



CONNECTIONS

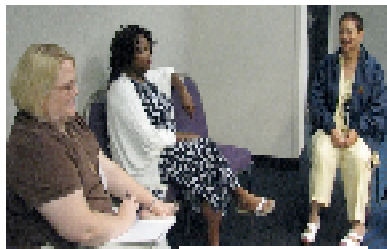
The Newsletter of the National Association of Presbyterian Clergywomen

Fall



Beth Garrod-Logsdon
Karen Brown
Arlene Gordon

New Co Moderators
Rebecca Tollefson and Rebecca Harrison –
Elected at the NAPC meeting
July 12, 2009 at Louisville,
Ky. Notice their cross staffs.



PW Logo

Kathy Keener Hahn
Karen Cobb
Beth Garrod-Logsdon



Tee Shirts
with the stories of women
& children survivors &
victims of violence



Contrasting Tees—the larger one is the rapist the smaller one the child who was raped and killed. This was a humbling display.



NAPC Steering Committee ready to process L-R
Kathy Keener Hahn, Karen Cobb, Susan W. Hartley,
Sharon Deatz, Barbara Rolph, Connie Lee, Beth
Garrod Logsdon, Rebecca Tollefson, Yeager
Sharon's service dog.



Prayer Shawl in the Spirituality Room



NAPC Business Meeting, Kathy Keener Hahn, Peggy
Howland, unknown name (St. Louis, MO)

From the Steering Committee—Co Moderator



The National Association of Presbyterian Clergywomen (NAPC) had the privilege of partnering with the PW Churchwide Coordinating Team for the July, 2009 Churchwide Gathering. Three of us were given the opportunity to work on teams. The Rev. Rebecca Harrison, NAPC Co-Moderator, served on the Plenary Team. That's the team responsible for each plenary – keynote speakers, skits, bible study – everything on the big stage! Rebecca took on the duty of music. The Rev. Karen Cobb joined me on the Education Team. Karen was responsible for tours to the Presbyterian Center. I was responsible for the Spirituality Center.

We were absolutely delighted to live this partnership for the past three years. As clergywomen, we are aware that often the scenario that is played out is clergywomen vs. women in the pew. We want to lessen that dynamic. We encourage clergywomen to be involved in their local PW gatherings.



NAPC provided a booth in the Great Room as well as a hospitality room. We held our business meeting on Sunday afternoon.

NAPC was formed in 1986 and every three years a Triennium is held. We are a very small organization in comparison to the numbers of women as Ministers of the Word and Sacrament in the PC(U.S.A.).

As co-moderators, we commented that “there is great hope to reach out to the numerous clergywomen across the country, who have yet to be connected with NAPC, to strengthen relationships with racial ethnic clergywomen and to become more effective in reaching out to seminarians. We feel honored to have participated and help plan this Gathering. We hope to build on that, so events like this will connect ‘women in the pew’ and clergywomen to build stronger communication and respect.”

Submitted by Rev. Rebecca Tollefson, Co-Moderator, NAPC



Sharon Deatz of Louisville, KY has been appointed by NAPC to be the Scholarship Coordinator and a member of the steering committee. Sharon has served churches in KY, IN, NJ as well as a Pastoral Counselor. She has been a leader and facilitator of workshops and seminars on disability and the church.



Georgia Ann Snell has lived nearly 20 years at Nantucket Island, NY. She is Chaplain at a local nursing home and is active in the community. She has been Associate Pastor at First Congregational Church for over 12 years. She was former newsletter editor for NAPC and has been appointed as NAPC Historian.



A new leadership team, elected on July 12th, is in place. Front row: Molly Casteel (Vice Moderator), Beth Garrod-Logsdon (Membership), Elizabeth Coleman (Pastoral Care), Barbara Price Rolph (Newsletter). Back row: Erica Harley (PCUSA Liaison), Rebecca Harrison (Co-Moderator), Peggy Cross (Treasurer), Susan Hartley (Secretary), Sharon Yunker Deatz (Scholarship Coordinator), Rebecca Tollefson (Co-Moderator).

Not pictured: Arlene Gordon (Seminary Liaison), Carmen Rosario (National Conference Coordinator for 2012, and Georgia Ann Snell (Web and Historian).

NAPC Steering Committee 2009-2012

Co—Moderators:

Rebecca Tollefson: rtollefson@ohcouncilchs.org
Rebecca F. Harrison: rebecca.harrison51@yahoo.com

Vice Moderator:

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Peggy Cross: peggyc53@att.net

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Carmen M. Rosario: Crosario_reyes@msn.com

Newsletter Editor

Barbara Price Rolph: beproalph@msn.com

VISION STATEMENT:

Believing in the God who cannot be contained, we seek to affirm, nurture and sustain all Presbyterian clergy-women.

Thank you to Bill Lynn, deacon at First Presbyterian Church of Crown Point, IN. where Kathy Keener-Han is interim pastor. He hand carved crosses from old church pews for NAPC members to wear at The Gathering.



Prayer Concerns & Updates

Pam McCalla - as family endures the next trial Dec. 7th—regarding her husband’s murder. One trial and conviction has taken place.

Susan Wesley Hartley—dealing with a new diagnosis of diabetes.

TOTE BAGS MORE THAN A PURSE

We women love tote bags and the Gathering was no exception. Each attendee received a tote to carry the gazillion handouts available. The tote bags were made in Huaikrai, Thailand by the Women's Handiwork Project. This program is found near the Burma border where unemployment is high. It takes seven days to complete the cross stitching on one bag and 10 days to complete an entire bag. More than 100 Thai women worked on the 3,000 bags assembled for the Gathering. Behind this project is the Rev. Dr. Sirirat Pusurinkham.

In addition to the women's project, Rev. Pusurinkham has founded two orphanages one for boys and one for girls. These children are orphaned from AIDS. By providing the children a home and education they are better equipped to find employment and avoid prostitution.

Sirirat did her doctoral dissertation on "Child Prostitution in Thailand." Over 800,000 children are sold or kidnapped into prostitution—sex tourism is very high in Thailand.

The Presbyterian Women have supported both the women's project and orphanage through money, prayer and mission trips.

This woman has a dynamic ministry and she can be reached at: rev_sirirat@yahoo.com



NAPC Editor Barbara Price Rolph with Dr. Rev. Sirirat Pusurinkham

NAPC Meeting Highlights

Attending the NAPC meeting were 33 members, 10 new members and 11 observers. Changes were made to the by laws and the new vision statement was approved. Membership divided into discussion groups to cover topics of: Advocate interests, Seminary liaison, Racial Ethnic inclusion, and clergy-women and others in ministry.

It was pointed out that Asian ethnic clergy women have a very difficult time finding a call in a parish. One Asian woman was called to a church then half of the congregation left.

Brain storming occurred on how to support and communicate with NAPC members: web page, face book, twitter, newsletter were among a few of the things mentioned.

Requests were voiced on including international co workers, as well as specialized ministries.

Quite a bit of discussion surrounded the inclusion of CLP—Commissioned Lay Pastors. Membership in NAPC is open to CLP's, and they may have voice but no vote. (More will appear on this at a later time.)

60 Years of Ministry

Congratulations to Roberta Croker of Martins Ferry OH who celebrates her 60th year of ordination. She began her ministry in the United Church of Christ then later became Presbyterian.

Due to space limitations, the editor abbreviated this article from the July Presbyterian News Service

FUTURE FIGURING by Bethany Furkin—Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE - The July meeting of the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns was a busy one. A presentation came on July 18, the end of the three-day meeting. ACWC answered 15 questions put forth by the review team, presenting the answers to representatives from the team.

The questions largely focused on the role of advisory and advocacy committees. They were also put to the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns and the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy.

The questions are a way to look at how the three committees relate to each other, said ACWC member Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, who prepared a report on the review team for ACWC.

An advisory committee "is formed for the purpose of providing advice, recommendations, resources, information, or counsel to its parent body."

The questions touched on topics like whether ACWC considers itself at parity with other permanent GA committees, how it envisions nurturing its relationship with the General Assembly Mission Council and vice versa and how its work is changing.

In answering the questions, ACWC members discussed why there is a need for women's advocacy in the church. Many people think the world is now post-sexist, said ACSWP liaison Gloria Albrecht.

ACWC co-chair Bill Gray said that there are plenty of data to show otherwise, naming pay gaps, domestic violence and health care inequalities as examples.

Disparities are also seen within the church, said Erica Harley, liaison from the National Association of Presbyterian Clergywomen. Women are more likely to be part-time pastors, she said.

Hinson-Hasty said that ACWC's role is not only to highlight women's concerns, but to use methodology to see how the system plays a role in inequality. Just because the executive director of the GAMC is a woman does not mean the church is without problems, she said.

Doing away with labels is also necessary, said member N'Yisrela Watts-Afriyie. Sometimes, people focus on gender issues and ignore other aspects of a person, such as race and class, she said, adding that better collaboration is needed and that vision must be translated into action.

One important task for ACWC - and ACSWP and ACREC - is to identify why it is needed, said ACWC member Jan Martin. ACWC must define how its role is different than women's offices within the GAMC, she said.

Looking to the future

On the final day of their meeting, ACWC members met with Curtis Kearns, executive administrator of the GAMC. The discussion centered on the job description for ACWC staff.

ACWC does not develop programs, said member Terry Alexander. It monitors the work of the General Assembly. ... "We want to be seen as partners," Alexander said.

When hiring the full-time staff person for the committees, there needs to be a clear job description, Kearns said, adding that this involves creating a new job description, not merely modifying the existing one.

Once the primary responsibilities of ACWC are defined, a job description to support those responsibilities can be developed, he said ...

From The Women's Pulpit July-September 2009 issue International Assoc. of Women Ministers

Korea Sojourners Online reports that of the ten largest Christian congregations in the world, five are in Korea and that one, the Yoido Full Gospel Church, claims 830,000 members and continues to grow by 3,000 members each month. Asked for his secret, the pastor, Dr. Cho, says, "Release your women!" He reports he was initially unsure whether gifted women teachers should have access to the pulpit because of cultural, rather than biblical, concerns. But, encouraged by a western colleague, he opened positions as ministers and cell group leaders to them. Now, whenever asked the secret of his success, he repeats, "Release your women!"

Also in The Woman's Pulpit,

RCWP Ordinations Five services of ordination for new priests and deacons in the Roman Catholic Women Priest (RCWP) movement were celebrated in April and May. Locations were Philadelphia, PA, South Haven, MN, St. Louis, MO, Los Gatos, CA, Newberg, OR. Two more rites of ordination were planned by year's end. For more news about RCWP go to the web site: romancatholicwomenpriest.org.

Also from The Woman's Pulpit

The Rev. Dr. Ofelia Ortega Suarez was honored by Women in Supportive Action AC(EMAS) and the Christian Institute of Gender of Cuba by a series of lectures held at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba.

The Reformed Presbyterian clergywoman currently serves as a professor at the seminary, president of the World Council of Churches for Latin America, vice chairperson of the Reformed Alliance, and director of the Christian Institute of Gender Studies in Cuba and IAWM's Cuba region.

Web site: www.womenministers.org



WEB SITES TO VISIT

www.kiva.org—gifts ideas to help women
www.ghostranch.org—Click on "Join E-News"
www.pcusa.org/pwgathering/2009/photos/photoslides.htm
www.pres-outlook.com—good articles
CBEinternational.org—Christians for Biblical Equality



IMA World Health had their booth next to NAPC in the Great Room. Above is a medicine box that is sent to clinics in the mission field. This one is a \$500 box. They are located in New Windsor MD. For more information go to www.imaworldhealth.org

From the Presbyterian Outlook:

Are your church's elders and deacons dangerous for God?

"Last summer we published the first ever, "Dangerous Elders, Dynamic Deacons" issue of *The Presbyterian Outlook*. Nearly 10,000 additional elders and deacons received copies so they could become dangerous for the Lord. Now we have published a new edition: "Elders and Deacons: STILL Dangerous." It offers lots of articles, each followed with discussion questions for your church officers to equip one another for dynamic, dangerous ministry.

You are the link to help them get so equipped. You can give them gift copies of the special "Elders & Deacons - Still Dangerous" edition of the *Outlook* at a quantity discount - while supplies last. God has gifted them for ministry. Now it's your chance to gift them for greater effectiveness. Yes, greater dangerousness!!!" www.pres-outlook.com for ordering

From the editor,

I do not handle change very well. Someone gave me a copy of Microsoft Publisher to use for the newsletter. It has been a nightmare— and I'm not sure the results are worth the grief it has caused me for too many days. That said, what has kept me going were the reports on *The Gathering*. It was a wonderful experience for me. I renewed old acquaintances and while walking the prayer labyrinth I reflected on how the women I reconnected with had each played a part in my life's journey.

NAPC too has been a part of my journey—now as we go forward with new leadership, may it be a part of your journey too.

Feel free to send me requests, submissions, comments to: beprolph@msn.com Barbara Price Rolph



These are the women who served as Chaplains for the Gathering. Sharon Yunker Deatz coordinated the team. Unfortunately your editor filed the accompanying article somewhere in her computer and can't find it. Perhaps by next issue—the lost will be found.

Resources from the Gathering

“Hearing and Singing New Songs to God” Report of the Women of Color Consultation Task Force to the 218th GA 2008

“The Womanist Theology Primer Remembering What we Never Knew: The Epistemology of Womanist Theology” by Katie G. Cannon Available -Women’s Ministries Program

“Repairers of the Breach” by Margaret P. Aymer Oget—Five Bible studies on Social Justice Issues in New Orleans in the Wake of Hurricane Katria. Available through PHEWA—Jan.11-14,2007

The disaster recovery ministry of the Presbytery of South Louisiana in partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. info@PSLRecovery.org

DVD Hurricane Ike—the Forgotten Storm two minute Mission spot—contact PDA

SEMINARY NEWS—pcusa.org

Columbia—five spirituality courses are offered this fall, fourteen years after the certificate of Christian Spirituality program was started.

McCormick—announces two new degrees starting in 2010. MA in Urban Ministry and MA in Discipleship Development.

Princeton—announces the appointment of Heidi Gehman as director of academic administration—a new position.

San Anselmo—is the first seminary to produce a substantial carbon footprint report.

Dubuque—announces Elmer Colyer as the recipient of the 2009 distinguished Alumni Award.

Pittsburg—kicked off its “Pneuma” spiritual direction and leadership certificate program.

Union—Richmond—will hold a conference to explore the question, “How is the science of human evolution related to the theological understanding of human uniqueness?”

Austin—Welcomes 50 students to the 108th academic year.

Louisville—President Dean K. Thompson to retire 2010, a new president search committee has been formed.



Puah’s Midwife Crisis—is the story of two midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, who lived just before the birth of Moses. a musical presented for the Gathering. For more information about the show and production rights go to: www.puahthemusical.org

CONNECTIONS

Rev. Janet Macgregor-Williams
West Milford Presbyterian Church
West Milford, New Jersey 07480

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Future Issues:

Watch for “Chaplain’s Corner
More - Mission resources from the Gathering
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
January 8, 2010—Winter issue
March 5, 2010—Spring issue
World Day of prayer
June 7, 2010—Summer issue
September 10, 2010—Fall Issue