

# The Woman's Pulpit

July-  
September  
2021

NEWS ABOUT ORDAINED AND LAYWOMEN IN MINISTRY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

## Holy Solidarity: Join IAWM Virtual Assembly July 30-31

“Holy Solidarity: Embracing Racial Justice as Women in Ministry” will gather women from all over the world to explore how racism has affected our ministries.

The International Association of Women Ministers' Assembly will be on the Zoom platform July 30-31, 2021. You may register at [Ticketspice at https://IAWM.ticketspice.com/IAWM-virtual-assembly](https://IAWM.ticketspice.com/IAWM-virtual-assembly). The Ticketspice link should also be live from our web site, [www.womenministers.org](http://www.womenministers.org), or you can email Carol Brown, treasurer. [csbrown550@hotmail.com](mailto:csbrown550@hotmail.com) There is no registration fee, though contributions are welcome.

The **Rev. Dr. Traci Blackmon**, associate general minister for justice and local church ministries in the United Church of Christ, will be the keynote speaker Friday evening, July 30. Rev. Blackmon is a featured voice on many-local, national and international platforms, since her time as a pastor in Ferguson, Missouri, after the killing of Michael Brown.

Saturday will feature seven speakers, with time for discussion after each, and a midday small group option for connecting with each other. The speakers are:

**Nora Carmi**, a Jerusalem-based scholar bringing the Palestinian perspective; **Phyllis Byrd**, a Disciples of Christ/United Church of Christ global ministries partner working in Nairobi, Kenya.

**Dora Arce-Valentin**, moderator of the Reformed and Presbyterian Church in Cuba; **Eliad Dias dos Santos**, theologian and pastor from Sao Paulo, Brazil. **Lori Ransom**, former executive director of KAIROS and Canadian scholar of indigenous peoples and settler colonialism; **Linda E. Thomas**, womanist theologian and professor at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Chicago.

**Monica Jyostna Melanchthon**, a scholar from India who is currently associate professor at Pilgrim Theological College, University of Divinity, in Australia, bringing her perspective on racism and caste.

The sessions will not be simultaneous, so registrants may attend all of them, or fewer, as time permits and time zones allow. A detailed schedule will be sent to registrants.

“We are excited to have powerful women scholars from these diverse perspectives, and are looking forward to the discussion and interaction they will elicit,” said Vimary Couvertier-Cruz and Marian Shearer, co-chairs of Assembly planning.

Friday evening will also feature opening worship, with IAWM president Dorcas Gordon preaching; a business meeting with elections; and a social time on line.

Members and non-members are invited to attend; invite your friends!

A brochure with details, schedules and biographies of the speakers will be emailed shortly; log-in codes will be emailed to participants just before the assembly.

“We chose the theme of Holy Solidarity because we recognized that racism and sexism, and their expressions of colonial settlerism and caste, are all related,” said Shearer and Couvertier-Cruz. “And that as IAWM we have members on every continent and resources worldwide to hold this event. And having it on line means everyone can come; no travel, no housing, no scholarships needed. No limits.”

### Meet in Germany in 2022

IAWM will meet in Germany August 26-28, 2022, ahead of the World Council of Churches meeting in Karlsruhe. European scholar Prof. Andrea Bieler of the University of Basel will be our keynoter and guest.

Accommodations at the Bethania Bibelhaus outside Karlsruhe will be available during the WCC meeting too.

## The Woman's Pulpit Marks 100 Years Reporting about Ordination of Women

In 2019 IAWM met in Assembly to celebrate 100 years of existence. At the end of summer in 2021 (September 15-16) we remember the second IAWM Assembly which met in Chicago because the Rev. Dr. M. Madeline Southard, its president, wrote a report of its events titled *The Woman's Pulpit*, and that single issue initiated what became an annual six-issue publication connecting members of IAWM around the world.

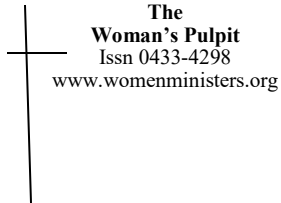
During all the years of her presidency (1921-28 and 1933-39, with an interim absence traveling in the Philippines and India) Southard also edited TWP. Mary Lyons stood in for her in her absence and five other women have held that office since. In 1970-71 a number of women put issues together while the Executive Board searched for someone to fill the office.

Right after the Revs. Mary Ellen Larue and Lenore Harris Hughes were appointed editors in 1964, important changes regarding ordination of women started happening in North America and Europe. In Sweden and Germany, in controversial decisions, Lutherans agreed to

ordain women and in the U.S. Methodists in both north and south offered women full ordination status. The Presbyterian Church of the USA ordained women in 1956, and the PCUS ordained women in 1964. On both continents, women's ordination, a controversy that had long simmered beneath the surface, broke out and became widely debated.

Mary Ellen and Lenore redesigned *The Woman's Pulpit* to give it a modern look, reduced the number of issues to four a year and focused closely on the developing ordination controversies. These changes in format and focus became controversial within IAWM.

*(Continued on p. 2)*



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# First Black Woman Called As President-Dean of Gammon Seminary

On April 1 Dr. Candace M. Lewis began her tenure as President-Dean of Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. She is also the first female denominational dean in the ITC consortium, ushering in a new chapter at Gammon and for the ITC community.

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Gammon and Resident Bishop of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, announced her appointment.

"The Board of Trustees is committed to Gammon and its continuing witness. We pledge our support to Dr. Lewis and offer a spirit of collegiality as together we embrace the present and the future at 'the School of the Prophets,'" said Dr. Mackie H. Norris, chair of the Search Committee.

In her new role Dr. Lewis also becomes the first female denominational dean in the ITC consortium, ushering in a new chapter at Gammon and for the ITC community

Dr. Lewis is an ordained elder in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. From 1997 to 2009, she was the founding pastor of the New Life Community UMC, Jacksonville, Florida. Next she was appointed as the Associate General Secretary in the New Church Starts Division and later as the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tennessee.

She served as District Superintendent for four years in the Florida Conference.

She is a graduate of the University of Florida and Gammon Theological Seminary where she received her M.Div. degree in May 1996. In June 2000 she graduated from the Harvard Divinity School's Summer Leadership School on Faith-Based Community Economic Development. She earned a Doctorate in Ministry in Church Leadership Excellence from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. in May, 2004.

Accepting her appointment, Lewis said, "I am ready to begin my tenure as the 17th president and dean of my alma mater, Gammon Theological Seminary. God has entrusted me with innovative, visionary strategic leadership at this important time. I look forward to leading and partnering with Gammon's current and future students, staff and board of trustees while creating new collaborative partnerships. Together we will lead Gammon into a prosperous future."

## Woman's Pulpit Is 100

*(Continued from page 1)*

Disappointed, Mary Ellen resigned. Lenore assisted a variety of one-issue editors over two years.

At this point I intrude myself, LaVonne Althouse, as editor. In July, 1971, having both been approved for ordination in the Lutheran Church in America and awaiting a call, I attended the IAWM Assembly held in Canada that July and in October received a telephone call from a member of IAWM's Executive Board inviting me to edit this quarterly. I accepted.

This issue is the third in the 50th annual volume I have edited. It has been a fantastic joy and delight to be entrusted to do this job for half a century.

I give thanks to God and to all the Assemblies that have entrusted me with this assignment over half a century.

I am on the brink of resigning, however. We have found an enthusiastic and highly competent replacement in Marian Shearer. She and I will work together until she has few enough jobs with IAWM to take on the work of editing. Please give her the loyal trust you have given me.—L. A.

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# Dismantling Racism by Examining One's Own Privilege First

The U.S. town is Alcoa, Tennessee. The work is hard. Sometimes it leads to confession and tears.

Every Monday afternoon Bishop Dindy Taylor and her top leaders meet to work on a sometimes emotional self-examination process they hope will lead to permanent change for United Methodists throughout Holston Conference.

Since October 2020 the Extended Cabinet has committed to reading books on racism and then meeting by zoom to learn more about white privilege and how to dismantle systems that still bind people of color.

Leading the cabinet through the process is the Rev. Leah Burns, an educator on Racism and pastor of Lennox-Seney United Methodist Church in Knoxville.

"We make this time a very sacred and confidential place," Burns said of the Monday afternoon meetings, "with the goal that the cabinet will take the lead on dismantling racism in their districts and throughout the conference."

The cabinet's commitment to personally tackle their individual racism before expanding the effort into Holston comes from a denomination-wide campaign announced in June 2020.

The program, "Dismantling Racism: Pressing on to Freedom," is a multi-agency effort that includes the Commission on Race and Religion, the Council of Bishops, United Methodist Women, Discipleship Ministries, the Board of Church and Society and United Methodist Communications.

## Project Proposed

At the virtual Holston Annual Conference on July 27, Bishop Taylor spoke of the brutal, public death of George Floyd and expressed her own desire "to do more. I want you to do more to make justice and righteousness a reality for all God's children in every way."

Haunted by a visit to a memorial to enslaved Black people, the Rev. Mike Sluder saw an opportunity to help make a difference in Holston. He followed up Taylor's comments at Annual Conference by introducing Burns and a commitment for the cabinet to begin educating themselves about racism.

"We really thought it needed to start at the cabinet level to get their buy-in," said Sluder.

Sluder, who is Holston's director of correctional ministries and a cabinet member, said his 2020 visit to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in

Montgomery, AL, has weighed heavily on him for over a year. He took photos of several memorials with names of Black people lynched in Tennessee and Virginia counties within Holston.

"Some people don't want to see those pictures because it's too painful," Sluder said. "I've been thankful for the honesty of the cabinet, in their self-examination, to not just look at others and say, 'They need to work on that,' but to look at themselves and say, 'This is where we need to start.'"

## What Becomes Painful

The cabinet has read four books together, said Burns, including:

\*White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism;

\*How to Be an Antiracist;

\*The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism;

\*I'm Black, I'm Christian, I'm Methodist.

The conversations that follow the readings are sometimes difficult, said the Rev. Lauri Jo Cranford, Three Rivers District Superintendent, based in Johnson City, Tennessee.

"What has been hardest has been the different reminders of the privilege that I have that I haven't always been aware of," Cranford said. "We're trying to be aware of our privilege so that we can change things instead of just saying, 'Oh, that's just how it is.'"

The American dream of always having a path to success through hard work is not a reality for everyone, especially people of color facing barriers white people can't see, Cranford noted. "It's been very eye-opening to see the rose-colored glasses image of the American dream versus what so many people live and how being white plays into that."

White people are often unaware of racism, especially in Holston Conference where some committees don't

have people of color as residents, said the Rev. Angela Hardy Cross, a cabinet member and superintendent of the Mountain View District who is based in Morristown, TN.

"The pastors and the people tell me, 'We, we don't have that problem because we don't have to deal with people of color,'" she said.

As the only Black person on the 15-member Holston extended cabinet and a minority among Holston clergy, Cross said the cabinet has a lot of work to do before change can take place in the districts.

"You can put the information out there, but people have got to want to change," she said. "I can't make people love me. I can't make people love anybody but I can continue to preach Jesus. . . and if you call yourself a Christian, well, there are some expectations."

Like her Black colleagues, Cross has stories to tell about being harassed while driving on back roads or having church members say to her when she speaks from authority, "You are getting out of your place."

Burns also has personal stories about experiencing racism in the past and present. However, she said she finds great hope in the cabinet's insistence on continuing their self-examination—an especially fitting study for the Lenten season.

Plans are also underway to educate Holston United Methodists throughout the next year, through conversations, podcasts, stories and videos. Two districts, including Mountain View and Tennessee Valley, have offered "Sacred Conversations on Race" sessions through Zoom.

"This requires a lot of work and a lot of heartache," Burns said of helping to educate the cabinet and others about racism.

"If I didn't love it so much—if I didn't love the United Methodist Church and what it seeks to do—there's no way I would do this. But this is truly my understanding of what it means to be a United Methodist, and because of that, we will lead with love."

Holston Conference includes 853 United Methodist congregations in East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia and North Georgia.

*(From United Methodist News)*

# Fair Trade Co-op Lifts Indonesian Christians & Muslims Out of Poverty

Economic partnerships open the door for cooperation between Christians and Muslims through the House of Authentic Sense (HAS), Indonesia's only fair trade co-op. Like many countries, Indonesia needs development projects that are designed to empower society, especially women, minorities and disabled communities.

HAS was created in 2015 with the goal of becoming a social entrepreneurial unit that enlists Indonesian villagers, both farmers and artists, to create, market and sell products that help communities overcome poverty and achieve social equality.

Mission Co-worker Dr. Farsijana Adyene-Risakotta was instrumental in the creation of HAS and serves with PC (USA)'s Indonesian church partners at Duca Wacana Christian University (DWCU) where she connects the Christian academic community with economically challenged Muslim and Christian villagers in the surrounding area. Economic empowerment is a door for cooperation between academics and villagers and between Christians and Muslims.

In connection with the university's goal of empowerment, Adyene-Risakotta was asked to organize DWCU's human resources to establish a Center for Development and Social Transformation (CDST). In addition to teaching graduate students in the social entrepreneurship program, she organizes lectures and helps students research and empower social entrepreneurship in the surrounding communities.

In 2018 the HAS Foundation and DWCU received a \$46,000 grant from Presbyterian Women to strengthen the capacity and independence of the HAS Co-op and increase the production quality of the HAS Co-op members. This led

to the co-op being certified as a fair trade organization and acceptance as an Indonesia Fair Trade Forum.

Arrangements to sell Indonesian village handicrafts, food and drink in the U.S. can strengthen product quality and help the villagers achieve a decent standard of living, continuing their journey to self-sufficiency and independence. Through the co-op members can learn necessary skills to manage their businesses and ensure quality control. All co-op products must be packaged with environmentally friendly materials instead of plastics. The co-op runs a recycling store where members can exchange recycled trash for basic food supplies. At the annual meeting members receive a bonus of 2.5 percent of the total value of the food supplies they have received by trading in their recycled trash. All members may add a "peace label" to their products in addition to the "fair trade" certification to indicate, Christians and people of other faiths cooperate with one another and are working together for economic justice and peace.

(Presbyterian Mission News)

## Prayer Calendar Update

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[plotin6l@gmail.com](mailto:plotin6l@gmail.com) RCWP

(More: P. 6)

# Priest Moonlights As Mars Ranger

When Episcopal News Service recently spoke to the Rev. Pamela Conrad, rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Glen Burnie, Maryland, she was exhausted – but not only from the liturgical marathon of Holy Week or the weary slog of daily life during the COVID-19 pandemic. On top of that, Conrad is a member of the tactical operations team for NASA's Mars Rover Mission, often working through the night, analyzing feedback from the Perseverance rover as it searches for signs of potential life.

From her living room in Maryland, Conrad connects virtually with scientists around the country and at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California for several shifts a week, monitoring sensors that she helped design as they transmit data about the Martian environment. Among the instruments she works with are the cameras that have sent back more than 25,000 photos, including Perseverance's first selfie, which shows the rover and the small helicopter that is expected to take the first-ever powered flight on another planet later this week. (Ed. note: it flew in late April.)

"Every time we get new images, it is such an amazing sense of awe," Conrad said.

Conrad, 68, has been working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration since 1999 on projects including the Curiosity Rover, which landed on Mars in 2012. Priesthood is a more recent vocation; she was ordained in 2017 and has continued her scientific work on the side since becoming a rector.

"My full-time job – and I'm very clear about this – is as a priest. And my second thing that I do is the science because the science informs my ministry as a priest," Conrad said.

She told ENS that the scientific and spiritual worlds have always been intertwined for her, united by a sense of wonder. From an early age, she remembers "being very in touch with the general concept of nature and God."

(Episcopal News Service)

# LWF Delegates Challenge Patriarchal Practices in Mexico & Tanzania

“Let us be prophetic voices of freedom and justice even when social norms are difficult to change.” That was the call to action from IAWM member-at-large Rev. Dr. Angela del Consuelo Trego Haagar, a member of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) delegation to the 65th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on March 15 to 26.

Trejo, one of the first women to be ordained in the Mexican Lutheran Church, was speaking at an online event exploring how to challenge and change social norms that continue to impede progress toward gender equality. As a professor of feminist biblical hermeneutics, gender theology and church history, she looked back at the struggle of women in her country to gain the right to vote. The March 17 event was organized by the LWF in partnership with Act Alliance, Islamic World Relief, Side by Side, the World Council of Churches, Christian Aid, Religions for Peace, and the All Africa Conference of Churches. It was one of the many parallel events sponsored by Non-Governmental Organizations taking part in the CSW65, which is focused on women’s full and effective participation and decision making in public life.

The Rev. Dr. Trejo, a coordinator of the LWF’s Latin American and Caribbean Gender Justice Network, noted that the struggle for women’s suffrage in Mexico began back in the late 19th and early 20th centuries though it was not until the federal elections of July 1955 that women were able to cast their ballots for the first time. Even so, she said, there were many restrictions placed on female voters, who were expected to “listen to the advice of their husbands” and always place their “domestic duties” before social or political participation.

Over the decades since then, Trejo said, Mexican women have continued to challenge such “patriarchal discourse,” to “raise their voices loud and clear to denounce injustice” and to claim their space in the public square. They have shown that it is possible to change social norms, she said, but there is still “much work to do as women of faith” to promote gender justice in her country, which has one of the highest rates of femicides in the world.

## Tanzania Issues

Another LWF delegate taking part in the online event was Ms. Faustina Nilan, National Director for Women and

Children with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and coordinator for the Tanzanian chapter of the Side by Side faith movement for Gender Justice. She spoke about challenging and changing deeply-rooted social norms such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) which continues to affect one in ten women in her country.

This traditional practice, considered an “integral part of the culture,” poses “significant barriers to health and development specifically for adolescent girls and women in general,” she said. “Strengthening action to end FGM and unpack the myth surrounding this practice is vital to ensure full potential and participation of women in leadership and decision-making,” she said.

After examining the causes of this practice, Nilan spoke of ways of supporting survivors and working to change attitudes to promote the implementation of the anti-FGM legislation. Initiatives that are underway in her country include establishing alternative rites of passage for girls, providing alternative sources of income for FGM practitioners, increasing support for community awareness programs and providing multi-media communication to amplify the voices of marginalized communities.

Participants agreed that, in order to change patriarchal norms, it is vital to foster effective partnerships between women and men, in particular among members of different faith groups, who together represent over eighty percent of the global population.

## Become Champions for Change

Mousumi Saikia, Partnerships and Program Development Manager for Islamic Relief Worldwide, stressed that religious leaders have “reservoirs of trust in their communities” and can become “champions for change” by listening to the critical voices of survivors of gender based violence and by mobilizing a community-led response to protect all women and girls.

## Need Strong Peace Builders

Speaking of her work as the Women’s Desk Secretary of the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India, Ms. Ranjita Borgoary said it is essential for faith leaders to be “strong actors in the peace building process.”

“Churches can provide safe spaces for women to express their concerns,” she said, while leaders must use the pulpit to “challenge the patriarchal mindset that views women only as victims,” rather than as protagonists of peace and security.

Borgoary, an LWF Council member, noted that women can be found “taking care of the church” in many remote tribal areas where men rarely travel. Yet they are still “deprived of opportunities,” she noted, even though most of the Lutheran churches in India allow women’s ordination to the priesthood. She underlined the importance of the LWF’s Gender Justice Policy adapting it to the local context and implementing its vision of “women and men created equal in the image of God.” As more women come forward for theological training, Borgoary said, “resistance is growing” so it is vital that church leaders act as gender justice models for others.

## Other Gender Justice Issues

Ms. Mira Neaimeh, Regional Executive for the World Student Christian Federation, highlighted the importance of bringing change at the grass roots through education in schools for boys and girls.

Ms. Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, Chief Executive of Christian Aid, stressed the need to tackle causes of conflict, such as poverty and injustice, while calling for “an end to the present cycle of militarization” and arms sales. Faith leaders, she said, “are uniquely placed to hold others accountable” but only if they face up to their own “double standards” and recognize how Scripture has been used to justify racism and oppression.

Women “need to lock arms” and support each other, she said, in order to provide fresh perspectives and become prophetic voices for change.

(Lutheran World Information)

Remembering—

## The Rev. Catherine “Kitty” Borchert

(December 6, 1936-January 23, 2021)

The Rev. Catherine G. “Kitty” Borchert, who served IAWM as Statutory Agent for the State of Ohio, died on January 23 from complications of cancer.

She was born in Los Angeles, the second child and first daughter of Thomas Keith and Ruth Adams Glennan. When she was 4 the family moved to Connecticut, where her father ran sonar for the U.S. Navy. After the war he served as president of Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland where, except for a few breaks, she lived the rest of her life.

Valedictorian of her Cleveland High School class, she earned a degree in History at Swarthmore College, where she met her husband, Frank Roy Borchert Jr.; they married in 1959. Both earned degrees in Library Science at Western Reserve University; she added a Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1951 and a PhD in History from Case Western University in 2009. Ordained a Presbyterian pastor, she was also mother of two, a musician and an educator.

The Presbyterian Church was the most important institution in her life. In her local congregation she served as Elder, Clerk of Session, and on many committees over 40 years. Her work in compensated and uncompensated posi-

tions for the Presbytery for the Western Reserve for 14 years, from 1984 to 2008, included that of Stated Clerk of the Presbytery and staff to the Committee on Ministry among other positions. She worked as Coordinator for the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy and served in the 1990s on the General Assembly’s Permanent Judicial Commission. An example of the forward looking policies of the church she promoted was the policy to ordain openly gay ministers at a time when it was not popular to do so. She chaired many meetings and ran innumerable committees with a keen sense of the importance of process for ensuring

that all voices were heard. She was also on many committees charged with revising the rules that govern committees and processes.

Most of all, Kitty was an excellent mother. She spent many hours as the counselor at church music camps; she and Frank both sang in the church choir for decades; every effort was made to attend as many events and performances of the children as she and Frank could manage. She did all she could to foster in their children a love of music, both instrumental and vocal.

As a grandmother Kitty worked tirelessly to attend as many events and performances as she could, whether in Cleveland, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. or Vermont, communicating to her grandchildren the importance of those events to her. It was a particularly important and joyful moment, therefore, when her grandchildren, ages two months to fourteen years, (all nine of them), could return the favor, walking across the stage with her when “Gramcat” received her Ph.D. in History at age 72 from Case Western University.

Remembering—

## Laywoman Ann Fort

(1926-December 24, 2020)

On her nineteenth mission trip to Kenya in 2019, at the age of 95, United Methodist laywoman Ann Fort, Lone Tree, Colorado, bade farewell to her Kenya friends, saying the next time she hoped to meet them was “on the other side in heaven.” Just over a year later, Fort, 96, died on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020, after a short battle with cancer.

Affectionately known as “Mama Kenya”, Fort was remembered in special services of celebration in Meru, Kenya, according to Bishop Nicholas Merwin of the Kanga Synod. Memorial services in the United States were delayed by the family until Spring or Summer of 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visionary and vigorous until her death, Fort challenged everyone to a global generosity and a humanitarian commitment to break the bonds of poverty and chains of stigmatization. She embarked on her first trip to Kenya after she was widowed at the age of 74. Returning 19 times, most often leading mission teams, she built a magnificent legacy of schools, water projects, churches, orphan care, university scholarships and medical assistance. Hundreds of Mountain Sky United Methodist clergy and laity joined her intrepid work trips.

“Mama Kenya will be deeply mourned and missed by our people,” said Kenya Bishop Catherine Mutua. “Ann loved Africa, not the animals but the people. She worked tirelessly and consistently to pay children’s school fees, feed street families, provide medical camps, create scholarships, construct sewers and build churches.”

Fort is survived by a daughter, three sons and their families. She was a long-

time member of Hope United Methodist Church, Greenwood Village, Colorado, and led the building of a sanctuary for the Chuck MCK Town Church in Kenya. For many years she served on the Rocky Mountain Global Ministries Committee, often promoting the Bridge of Love conference offering for Kenya.

To continue her legacy she established the Ann Fort Kenya Fund through the Center for Health and Hope. “She planned her mission work would continue,” said Dr. Don Messer, the center’s Executive Director. “Orphans are going to school, and even college, because her love extended beyond her lifetime. She not only loved singing. ‘This Little Light of Mine,’ but she intended to keep it shining.” On a future trip Messer will fulfill her wish by placing some of her ashes in the Ann Fort Garden in Kenya.

## More New Members

December 24-31

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# Anglicans in Kenya Consecrate 2nd African Woman Bishop

The consecration of 59-year-old Rev. Canon Dr. Emily Awino Onyango last Spring, reports Fredrick Nzwili from Nairobi, comes 32 years after the election of Bishop Barbara Harris, in the Episcopal Church in Massachusetts in the USA. Harris was the first woman bishop in the worldwide Anglican Communion, while Onyango is the second female Anglican bishop in Africa after Bishop Elinah Wamuoyka of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. Wamuoyka was elected in 2012.

“The journey to join the ministry has been a long one, with wonderful memories such as the fear that I would not manage to carry the Chalice and administer Holy Communion. (I) am grateful to my family, my late parents, and sisters and brothers who provided all the support I needed to grow in ministry,” said Onyango in her acceptance speech. She said the bishop had appointed her to help build a vibrant and well-managed church in line with the diocese’s vision and mission.

“It’s a great challenge but I want to do things in a different way to bring about change,” Onyango, mother of two, said. “I hope my work can inspire more women to take leadership in the church.”

According to Onyango the current times of pandemics such as HIV and AIDS have brought about complexities in culture and theology.

“Today we are living in the COVID-19 challenge. This has brought to light,

like AIDs and HIV, shadow pandemics and gender stereotyping that lead to many social, economic, spiritual and physical deaths,” said Onyango. “The challenge for leaders at all fronts is the need for (new) ways of responding to these deaths from a solid theological foundation.”

To Onyango the laity and clergy who are responding to these post-pandemics need to learn new ways. According to the priest, the immediate task will be to develop a curriculum for clergy and lay people, address gender-based violence and focus on the empowerment of children. “The training we require and which I purpose is inclusive of technology. How do we do pastoral care through technology to deal with the shadow pandemics of gender-based sexual violence producing child and teenage mothers, pandemics of mental illnesses exposed and not exposed, anxie-



Photo: Diocese of Bondo  
**Bishop Emily Awino Onyango**

ty, depression and suicide?” she asked.

A scholar and a researcher, Onyango has been teaching church history at St. Paul’s University in the Limuru area near Nairobi. She obtained her doctorate from the University of Wales in the United Kingdom, her master’s from the Asian School of Theological Studies and from St. Paul’s University College. She was made a Deacon in 1984 and a Canon in the diocese of Bondo in 2018.

(World Council of Churches News)

## Missionary Brings Solar Power to Zimbabwe

Before the installation of solar panels at Kamisamba Farm in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the property had no power source. Electric lines did not extend from the town of Kamina, a little over four miles away. Even in Kamina, particularly during the rainy season, residents can go without electricity for a month or more.

Although the farm has a water source from wells dug a few years ago, without electricity, there was no way to pump the water to where it was needed.

“The solar project came at a crucial time,” Lorraine Charinda explained in an interview. Charinda is a missionary from Zimbabwe assigned to Kamisamba Farm as an agriculturist and rural economic development specialist. She attended Africa University for her Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and natural resources and the University of Namibia for a Master of Science in agricultural economics. She arrived at Kamisamba in 2018, thinking she was taking over a fully functioning farm. When she arrived, she discovered a couple of workers, dilapidated buildings, four pigs and half an acre of vegetables cultivated on the 500-acre farm. Three years later, the farm is fully functional.

The solar energy system and accompanying water pipes and pumps came about through a combination of grants from Global Ministries’ Environmental Sustainability program and UMCOR. “Before we installed the solar panels, batteries, inverters and water system, people used the bucket system – you go to the well with a bucket,” Charinda said. UM Global Ministries is deepening its commitment to emission reduction and renewable energy with these community models of development.

(Quoted from an article by Christie R. House, United Methodist News Service on line)

## In the News

### Australia

**The Rev. Dr. Monica Melancthon**, an associate professor of Old Testament at the Pilgrim Theological College in Australia, a Lutheran theologian from the Andrah Lutheran Church in India, delivered a keynote speech on the theme, “Salvation—Not for Sale,” at the 12th Lutheran World Federation Assembly.

### Germany

**Rev. Prof. Dr. h.c. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel**, retiring president of Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World) after 20 years, is also a Thursdays in Black ambassador who is playing a vital role in increasing the movement toward a world without rape and violence.

In April she called on the World Council of Churches and “other ecumenical actors on regional and international levels” to give priority concern to eradicating the violence against women and girls which pervades all societies today.

Especially she called on the upcoming World Council of Churches Assembly planning to meet in Karlsruhe, Germany, in 2022, to address these issues prominently on its agenda and also the underlying prejudices and the inequality and discrimination that support and encourage them.

Moreover, she added, these concerns should remain a central concern as the council plans its work for the years following the Assembly.

### Russia

In St. Petersburg the Theological Seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church now offers its study and training programs through distance learning to serve its students in not only Russia but also Georgia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. This new phase of its program was ushered in on April 18. In addition, as many as ten short seminars are arranged in churches in various regions in any year.

### Nigeria

Lutheran World Federation **President Bishop Dr. Panti Filbus Musa** sent congratulations to the new director of the World Trade Organization, **Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, saying her vision and values are deeply needed in today’s world. When she took over that post on March 1, she became the first African and the first woman to head the global trade body. Previously she served as managing director at the World Bank and chair of Gavi, the global vaccine alliance.

In a letter sent on behalf of LWF’s 148 member churches, the President Archbishop noted that Okonjo-Iweala also broke new ground in her previous roles as finance minister and minister for

foreign affairs in their shared home country of Nigeria.

### South Africa

The tenth annual Desmond Tutu Peace Lecture, “Climate Justice Globally: Now and for the Future,” took place on October 7. Featured speakers included 23-year-old **Vanessa Natake**, climate activist from Uganda, who has been leading a drive for justice related to race, media representation and climate justice, and internationally known Swedish climate activist, **Greta Thunberg**.

### United States

Episcopal **Bishop Paula Clark**, elected to serve the Diocese of Chicago on December 12 and consecrated on April 24, spent some time in between recovering from successful brain surgery following her experiencing a cerebral bleed while exercising.

**The Rt. Rev. Lucinda Beth Asby** was consecrated January 11 as Episcopal bishop of El Camino Real Diocese.

**The Rev. Dr. Gabrielle Thomas** will join Candler School of Theology faculty as assistant professor of Early Christianity and Anglican Studies in the fall of 2021.

*(Sources: Lutheran World Federation, Episcopal News Service)*