

The Flyer

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Winter 2002

Leaves strong legacy...

Cecelia Long reflects on 13-year GCSRW tenure

"The work is not done," stated Cecelia Long, outgoing member of the general secretariat of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, as she reflected on her thirteen-year tenure with the Commission from 1989-2001. "I'm pleased that the church seems to be taking

some issues on the status and role of women seriously, but we have not yet achieved the full and equal participation of women in the church."

She commented, "I see women and men working together much more frequently than when I began this work in 1989. Women are almost always

present in decision-making settings. In fact, it now seems odd when women are not involved.

"Despite our United Methodist structure and hierarchy, women are valued in more positive ways," commented Long. "Our Commission model of shared leadership in the general secretariat is more widely accepted than previously. While some folks will always voice reactionary sentiment, I think most United Methodists realize that the Commission works for positive change, not advocating for man hating, bra burning, or taking over the church. They understand that our goal is mutual respect and equitable treatment for all persons."

She emphasizes, "Our training style has caused folks to expect high quality material based on spiritual depth. I am absolutely convinced that to bring about God's kingdom, we have to honor and respect our Biblical traditions. This notion is not new for the Commission, but many of our detractors have ignored our commitment to authentic Biblical and spiritual depth."

Long, who is now conciliar officer with the General Council on Ministries, cited other points of progress. She highlighted the Commission's vanguard work on issues of misconduct of a sexual nature. Since 1991, all general agencies, most annual conferences, and many local churches have implemented sexual harassment or sexual ethics policies and have conducted training on this critical concern in the church.

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Report on January meeting

Commission continues planning that will broaden participation

"When African women are called to church, they are called to community. The essence of the African church is that God calls us to celebrate life. African women tap into the worldview that all of life is linked together in complex relationships," emphasized Dr. Tumani Mutasa Nyanjeka, during

the Jan. 18-19 meeting of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, held in Evanston, IL.

While leading a Bible study, Nyanjeka explained that in African thought, "We are called to community by putting others first. 'I' is only as important as the community." During the meeting, Commission members took to heart Nyanjeka's words and continued their planning to include six to eight women from African annual conferences in the September 2002 meeting.

The Search Committee for the new general secretariat reported that a diverse pool of applicants is seeking the two positions. The committee has re-opened the process to seek more lay applicants.

On Friday evening, the Commission held a banquet to celebrate the ministry of Cecelia M. Long as a member of the general secretariat from 1989 to 2001. Featured guest

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Dr. Tumani Mutasa Nyanjeka, a UMC pastor from Zimbabwe and professor of history and religion at Gammon/Interdenominational Theological Center Seminary, leads a workshop on African women.



Cecelia Long, left, celebrates her tenure as general secretariat of the Commission with Liz Okayama, General Council on Finance and Administration.

Long reflects *from page 1*

In addition to the work accomplished, Long points out that there is room for growth. Although the Commission and the church claim to value diversity, we have not always been able to be a strong public voice for issues related to all women, such as those related to lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons.

The church continues to misunderstand the intersection of racism and sexism, according to Long. It does not recognize that women of color continue to struggle against two barriers: the racism of their color and the sexism of their gender. Moreover, the church does not validate the perspective of women of color, whether clergy or lay. She points out, "In my experience, we invite women of color to the table, but we do not listen to what they say."

Moreover, when general agencies have cut staff through downsizing, women and racial ethnic persons, who may have been the last hired, are often the most vulnerable.

The church, too, needs to grow in regard to clergywomen. "Some parishioners still complain about getting a woman as a pastor," reflects Long, "yet some rejoice and request women pastors. We see more co-pastorates shared by spouses, another example of understanding and affirming a model of shared leadership."

Inclusive language for God and persons poses a continuing challenge for the church. "After working hard to educate folks in the 1970s and 1980s about the importance of inclusive language, we recognize that our children continue to read, see, and hear exclusive language. One woman bishop shared with our staff recently that if she didn't raise the issue of inclusive language in her conference, no one would. It would never be brought up. This says to me that large numbers of church folk do not care, even on a superficial, politically-correct level. Until we expand our language, we will continue to shape our children's thinking in limited ways," Long emphasizes.

Leadership development is another area for improvement in the church. Says Long, "Leadership starts with empowering women to speak out, to have courage even when women's ideas are discounted."

Several key areas deserve particular attention in the coming years. One is women in the Central Conferences, for they are seeking connection with women in the U.S., Long emphasized.

Another area that needs attention is developing a means of tracking statistically what is happening with women in leadership positions in the church. As Long emphasizes, "We can celebrate that at 2000 General Conference all except two U.S. delegations included women delegates, but we have not yet achieved full representation on anything, especially at the top levels of decision-making in the

church. Data on local church leadership continues to be difficult to obtain, so we do not have a clear picture of what is happening there."

Long leaves the Commission feeling richer for knowing that working in community results in a stronger outcome. "I believe that God works through all of us. Networking and maintaining relationships are valuable gifts. I have learned through my experience with the Commission that shared spiritual and centering time are central to working together. I appreciate the way in which women work together, at their best, without malice, but with respect and care that allows them to talk through disagreements. We can all do our professional roles, but can we genuinely live out our commitment to equality for all of God's children?"

Above all, Long reminds all women, "We must stay vigilant. We have to watch what happens and speak truthfully about what we see, hear, and experience." ❁

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The Flyer

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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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CLERGYWOMEN REDISCOVER, RECLAIM SABBATH

From a press release from UMNNews, Jan. 16, 2002.

God's commandment to keep the Sabbath holy is often difficult for pastors working in a tradition that observes its day of rest on Sunday. Sunday is the busiest day of the week for pastors, who are ensuring that their congregations are spiritually fed. They fill the rest of the week responding to the demands of others so much that they often neglect their own spiritual needs and fail to set aside a time of rest for themselves.

Jesus encourages everyone to get away to a deserted place and rest a while, but people are too busy to respond, said Bishop Charlene Kammerer, who leads the church's Charlotte (NC) Area. "Most of us live in such a whirlwind of activity that we don't always hear the voice of Jesus." The Sabbath is a time to rest in Jesus' presence, she said. "Jesus says to us to come away by ourselves, and I will be there to renew you, heal you, hold you and bless you. This is an invitation we should not refuse," she said.

* * * * *

More than 1,185 clergywomen from across the globe gathered Jan. 7-11 in San Diego to rediscover and reclaim the Sabbath while responding to the challenge to change the world. Meeting for the 2002 International United Methodist Clergywomen's Consultation, the women focused on the theme of "Creating a Woman's Sabbath: Come Away and Rest Awhile." Each day began and ended with worship, and participants had opportunities to explore what it means to rest in God. Thirty-three workshops addressed such diverse topics as "Painting of the Soul," "Jesus in the Movies," "Sacraments and Liturgy" and "the 'Gospel' of Music."

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry had held the consultations every four years since 1975, but the 2002 event was six and a half years in the making. Marion Jackson, director of continuing education for ministry at the board in Nashville, TN, speculated that the time frame was extended in order for the 2006 consultation to coincide with the clergywomen's jubilee. The jubilee will mark the 50th year since General Conference voted to give women full clergy rights, she said. Those rights were reaffirmed in 1968 at the uniting conference of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches.

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The consultation's 17-member design team came up with the theme of Sabbath after discussing the fact that many clergywomen are suffering from burnout, taking leaves of absence and struggling to stay connected to God amid myriad daily responsibilities, Jackson said.

The consultation had two goals, Jackson said. "I wanted everyone who attended—men, spouses, laity as well as the clergywomen—to experience Sabbath, to really let go. I also wanted to give them the tools and skills to take home and incorporate Sabbath into their everyday lives."

The event drew clergywomen from across the United States as well as Bulgaria, Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Korea, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria,

the Philippines, Russia, Sweden, South Africa, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.

* * * * *

The clergywomen were encouraged to take time for consecrated holy leisure. They were told to take time to rest in God and be healed, reformed and re-created by divine love. Speakers emphasized that allocating an unstructured day — without meetings, projects, tasks, agendas or scheduled time with others — provides time for visioning, discernment, listening to the inner self and acquiring a relaxed alertness about life.

The Western concept of Sabbath is not a reality for clergywomen in Africa, according to many representatives from the continent. The Rev. Kabamba Kiboko of Prairie View, TX, a native of the Democratic Republic of Congo, said her understanding of Sabbath has been influenced by the traditions of the Sanga tribe, of which she is a member. The closest word to Sabbath in her native language is "kisungu," which means education — but not in the Western sense of the word. By definition, kisungu is holistic, involving the whole being, and it refers to learning about being, she said.

* * * * *

Many clergywomen described feeling constant stress from heavy work loads, pay equity concerns and sexism, particularly from congregations that don't want women in the pulpit.

"We have not reached the point of being equally accepted, but more and more eyes are opening ... and in these 50 years, we've been strengthened. It hasn't been easy nor pleasant, but we've used them to build our spiritual muscle," Jackson said.

Minerva Carcaño of Portland, OR, agreed. "I know my sisters, it is not easy even now. The cold stares of the world have not stopped. The struggle continues, but God is still in charge and has the last word," she said.

But is giving all worth it? That is the question Lydia Jackson Waters, Compton, CA, asked.

To meet the vast expectations placed on them, clergywomen are succumbing to high blood pressure, strokes, burnout, chronic fatigue and other maladies, Waters said. "The church rewards us, and we get a thumbs up for killings ourselves, she said. "Jesus did not die on the cross to turn around and watch us kill ourselves nor allow anyone else to do it. ... Is all of this labor really worth it?"

Remembering the Sabbath and keeping it holy "is not an option," said Bishop Linda Lee of the Michigan Area. "That is a commandment from God."

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CREATE YOUR OWN SABBATH

The United Methodist Church network of camps and retreat centers offers an array of facilities, planned programs, and quiet spaces for individual and group Sabbath time.

Explore their website: www.gbod.org/camping

Calendar

April 25-28

Sing a New Song: UMW Assembly, Philadelphia This 16th assembly features, among many speakers, Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of Children's Defense Fund. To order registration packets, visit the web site: www.umc.org/umw/assembly.

May 6-8

International Conference on Gender, Poverty, and Church Involvement, Uppsala, Sweden Organized by The Swedish Institute of Mission Research and the Faculties of Theology, Law and Medicine of Uppsala University. The conference aims to address the issue of poverty from two perspectives: the situation of women and the role of development assistance, in particular church involvement. Invited speakers are Nobel laureate Amartya Sen (to be confirmed); theologian Marcy Amba Oduyoye, Ghana; Agnes Aboum, Executive Director of TAABCO, Kenya, Ann-Cathrin Jarl, Dr of Theology, Uppsala and other scholars of medicine, theology, law, church history etc. E-mail: ann-christin.lindqvist@kbh.uu.se.

May 28-31

National Sexual Violence Prevention Conference, Chicago Presenters are Nan Stein and Linda Williams. Contact web site: www.cdc.gov/ncipc.

July 1-26

Growing in Wisdom, Age and Grace: Eldering Sabbath, St. Paul, MN This month-long retreat offers an opportunity for women, within the context of an ecumenical community, to harvest the richness of their lives by remembering significant people and events that have shaped their lives and life stories. Contact Women Well, 1784 La Crosse Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55119. Phone: (651) 739-7953. Web site: www.WomanWell.org. E-mail: seeking@WomanWell.org.

July 12-14

A New Vision, A New Hope, Berkeley, CA A national gathering for youth, young adults, college students, grad students and seminarians, to be held at the Wesley Foundation, UC Berkeley. This will be an informal meeting to discuss future plans of this contingent of participants of the Reconciling Ministries Network to better the participation of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Transexual community and their allies within the United Methodist Church. Contact Tina Cansler, (510) 547-7481. E-mail: Mosaic_RMN@yahoo.com.

Aug. 12-15

Spiritual Renewal of Clergywomen, Fort Lee, NJ UM Korean clergywomen gathering. Guest speaker is Dr. Heather Elkins. Contact Jennifer Yu, (609) 919-9693. E-mail: jennifer.yu@ptsem.edu.

Sept. 3-27

Growing in Wisdom, Age and Grace: Eldering Sabbath, St. Paul, MN This month-long retreat offers an opportunity for women, within the context of an ecumenical community, to harvest the richness of their lives by remembering significant people and events that have shaped their lives and life stories. Contact Women Well, 1784 La Crosse Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55119. Phone: (651) 739-7953. Web site: www.WomanWell.org. E-mail: seeking@WomanWell.org.

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www.gcsr.org

Report on January Meeting from page 1

was Cynthia Wilson Hollins, who offered a musical tribute to Long. Long has now become conciliar officer with the General Council on Ministries.

Members heard a presentation by GCSRW staff member Kim Coffing on inclusive language, using material from *Words That Hurt, Words That Heal*. Following that presentation, they participated in workshops related to "inclusive realities" in the United Methodist Church:

- Dr. Tumani Mutasa Nyanjeka, a United Methodist pastor from Zimbabwe and professor of history and religion at Gammon/Interdenominational Theological Center Seminary, speaking on African women—cultural, political, social, theological contexts
- Dan Benedict, General Board of Discipleship, on *The Faith We Sing*, hymnal supplement
- Raquel Martinez, United Methodist worship consultant, on Spanish lan-

uage music and worship resources

- Gail Murphy-Geiss, GCSRW president, on "Strange Relations," a video focusing on family roles and cultural contexts
- Marcia McFee, worship consultant, on diversity and rhythmic movement
- Ayesha K. Mustafaa, from the *Muslim Review*, on conversations about Muslim women

On Saturday, the Commission engaged in holy conferencing on committee reports and emerging issues. Stephanie Anna Hixon, who continues as a member of the general secretariat during this time of transition, invited members to reflect on the compelling call for the Commission as it prepares to embrace new executive leadership. The Search Committee hopes to have two new members of the general secretariat in place by the end of 2002. ●

Clergywomen from page 3

Lee invited the clergywomen to go to "that place" where they can touch the holy inside. The place to begin, she said, is at the "still place," the inner self that most people want to avoid. "It is the place where we meet the demons," she said. "It is a hurtful place that gets us to the holy place where we meet God."

During a service renewing their baptism, some clergywomen staged a silent protest in support of their lesbian colleagues. As the women bishops stood around the meeting room with bowls of water for the participants to sprinkle themselves and take a seashell in remembrance, they were flanked by hooded women holding placards that said: "We were baptized too." As the symbolic renewal service concluded, the clergywomen surrounded the black-shrouded participants and enveloped them in a ring of solidarity. ●

Worship, Workshops, planning...

GCSRW January 2002 meeting

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Commission members participate in one of several workshops during the meeting: clockwise from front, Sherman Harris, Chuck Hefley, Haeran Kim, Maria Teresa Santiago, Norma Wall Jones, and Angelin Jones Simmons.



Marcia McFee, worship consultant, leads opening worship with the meeting theme: "Joining the Dance in God Begun: Revel in the Rhythms."



Commission members debrief on educational workshops: from left, clockwise, Cynthia Bond Hopson, Brian Soper, Cate Whitcomb (former Commission staff person), Gary Oba, Soomee Kim, Mike Minnix, and Rose Arroyo.



Sherman Harris, standing, and Eva Thai, seated in front, lead a discussion among Commission members on how to involve women from Central Conferences in an upcoming Commission meeting: from left, Maria Teresa Santiago, Christina Crawford, Bill Wilson, Alex Palomaria, David Penalva, Bishop Done Peter Dabale, and Anita Wood, liaison from General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.



Cynthia Wilson Hollins, Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta, offers a vocal tribute to Cecelia Long.



A few more laughs to end the evening of honoring Cecelia Long: from left, Cynthia Wilson Hollins, Cecelia Long, Rosalind Mitchell, sister of Cecelia, Anita Wood, Marsha Brooks, sister of Cecelia, and Stephanie Anna Hixon (front), general secretariat, GCSRW.

Status Report

More women than men attend worship

That is one finding from the largest survey ever conducted of US worshipers, the US Congregational Life Survey. Across all age categories women comprise 61% of people in the pews, while men comprise 39%. Funded jointly by the Lilly Endowment and the Louisville Institute and supported by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the \$1.3 million survey sampled 350,000 people in April 2001, representing 2,000 congregations and 50 denominations, including United Methodists. Among other findings: 1) nearly one-third of all worshipers in the US have changed congregations in the last five years; 2) 83% of the people in the pews attend services regularly; 3) 38% are involved with small groups (Sunday school, prayer, Bible study); and 4) 38% have college degrees, compared to 23% of the US population. —*Newscope*, Feb. 1, 2002

RENEW wants 'reform' for Women's Division

A group of evangelical United Methodist women is calling for a "process of reform" for the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries, after the unit's directors passed a resolution in October against the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan.

The call by the 5,000-member RENEW Network (a Resourcing, Enabling Network for Evangelical Women) was backed by the executive committee of Good News, an unofficial evangelical caucus within the denomination, at its Nov. 1-2 meeting.

The Rev. James Heidinger, Good News president, said that while the mission work by local units of United Methodist Women (UMW) was appreciated by most pastors, concern continues over the "radical feminist, pro-abortion, virulently anti-American, anti-evangelical, pro-homosexual attitude exhibited by the Women's Division and its leadership in New York."

As reported by United Methodist News Service on Oct. 23, directors of the Women's Division, the UMW's administrative body, voted to urge President Bush to use diplomatic means, rather than the bombing of

Afghanistan, to bring to justice those responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The directors encouraged UMW members to reach out to those of other faiths, become educated on the beliefs of Islam, work to prevent racial profiling and acts of harassment or violence directed at Muslims, Arabs and others, and urge President Bush to press for peace in the Middle East.

In their Dec. 6 news release, RENEW and Good News expressed dismay over the resolution on terrorist attacks and concerns over the Anti-Terrorism Act then being considered in Congress. Those concerns, which have been raised by various civil liberties groups, include the targeting of immigrants, the expanded use of wiretaps and a broader authority to obtain and use search warrants. RENEW also cited as "appalling" what it considered to be anti-American statements or comments made during the division's October meeting.

Besides items relating to Afghanistan and patriotism, RENEW objected to the Women's Division granting continued official status to a UMW district unit in the California-Nevada Conference that has named itself the "Sophia Circle" and to inviting the Rev. Barbara Lundblad, a Lutheran and professor of preaching at Union Theological Seminary in New York, to speak at the Women's Assembly next April.

In a written response to RENEW, Joyce Sohl, chief executive of the Women's Division, noted that the resolution on terrorist attacks "is in line" with several churchwide statements found in *The 2000 Book of Resolutions*.

Sohl also disputed charges of anti-Americanism and said that prayers for troops, victims, families, governments and leaders were offered at various points during the meeting.

Regarding the Sophia Circle, she said that UMW units are allowed to choose their own names and the variety of program materials that they use.

Sohl defended the choice of Lundblad, who spoke at the Re-imagining conferences, as a Bible study leader at the upcoming Women's As-

sembly and noted that she has been one of the Lutheran preachers on the "Protestant Hour" radio program since 1983.

In their press release, Good News and RENEW said they are taking just the initial steps "in what will be a protracted campaign for renewal and reform within the Women's Division." The call for accountability is necessary, the two organizations say, because of the division's insensitivity "toward conservative theological beliefs and lack of respect for the diversity of social and political positions" among women in the church.

Sohl said the division is accountable to official bodies of the church, including General Conference, in numerous ways. "The issue is that RENEW would like all funding and program to be in line with their theology and world view," she said.

—*United Methodist News Service*,
Dec. 10, 2001

Afghan refugee women struggle to survive

Qamer arrived in Quetta in the fall, a widow and penniless, her four small children in tow. She knew no one in this sprawling border city, so she went to the local mosque and asked for help. The religious leaders there sent her to stay with a family deep in a local neighborhood of featureless mud walls and mud houses, filled with fellow refugees from Afghanistan.

Qamer joined the ranks of the "invisible refugees" who have fled their war-torn homeland but haven't registered with Pakistani or international authorities because they fear they'll be deported back to a land where violence and anarchy still reign.

While she waits on the thin promise of peace for Afghanistan, Qamer is supporting herself and her children by making quilts for other refugees. She's one of more than 400 refugee women in Quetta earning money as part of an innovative program sponsored by Church World Service (CWS), a member of Action by Churches Together (ACT), an international alliance that also includes the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

to next page

The program will produce 25,000 quilts, many sporting colorful designs for children, for distribution to internally displaced families in Afghanistan and refugee families in Pakistan, according to Gulshan Maznani, a CWS emergency coordinator.

The women earn 50 rupees per quilt, about 85 U.S. cents. Each quilt takes a day to make. The women earn more than they could at other jobs, if such jobs were available, and their wages are competitive, at times even higher, than what refugee men can earn in a labor market depressed by too many hands and not enough jobs.

The women's income is more than just a means of survival, however. "By contributing to the family income, the women come to have a greater say in the family decision-making process," said Maznani. "It's much more than quilt-making. It's really about the empowerment of women."

—United Methodist News Service, Dec. 5, 2001

North, South Korean women discuss unification, more

In a historical meeting, women from North and South Korea joined with their U.S. and Canadian sisters to talk about peace and reunification for the Korean peninsula.

The 28 participants at a Sept. 23-29 conference near Toronto included four women from North Korea and seven from South Korea. During their time together, they created a list of 15 recommendations

about proceeding toward reunification, according to Mia Adjali, a United Methodist and chairperson of the Partnership with Korean Women Task Force of Church World Service, U.S. National Council of Churches.

Because women often have been left out of the decision-making around reunification, "we felt we had a unique perspective that needed to be heard," Adjali explained.

The conference was sponsored by the Partnership with Korean Women Task Force and supported by the United Church of Canada.

Participants listened to each other's stories of division and separation, learned about their various roles and resources, reviewed their history as women involved in Korean historical struggles since the 1970s and affirmed the steps being taken toward reunification, she said. The gathering was celebrated with the planting of an oak tree at Victoria University.

Among their recommendations, conference participants:

- Urged continuing support of the steps toward reunification by the U.S., Canadian and other governments.
• Requested that the U.S. government reopen high-level talks with the North Koreans.
• Encouraged the formation of women's solidarity groups, including women inside and outside the church, that are committed to Korean peace and reunification.
• Requested that various ecumenical groups and their member denominations continue to consider Korean reunification as an active priority.
• Expressed profound concern to

the Japanese government for its failure to extend an apology and reparations to Korean women used as sexual slaves or "comfort women" by the Japanese military during World War II.

Other United Methodists participating in the conference through the partnership task force included Peggy Billings, Patricia Patterson and Jungrea Chung.—UMNews, Oct. 4, 2001

Resources

Betrayal of Trust: Confronting and Preventing Clergy Sexual Misconduct, 2nd Ed., Stanley J. Grenz and Roy D. Bell (Baker Books, 2001). This second edition includes a new chapter that offers help for the wandering pastor and a risk-determination questionnaire for pastors who may become abusers. \$13.99.

Healing Violent Men: A Model for Christian Communities, David J. Livingston (Fortress Press, 2001). The author proposes a radical redefinition of reconciliation for the community. \$17.00.

Introducing Feminist Pastoral Care and Counseling, Nancy J. Gorsuch (Pilgrim Press, 2001). Explores the contributions of feminist theology and feminist psychotherapeutic theory in addressing themes that are critical in pastoral care and ministry. Offers practical illustrations of how these might influence pastoral care, counseling, and consultation. \$16.00.

Introductions in Feminist Theology (Pilgrim, 2001). A series of concise volumes offering a synthesis of a specific area, written by some of the most powerful feminist voices today. Mary Gray, Rosemary Ruether, Mercy Amba Oduyoye, and Kwok Pui-lan. \$17.00 each.

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For better health for women and a healthier environment for our children, our newsletter is printed on chlorine-free, acid-free paper.



Ovations

To **Constance Nelson Barnes**, former executive with the General Commission on Religion and Race, who has been named director of the Bethlehem Community Center, Columbia, SC.

To **Garlinda Burton**, editor of *Interpreter* magazine at UM Communications, who has been named to coordinate the Information Team at UMCCom, as director of UM News Service, Publications, and InfoServe.

To **Peg Falls-Corbitt**, a professor of philosophy at Hendrix College, Conway, AR, who has been named director of the Hendrix-Lilly Vocations Initiative, a five-year program titled "Vocation and Integrity: A Call to Wholeness."

To **Lily J. Field**, who has joined the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits as HealthFlex Plan manager.

To **Carol J. Gallagher**, who has become the first indigenous female bishop in the worldwide Anglican communion. The Episcopal Church elected her as bishop of Southern Virginia Oct. 13, 2001.

To **Gretchen Hakola**, former program director of communications at the General

Board of Church and Society, who has been named assistant general secretary of communications and editor of *Christian Social Action* magazine at the agency.

To **Kristin Knudson Harris**, former director of public relations and communication for the Wisconsin Conference, who has been named director of communications for the Iowa Conference.

To **Christie House**, associate editor of *New World Outlook*, who has been named to succeed Alma Graham, who retired as editor in November after more than 10 years. This bimonthly mission magazine is published by the General Board of Global Ministries.

To **Linda McKinsey**, who is the new conference planner at the General Council on Finance and Administration. Her responsibilities will include helping with General Conference details.

To **Kathleen Milburn**, assistant professor of education at United Methodist-related Florida Southern College in Lakeland, who has received the 2001-2002 Exemplary Teacher Award from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

To **Kimberly Pace**, a communications resource consultant at United Methodist Communications since 1998, who has been named chief communications officer at the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville.

To **Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker**, general counsel for the University of Wisconsin System and a noted expert on the law of national security and terrorism, who has been named dean of the United Methodist-related University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, CA.

To **Emily Reece**, who has been named director of Igniting Ministry training at UMCCom.

To **Shirley Struchen**, who became executive director of Religious Communication Congress effective Jan. 1. Struchen is a past president of the organization. Struchen retired from United Methodist Communications at the end of 2001, after serving at the agency since 1981.

To **Rebecca Youngblood**, former member of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women and pastor and former district superintendent in the Mississippi Conference, who has been named director of the Iliff Institute in Denver. ●