

The Woman's Pulpit

July-
September
2020

NEWS ABOUT ORDAINED & LAY WOMEN IN MINISTRY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Chile Presbyterians Elect First Woman Moderator

When, on January 19, the Rev. Jacqueline Troncoso was elected moderator of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Chile, the first woman to hold this post, the Synod assembly had just approved a powerful pastoral letter calling on Chilean Presbyterians to support the drafting of a new national Constitution, reports Dennis Smith, Presbyterian World Mission regional liaison for South America

The turmoil facing the church, said Troncoso, began in October 2019 when massive student protests were met with repression by security forces. Extremists damaged public transport and even burned churches. The gap between rich and poor was growing quickly and trust in government and social institutions was deteriorating quickly.

Troncoso cited the urgent need for churches to lift prophetic voices in support of justice and in defense of the most vulnerable sectors of Chilean society. However other Protestant churches and the Roman Catholic Church remained silent and some neoconservative megachurch pastors defended the existing Constitution under the guise of promoting "traditional values."

Synod delegates lamented how these "religious entrepreneurs—energetically pursuing both material wealth and partisan political power—had hijacked the public space for ethical discourse traditionally occupied by historic churches. To provide their congregations with pastoral guidance and to take a strong public stand in support of a new Constitution, their pastoral letter said in part:

We, as part of the Body of Christ, seek a new society and accept the challenge of contributing to change in our country. We will participate in, support, contribute to and vote to approve a new political Constitution for our country that reflects the high values and principles characteristic of modern democratic societies, guaranteeing the rights and re-

sponsibilities of all of us who live in and love this nation. From our roots in the Reformed tradition, we deeply desire to witness the birth of a new nation, a new society built on truth, where justice flows like a stream of living water...we fervently maintain and defend the dignity of all persons, created in the image and likeness of God, as a visible sign that we are walking into new life in Christ Jesus."

In addition to serving as churchwide Moderator, Troncoso is moderator of her Presbytery and pastor of Mercy Presbyterian Church in Tatal, Chile.

"Because we are a small church some people become discouraged. But I see signs of vitality," she said. "I listen to the discussions in our churches. Members are deeply concerned about the divisions in our society. Now is the time we must learn again to listen to one another, to demonstrate tenderness and love. Many are discouraged. Pensions for the elderly are so low they must keep working. Youth unemployment is high and university is terribly expensive. That is why it is also a time when we must believe that change is possible." (Presbyterian News Service)

UM GCSRW Holds 1st Clergy and Lay Women Retreat in Eurasia Area

The United Methodist General Conference on the Status and Role of Women co-sponsored the first retreat for clergy and lay women in the Eurasia Episcopal Area October 28 to November 1. Women gathered for the four days at the resort Ravola in Roschino for story-telling, Bible study, singing, performance art and fellowship.

GCSRW Revs. Elena Chudinova, Irina Mitina and Dr. Meeli Tankler planned the retreat with the staff. Chudinova said, "The event was an opportunity to re-think and re-energize both clergy and lay women's ministry in our area. We wanted this event to encourage and equip as many women as possible."

General Secretary Dawn Williams and Senior Director for Sexual Ethics and Advocacy Becky Posey led the group through GCSRW's six-session *Called to Ministry* curriculum. (This curriculum is available to download for free in six languages [Russian, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Korean] on the GCSRW website [see Resources/Curriculum.aspx]). Williams also led boundaries workshops every day.

Dawn Wiggins found the gathering "magical as we watched the bonding of women and the courage and boldness

that bloomed that can only be described as empowerment, with each woman claiming that she is indeed created in the image of God."

Bishop Eduard Khegay and his wife, Vika Nogay, attended every day. Nogay led a workshop that helped the women find their personal styles and learn to share their gifts.

"In the Eurasia Episcopal Area women live in a cultural and theological environment where women in leadership are not always encouraged and in some cases are discouraged," the bishop said. "Socialism granted many opportunities and possibilities for women, but in the church women in leadership are often questioned, opposed or even feared. As United Methodists we need to teach and help women to have equal opportunities with men."

Tankler, the retired president of Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary in Estonia, joined the planning team for the retreat and led a workshop on assertive-

Official Publication of
The International Association
Of Women Ministers
M. Madeline Southard, Founder
(1877-1967)

Vol. 98 July-September 2020 No. 3

Editor

LaVonne Althouse
14 St. Mark Avenue, Lititz, PA 17543
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Marian P. Shearer

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PAST PRESIDENT: Marian P. Shearer
PRESIDENT: J. Dorcas Gordon
dorcagordon1@gmail.com
PAST VICE PRESIDENT: Ofelia Ortega Suarez
VICE PRESIDENT: Margarethe Galbraith-
Cordes
RECORDING SEC.: Cynthia Walton-Leavitt
cynuff@aya.yale.edu
TREASURER: Carol S. Brown
csbrown550@hotmail.com
CO-INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS:
Daylins Ruffin Pardo, abraxas@oar.co.cu
Roswitha Golder,
roswitha.golder@bluewin.ch
ARCHIVIST: To be announced
NOMINATIONS CHAIR: Jean Henderson,
jhhh1942@aol.com

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Vima Couvertier-Cruz Angela Trejo Haager
Ella Sonawane Elizabeth Tapia

TRUSTEES

Catherine G. Borchert Ellie Johns-Kelley
Janice Barker-McLaughlin Susan Black

STATUTORY AGENT FOR THE STATE OF
OHIO: Catherine G. Borchert

REGIONAL CONTACTS

CANADA: J. Dorcas Gordon
jdgordon@utoronto.ca
CUBA: Ofelia Ortega Suárez
intre@enet.cu, ofeliaortega@gmail.com
GREAT BRITAIN: To be announced
HUNGARY: Eszter Karsay
ekarsay@freemail.hu
PHILIPPINES: Elizabeth Tapia
eliztapia5@gmail.com
SWITZERLAND: Roswitha Golder
roswitha.golder@bluewin.ch
IOWA: Mary K. Green
revmary@iowatelecom.net
WESTERN PA.: Kimberly Greway
kimberly.greway@alleghenycounty.us

POSTMASTER; Send form 3579 to The Woman's
Pulpit, 1921 Palm Street, Reading, PA 19604.

Published quarterly.

Masukume Preaches the Gospel In a Busy Marketplace

Within the hustle and bustle of the Tichagarika Shopping Center the petite Rev. Varaidzo Masukume is transforming lives through lunch hour prayer meetings, reports the Rev. Taurai Emmanuel Maforo, a United Methodist Church communicator for the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area. Masukume was appointed pastor in charge of the Glen-View East Circuit in January.

Vibrations of high-pitched tones, clapping, dancing and wailing fill the shed, built with tin and wooden poles, to create an electric worship atmosphere.

"Lunch hour worship for market traders is a game-changer for our connectional ministries," said the Rev. Vienna Mutezo, Zimbabwe West Conference connectional

ministries director. "Worshiping in temporary structures, as in the case of Glen-View East Circuit, is no deterrent to innovative ways of doing ministry."

More than 200 vegetable vendors, market stall owners and worshipers around the community converge during their lunch hours every Wednesday and Saturday. Commonly known as "Tichaz," Glen-view's Tichagarika Shopping Center is roughly 15 kilometers (about 9 miles) from Harare's Central Business District. The area is busy day and night with vegetable vendors often still selling at their stalls around midnight. Drug peddlers and prostitutes also frequent the area.

"The Great Commission calls us to go to the entire world with the Gospel, and as a church we feel obliged to take the Gospel to the marketplace. In fact, the lunch-hour service is our way of giving Jesus to Tichaz," Masukume said.

She said the church was never intended as a place only for saints, but for sinners, too. "Remember, we are the people of the United Methodist church whose thrust is open doors, open hearts and open minds," she said.

The church opened the prayer meetings to members of various denominations and non-Christians who sell wares at the crowded marketplace.

The pastor said she realized the need for a lunch-hour ministry in the community because most people in the markets trade throughout the week and may not find time to attend a worship service.

"I close my market for that hour and rush for the lunch-hour service because it keeps my spirits alive, especially in this harsh economic environment," said Agnes Wazara, a flea market trader. Wazara is a member of Apostolic Faith Mission in Zimbabwe.

"I have seen amazing results. I close

my business for that one hour and when I come back from the prayer, more customers come to buy from my table," she said.

Prisca Garwe, 71, a United Methodist member for more than 40 years, is amazed at the new ways of doing ministry. "I never thought the church could do such wonderful services outside our normal Sunday worship," she said.

"I have been healed," Garwe added. "My feet are made stronger and I can stand and dance without any slight feeling of pain."

She added, "I see new faces walk into our church on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Daily we see more, we experience and we come expecting more."

For United Methodist congregations in Zimbabwe economic challenges have not derailed church vitality. The church continues to breathe life and open its doors to new members and plant new churches in new suburbs, said Mutezo.

"Our churches in the high-density (areas) have maintained high levels of vitality in spite of the harsh economic environment prevailing in the country. We attribute this to the creative ministries happening at the local church."

(United Methodist News)

In This Issue

- Africa: U.S., African women bond, p. 4
- Chile: 1st churchwide moderator, p. 1
- Eurasia: Clergy & lay women's retreat, p. 1
- IAWM Prayer calendar changes, p. 3, 6
- Madagascar: Theologian murdered, p. 3
- N.A.: Lutherans ordain women 50 yrs., p. 5
- Roman Catholic woman's ordination, p. 4
- U.S.: R C woman priest serves parish p. 4
- Obituaries, pp. 6,7
- Wales: 3 clergy licensed virtually, p. 7
- Zimbabwe: Woman is prison pastor, p. 3
- Ministry in a marketplace, p. 2
- In the News: Puerto Rico, U.S., p. 4
- In the News: Canada, Cuba, Greenland, India, Peru, U.S., p. 8

Madora Pastors Zimbabwe Church Housing Men, Women, Police Unit

As the first congregation of its kind in Zimbabwe, the United Methodist Episcopal Area planted what has become Maximum Salvation United Methodist Church, which started inside as a school in the local Republic Police Support Unit, reports Kudzai Chingwe from Harare. As membership grew the church moved outside the prison campus to a temporary location in the Manressa suburb.

In 2019 Bishop Eben K. Nhwatiwa gave the church circuit status and appointed a pastor in charge, Edith Madora, to strengthen outreach at the prison. "The reason for planting the church is to bandage the wounds of inmates, officers, families and communities at large," he said.

Harare East District Superintendent the Rev. Oscar Nyasha Mukahanana said the goal is to support and counsel prison officers and inmates. He said the officers and their families often are confined within the prison campus. "Police officers suffer psychologically because some inmates are very dangerous," he said, "In addition, the economic doldrums faced by Zimbabwe have their effects. There are shortages of food, non-food items and failure to access good medication. This affects every person with a human heart, including officers."

The bishop said officers and their families often are confined within the prison campus. "They need to interact with the world outside the camp environment. . . .The children and youth participate in children's ministries and young adult church activities so that they become part of the Christian society."

Assigning a pastor in charge has made outreach with the prison easier, the

bishop added. "Maximum Salvation Church will be the link between the prison and the church."

Madora visits the prison regularly to lead church services there and offer counseling. She is optimistic that her appointment will transform the church and those who attend. She also hopes to improve the infrastructure.

Tsisi Winini, 22, a youth member from the Harare Central district, was among a group of youths who visited the women's prison. The United Methodist Youth Fellowship donated sanitary pads and evangelized the women.

"My heart was broken. I cried uncontrollably seeing women younger than me, some pregnant and breastfeeding—one from South Africa had twins—walking barefooted. (The women) were bathing without soap and (had) no one visiting them.

"But I am hopeful that at the end of the tunnel there is light," said Winini, who serves as community service vice chairperson for the youth group. "As Christians we were challenged. We need to pray for them and advocate for justice to prevail. To provide them with basic needs for a decent life and visit them often."

(United Methodist News Service)

Add These Address Changes to Your Prayer Calendar:

Add to Prayer Calendar:

July 8-15: Francisca Godwin, Aso Road, Mararaba 234/9, Nigeria
takianow@gmail.com

July 23-29: Angie Hammer, 1258 Newport Road, Penryn, PA 17564 ELCA

Oct. 22-28: Dody Matthias, Apt. 3334, 300 St. Mark Ave., Lititz, PA 17543 ELCA

Nov. 26-Dec. 2: Feyisayo Oni, Plot 5, Phase 10, T-Pompy Estate Lugba, FHA, FCT, 234 Nigeria feyioni.ministry@gmail.com

Address change: Kara Propst, 11 Clopper St, No. 1, Greensburg, PA 15601

Thelma Arnott, 291 Blake Street, Apt. 304, Barrie, ON Canada to.oz@rogers.com
UC Ca

Micki McCorkle, 430 Eunice St., El Dorado, KS 67642

Email change: Ruth Bosch Becker ruthbbfoof@gmail.com.

Failed emails: Caroline Clifford, Moraima Gonzalez Ortiz, Patricia Jacobson, Alicia Sebila, Suzanne Sweeters, Sharon Watkins

Remembering—

Helene Ralivao

In late February and March Lutheran churches around the world joined in mourning the death of a leading theologian and pioneer for women's rights and dignity in Madagascar.

Helene Ralivao, 63, was murdered on February 23 in the capital, Antananarivo, for advocating gender justice. Ralivao was one of the first female theologians in the Malagasy Lutheran Church (MLC).

She represented her church as a delegate to the Lutheran World Federation Assemblies in Hong Kong in 1997 and in Winnipeg, Canada, in 2008.

"As women in Africa and in the global communion we share the pain and anger at this senseless killing, but we don't lose hope or determination to continue the fight against violence against women," said Lutheran World Federation Regional Secretary for Africa the Rev. Dr. Elishi Nungure.

General Secretary Rev. Dr. Martin Junge paid tribute to Ralivao's life and legacy during the LWF-led prayer service for her in Geneva's Ecumenical Chapel on February 27.

He described her as "a faithful steward of the church and women's empowerment" who was a mentor to many. He said she made space for all children and youth, women and men. "Let pastors preach loudly and clearly how God has made us equal in Christ," said Junge.

Ralivao served as Women in Church and Society secretary in Madagascar before going on to set up and lead a women's center close to the headquarters of the MLC in Antananarivo.

"We will treasure her gifts and contributions and remember her courage and determination while we grieve over the fact that her voice has been silenced. We praise God for her life and witness," said Junge.

Church leaders worked with local police to investigate the murder.

With over three million members the Malagasy Lutheran Church is one of the fastest-growing Lutheran churches in the world and one of the four main Christian denominations in Madagascar.

Reprinted from La Croix International, the world's premier independent Catholic daily)

United Methodist Clergywomen In Africa, U. S. Form Bonds

In 2002 the Rev. J. Kahamba Kiboko attended an anniversary celebration at United Methodist Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, where a large number of her fellow African clergywomen were present, reports Linda Bloom to United Methodist News. The gathering sparked a vision to establish a relationship with black clergywomen in

the United States. Kiboko had been serving as a pastor in the U.S. since 1986 and was a member of the United Methodist Judicial Council. On her return to the States she continued to nurture her vision.

Bishop Linda Lee also had a vision from her time as district superintendent to bring black clergywomen together in the North Central Jurisdiction. Two years before her retirement as bishop in 2002 she created “Sacred Sisters” as a project for the UM two-year spiritual formation academy.

By then, she said, she had heard enough stories about the challenges, experiences of isolation and financial struggles to know that she wanted to design a safe space where African American clergywomen could “gain strength” by sharing their stories and engaging in prayer and worship.

These two visions became a catalyst to strengthen the bonds between the U.S. and Africa. Plans and fundraising efforts are underway for the largest gathering yet at Africa University in 2022 which will include women from Senior Sisters, Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church and the Association of African Clergywomen.

The Rev. Pierette Ayle-Beugre of the UM Church in Côte d’Ivoire said, “before we (meet), some pre-work done by different teams of two sisters—one from America and another from Africa—will help create in advance a strong fellowship atmosphere.”

Kiboko, ordained in 1963 in the South Congo Conference but serving a church in West Ohio, said the Association of African Clergywomen grew out of the 1986 World Methodist Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. Bishop Leontine T. C. Kelly, the first UM African American female bishop, and the Revs. Kathy (Nickerson) Sage and Lynn Scott—who both worked with clergywomen as staff of the UM Board of Higher Education and Ministry—met there with UM clergywomen in Africa. That gathering “was when our vision became a reality,

starting this partnership with the Sacred Sisters,” Kiboko said.

The UM Commission on Religion and Race paid the travel expenses for the African clergywomen attending the conference, demonstrating the significance of the connectional church. “Without them we wouldn’t have been able to go to AU,” said Kiboko.

Bonds That Unite

Women participating in the 2019 Sacred Sisters Retreat created a proclamation extolling the bonds of unity, respect, trust and love. They affirmed the strength in the UM connection and the value of native African culture but looked more broadly to the concerns of black women on all continents, such as financial sustainability and a greater awareness of sexual violence against women and girls.

The proclamation also pointed to the need for resources “that promote fruitful and strategic leadership” and the advocacy of “equitable rights and privileges for all women who are called by God to pastoral leadership.”

Gender inequality, the ongoing HIV and AIDS crisis, and the wholeness and wellness of black lay women and clergywomen are named in the proclamation as topics on which action is needed.

Kiboko pointed out that clergywomen need each other. They also need the support of the UM Commission on the Status and Role of Women to help them address issues like sexual ethics, boundaries and sexual harassment.

“We speak among ourselves, but we want others, others who have ideas,” she said.

Ayle-Beugre said the focus for the African and black U.S. clergywomen “is on relationship building, sharing of experiences, a need to build trust. But first of all each one is called to deepen her intimacy with the Lord Jesus Christ whom we are called to serve.”

(United Methodist News)

July-September 2020/4

Ordination

Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests

Sarasota, Florida

Bishop Bridget Mary Meehan ordained **Shelley Rae Gilcrest** of DeLand to the priesthood on March 14 at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

RC Woman Priest Celebrates 4 Years

On Sunday, March 14, St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in St. Louis, Missouri, celebrated the four-year anniversary of the Rev. Annie Cass Watson’s tenure there as Assisting Priest. She is known fondly to parishioners as Mother Annie. The celebration included cake, flowers and fellowship.

Annie spoke at each Mass thanking the members for their hospitality and willingness to accept a woman priest. She was called to be the first woman priest in the 140 year history of the church by Fr. Marek Bozek, the pastor, who serves as her mentor and friend.

(Bridget Mary’s blog)

In the News

Puerto Rico

Michele Muñoz-Vega, the disaster recovery coordinator in the Presbytery of San Juan, was selected by the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship to receive its 2020 Peaceseeker Award for helping Presbyterians to understand the systemic issues facing her island and the effects of colonialism and exploration.

United States

When **Ruling Elder Frances Thom**, 28, was installed, at Broadway Presbyterian Church, New York City, as Moderator of the Presbytery of New York last March, she became the youngest person to hold that office since the presbytery was organized in 1717.

A hymn written by **Carolyn Winfrey Gillette** and sung to the tune, “Aurelia,” offered the church and its members a prayer to be used in Easter 2020 worship services to strengthen faith while facing the coronavirus.

(From Presbyterian News Service, Methodist News Service)

N.A. Lutherans Celebrate 50 Years Ordaining Women

On June 29, 1970 the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), comprising congregations in both Canada and the United States, became the first Lutheran church in North America to authorize the ordination of women. In October 1970 the American Lutheran Church (ALC), with congregations in both countries, also authorized women's ordination. The first woman, the Rev. Elizabeth Platz, was ordained by the LCA late in November.

Beginning with an action taken at its March 1970 Board of Directors Meeting Lutheran Church Women, (LCW), auxiliary of the LCA led by President Doris Spong, provided strong support for women's ordination. She appointed three board members and the editor of Lutheran Women, the auxiliary's churchwide magazine, to draft a statement of support.

Taking account of discussion that in most churches where women were ordained, they were called to small parishes with low salaries and then disregarded and not given leadership opportunities, LaVonne Althouse, who drafted the statement, detailed what support for women's ordination must take into account.

LCW Statement of Support

The statement adopted that day affirmed strong approval for the proposed action to change the churchwide constitution by "changing the word, 'man' to 'person' in sections indicating who may be a minister of this church and who may be called as a pastor of a congregation."

The LCW Board's statement called for implementation of the change "vigorously and enthusiastically to insure that" women were sought as candidates, seminaries would welcome them, make provision for personal counseling of women students, create a climate within seminaries that supports acceptance of women students, encourage women to pursue advanced theological study and call women to their faculties who qualify for teaching particular disciplines, that presidents of synods (now bishops) actively seek calls for women, that congregations are encouraged to call women pastors, that boards and commissions of the church and synod call women to staff positions and that they seek women members to serve on their governing boards.

At the LCA churchwide convention

which adopted the constitutional change making women's ordination possible, President Spong had this list of supports adopted as the official policy of the LCA.

From the beginning the policy statement was effective. Women asking to become candidates for ordination were frequently told by their synod presidents, "I do not believe women should be ordained but I will follow church policy." Women and men supporters in congregations elected women pastors and synod bishops (the office formerly presidents) saw their effective leadership, changed their minds and considered candidates by qualifications.

Lutheran Church Women led by example, naming a woman as chaplain at their Triennial Convention, calling for naming women chaplains at their 33 synodical conventions and encouraging women to ask pastors to consider inviting ordained women as well as men to substitute when they were absent.

Early in the 1980s all 33 LCA synods had at least one ordained woman and LCA seminaries kept up with the change seen in seminaries across North America in that decade: quickly, one-half of students in each seminary became women.

The ALC women's auxiliary, American Lutheran Church Women, did not favor women's ordination strongly and adopted no statement of support, but ordination of women there proceeded steadily. The other large Lutheran church, the Missouri Synod, does not ordain women. It only allowed them to vote in congregations, not serve on councils, in an action taken after the millennium.

North America Realignment

In 1981 a realignment of North American Lutheran churches saw the separation of Lutheran churches in the two countries. ALC and LCA Canadian congregations were joined by those of

the Missouri Synod to form the five synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, which retained ordination of women. In 1989 the union of the U.S. ALC and LCA congregations with a small number of American Evangelical Lutheran Church congregations that left the Missouri Synod formed the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which also retained ordination of women.

In the 1980s women bishops were emerging in European Lutheran churches and the ELCIC and ELCA followed suit in the next decades.

First among many women to serve as a bishop in the ELCA was April Ulring Larson, elected in 1992. She served the maximum possible three terms, ending October, 2008. Election of a number of women as bishop in the ELCA followed, culminating in the naming of the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton as Presiding Bishop in 2013; she was elected to a second term in 2019.

Canadian Lutherans called their first woman bishop, the Rev. Cindy Halmerston, to lead the Saskatchewan Synod in 2002. The Rev. Elaine Sauer was called to lead Manitoba-Northern Ontario Synod in 2006. When the five Canadian Lutheran synods were being led by two women and three men in 2007, the churchwide convention elected the Rev. Susan Christine Johnson as Presiding Bishop, making the church's episcopal leadership three men and three women. Johnson received a second term in 2013.

Thus in 50 years about two-thirds of Lutheran churches in North America moved from deciding to ordain women to enjoying their leadership churchwide.

Both are members of the Lutheran World Federation which took action at its 1984 Assembly to encourage ordination of women in all its member churches. This call to inclusion of both men and women in ordained leadership has been reaffirmed at each of the five assemblies since. In 2016, the last count, 119 of the 145 member churches ordain women, At that time 22 of 31 LWF member churches, or 70% in Africa; 41 of 54 member churches or 76% in Asia and 12 member churches of 16 or 75% in Central Eastern Europe ordained women.

A number of Lutheran national churches which are not LWF members do not ordain women.

Remembering—

Bishop Barbara C. Harris

(1930-2020)

Bishop Barbara C. Harris, first woman named to that office in the worldwide Anglican Communion, died on March 13 following hospitalization in Boston. She was 89.

Barbara Clementine Harris was born on June 12, 1930 in Philadelphia to Walter and Beatrice (Price) Harris, graduated from Philadelphia High School for Girls and the Charles Morris Price School of Advertising and Journalism and in 1949 joined the Joseph V. Baker Associates, Inc., a national public relations firm. Becoming president in 1968, she joined the Sun Company as community relations consultant. She held

Active in the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s through the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity and the National Council of Churches' Delta Ministry, she traveled in 1965 to Greenville, Mississippi, to help register black voters and took part in the Selma to Montgomery march.

Her lay ministry in Christian education, prison chaplaincy and leadership at parish, diocesan and churchwide levels led her to discern a call to ordained ministry. Ordained in 1980 at age 50 she was priest-in-charge of St. Augustine of Hippo Church in Norristown, Pennsylvania, 1980-84, while also serving as chaplain to the Philadelphia County prisons and counsel to industrial corporations on public policy issues and social concerns. In 1984, as executive director of the Episcopal Church Publishing Company, she published the social justice magazine, *The Witness*. In 1988 she added duties as interim rector of the Philadelphia Church of the Advocate.

On February 11, 1990, before a congregation of 8,000 in Boston's Hynes Auditorium and virtually the whole world via television and international media coverage, she became the first woman ordained a bishop in the worldwide Anglican Communion. That was the climax to months of church controversy and a media maelstrom that followed her September 24, 1988 election.

She preached and worked continually

to eradicate racism, sexism and homophobia and to help bring about the full inclusion of all people in the life and sacraments of the church. She was a member of the Union of Black Episcopalians and founding member and president of the Episcopal Urban Caucus. She represented the Episcopal Church to the board of the Prisoner Visitation and Support Committee and was a member of the church's Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns. She also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Harris received at least 17 honorary degrees from colleges, universities and theological schools and in 2007 a Wisdom Award from the National Visionary Leadership Project. But she always said the best moments of her years as a bishop were those spent baptizing, confirming and receiving people into the church.

After retirement she served from 2003 until early 2007 as an assisting bishop in the Diocese of Washington (D.C.). She continued to volunteer and preach at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston during retirement, even while being in demand worldwide as a preacher.

In 2003 the Diocese of Massachusetts dedicated its newly-built Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in

Greenfield, New Hampshire, in her honor and in November, 2019 the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing in the Diocese of Atlanta (Georgia) launched the Bishop Barbara C. Harris Justice Project aimed to strengthen the church's efforts to address social injustice.

She published two books, *Hallelujah, Anyhow!*, a memoir written with Kelly Brown Douglas, and a sermon collection, *Parting Words, A Farewell Discourse*, and is featured in *In Conversation: Michael Curry and Barbara Harris*, edited by Fredrica Harris Thompsett.

The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, president of the House of Deputies, said of her, "Barbara was always completely and totally Barbara. She never pretended to be anyone other than who she was, and she told the truth no matter what the cost. Often that cost was paid with the comfort and dignity of the institutional leaders who were, in her view, insufficiently interested in standing with the marginalized and the vulnerable. They learned quickly that her passion for justice was matched only by her wicked and fearless sense of humor."

Harris is survived by her brother, Thomas Harris, and his wife, Jennifer, of Hempstead, Florida, and their family and dear friends, including Dorothy Collins and goddaughter, Pat Collins Smith, of Philadelphia and their families.

Interment was a private graveside funeral in Philadelphia. Plans for a public funeral service to be held at Washington National Cathedral and a memorial service later at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(Episcopal News Service)

Add to Prayer Calendar

December 24-31: Carla Christopher Wilson, 750 Greenfield Rd, Lancaster, PA 17601 assocpastor@GoodShepherdLancaster.org ELCA

Nicqu Ashwood, World Council of Churches, 150 route de Feney, P.O. Box 2100, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland nicole.ashwood@wcc-coe.org

Seforosa Carroll, World Council of Churches, 150 route de Feney, CP-2100 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Seforosa.Carroll@wcc-coe.org

Rebecca Daniel, 5, Chemin du Camps d'Anier, CH-1209, Geneva, Switzerland RebeccaDaniel@lutheranworld.org Church of South India

Juliet Nabwire Namude Wabwire, PO Box 40050, Kampala 256, Uganda julietwabs@gmail.com PENT

July-September 2020/6

**The World Council of Churches
Pre-Assembly & XI Assembly
Meetings in Karlsruhe, Germany
Planned for 2021
Have been postponed.**

**News about the next meeting
Of the IAWM Assembly
Will be shared
In the next issue of
The Woman's Pulpit.**

Remembering—

Rev. Dr. Jeane B. Williams

(1931-2020)

The Rev. Dr. Jeane B. Williams, a past president and Assembly chair of IAWM and the first elected Connectional President of Women in Ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, died on April 4. Had she lived one week longer, until Holy Saturday, April 11, she would have celebrated her 89th birthday.

She grew up in southern New Jersey and after graduating from Camden High

School *magna cum laude*, she earned a bachelor's degree in library science at Allegheny College and her professional lifelong work included library service assistant at the Medical Library and assistant librarian for the Communications Library (1967-69) and library circulation administrator for the Biddle Law Library (1969-85), all at the University of Pennsylvania.

She earned her CPE at Immaculata College in Philadelphia.

Upon answering the call to preach she was initially ordained by the National Association of Community Churches. After attending the AME Philadelphia Annual Conference Ministerial Training Institute she was ordained an Itinerant Deacon (1978) and an Itinerant Elder (1980).

Her volunteer service included director of the Bureau of Research and History and the historiographer for the 1st Episcopal District of the AME Church and the Philadelphia Annual Conference for the AME Church. In addition to her other service to IAWM she was, for many years, its archivist/historian.

After her year as Connectional President of AME Women in Ministry she served as its Connectional chair for many years.

Her most cherished service, however, was as a chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Urban Theological Institute at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia (now United Theological Seminary). That program enabled African American clergy, who, like Williams, also held lay professional careers, to attend classes on nights and Saturdays. She continued this important work for about two decades.

While pastor of Ben Salem AME Church in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, she directed research which culminated with inclusion of that congregation on the National Register of Historic Places in December 1990. She also organized the Bensalem Township-wide annual Black

History Month celebration.

While she was a member of the pulpit staff of First AME Church in Devon, Pennsylvania, she was also president of the South Jersey Beach Women's National Evangelistic and Missionary Conference.

Among the awards for her service to the community she treasured most were an appreciation from the Smithsonian Institution and the Anacostia Museum recognizing her for services rendered to the exhibition, "Climbing Jacob's Ladder;" a "Thanks" award in 1990 and an honorary citation in 2002 from the Urban Theological Institute; the 1999 "Spiritual Midwife" (Jarena Lee) Achievement Award from the AME Commission on Women in Ministry and the 1987 "Jarena Lee—Sisters of the Spirit" award from the AME Church's Harrisburg Conference.

On March 14 the AME Commission on Women in Ministry celebrated one deceased and three living women pastors at a banquet, Williams among them. But one week before the celebration Hamilton Arms in Lancaster, a Personal Care facility where she was living, because of COVID-19, would not let her leave to attend the dinner, as had been planned.

Among her published works were a chapter titled "Black Churches" in *Montgomery County: the Second Hundred Years*; a chapter, "The Clergywomen" in *Women on the Way* concerning clergywomen in the AME Church, and numerous speeches, lectures and workshops on clergywomen universally, Black clergywomen and Black church history in Pennsylvania during the late 18th and entire 19th centuries.

Williams is survived by a daughter, two sons, three grandchildren, one great grandchild and a brother, James Bounds.

Interment was private because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Memorial services will take place later.

3 Welsh Clergy Licensed Virtually

COVID-19 restrictions caused bishops in the Anglican Church in Wales to permit the virtual licensing of three priests. The new Assistant Curate for the Offa Mission area, Heather Shotton, became, on March 29, the first priest licensed during a virtual service on the Zoom video conferencing platform. "Priests can only operate under license from a bishop," said Archdeacon of Wexham John Lomas, who carried out the licensing. So as not to create difficulties and gaps in mission, since Shotton had been placed and was awaiting her license when the COVID-19 crisis hit, "the bishop asked if we could conduct the licensing virtually." A service of welcome was planned when the church reopened.

On April 2 the Bishop of Monmouth, Cherry Vann, licensed Tim and Karen Dack, a married couple recently arrived in Wales from New Zealand. Karen was licensed as priest in charge of the Monmouth Rural Group and Tim as priest in charge of the Monmouth Town Group. When the church buildings reopened, they were welcomed and inducted as Mission Area Leaders for their respective areas. (Anglican Church News)

Eurasia Retreat—

ness. She was impressed "by the way all the elements were fluently tied together and especially how the praise team was able to connect their songs with everyday topics, leading our thoughts toward a common focus. I was also greatly inspired by very personal stories women dared to tell, by close connections that were made by women from different parts of Eurasia and by the open and trustful atmosphere. The fact that Bishop Khegay was present and expressed his strong support for women in ministry was certainly encouragement for all. I was grateful and honored that I could be a part of this event."

Williams found participants' "enthusiasm and commitment as women of faith powerful to witness. Their stories of being met with resistance yet holding true to their calling were so inspiring. Bishop Khegay's desire and follow-through to make this a priority was a beautiful example of leadership." (Methodist News Service)

In the News

Canada

Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church in Canada, has been named the North America alternate to the standing committee of the Anglican Consultative Committee which meets every three years.

On July 31 Anglican Church of Canada **Bishop of Edmonton Jane Alexander** will step down from her office.

Cuba

At its meeting February 13-15 the **Executive Council of the U.S. Episcopal Church** formally approved the readmission of that church in Cuba as a diocese. The action elicited a warm and enthusiastic response.

Greenland

Bishop Sofie Petersen, who this year celebrates 25 years of ministry in the Diocese of Greenland, a part of the Lutheran Church of Denmark, still misses working in a parish. This greatly loved bishop has been a member of the World Council of Churches' Central Committee since 2006.

India

Jai Jagat (victory of the world), a movement started by Mahatma Gandhi disciple **Rajagopal PV**, initiated a global peace march last October 2 in

New Delhi to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Gandhi's birth. More than 50 people from India began walking 10,000 miles, crossing 10 countries. Several thousand people from all over the world are expected to join the march, arriving in Geneva on September 25. The mission is to promote peace, harmony and nonviolence across the world and address issues of land, water, forest, and livelihood in the wake of climate change and growing nationalism and religious fundamentalism.

Peru

Just east of Lima, in the heart of the Andes Mountains 84-year-old **Mama Toya**, a friend to many Presbyterians, has planted more than 30,000 trees in the past 30 years to help restore fertility to her community's lands that have been contaminated by emissions from a nearby metals smelter as well as to adapt to advancing climate change.

United States

On December 1 the **Rev. Angela Zimmann** was appointed Interim President of United Lutheran Seminary, where she is also vice president for Institutional Advancement and adjunct professor of Homiletics.

Three women working to eliminate

systemic poverty were given the 2020 Women of Faith awards for their Christian commitment through witness, service and leadership at the meeting of the Presbyterian Mission Agency board in Baltimore in February. **Ana D. Torres de Jimenez**, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 94, provides breakfast and transportation every Sunday for children and teens from a nearby housing project so they can attend her church. **Joyce Hamilton**, Harlingen, Texas, co-founded *Angry Tasy Abulelas* (Angry Aunties and Grandmothers), based in Brownsville, Texas, to provide basic necessities for health and safety as well as support for human dignity and justice for individuals and families seeking asylum along the U.S. border. **Ruth Azar**, Detroit, Michigan, is founder and executive director of the Second Mile Center of Detroit, a Christ-centered youth outreach and ministry founded in 2006 in one of the most violent zip codes of the city. It crosses cultural and racial barriers to serve children of various backgrounds and circumstances.

(Sources: Anglican News Service, Lutheran World Information, World Council of Churches News, Episcopal News Service, ELCA Information and Presbyterian Mission News)