked and coaxed walls to crumble, crash and fall, the California-Pacific CSRW named GCSRW General Secretariat member Nancy Grissom Self recipient of its first annual "Barrier Breaker of the Year Award."

"... it is long past the time when we begin to acknowledge and celebrate persons whose words and actions and personal history have served to break down the barriers still confronting women in the United Methodist Church," said CSRW chair Paula Ellis-Ferris, before presenting the award.

She chronicled Self's life and ministry from her early work at the Frances De Pauw Home for Mexican girls in Los Angeles, to her being ordained deacon in 1961 and then persuaded not to seek further ordination, to her nomination as GCSRW co-secretariat in 1973, and finally to the full claim of her calling through reinstatement of her deacon's orders at the 1988 California-Pacific Annual Conference.

In introducing the award, Ellis-Ferris talked of the CSRW's role: "The CSRW is an agent of change. We are not the keepers of tradition or heritage. We leave that high calling to others. We are the searchers of the yet unseen; the journeyers into the yet untraveled; the dragger-alongers into the future of what an inclusive church can be when it is led by God.

Ellis-Ferris acknowledged the difficulty of change and the need to proceed regardless: "While we never stop prodding and urging and calling, we do indeed strive to be sensitive to the awkwardness and difficulty of change without bowing to this as an excuse not to change. We recognize that God is continually doing a new thing in our midst and it is ours to claim."

## Coordinating Committee members profiled

Elected as officers and committee chairs for the 1988-92 quadrennium were:

**President: Linda Thomas**, a Black clergywoman from the New York Annual Conference, Dean of Students at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D. C. Thomas served on the GCSRW for two years in the last quadrennium. She received her M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary (New York City) in 1981, and pastored two churches prior to coming to Wesley in 1986.

### Vice-President: Joetta

**Rinehart**, a White laywoman from Lake Junaluska, N.C. Rinehart served as chair of the GCSRW Finance Committee from 1985-1988 and for six years on the General Board of Global Ministries. After 27 years as a corporate secretary and director of administrative affairs for a manufacturing firm, she is now director of food service at Lake Junaluska.

**Secretary: Winona McGee**, a Native American laywoman from the Iowa Annual Conference. A member of the Western Band Cherokee, McGee serves on her annual conference CSRW and was one of 140 Native American women in attendance at the 1987 Native American Women's Consultation sponsored by the GCSRW. She works as part-time manager of a community theater and served on her conference's Ethnic Minority Local Church Task Force for ten years.

### Annual Conference/

### Constituency Services: Bert

**Pruess-Jones**, a White layman from the Southwest Texas Annual Conference. A retired USAF officer, Pruess-Jones served as GCSRW secretary from 1985-88 as well as as its representative to the Task Force on Older Adults Ministry. He marked his feminist journey in part last year by hyphenating his wife's birth name along with his own.

### Issue Development, Education and Advocacy: Elizabeth

**Lopez Spence**, an Hispanic clergywoman from the New Mexico Annual Conference. Spence, one of two coordinators for the GCSRW worship at the 1988 General Conference, has served in numerous other leadership capacities: as preacher at the second clergywomen's consultation, as on-site coordinator for the third, as one of the three Evangelists for "Spirit Fire - '88," a gathering for UM in Iowa. She currently pastors Christ UMC in Albuquerque.

### Monitoring and Research:

**Marie Rivera**, an Hispanic laywoman from the Northern New Jersey Annual Conference. Rivera, a former educator, has

worked actively in the local church for 25 years as a teacher, choir member, member of United Methodist Women, and church school superintendent. She helped organize Hispanic women within her conference and represented the Annual conference in the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for two quadrennia.

**Evaluation and Review: Don Mendenhall**, a White layman from the Iowa Annual Conference. Mendenhall has been a program consultant to his conference's Council on Ministries since 1977. Serving on the GCSRW from 1985-88, he was elected to chair the Monitoring and Review Work Unit during the later part of the quadrennium. He cites as his most valuable experiences: resourcing and learning from more than 400 local churches in the Iowa conference.

**Finance: Becky Haase**, a White laywoman from the California-Pacific Annual Conference. In addition to being the GCSRW's liaison to the Hymnal Revision Committee, Haase filled in a number of leadership positions within the GCSRW in the 1985-88 quadrennium, including as chair of the Annual Conferences work unit and nominating committee. Since 1975 she has served as chief financial officer for her family-owned construction firm. She chaired her conference CSRW and was elected conference lay leader in 1988.

**Nominations: Bill Mullette**, a White clergyman from the Yellowstone Annual Conference. Mullette served on the GCSRW during the 1985-88 quadrennium, also providing leadership by filling in occasional vacancies. He has served on his conference CSRW as well as in numerous other leadership roles and was his conference's General Conference clergy delegate in 1988.

**Personnel: Naomi Southard**, an Asian-American clergywoman from the California-Nevada Annual Conference. Southard currently serves as executive director of the National Federation of Asian American United Methodist; before that she was Associate General Secretary of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns.

### Legislative Coordinator:

**Marcus Dickson**, a White layman from the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. Dickson served on the GCSRW last quadrennium. He has been active on the local, district and conference levels in UMC youth organizations. A recent graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College, Dickson currently works at American University in Washington, DC.

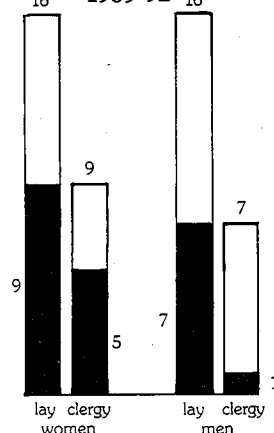
## GCSRW members profiled

With great deliberateness, the GCSRW attempts in its membership to be inclusive in numerous arenas: by gender, race, lay/clergy, age, jurisdiction.

The membership of the 1989-92 GCSRW is as follows:

- Ages of GCSRW members span 18 to 71.
- Fifteen are continuing from last quadrennium, 33 are new.
- Thirty-seven of the Annual Conferences are represented.
- Membership is approximately even among the five jurisdictions: North Central: nine; Northeastern: eleven; South Central: nine; Southeastern: ten; Western: nine.
- Racially, 46 % of the GCSRW members are racial ethnic; similarly, 45 % of the Coordinating Committee members are racial ethnic.
- Of the 48 members, 25 are female, 23 male. In the Coordinating Committee, four are male, seven female.
- Sixteen of the members are clergy (nine women, seven men); 32 are lay.

GCSRW Membership  
1989-92



\* darker portion: racial ethnic members

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Editor: Patricia Broughton

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:

Linda Thomas, President \* Joetta Rinehart, Vice-President \* Winona McGee, Secretary

#### General Secretariat:

Kiyoko Kasai Fujii \* Nancy Grissom Self

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# For third time Northeast elects woman bishop

(cont. from pg. 1)

The other woman candidate in the jurisdiction, the Rev. Diedra Kriewald, a Wesley Theological Seminary professor and minister of a three-point charge in West Virginia, received a peak of 44 votes on the fifth ballot, with 235 needed to elect.

Morrison was assigned to the Philadelphia-Puerto Rico area, which includes 173,889 United Methodists who belong to 599 churches in the Eastern Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico Conferences.

For Morrison, being the first woman bishop in the Northeastern Jurisdiction is among a number of other firsts. She was first female district superintendent in the Baltimore conference (1980), first female dean of the conference cabinet, first female council director (1986) and the first clergywoman elected, in May, to the Judicial Council. Morrison received her M.Div. from the Boston University School of Theology and her D.Min. from Wesley Theological Seminary (Wash., D.C.)

More than 900 persons gathered in Philadelphia in early October for a celebration service to welcome Morrison to her episcopal area. Morrison, preaching, chose a theme which she has consistently raised up during her ministry: "The Face of the Gospel."

In her sermon, she quoted a story involving Latin American theologian Jorge Larabrand. Larabrand met with a priest in El Salvador, some years back, Morrison related, and listened to his story of imprisonment and torture. Seeing Larabrand begin to weep, the priest paused, and said gently, "Don't be bitter ... you see, they have never had a glimpse of the face of the church preaching the gospel."

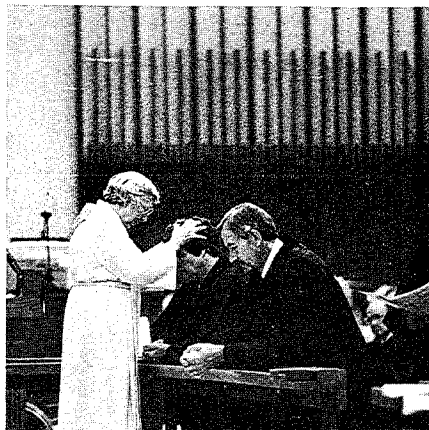
"We who call ourselves persons of faith are challenged by this story," Morrison said, "for it presents claims on each of our lives. God calls us—lay and clergy, to represent a glimpse of the gospel."

## Northeast elects: third consecutive woman bishop

The election of the denomination's fifth woman bishop, the Rev. Sharon A. Brown Christopher, was marked by a far more grueling, 60 hour process. With three vacancies to fill, the North Central jurisdiction elected its first bishop on the 15th ballot.

Christopher, 44, was one among five front runners in the second contest, which took 20 hours to complete. The Rev. Sharon Z. Rader, senior pastor of University United Methodist Church in East Lansing, Mich., was another. Rader, like Christopher, had been endorsed by the NCJ Hispanic Caucus and the NCJ Clergywomen. She had also been endorsed by the NCJ Urban Network.

On the 26th ballot Rader withdrew, another candidate on the 27th. Christopher was elected on the 28th ballot with 339



votes; 301 votes needed to elect. Her election, July 16, came the day after Morrison's.

Bishop Judith Craig, presiding, welcomed Christopher and her husband jokingly: "Bishop and MISTER Christopher—gee, I've been waiting to do that!"

Christopher added to the drama of the moment when she told delegates she recently had dreamed of climbing a crystal stair in the company of the late Marjorie S. Matthews, the first female bishop of the United Methodist Church.

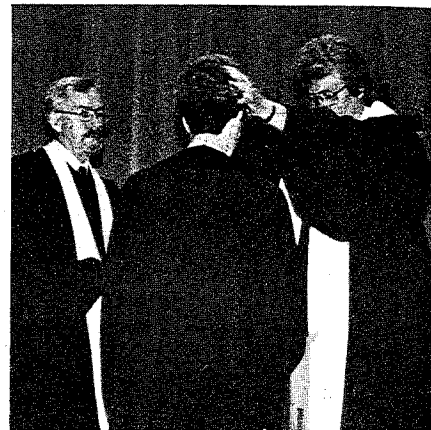
During the consecration service, as Bishop Judith Craig laid hands on Christopher, some recalled a service four years earlier, when Bishop Matthews laid hands on the newly-elected Bishop Craig. Christopher's election marks the third consecutive time delegates to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference have elected a woman to the UMC's highest office.

Noted one observer: "And now we continue the new dimension of apostolic succession. May it continue in unbroken lines of splendor."

Christopher's election to the UMC episcopacy is believed to be the first election of a bishop with a husband. Her husband, Charles Logsdon Christopher, also a UM pastor, will leave the church in Milwaukee he has served since 1980 and move to the bishop's residence in suburban Minnetonka.

Christopher told a Minnesota newspaper of marrying Charles Logsdon in 1973, and adding Christopher (meaning "Christ-bearer") to their names. That came, she said, from their understanding that "when people enter a new covenant with God their name is changed."

"From the very beginning of our relationship," she said, "we have understood ourselves to be centered in a mission in ministry that was broader than ourselves—the ministry of bearing Christ. That has set the tone of our marriage relationship."



Apostolic succession: (left) Bishop Marjorie Matthews lays hands on newly-elected Bishop Judith Craig (1984). Bishop Judith Craig lays hands on newly-elected Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher (1988).

Christopher moved from her appointment as assistant to Wisconsin's bishop to the Minnesota area, where she will provide leadership for 160,000 United Methodists in 431 congregations. Christopher had the endorsement of the Wisconsin Annual Conference prior to her election. She had served as district superintendent in the Eastern District from 1980-1985 (as cabinet chair in 1984) and in local churches since her ordination as deacon in 1970. She received her M.Div. from Perkins School of Theology in 1969.

Bishops Christopher and Morrison are among 3,400 clergywomen in the 9-million member denomination. There are 38,000 clergy total.

## Episcopalians also celebrate woman bishop

While United Methodists were celebrating the election of its fourth and fifth women bishops, members of the Episcopal Church hailed the election of Barbara Harris as the first Episcopal woman bishop in the United States and the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Harris, a Black priest, was elected bishop in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, the largest Episcopal diocese in the U.S. She was chosen over five other candidates—two of them women—in eight ballots at the diocesan convention in October.

Harris was ordained to the priesthood in 1980 at the age of 50. Six years earlier, in Philadelphia, 11 women were "irregularly" ordained the first Episcopal women priests. Harris came from California to serve as crucifer and lead the procession.

# Status Report

## GCSRW inquires in GBGM dismissals

The GCSRW, at its organizing meeting, agreed to request information on the decision of the General Board of Global Ministries to eliminate 11 staff positions.

The GCSRW authorized an official letter of inquiry to the Rev. Randolph Nugent, chief executive of the mission board, asking for an explanation of the layoffs and the rationale used for selecting personnel for dismissal. The nine persons holding the positions (two were vacant) were all women and/or racial/ethnic. The GCSRW asked for a reply by its next, February, 1989, meeting.

United Methodist Women of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference have also petitioned Nugent, questioning the personnel practices and condemning the elimination of the Office of Deaconess Service and the termination of its longtime executive secretary, Christine Brewer.

About 50 women executives at the GBGM recently formed their own association to protest the cutbacks, contending they show sex, race and age discrimination. In particular the group questioned the decision by the board's personnel and nominations committee not to renominate World Division head Peggy Billings.

A separate letter of protest from 26 National Division staff noted that laywomen and ethnic minority clergy were primarily affected by the National Division reductions, part of \$2 million in budget cuts for 1988 and 1989. "Regardless of the intentions or motivation of the central administration," said the letter, "this is the kind of coincidence that points to institutionalized sexism and racism."

## Churches in solidarity: Ecumenical Decade begins

GCSRW General Secretariat member Nancy Grissom Self and New York Bishop Forrest Stith, a former member of the GCSRW, have been named as United Methodist representatives to the U.S. Committee for the Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women. The Committee will be coordinating activities for the decade, which began at Easter, 1988.

The decade, initiated by the World Council of Churches, provides a long-term framework for actions in solidarity with women. Three priority areas are suggested: women's full participation in church and community life, women's perspectives and commitments to justice, peace and the integrity of creation; and women doing theology and sharing spirituality.

Two other United Methodists, Jeanne Audrey Powers, associate general secretary of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, and Ellen Kirby, assistant general secretary for the section on Christian Social Regions, Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, serve as members at large on the national committee.

Two excellent resources are available: an 18-page booklet which outlines the decade, giving its history and background and suggesting ways to celebrate and work for solidarity. Available for \$1.50 from U.S. office, WCC, 475 Riverside Dr., NY, NY 10115 (212) 870-2533.

Also available is a 100-page booklet of resources: prayers, poems, songs and stories gathering around the six themes: crying out of the depths of Gethsemane, mothers experiencing the cross/the crucified woman, resurrection, affirmation of women, bread for the journey, and expressing solidarity. This excellent resource, also usable for any worship experience, is available for \$5 from the address above.

## Deaconesses celebrate 100th birthday

About 150 deaconesses and home missionaries gathered in August to mark the 100th birthday of Methodism's deaconess movement. The office of deaconess was established by the Methodist Episcopal Church's General Conference in 1888. Becoming a deaconess was the only church office to which women could be commissioned around the turn of the 20th century. Then and now, their ministry has been as Christian lay servants in the fields of education, medicine and social work. There are currently 88 active United Methodist deaconesses and another 230 retired ones.

An exhibit commemorating the centennial has opened at the headquarters of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History in Madison, NJ.

The exhibit, on display through February 1989, illustrates how deaconess work formalized traditionally female duties in the church, especially care for children, the poor and the ill, said Susan Eltscher, director of Women's and Ethnic History. The exhibit includes a number of photographs of deaconess work, particularly in cities, 1915-20.

## Pensions board advocates for women

The General Board of Pensions, in its August organizing meeting, agreed to file and co-file shareholder resolutions with selected companies to combat discrimination against women and racial and other minorities.

## GCOM develops sexual harassment survey

The research department of the General Council on Ministries will develop a sexual harassment survey, as directed by the 1988 General Conference. Preliminary plans have been approved by agency officials.

## Women 4 of 11 chairs

Four women were elected to chair legislative committees at the 1988 General Conference, twice the number as in 1984. Elected were **Sharon Brown Christopher**, Global Ministries; **Nancy Carruth**, Higher Education and Chaplaincy; **Carolyn Johnson**, Independent Commissions/Judicial Administration; **Carolyn Marshall**, Local Church.

Additionally, seven of the 11 legislative committee vice chairs were women, and nine of the 11 committee secretaries were women, for a total of 21 (64%) of the 33 legislative committee offices.

On the standing administrative committees, women were elected to 11 of the 24 positions. Two of the eight committees were chaired by women: Committee on Calendar, Donna La Point; Committee on Journal, Jamima P. Demarcus.

For a historical overview:

Two laywomen, both of whom had served as president of the GCSRW, chaired legislative committees at the 1984 General Conference: **Carolyn Henninger Oehler** (Council on Ministries) and **Barbara Ricks Thompson** (Financial Administration). Two clergywomen, both of whom would later be elected bishops, chaired committees at the 1980 General Conference: **Leontine T.C. Kelly** and **Marjorie Swank Matthews**.

## Agency staff depart

Three long-time UMC agency members are leaving their positions: **Martha Lawrence**, associate general secretary for administration of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, a member of the board's staff for 32 years, will retire in June, 1989. **Beverly Roberson Jackson**, director of the General Board of Church and Society's department of human welfare since 1981, has resigned to join the staff of the Children's Defense Fund. **Marie Kitazumi**, assistant general secretary for episcopal services, General Council on Finance and Administration, since 1973, retired at the end of October after 26 years with the agency.

# Ovations

To the following women who were chosen district superintendents: **Martha V.B. Morrison** (NY Annual Conference), **Shirley D. Hill** (Southwest Texas AC), **Priscilla Buffington** (Oregon-Idaho AC), **Joanne M. Link** (Central PA AC), **Melinda L. McKonly** (Eastern PA AC), **Mary Johnson** (Sierra Leone). Currently 18 women serve as UM district superintendents; a total of 43 women (41 U.S. and Puerto Rico, 2 Africa) has so served.

To the five women elected presidents of United Methodist Women's jurisdictional core planning groups: **Kathryn Moore**, Des Moines, North Central; **Nancy Fowlkes**, White Plains, NY, Northeastern; **Inelle Bagwell**, Amarillo, TX, South Central; **Effie E. Miller**, Greensboro, NC, Southeastern; and **Connie J. Takamine**, Denver, Western.

To **Betty Anderson** of Lubbock, TX, who was elected the General Board of Church and Society's (GBCS) Issue Development and Advocacy Division.

To **Ann N. Beardslee**, associate executive director of Church World Service, who has been named to head the National Council of Churches unit until a successor to J. Richard Butler, who resigned, is named.

To **Dolly Brittingham** of Trinity UMC, Salisbury, MD, who was elected first woman lay leader at the Peninsula Annual Conference.

To **Janet McNish Bugg**, associate editor of "Pockets," the children's devotional magazine published by The Upper Room in Nashville, TN, who has been named editor of the periodical.

To **Judy Cayot** of Albany, CA, who with Randy Miller of Washington, DC, has been named spokesperson for Affirmation, the UM caucus for gay men and lesbians.

To **Motialepula Chabaku**, a UM pastor in North Carolina exiled from her native South Africa, who received a 1988 "Ball Award" from the Methodist Federation for Social Action at the 1988 General Conference.

To **Angella P. Current**, assistant general secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's Office of Loans and Scholarships, who has been elevated to associate general secretary.

To **Geneva Harton Dalton**, who was chosen Assistant Secretary of Administrative Services with the General Council on Finance and Administration. Dalton was a member of the GCSRW General Secretariat.

To **Shirley Dare**, of Evanston, IL, who has been elected to chair the Education and Interpretation Division, GBSC.

To **Ruth A. Daugherty**, of West Chester, PA, who will lead for another four years the 35 member committee studying ministry in the UMC.

To **Jenny Devoe** of Helena, MT, who has been elected chair of the National Youth Ministry Organization steering committee.

To **Becky Haase**, a second quadrennium member of the GCSRW, who is the first woman elected as lay leader of the California-Pacific Annual Conference.

To the Kansas East and Kansas West Annual Conferences, which elected women, for the first time, as conference lay leaders and as presidents of the councils on finance and administration. Elected were **Cleo Shull**, of Dighton, KS: Kansas West lay leader; **Betty Nelson**, of Topeka, KS: Kansas East lay leader. Both are former presidents of their conferences' United Methodist Women. Elected president of the Kansas West CFA was **Rev. Elsie Crickard**, pastor of Faith UMC, Hutchinson, KS. New president for the Kansas East CFA is the **Rev. Janet R. Rhind**, of Lenexa, KS, pastor of Metropolitan Avenue UMC.

To **Cynthia Kent**, of Ignacio, CO, a member of the Southern Ute tribe, who has been named program secretary for Native American ministries in the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries National Division.

To **Kathy Kruger**, communications specialist for Kansas West Conference, who was elected president of the UM Association of Communicators.

To **Cathie Lyons**, a staff member of the Health and Welfare Ministries Department of the GBGM, who has been named interim head of the department.

To **Carolyn M. Marshall**, immediate past president of the Women's Division, who was elected General Conference secretary-designate by a 1 percent margin over incumbent secretary C. Faith Richardson.

To **Eleanor Scott Meyers**, a faculty member at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, who has been named academic dean at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO.

To **Elizabeth Toyomi Okayama** who joined the staff of the General Council on Finance and Administration as Assistant General Secretary for Episcopal Services succeeding retiring Marie Kitazumi. Okayama was executive director of the Ecumenical Women's Center in Chicago, which closed its door this summer after 16 years.

To **Shirley Parris**, a laywoman who headed the New York Conference delegation to General Conference, who was elected to chair the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy.

To the **Rev. Cynthia Jay Pendleton**, campus minister at Pfeiffer College, Misenheimer, NC, who is the 1988-89 recipient of the \$5,000 Esther Edwards Graduate Scholarship for women pursuing administrative careers at United Methodist-related colleges. The award is given annually through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Office of Loans and Scholarships.

To **Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz**, formerly Associate General Secretary (Hispanic Portfolio) of the General Commission on Religion and Race, who has moved to the Baltimore Conference to develop an Hispanic Ministry.

To **Jean M. Robinson**, chief executive officer of the UM Development Fund since 1986, who was named associate general secretary for administration of the General Board of Church and Society.

To the **Rev. Judith E. Smith**, who was elected Associate General Secretary of the Office of Interpretation, having served from 1984-87 as Executive Secretary of Publishing and Associate World Editor of The Upper Room (General Board of Discipleship).

To **Janet E. Stephenson**, a staff member of Iowa State University in Ames, IA, who was elected to chair the Division of Higher Education, GBHEM.

To **Barbara Ricks Thompson**, General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race, who was elected Chairperson of the National Project Equality, an advocacy and technical assistance resource for equal employment opportunity and affirmative action.

To **Rebecca C. Youngblood**, a co-pastor of First and Merigold UMCs in Cleveland, MS, who was elected to chair the Division of Ordained Ministry, GBHEM.

## In remembrance:

Of **Sophie (Lee) Lone Tree Mrotek**, a Native American woman of the Winnebago Nation, who died recently. The "Echo of the Four Winds," the newspaper published by the UM Native American caucus, was born in her small Wisconsin Dells home. "Lee's voice thundered as she stood unafraid to challenge both church and society for callous and sustained assaults on human dignity and human rights," wrote Rev. Mary Council-Austin, Associate General Secretary for Constituency Services at the General Board of Church and Society in an agency flyer.

# Resources

**"Interpreter" Column on Local Church Status and Role of Women Work Units.** Beginning in January, the "Interpreter" will again carry a column in its "Mutual Ministry" section focusing on the work of the local church work status and role of women work area. Written by GCSRW members and staff, the column will provide suggestions and helps in carrying out the unit's work. January's column outlines some resources, including a composite of back columns (available from the GCSRW, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201). The February issue will carry a review of "Glancing Visions of God" (see below). April focuses on Mother's Day, May on planning.

**Glancing Images of God.** 18-minute videotape introduces some of the issues and possibilities that lie in expanding images of God. Filled with traditional and contemporary art, music, poetry, words of scripture, photographs and commentary, it shows the variety of images of God in the Bible and later Christian thought. Produced by Carolyn Henninger Oehler for the GCSRW. Available for \$32 from the GCSRW (see above); includes a printed script, useful packet of printed resources, discussion guide with questions as well as activities.

**Survey of United Methodist Opinion: Attitudes Toward Women in the Ordained Ministry.** August 1988 study by the Office of Research of the General Council on Ministries looked at openness to and acceptance of clergywomen, gender-typed preferences for pastoral tasks, and roles of clergywomen. Available from the GCOM, 601 W. River-view Ave., Dayton, OH 45406. (513) 227-9400.

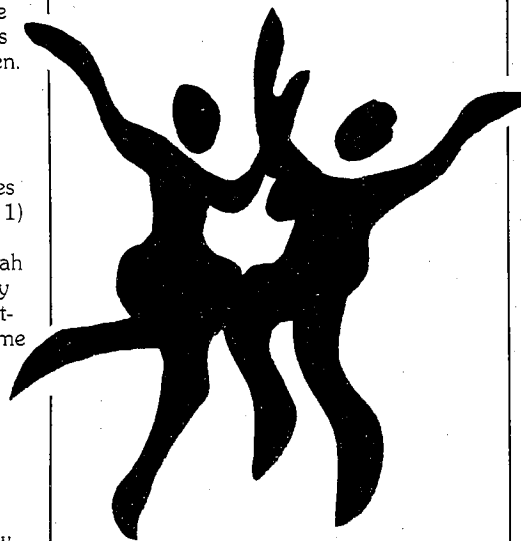
**UM Women's Heritage.** Valuable resources from UM laywoman Phyllis Tholin include 1) a pamphlet (\$2) with excerpts from "Samantha Among the Brethren," by Josiah Allen's wife, originally published in 1890 by Funk & Wagnalls, and 2) a set of eight postcards (\$2) with original photographs of some of the founding mothers of United Methodism. Tholin also publishes a book catalogue for women in church history. Contact Phyllis Tholin, Books, 824 Ridge Terrace, Evanston, IL 60201.

**Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion.** Academic journal edited by Judith Plaskow and Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza provides "channel for the dissemination of feminist scholarship in religion and a forum for discussion and dialogue among women and men of differing feminist perspectives." Subscription: \$15 year from Membership Services, PO Box 1608, Decatur, GA 30031-1608.

**Women's History Resources.** Resource Service Catalog for the National Women's History Project offers posters, display kits, curriculum guides, books, buttons, balloons and more for celebration of Women's History Month (March) or anytime. Up to five copies of catalog free, quantities available at small cost. Write National Women's History Project, PO Box 3716, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-3716. (707) 526-5974.

**Prayers and Meditations.** Three books by UM minister Susan Gregg-Schroeder transform everyday experiences into opportunities for prayer and meditation. Titles "For Your Hospital Visit: Prayers and Meditations for Children" (available from the Upper Room) and "Mommy's Blanket: A Mother's Reflections," and "Your Gentle Touch: Prayers and Meditations," available for \$5 each (plus \$1 postage) from Gregg-Schroeder, 6707 Monte Verde Dr., San Diego, CA 92119.

**A Tree Full of Angels: Seeing the Holy in the Ordinary.** Benedictine nun Macrina Wiederkehr offers intimate pieces of her own spiritual journey amidst an invitation to ones own. Poetically written reflections speak of the deep ache for knowledge—and experience—of God. An excellent companion for the spiritual journey. Harper & Row, 1988.



**WomanChrist: A New Vision of Feminist Spirituality.** Author Christin Lore Weber's book, "sometimes a journal, sometimes a story, sometimes a study, sometimes a poem," attempts to re-vision and reconstruct a Christian spirituality of women's mysteries. A stirring call to become who we are. Harper & Row, 1987.

**Woman Prayer Woman Song: Resources for Ritual.** Author Miriam Therese Winter writes: "Ritual is central to our soul's survival; women are the celebrants of the mystery of life." Includes creation rituals, liberation rituals, transformation rituals, and songs. Historical Christian images and scripture as well as contemporary experience are included in the ritual. Meyer\*Stone Books, 1987.

**Pillars of Flame: Power, Priesthood and Spiritual Maturity.** Anglican solitary Maggie Ross challenges contemporary understandings of priesthood and ministry, seeing a difference between priesthood and ordination, arguing for a separation of sacramental leadership and organizational ministry. A theological work, rooted in biblical and historical sources. Harper & Row, 1988.

**Going Out of Our Minds: The Metaphysics of Liberation.** Radical feminist Sonia Johnson has written a moving, highly readable and inspiring account of her ideological/political/spiritual journey over the last five years, revealing the revolutionary power of a woman telling her own story. Drawing from her personal experience, Johnson finds connections, lessons, and learnings of use to all women. Highly recommended. Crossing Press, 1987.

**The Nonsexist Word Finder: A Dictionary of Gender-Free Usage.** Reference tool designed to help scrap outdated, stereotypical and unrealistic sexist terminology. Entries provide historical background ("history: non-sexist, Greek root: inquiring, knowing; feminists have coined 'herstory'") as well as inclusive alternatives where merited. Also includes writing guidelines, readings and bibliography. Oryx Press, 1987.

**You Can't Kill the Spirit.** Eleven inspiring stories of women's nonviolent action for social justice, drawn from library shelves, newspaper clippings and personal stories around the world and as far back as 13th century B.C. Egypt. Read Pam McAllister's book for some hope and courage in times of despair. First of the Barbara Deming Memorial Series: Stories of Women and Nonviolent Action, New Society Publishers, 1988.

**Speaking of Faith: Global Perspectives on Women, Religion and Social Change.** Twenty-six author/activists from five continents representing all major religions speak from experience challenging traditional institutions, addressing changing leadership roles, building a common religious foundation in the struggle for social justice. New Society Publishers, 1987.

# Calendar

November 11-13 **Garden Party: Explorations in Feminist Theology.** Conference drawing on forthcoming book: "Inheriting Our Mother's Gardens: Feminist Theology in Third World Perspective," edited by Katie Cannon, Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, Pui-Lan Kwok, and Letty Russell. Including presentations by authors, responses, workshop, book signing, ritual. Sponsored by Auburn Theological Seminary and the Women's Theological Center of Boston, 400 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115. The WTC will be hosting a number of programs related to women's health and feminist/womanist theology in the fall and in 1989; they are listed in the center's September newsletter. (617) 277-1330.

February 27-March 3, 1989 **Dance of the Spirit: Steps in Women's Spirituality.** Auburn continuing education: five days combining personal reflection, conceptual analysis and artistic recreation directed towards women's reshaping of spirituality at both societal and personal levels. Led by Maria Harris. Program fee: \$200. Contact Auburn Theological Seminary, 3041 Broadway, New York, NY 10027.

March 31-April 2 **WomenVision '89.** Gathering for women and men to celebrate visions and voices of women sponsored by the women and episcopal offices of the Detroit, West Michigan and East and West Ohio Annual Conferences. Keynote speaker: Bishop Judith Craig. Worship leaders: Sharon Zimmerman Rader, Heather Murray Elkins. Music leaders: Ann Thompson, Georgiana Ward. Contact registrar Peg Snyder of East Ohio CSRW, 216 Nicholls, Cardington, OH 43315.

May 2-4 **Challenge of Feminist Biblical Interpretation.** Auburn Theological Seminary continuing education course taught by Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza using her model of biblical interpretation. Program Fee: \$125. Contact Auburn (see above).

## Joint Training Events for CSRWs

Twelve hours of skill workshops and special presentations on strategies for overcoming institutional racism will mark the Joint Training Events beginning Nov. 8. Jurisdictional convocations on racism will be held in tandem with the joint training events, providing participants opportunities to discuss strategies for achieving an inclusive church as well as issues in their particular arena.

GCSRW General Secretariat members Kiyoko Kasai Fujii and Nancy Grissom Self will meet with Annual Conference CSRW chairs and members to look at

- 1) local, annual conference, and general commissions' purpose, responsibilities, task development, budgeting and relationship to other units;
- 2) racial inclusiveness, including linkages between racism and sexism, and how to build and monitor for inclusion of racial ethnic women;
- 3) becoming effective as monitors, advocates, catalysts.

### WORKSHOPS ARE SCHEDULED FOR

Nov. 8-10 **Southeastern Jurisdiction.** Begins at 3 p.m., adjourns at 5 p.m. In Lake Junaluska, NC.

Nov. 19-21 **Northeastern Jurisdiction.** Begins at 9:30 a.m., adjourns at 6 p.m. In Lancaster, PA.

Nov. 29-Dec. 1 **South Central Jurisdiction.** Begins at 10 a.m., adjourns at 4 p.m. In Dallas, TX.

Dec. 6-8 **North Central Jurisdiction.** Begins at 9 a.m., adjourns at 3:30 p.m. In Milwaukee, WI.

Jan. 9-11 **Western Jurisdiction.** Begins at 8 a.m., adjourns at 4 p.m. In San Francisco, CA.

# Jobs

*The Flyer often receives job notices with no deadlines or very short ones; we suggest you contact the prospective employer by phone where possible prior to submitting an application.*

**Executive Director, Scarritt-Bennett Center.** Job description available Nov. 15. Contact Grace Seiser, Scarritt-Bennett Center, 1008 19th Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37212-2166.

**Associate General Secretary for Administration, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.** Deadline: Nov. 15. Contact Dr. Roger W. Ireson, General Secretary, GBHEM, PO Box 871, Nashville, TN 37202-0871. (615) 340-7400.

**Editor, Discipleship Resources, General Board of Discipleship.** Deadline Nov. 10. Contact Office of Human Resources, GBOD, PO Box 840, Nashville, TN 37202. (615) 340-7100.

**Editor, Church School Publications, United Methodist Publishing House.** Deadline: Nov. 11. Contact Steve Tippens, Human Resources, UM Publishing House, PO Box 801, Nashville, TN 37202.

**Academic Dean, Methodist Theological School in Ohio.** Deadline: Dec. 15. Contact Dr. Norman E. Dewire, President, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, 3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware, OH 43015-0931.

Two faculty positions: **Christian Education, Homiletics, Methodist Theological School in Ohio.** Deadline: Nov. 15. Contact Dean C.M. Kempton Hewitt, (see above).

Two faculty positions: **E. Stanley Jones Professorship in Evangelism, Associate Professor of New Testament, Boston University School of Theology.** Deadlines: Nov. 18. Contact Associate Dean, Boston University School of Theology, 745 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215.



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