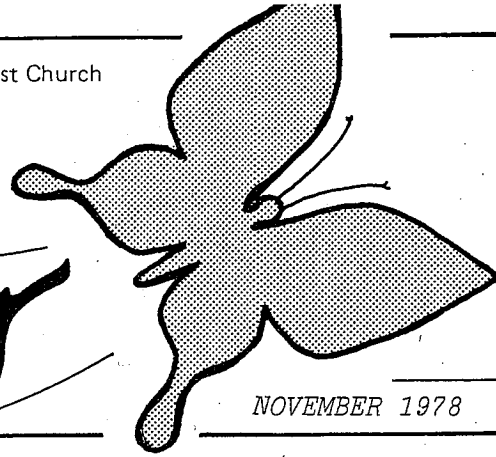


The Flyer

VOLUME I, No. 5

NOVEMBER 1978



Focus on Language

(General Conference has mandated the Commission "to gather data, make recommendations and suggest guidelines for action as appropriate to eradicate discriminatory language and images wherever found in documents, pronouncements, publications, and general resources." To further the accomplishment of that mandate, Linda Vance, a member of the Commission's Biblical and Theological Task Force, proposes some guidelines.)

NAMES AND PRONOUNS IN GOD LANGUAGE: A WORKING GUIDELINE

Language helps shape our perceptions of ourselves and of God. Our language about God informs our view about who God is and how God relates to us. Our theological language about God is a descriptive interpretation of our faith. It is often analogous, symbolical and metaphorical and should not be taken as literal.

Letty Russell cautions us that "God language should not be confused with the reality of God, but should struggle to disclose that reality through careful investigation and interpretation." God's revelation is always the same, but the humanness of our interpretation must be taken as fallible and subject to change.

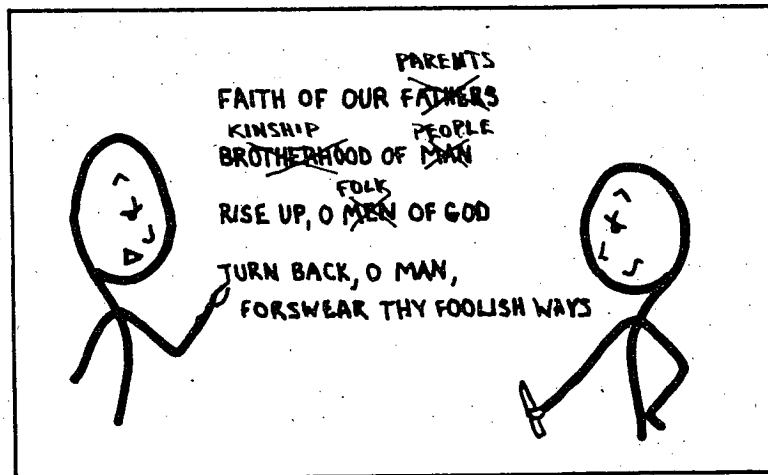
It is our desire to use all of the richness of Biblical and Theological language available to come to an understanding of the wholeness of God. The Biblical God is not limited by gender. God's gracious acts are communicated in the Bible by both masculine and feminine images. It is our task to guard against the idolatry of maleness when speaking of God. That is, we must not construct anthropomorphic images of God: God as the reflection of the patriarch, the male leader.

The following are tentative guidelines concerning names and pronouns in God language which help us to understand God as transcending femaleness or maleness.

(See guidelines and resources on language on SELECTED RESOURCES page)

FROM FLAME CARTOONS
by Joann Haugerud, 1978

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of Coalition on Women and
Religion - 4759 15th Ave.,
N.E. Seattle, WA 98105
(Price: \$2.50)



SHALL WE LET THEM KEEP THIS ONE ?

OPTIONS FOR ACTION

(ALL CSRW CHAIRPERSONS ARE URGED TO SEND MINUTES OF MEETINGS AND OTHER NEWS FOR FLYER)

♀ ♀ *IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL CSRW MEMBERS: United Methodist Communications has produced a very significant television series entitled BEGIN WITH GOODBYE. Several of the segments deal with real life issues which women face. Call your local Public Broadcasting TV station and ask that the series be shown. Decisions on 1979 programming are made in early November. NOW IS THE TIME TO CALL.*

♀ DETROIT -- Concern for singles was a major agenda item at a recent meeting. CSRW is encouraging other conference committees to share this concern.

♀ MINNESOTA -- "Growing in God's Image," a workshop sponsored by CSRW, is scheduled for November 11... Minnesota passed a model dependent care resolution and a "Women in the Pulpit Month" recommendation, and they sent their Bill of Rights for Clergy Spouses (the same as N.W. Texas') to every member of Annual Conference.

♀ NORTHERN INDIANA -- A leadership training event for ethnic minority women in the conference is being planned for 1979. Other plans: Full Personhood Sunday and also a booklet on clergywomen.

♀ NORTH GEORGIA -- Martha King, chairperson, is surveying conference news publications for sexism and racism and has developed a survey instrument for the project.

♀ WISCONSIN -- Eastern District recently held a Saturday liberation workshop for pastors and lay persons. Bishop Jesse DeWitt conducted a 2 1/2 hour workshop on the Biblical/theological authority for women in ministry, and Nan Self of the Commission's Executive-Secretariat presented a 2 1/2 hour workshop on supporting and empowering women in ministry. Sunday, women clergy preached in many of the churches in the district.

NOTE TO CHAIRPERSONS FROM THE BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL TASK FORCE, CSRW:

All Annual Conferences are encouraged to observe "Women in the Pulpit Sunday" in February of 1979. Now is a good time to write to local churches suggesting that they take part. You might include a list of available lay women speakers or women in seminary who could preach or lead worship. You might also provide a listing of non-sexist worship resources. (See SELECTED RESOURCES, current and past issues of *THE FLYER*.) This is an excellent opportunity to raise consciousness and proclaim the faith from a feminist perspective.

Notes from some conferences on WOMEN IN THE PULPIT SUNDAY...

♀ KANSAS EAST -- They call their WOMEN IN THE PULPIT SUNDAY "Women's Recognition Sunday" and are in the process of putting together a packet of non-sexist worship resources to mail to each pastor for use on that Sunday and at other times. (More good news from KANSAS EAST: They were able to find funds for four clergywomen to attend the upcoming consultation in Dallas!)

♀ MAINE -- At the Maine Annual Conference in June 1978, it was voted to have a WOMEN IN THE PULPIT SUNDAY honoring Margaret Henrichsen, minister, author of *SEVEN STEEPLES* and former district superintendent. The Sunday nearest her birthday - November 26, 1978 - was chosen.

♀ SOUTH CAROLINA -- The South Carolina Conference has designated Reformation Sunday as the day to have a woman in every United Methodist pulpit. Reformation Sunday is, Diane Moseley (CSRW Chairperson) notes, "a time for looking backward at the contributions of the early reformers... and also a time to affirm that the winds of the Spirit still blow, reforming and renewing the church."

SELECTED RESOURCES

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND or To Like Ourselves as Women - Carolyn Pitts. Study booklet - Women's Division, BGM, 1975. Order from Service Center - 7820 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45237. (\$1.00)

CANTO AL PUEBLO: An Anthology of Experiences - Includes LISTONES by CSRW's Lydia Saenz. Penca Books, 1978. 1420 W. Commerce - San Antonio 78207. (\$4.95)

DIMENSIONS OF HUNGER II (Packet) - Key new resource, prepared under auspices of Coordinating Committee on Hunger, to help interpret and implement Missional Priority. Service Center, address above. (\$2.35)

e/sa Forum-37 engage/social action Special issue on women and the National Plan of Action. e/sa - 100 Maryland Ave. N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002. Order No. E2037 (40¢ ea., 10-99 copies)

PREPARING WOMEN FOR MINISTRY - Fall 1978 issue of Women's Caucus-Religious Studies Newsletter (quarterly). Marcia Bastian - 3492 Avocado, Riverside, CA 92507. Individual subscriptions, \$5 yr.

WORLD OUTLOOK "Woman's Progress Number" Special Re-issue, November 1916 - Articles on women in work around the world. Order from Service Center, address already listed. (\$1.00)

Some gift-shopping places...

1) CHRISTINE ENGLA EBER - 171 W. Delavan Buffalo 14213: In Praise of Women in the Arts (note card series) \$4.00 packet, includes 12 pg. biographical supplement. (Single card, 40¢)

2) HELAINE VICTORIA ENTERPRISES - Shapers of Women's History. Books, stamps, notecards. Send for catalog - P.O. Box 1779, Martinsville, Ind. 46151.

SOME RESOURCES ON LANGUAGE

GOWAC RESOURCE KIT, 1976 - Council on Women and the Church - The Program Agency, United Methodist Church - 475 Riverside Dr., NY 10027. (\$15)

LET ALL THE PEOPLE PRAISE THEE: Components for Inclusive Worship - CSRW, No. NJ Conf. Linda Vance, Editor. (Will be available to Regional Training Events participants.) Others can send \$1.00 for postage to Fran Noll, 219 Hardwick St., Belvidere, NJ 07823.

WORDS AND WOMEN - New Language in New Times - Casey Miller/Kate Swift 1977. Includes chapter on language of religion. Doubleday Anchor (\$2.50)

THE VISION (A film) - New, two-minute animated film by Sharon and Tom Neuffer Emswiler, dealing with religion and sexism, including sexist language. Rental \$10, Sale \$80. Mass Media Ministries - 2116 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Md. 21218. (Mass Media Ministries also has earlier Neuffer Emswiler film on sexist language in the church: INCLUDED OUT)

Names and Pronouns in God Language: A Working Guideline

(Continued from front page)

1) Use "God the Father" only when that is exactly what you mean. Do not use it unless it makes a theological point. It is not necessary to speak of God the Father when you are not emphasizing the trinitarian aspect of God, or the way Jesus addressed and talked about God as represented in the Gospels. For example, instead of saying, "Thank you Father for the beauty of the earth," say, "Thank you God for the beauty of the earth."

2) Use a rich variety of Biblical references to God which do not imply gender whenever possible, such as Sustainer, Redeemer, Spirit, Maker, Creator, Defender, Source of Life, Our Rock, Our Refuge, Almighty, Most High, My Help and My God.

3) At times use the feminine simile when referring to God in prayers to complement the use of masculine simile which

now characterizes our language in written prayers. God transcends both male and female: "O God, who loves us as a mother loves her children..."

4) Alternatively, the use of third person pronouns for God can be avoided by using "God," or direct address. Instead of God is merciful; He is powerful -- God is merciful, God is powerful or God, Thou art merciful and powerful.

5) The use of feminine pronouns exclusively when referring to the Church or Israel reflects the assumption that the feminine is subordinate to the masculine. That imagery arose out of a dominant/subordinate, male/female societal relationship. These relationships are changing, thus calling into question such language usage. The concept of the subordination of Israel or the Church to God may be explicated in other ways. ■

MORE OCCASIONS...

Asian American Convocation Workshops Set

With ASSESS OUR PAST -- CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE -- ENVISION OUR FUTURE as its theme, the National Convocation of Asian American United Methodist Churches, co-sponsored by CSRW, convenes in San Francisco at Glide Memorial Church December 6.

On the program, in addition to plenary sessions, worship and Bible study time, are 22 workshops, including one on Asian

Women's Needs and Concerns and another on Some Alternatives of the Role of Men and Women in Society. Other workshops center around family, career and community service issues, as well as the issue of racism in the church.

According to the coordinator, Jonah Chang, hotel reservations must be made immediately by those planning to attend.

(Contact person for additional information: Rev. Jonah Chang - (415) 776-7747.)

COMMISSION TALENT SCOUT

TO APPLICANTS AND EMPLOYERS: To inquire about openings, applicants should write directly to the employer listed, not to the Commission. Employers submitting listings are asked to send information --including application deadline and salary range by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

1. ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY, DIVISION OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION (UMC): Serves as office manager for UMC in Nashville, supervises directors of audiovisual distribution, audiovisual media, central mailing, INFOSERV, technical services. Apply by Nov. 17 - Curtis Chambers, United Methodist Communications, 601 W. Riverview - Dayton, OH 45406

FOR THE FOLLOWING OPENINGS AT UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS, Apply to Dr. Readus J. Watkins 1200 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201 IMMEDIATELY

2. EDITOR OF PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS, DIV. OF PROGRAM AND BENEVOLENCE INTERPRETATION, UMC Editorial responsibility for designated funds and projects; associate editor of INTERPRETER. Salary range \$16,520 - \$23,128

3. DIRECTOR OF PRINT PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION, DIV. OF PROGRAM AND BENEVOLENCE INTERPRETATION, UMC: Requires basic knowledge of print production, purchasing, distribution, direct mail marketing and circulation. Salary range: \$16,520 - \$23,128

4. FIELD STAFF CONSULTANT, SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION, DIV. OF PROGRAM AND BENEVOLENCE INTERPRETATION, UMC: To interpret to the local church the general benevolences, especially World Service, as well as other UMC missional programs. Position located in SE Jurisdiction. Salary range: \$15,908 - \$22,272

5. MANAGING EDITOR - THE UPPER ROOM Supervises the day-to-day work flow of editorial and production functions and manages preparation of copy and production of THE UPPER ROOM devotional guide. Requires extensive editorial experience. Apply now to Judith L. Weidman, BHEM - P.O. Box 871, Nashville, TN 37202

6. DIRECTOR OF FIELD EDUCATION - Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary: Apply IMMEDIATELY to Office of the President, 2121 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, IL 60201

7. OFFICE MANAGER, Midwest Women's Center Skilled typist and administrative assistant, willing to work some evenings. \$8500 annum. Rebecca Sive-Tomashefsky at the center, 53 W. Jackson, Chicago 60604 is the contact person.

8. ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, PUBLIC MEDIA DIVISION - United Methodist Communications Assignments to develop, manage, produce, market and/or promote radio-TV series, spot campaigns, educational resources. Apply IMMEDIATELY to Jeff Weber - UMC, 475 Riverside Dr., NY 10027.

NOVEMBER 10TH IS THE COPY DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER-JANUARY ISSUE OF FLYER

SOME JOB RELATED RESOURCES...

WOMEN'S WORK IS... RESOURCES ON WORKING WOMEN Edited by Bobbi Wells Hargleroad; Jean Cramer-Heuerman and Linda A. Hall, associate editors. An exploration of the status of women's work and women workers, including record of church on issue of women's economic justice. Institute on the Church in Urban-Industrial Society - 5700 S. Woodlawn, Chicago, IL 60637. Single copy, \$3. Discount of 10% on 20 or more copies.

NEW WAYS TO WORK -- Publications List Eleven titles, including job-sharing, affirmative action; none over \$4. List available from Women's Educational Equity Communications Network, 1855 Folsom St., San Francisco, CA 94103. (WEECN) No charge to join network.

OCCASIONS . . .

Ethnic Women Meet Around Public Policy

The National Inter-Ethnic Women's Convocation, sponsored by the Ethnic Minority Local Church Task Force and held in Washington, D.C. from September 28-October 1, attracted approximately 40 United Methodist ethnic women from around the country and provided them with an opportunity to meet with their senators and congresspersons and to participate in workshops on public policy issues.

Kiyoko Fujiu of CSRW's Executive-Secretariat served as one of the resource persons for the convocation. Her topic was "THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO THE CONCERNS OF ETHNIC WOMEN." Other resource persons, some from public policy offices and others from the church, dealt with issues such as national health insurance, the ERA and its impact upon minority women, bilingual education programs, under-utilization of minority women in the labor force and developing community shelters for battered women.

Manuel C. Espartero of the Board of Church and Society staff coordinated the convocation. The workshop design, which was formulated by Christel Bungie, provided for participant involvement as recorders and reporters and as worship leaders. Angelin Jones-Wallace, a Black American clergywoman from Johns Island, South Carolina, led the closing worship.

CONSULTATION DEADLINE HERE

Clergymen who have not received registration materials for the consultation in Dallas January 2-5 should phone the Commission office immediately as the deadline to register is November 1. Anticipated Super Bowl traffic makes it imperative for consultation participants to book travel reservations without delay.

NOMINEES WANTED: *The Family Ministry Staff Committee, Board of Discipleship will host a consultation for ethnic minority persons on the topic of families. Nominations for representatives to attend the event in Nashville in January should be sent now to Lina McCord and Felix Morales - Board of Discipleship P.O. Box 840, Nashville, TN 37202.*

(See MORE OCCASIONS on next page)

An Affirmation

CREDAL STATEMENT

We are unique human beings linked with all of creation and gathered from diverse places
to share a ministry faithfully,
to raise questions hopefully,
to work for justice lovingly.

In whom and in what do we believe?

We believe in God, eternal yet ever-moving One,
who creates and is creating,
who keeps covenant with humankind,
who sets before us the ways of life and of death.

We believe in Jesus, the Servant-Advocate,
who lived the way of dying/rising,
who embodied justice and reconciliation,
who, with authority, calls us to share this way and this embodying.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, sustaining Presence and transforming Power,
who dwells among us in clarity and in mystery,
who inspires us individually and corporately,
who challenges, prods, emboldens.

We believe in the Church, community of faith and caring, covenant and promise,
which nurtures our pilgrimage, and through which we are called to be witnesses to God's truth, love, and justice.

We believe our believing affects our daily walking and talking,
our doubting and struggling,
our decisions and choice-making,
our responses to persons and systems.

We intend in this community in these days
to raise questions hopefully,
to work for justice lovingly,
to share a ministry faithfully,
and, by God's grace, passionately!

--Written by the Rev. Barbara Troxell

(Adopted September 23, 1978 as the Commission's official credal affirmation.)

♀ VATIONS

To *KATHLEEN FARMER*, named assistant professor at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, and *ROSEMARY SKINNER KELLER*, named assistant professor at Garrett-Evangelical in Evanston. Their appointments were enabled by Ministerial Education Funds (MEF)... To *SHARON MIELKE*, senior reporter of *UNITED METHODIST REPORTER*, who has won two Arthur West Awards for the second year. In 1977 she took second place in both feature writing and news reporting; in 1978 she has placed first in feature writing and second in news reporting.

To *WILMA JOAN ROBERTS*, member of the No. Illinois program staff since 1973, who has been appointed National Coordinator for Lay Training of the Methodist Church in Brazil. She was chosen at the 1978 General Conference meeting at Sao Paulo in July and has just been commissioned as a missionary by BGM... To *ELISE MATHENY SHOEMAKER*, director of music ministry and organist at First United Methodist Church in Conway, Arkansas, who has been named to the staff of the Board of Discipleship as director of worship and culture... And to *THE REV. JUDY WEIDMAN*, promoted from Assistant to Associate General Secretary of Interpretation of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and newly-elected associate general secretary, *ROSALIE BENTZINGER*, who will head the Division of Diaconal Ministry in the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

♀ ON THE CALENDAR

October 10-13 WOMEN AND MEN IN DIALOGUE
Kirkridge - Bangor, PA (CSRW/sponsored)
CANCELLED; INADEQUATE REGISTRATION ■

November 17-19 CSRW STEERING COMMITTEE
Yahara Center - Madison, WI ■

November 17-19 CREATIVE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT - Grailville
Conflict as a communicative process; replacing manipulation with honest negotiating. Room, meals and program - \$55. Fri. 6 p.m. - Sun. 2 p.m. \$15 deposit to The Grail, c/o Elizabeth McGee - Loveland, OH 45140

December 6-12 NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF ASIAN AMERICAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES-
(See *OCCASIONS*, this issue) ■

January 2-5 SECOND NATIONAL CONSULTATION OF UNITED METHODIST CLERGYWOMEN (Dallas)
Co-Sponsors: Div. of Ordained Ministry, BHEM and CSRW ■

January/February REGIONAL TRAINING EVENTS
Nashville 1/19-1/21; Denver - 2/2-2/4
Washington, D.C. 2/16-2/18 Co-sponsored by UMW and CSRW ■

January 10-13 NATIONAL MEETING OF WOMEN FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - Cincinnati
Sponsored by UCC. Tuition \$30, hotel costs vary. Ginger Long, Registrar - 2719 Marshall Ct., Madison, WI 53705

January 16-18 FEMINISM AND RACISM - EXECUTIVE STAFF CONFERENCE - Malvern, PA
For women in executive positions in the church. Sponsored by Church Women United. Details, including cost, from Gail Hinand, CWU, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 10027

■ = COMMISSION-RELATED EVENTS

THE FLYER, named after the Commission's butterfly symbol, is published nine times a year as a communications link with A/C Commissions. *JOAN McCLURE HAMM, Ed.*



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