

The Woman's Pulpit

July-
September
2018

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN MINISTERS

Brazil Anglicans Name Woman Bishop

In May the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil—*Igerja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil [IEAB]*—celebrated 33 years of admitting women to serve in all three orders of ministry. On January 20 the Rev. Canon Marinez Santos Bassotto, 46, was elected Bishop of the Diocese of Amazon, becoming the church's first woman bishop.

She was elected in Belém in the northern state of Pará. Brazil Province was one of the first in the Anglican Communion to open the episcopate to women in 1983. Its first female deacon and priest was ordained in 1985.

Bassotto was a priest in the Southern Diocese parish of São Paulo in the city of Cachoeirinha near Porto Alegre, in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Originally from Rio Grande do Sul, she has served as dean of the National Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Porto Alegre.

She is a member of the National Commission of Liturgy with responsibility for the Book of Common Prayer and the National Commission of Diakonia, the province's social responsibility organization. She also coordinates Confelider 2018, the national leadership conference which took place before the 2018 meeting of the provincial synod that is set for May 30 to June 3 in Brasilia.

Prime Bishop Francisco de Assis de Silva said, "We certainly have a special moment for our Province with the election of our first female bishop." He described the appointment as "a breeze that comes to blow on the Church and that certainly represents new times and a new way of exercising ministry. The Diocese of the Amazon and the IEAB are taking a decisive step towards gender equality and we are very happy. From Ghana (he was traveling in Africa at the time of the election) I raise my prayers for our province and bishop-elect Marinez and her family."

"I feel very happy and at the same

time I am very aware of the kind and size of the commitment I assume," said Bishop Marinez, adding that "the episcopate is a priesthood ministry, an opportunity of service (diakonia). It is never an honor or status."

Of the celebration of 33 years ordaining women she said, "Our Brazilian Church was bold and innovative by allowing women, since the beginning, to

have access to the three ordained ministries, even though, during these almost 33 years. there was no prophetic courage to elect a woman to the episcopate.

"It was about time to break the wall. With my election a new era with more gender equality was inaugurated. I hope that it will be the first of many (breakthroughs) to come."

(Anglican News Service)

Women Lead 3 Jamaican Christian Denominations

The Rev. Karen Kirlew took office as the first woman to serve as president of the 169 year old Jamaica Baptist Union on February 25. She joined the Rev. Christine Gooden Benguche who leads the Methodist Church in Jamaica and the Rev. Phyllis Smith Seymour, leader of the Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

Their leadership transforms the role of women in these churches, where women have long outnumbered men, from support only to both support and leadership. This breakthrough for women has been welcomed by many in the Christian community of the island, but some argue this is not in keeping with the gospel.

Several members of the Christian community who opposed women leading denominations refused to speak on the record to reporter Jodi-Ann Gilpin of the Jamaica *Record*, but those who saw this as a step in the right direction were quick to voice their support.

The Rev. Dr. Stevenson Samuels, pastor of Escarpment Road New Testament Church of St. Andrew, hailed their elevation to top posts in their denominations as "a big move by the Church."

"I think it speaks volumes for women and also speaks a lot for the Christian community that has put forward these women to provide leadership. I must acknowledge this bold move by the Christian community which is unlike many institutions in Jamaica," he said.

Aneisha Walker, a Christian school-

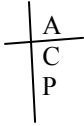
teacher, was elated by the elections and said that for a long time the Church has stigmatized women leaders by claiming that this was contrary to the principles of God. "I think that this is a positive direction that the church is going in, that everything is falling into place just the way the Lord has designed it, because we are all equal in the eyes of the Lord.

"God has given all of us gifts to edify his kingdom. I am happy that we are moving away from stigma and discrimination." She added she was blessed to have strong women in her life who urged her to pursue excellence.

The Rev. Carla Dunbar, who is also a sex counseling therapist, said it is imperative that women do not apologize for their gender or try to copy male leadership styles. She urged them to remember they are women and not feel that is in itself a weakness. She said she is elated by the accomplishments of the three women leaders.

She also urged women to find a balance between work and family life and said she as a pastor and family counselor had to learn this important fact.

(Excerpted from Jamaica's Journal)



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Photo: Liddy Barlow

In this selfie Liddy Barlow (face at right) captured all of the women attending the Western Pennsylvania retreat.

Western Pa. IAWM Members Explore Cultural Competence at Retreat

By Linda Miller-Pretz

The Rev. June Boutwell acted as facilitator at the annual retreat for Western Pennsylvania Regional members who explored "Introduction to Cultural Competence" on January 25 and 26. We examined our own contexts and cultural assumptions to discover how they help or hinder us from interacting with others and the world at large.

We discovered that when we want to minister effectively to and with, and interact with, people from cultures different from our own, we must intentionally seek Cultural Knowledge, increase our Cultural Awareness and nurture Cultural Sensitivity in order to gain Cultural Competence.

Cultural Competence is important for civil discourse, personal and professional relationships, safety, dignity and self control.

We shared a very enlightening two days that helped us and will help us move toward our authentic selves as children of God even as we act from diverse backgrounds as women of faith.

Drive-Through Ashes Offered As Lent Begins

Rev. Robin Cuneo of First Presbyterian Church in Harborcreek leaned into a car, marked a cross on the driver's head and said, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." In that northwestern Pennsylvania town close to Erie she was among Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy in that area who offered drive-through anointing of ashes on February 14, Ash Wednesday. Member Donna Hanna handed flyers listing worship times for Lent services to drivers waiting in line.

Member Isabel Lyon, a working mother, said of the so-called 'ash dash,' "It is very convenient if you've got a family."

Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Methodist congregations in the area also reached out to extend "this sacred moment" to many drivers as Lent began.

In This Issue

Brazil: 1st Anglican woman bishop, p. 1
Commentary Review: Song of Songs, p. 6
East Africa: Synod to ordain women, p. 5
Iran: Armenian laywoman deaconess, p. 3
Jamaica: Women lead 3 communions, p. 1
Obituaries: Evelyn B. T. Aye, Eunice Blanchard Poethig, Julie M. Poore, p. 7
Pakistan: Women theologians speak, p. 4
Paraguay: Aid law protecting women, p. 4
Roman Catholic Women Priests, p. 6
Russia: Pastor aids disabled, p. 5
U.S.: Clergy seek cultural competence, p. 2
Drive-thru ashes mark start of Lent, p. 2
1st EEC woman bishop, p. 3
Assemblies of God has woman officer, p. 3
Lutheran seminary president ousted, p. 6
News: Canada, England, Germany, New Zealand, Scotland, Uganda, U S, p. 8

July-September 2018/2

Laywoman Ordained Deaconess In Armenian Apostolic Church

The primate of Tehran Diocese in the Armenian Apostolic Church ordained a laywoman and a nun to the diaconate in the Mother Church of Surp Sarkis on January 21. Although this role has existed for centuries in the Armenian Apostolic Church, this was the first time a lay woman, not a nun, will assume this role in a parish.

Ani-Kristi Manvelian, 24, an anesthesiologist, was ordained along with Mayis Nateosian, by Archbishop Sebouh Sarkissian, Diocesan Primate.

“What I have done is in accordance with the tradition of the church,” said the primate. This was his personal initiative “to revitalize the participation of women in the liturgical life of the Church.” He added, “Do not be surprised; a woman could also become a servant of the Holy Altar.”

The archbishop explained further: “Today our church faces a necessary self-criticism. It is imperative to revitalize the participation of people in the social, educational and service spheres of the Church. It is our deep conviction that the participation of lay women will involve them in a more enthusiastic and energetic way.”

The primate added that parish priests are eager to recruit more women who fit the deaconess profile. Deacons and deaconesses may marry and continue to serve in their offices.

In the Armenian Church the development of the role of deaconess is divided into four historical periods: from the 4th

to 8th centuries in Greater Armenia; during the 9th-11th centuries in eastern Armenia and Cilicia, where the term, ‘deaconess,’ was included in the ordination rite; from the 12th century onward with literary references and rites for the ordination of deaconesses in liturgical texts, and the renewal of this role in the seventeenth century.

The last Armenian Church monastic deaconess was Sr. Hripsime Sasoumian in Istanbul. In North America Seta Simonian Atamian was the first adult woman ordained an acolyte, a lower rank, by Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, at the Armenian Church of St. Andrew in California, but when he moved, she was no longer permitted to serve on the altar of the Armenian Church.

While this is a very welcome step on the part of Archbishop Sarkissian, the Armenian Apostolic Church has yet to formally restore the female diaconate. The issue now is how to revive the diaconate for the pastoral life of local parishes instead of other monastic environments or convents, which are virtually nonexistent and no longer viable institutions. *(From Diario Armenia)*

Donato Named First ECC Woman Bishop

The Rev. Denise Donato, pastor of Mary Magdalene Ecumenical Catholic Church in East Rochester, New York, on February 9 became the first woman bishop of that communion. Presiding bishop Francis Krebs officiated in a service held at the Downtown Presbyterian Church in Rochester.

The Ecumenical Catholic Communion, which has been a member of the U.S. National Council of Churches since 2014 and is based at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, is “a leading force for ecumenical cooperation among Christians.” Donato oversees the pastoral care of congregations in New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

The Rochester native earned her bachelor’s degree in social work at



Bishop Denise Donato

Nazareth College in 1972, her MSW at Syracuse University in 1993, and her M. Div. at Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School (CRCDS) in 2001. She was ordained a priest in 2002,

(From a CRCDS news release)

July-September 2018/3

Save These Dates!

The Centennial Assembly

of the

**International
Association
Of Women Ministers**

**Will Explore
“ Women’s Prophetic
Leadership
In a Changing Church”**

July 22-24, 2019 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Enjoy
Holy Conversation
International Night Festival
Networking and Support
IAWM Milestones Recognized

Plan to join this 100th anniversary assembly at the Hilton Garden Inn, Robinson Township, Pennsylvania (Mon, noon through Wed. evening) Optional River Cruise.

**Email registrar Carol Brown to receive the brochure and details when available:
csbrown550@hotmail.com.**

Mea Culpa

A brief news report in the last issue, said to be from the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests, was entirely incorrect. The Editor believed it had been deleted and replaced with fully corrected information; however the gremlins which beset preparation of that entire issue won this time and the incorrect material was not successfully deleted and replaced.

We are deeply sorry for the error.

'Women Dominated, Dewomanized' Say Pakistani Women Theologians

A group of female theologians from different churches in Pakistan gathered during the third week of February to discuss equal opportunities for men and women to participate in mission and witness.

The national consultation on "Women Doing Theology" brought together in Lahore

33 women theologians from a range of Christian groups, including the Anglican Church of Pakistan. Addressing the question, "What is meant by 'doing theology in Asian Context,' especially in Pakistan?" the participants said that "men and women are equals before God, both bearing the image of God."

They continued: "God calls upon both men and women to fulfill the roles and responsibilities specially designed for them. However, in all spheres of Asian society, women are being dominated and de-womanized. In the Church and society women are being treated with bias."

Participants challenged the gender based discrimination in the Church and society and said that "biblical and theological exegesis often grant men fuller participation than women in the life of the church [and] restrict the role of women to inferior levels."

They said, "Women theologians are expected to play a crucial role to nurture the prophetic voice of women at all lev-

els. Doing theology that empowers and liberates women in the Church and society will ensure upholding the dignity and equality of women in both Church and society."

Some Issues

The Church of Pakistan's Ayra Inderyas gave a presentation on Women and Gender Equality during which she said, "Gender-based violence against women has deep roots in the patriarchal social structure of Pakistan. It is important for the churches to address the crucial issues women in Pakistan are facing and a gender sensitization education is essential in Pakistan's churches and society."

In a presentation on Empowering Leadership and Recognizing Women's Strength, Jennifer Jag Jivan, executive director of the Christian Study Center in Rawalpindi, invited the female theologians to meditate on their strengths and weaknesses.

"From the very beginning of church

history women fulfilled a vital role in the churches," she said. "Women have passion and warm hearts to listen to others' voices and understand others' needs. Women should strengthen their spirituality and develop talents."

Perspective: Justice, Dignity

Participants affirmed that re-reading the Bible requires us to "act for justice and interpret the Bible in a way that affirms the rights and dignity of women, children and all marginalized segments of society," said the ecumenical group Christian Council of Asia (CCA), which organized the consultation.

"Women Doing Theology" is one of CCA's "strategic program priorities to promote a cooperative process of study, analysis and reflection among committed young Asian women theologians to address pertinent Asian issues and contextual theologizing from a feminist perspective," they said.

In addition to the Anglican Church of Pakistan participants were drawn from the Salvation Army, the Presbyterian Church in Pakistan, the Roman Catholic Church, Gujtanwala Theological Seminary, St. Thomas Theological Seminary, Christian Study Center, Open Theological Seminary, the Maktaba-e Anaveem Pakistan and the People's Forum for Contextual Theology.

(Anglican News Service)

Lutheran Church in Paraguay Pledges To Support New Anti-Violence Law

(LWI)—Paraguay has brought into law new measures to curb violence against women and girls, a move the Evangelical Church of the River Plate (IERP) says it supports.

The law provides comprehensive protection of women against all forms of violence and has increased the punishment for killing a woman or girl—which it describes as femicide—to between 10 and 30 years' imprisonment.

The Paraguayan Minister of Women's Affairs has said the importance of the law lies not so much in the punishment of the perpetrator as in the protection it provides for the female victim and her dependents. Ana Maria Balardi said that, among other things, it stipulates that there must be one women's shelter in each of the 17 states of Paraguay, compared with two shelters that formerly covered the whole country. It places greater responsibility on offi-

cial to listen to and support women victims of violence and establishes administrative penalties for officials who fail to act appropriately on complaints. The law was enacted at the end of 2016 and became effective at the end of 2017.

The law covers a significant legal vacuum. The number of femicides reported in Paraguay last year—49—was nearly double those reported in 2015. Almost 13,500 cases of domestic violence were reported last year.

Lutheran Pastor Mariela Bohl, who serves the Congregation of Santa Rosa of Monde, said "Our women, girls, adolescents are being violated and it is necessary that we urgently educate for an

equality of gender, for the recognition of the dignity of women and men. As a church we cannot remain silent. We can denounce violence and fight it through education. I believe it is necessary to make this law known so that it can be a tool to reduce gender violence."

Pastor Christian Stephan said violence often "looks like something absolutely normal. It begins in language, it shows in attributed roles and day to day treatment and (emerges) in types of violence not even perceived as such."

The law covers violence against pregnant women, during childbirth, and online abuse against women and girls. In addition to access to shelters it provides for free legal assistance and access to counseling for women who experience violence. It calls for a standardized system to collect data on gender violence.

(Lutheran World Information)

Reformed Church of East Africa Approves Ordination of Women

A General Synod meeting of the Reformed Church of East Africa (RCEA) last November approved the ordination of women after years of discussion.

Moderator Musa Kipkorir Kaopkong Maina expressed his joy and thanked the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) for being a beacon of light that brought about this decision.

“In this area, WCRC has walked with us for quite a while especially in support for women on the matter of theological education,” said Maina. “Being at the General Council inspired us further and led the General Synod to pass the resolution to approve ordination of women.” He was referring to the meeting of the WCRC’s 2017 General Synod which adopted “A Declaration of Faith on Women’s Ordination.” Its introduction states: “God through the Holy Spirit calls both women and men to participate fully in all the ministries of the church. . . In some of the cultural contexts at which our churches live today, this declaration goes against the prevailing ethos. Thus faithful Christians are often called to be countercultural.”

Declaration Aids Decision

The WCRC declaration was part of the deliberation during which, after vigorous debate, with research findings tabled by Diphus Chemorion, the synod adviser,

the decision to ordain women was finally reached by the synod. The RCEA is hoping to ordain the first woman to the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament later this year.

“The news was received with jubilation,” said Maina, “but we are all cognizant of the fact that we have many still conservative. One thing, however, in which we rejoice, is that the decision has not divided the church. Please join us in prayer and also share this development with our other (WCRC) member churches that they may give us moral support and encouragement.”

The Rev. Najia Kassab, WCRC president and the second woman ordained in the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, expressed her joy at this news. “We rejoice with the RCEA for the decision taken to ordain the first woman to the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament and for the courage to listen to the Holy Spirit and stand for justice,” she said.

Russian Church Assists Youth, Adults Marginalized by Disabilities

A small Lutheran congregation in Tolyatti, west Russia, has taken up the challenge of being an inclusive congregation that provides vital support for disabled young adults. Whether they suffer from Down’s syndrome, epilepsy, cerebral palsy or autism, people with disabilities in Russia face challenges. Many are marginalized. Although for children and adults schools and homes are available, when they finish education, many have to do without work or therapy programs.

Pastor Tatjana Zhivoderova at a congregation of the Lutheran Church in European Russia in Tolyatti, a city on the Volga with 700,000 inhabitants, leads activities to support those young adults. The church acquired a two-story building and opened a center where about 15 children and young adults with disabilities attend the activities from Tuesday to Friday.

Pastor Zhivoderova studied theology and also teaches dancing. On a typical day the young people dance together, visibly enjoying themselves. An art

teacher offers classes in painting and clay modeling. On Tuesdays all go to the indoor swimming pool for therapeutic swimming.

At first many people living nearby reacted negatively. Parents feared their children could ‘catch’ a disability. But the group appeared in public so often the residents became used to them and prejudice has been reduced.

The program helps not only the disabled but also their next of kin. At the community center they share ideas and support each other. Parents get a break from caring for young people and they

“We (in the WCRC) stand in solidarity with the women who will be ordained, for the path has challenges still, and also with all the churches that are still struggling with their journey,” said Kassab, “but in hope we await a better future that reflects the love of God and the healing power for the body of Christ. This is empowering to us as a communion, as well, where our voice through statements and documents becomes a story about people, about change and a better world.”

Decision Took Time

Since 2002 efforts have been made by RCEA to bring forth this issue, giving theological direction and incorporating the opinions of RCEA’s members to enable the synod to make a decision.

In his report to the 29th General Synod, held November 22-23, the moderator expressed the importance of working toward the possibility of admitting women to the ordained ministry. “I can assure you that your synod office is under pressure from our fraternal friends and especially partners with whom we share our common Reformed heritage. Whether we accept or not, we will not be the first to do so. Already PCEA (the Presbyterian Church of East Africa) and other Reformed churches around the world have decided to ordain women.”

(From a posting by Phil Tanis)

make friends and develop relationships beyond their own families.

An additional advantage: in a society where the Russian Orthodox Church is prominent, this commitment brings recognition to the Lutheran minority.

LWF Area Secretary for Europe the Rev. Dr. Irenusz Lukas, says this is an expression of the church’s calling to “support people in need and pay special attention to those who are most vulnerable, like persons with disabilities in Tolyatti. The mission of the church should also be diaconal.”

A tradition in Wurttenburg, Germany, dedicates offerings from Good Friday services to an appeal called Hope for Eastern Europe. Last year’s offering of EUR 266,000 to diaconal projects in Eastern European countries included the project in Tolyatti. The offerings intend to “create a manifestation of love above all existing divisions.”

(Lutheran World Information)

Commentary Series Review—

Introducing Wisdom Commentaries

Barbara P. Reid, OP, edits this series. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 54 volumes. US\$39.95 each. This volume was reviewed in the October-December 2017 issue of The Woman's Pulpit.

Wisdom Commentaries Review—

Song of Songs

By F. Scott Spencer. Vol. 25. Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 2017, 253pp., ISBN 978-0-8146-8124-4. \$39.95.

F. Scott Spencer is an ordained Baptist minister and seminary professor. In his "Introduction", he surveys the possibility of woman's voice in the *Song of Songs*. There also are contributions from several Hebrew Bible specialists.

The *Song* is almost undatable but post-Solomon. The only clue is that an Aramaic paraphrase was composed in the 2nd Temple period (530 BCE and 70 CE). Its inclusion was questioned when the Hebrew canon was established but it was included which points to at least the middle of that period. The personal 'love' theme was prevalent in Hellenistic times. But how can a book be 'holy' when it does not explicitly mention God? It can be when the Hebrew 'soul' (*nephesh*) includes both the spiritual and the physical.

The editor attributes the verses to various speakers: woman to man, man to woman, woman to daughters of Jerusalem, daughters to woman, daughters to woman and man, and once? man to daughters. This might lend itself to a staged reading! Is there any real woman's perspective or do we have only a man's dream of how the ideal woman might respond? Is the warrior imagery hers or his? One of the difficulties of interpretation is lack of knowledge of what the cultural norms of beauty were. Is 'a neck like the tower of David' a good thing? Is this architectural imagery hers or his?

Critique: What was acceptable as foreplay? One of the few things we know is that Onanism was forbidden. Just how erotic is the text? Does 'belly' mean 'womb'? Is the 'mountain' the *mons pubis*? Is the use of a word that occurs once or twice in another text of the Bible a reference? Some 'themes', e.g., 'water' and 'fire' are so prevalent in the indigenous culture that it is misleading to seek them out in other cultures.

The various commentators consider the patriarchal situation and judge this woman to be surprisingly unbound by it. Does the editor interpret too much? One

cannot imagine that the milieu is one of free love; they must surely be an engaged couple to feel free to be so explicit. Perhaps in a patriarchal world, the time of betrothal is a liminal situation when the woman is not under control by father or husband.

This reviewer would prefer that the translation of the Hebrew text came at the beginning of each section followed by the exegesis with evaluation of various interpretations. Also for those without Hebrew or whose Hebrew is rusty it would be useful if the Hebrew was transliterated with the vowels included, e.g. *SHiR HaSHiRiM* or at least that the vowel points were also given. The final paragraph/s could then be a summary of the conclusions.

—REV. SR. TERESA JOAN WHITE, CSA

Ordinations Roman Catholic Women Priests

Berkeley, California, U.S.A.

Presiding Bishops Jane Via (principal) and Suzanne Thiel ordained **Christine Halder-Winnett** to the priesthood on April 7.

Morristown, New Jersey

On April 21 at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer Bishop Andrea Johnson ordained **Donna Enos Burke** of New Hampshire and **Emma Durkin** of Baltimore, Maryland, to the priesthood.

Indianapolis, Indiana

On June 3 Bishop Nancy Meyer ordained **Helen Weber MacReynolds** to the priesthood in Sweeney Chapel at the Christian Theological Seminary.

U.S. Lutheran Seminary Ousts New President

Trustees of United Lutheran Seminary, a merger of two Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) seminaries maintaining classes at both sites, voted on March 14 to fire president Teresa Latini after news of her past as director of a conversion therapy group aimed at changing the sexual orientation of gay men and lesbians came to light.

In a letter the board of trustees said Latini's continuing tenure "would pose a significant obstacle to moving forward." The seminary is an LGBT-affirming institution. Students at the seminary had become aware of her past involvement in an organization known as OnebyOne and were angered by the administration's failure to address that issue. Alumni also expressed concern.

The decision to remove Latini "was based on the board's concern that the ongoing controversy surrounding her naming as president made it extremely difficult to overcome the issues related to trust as president of the seminary."

Latini, 47, was installed in July, 2017 to head former Philadelphia and Gettysburg seminaries in Pennsylvania.

She said she told the Rev. J. Elise Brown, chair of the trustees during the hiring process and a member of the selection committee, of her connection with OnebyOne. It began when she was a member of a conservative Presbyterian church and ended in 2002. She has repudiated her connection there.

Brown admitted she had not shared this information and resigned, together with 9 other board of trustee members.

In an email to the press Latini said she had been "scapegoated by a historically divided institution and was given little chance to respond to the accusations against me."

Bishop James Dunlop of the Lower Susquehanna ELCA Synod will serve as interim president while a new president is sought. His synodical duties will be modified to accommodate this work.

At this writing the seminary is seeking to identify prospective new members of a board of trustees to form a search committee.

(From a report by Earl Cornelius in LNP, the Lancaster, Pa. daily.)

Remembering—

Rev. Dr. Eunice Blanchard Poethig

(1930-2018)

The Rev. Dr. Eunice Blanchard Poethig, who was president of the International Association of Women Ministers from 2011 to 2013, died on Palm Sunday, March 25, at her home in Chicago surrounded by her family.

A natural leader ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), she devoted much of

her life to advocating for the full inclusion of women and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Presbyterians in the life of the church.

Eunice served as the director of the Congregational Mission Division of the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly Council from 1994 to 1998. Prior to that she was Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Western New York (1986-93) and Associate Executive of the Presbytery of Chicago (1979-85)

As a Presbyterian missionary (1957-71) she assisted the United Church of Christ in the Philippines with Christian Education and Hymnology, publishing three booklets of contemporary liturgical music. Her dissertation, "The Victory Song Tradition of the Women of Israel," explored women's early Israelite liturgies. She has published on her work in related subjects.

Among her volunteer commitments was service on the Board of Directors of

the Presbyterian Center in Stony Point, New York.

Documenting her family genealogy led to a work on "Thirteen Generations," starting with her ancestors on the Mayflower. On her 80th birthday her family met at the Thomas Lee House in East Lyme, one of the oldest wood frame houses in Connecticut still in its primitive state.

Eunice attended DePauw University, Indiana, (BA), where she led efforts to diversify the sorority system. Theological study included Union Theological Seminary, New York (MA, PhD) and McCormack Theological Seminary, Chicago (M. Div, STM).

She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Rev. Richard Poethig, her five children: Scott (Maya Buchan); Johanna (Chris Brown); Kathryn (Victoria Rue); Margaret (Dick Creps) and Erica (Ray Sendejas); three grandsons, a sister-in-law, Marlie Blanchard, and a global net-

work of beloved friends and colleagues.

Her life celebration on April 28 took place at Lake View Presbyterian Church in Chicago.

Remembering—

Rev. Julie M. Poore

(1958-2017)

IAWM member and United Methodist (UM) Pastor the Rev. Julie Marlene Poore died on November 7, 2017 in Des Moines, Iowa, at age 59.

Daughter of Donald and Thelma (Hart) Poore, she grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, attending the Fort Des Moines United Methodist Church where her love of ministry blossomed at an early age.

She earned her M. Div. degree from Iliff School of Theology in 1984 and was ordained a UM minister that year. At the Spirations Institute she trained in spiritual direction.

During her years as pastor of congregations in Colorado and Iowa she was involved in the Native American Council, Iowa Women in Ministry, United Methodist Women, the Child Abuse Prevention Council and the World Council of Churches. She organized a liturgical dance group, enjoyed time as a yoga instructor and was a member of the Yoga Alliance. She led many church mission groups and worked tirelessly to promote peace and justice. She also shared her home with exchange students and citizens from Germany, Brazil, the Bahamas and Colombia.

Julie is survived by sons Lief Christensen (Erica) and Patrick Poore Christensen (Megan), grandchildren Asa and Aksel Christensen, a sister, Joyce Berkenes (Robert), a niece, a nephew, and great nieces.

Oceola, Iowa, United Methodist Church is developing a foundation in her name.

Remembering—

Rev. Dr. Evelyn Birkel Thompson Aye

(1921-2015)

Presbyterian minister and missionary the Rev. Dr. Evelyn Birkel Thompson Aye, 94, a member of IAWM, died in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, on August 18, 2015.

Born in Kuling, China, on July 5, 1921. Evelyn grew up in that country, the child of Presbyterian missionaries. Her family returned to the United States in 1936.

At New York Theological Seminary she earned a Master of Religious Education

degree in 1942 and in 1950 her Ph.D. from New York University. She married the Rev. John (Jack) Alexander Thompson in 1945 and the couple served as teaching missionaries in Egypt from 1948 to 1967, when they returned to Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1972 Evelyn was ordained a Presbyterian minister and served as assistant pastor at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and later as pastor at Rosedale Chapel, both in Princeton. She also worked in the Trenton Campus Ministry at Trenton State College (now the College of New Jersey).

In 1983 the couple retired to Duarte, California, where Jack died in 1995. In

2002 Evelyn moved East to Newtown, New Jersey, to be closer to her children and became active in the Newtown Presbyterian Church.

She is survived by her four children, Henry Alexander Thompson (Rebecca), Ann Adelle Thompson, Daniel Birkel Thompson and Carol May Thompson Hartpence (George) and granddaughter Alexandra Thompson Bracy (Daniel)

A celebration of Evelyn's life took place on July 9, 2016 at Newtown Presbyterian Church. Interment is in Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, California.

July-September 2018/7

You Are Invited to Attend

"From Solidarity to Mutual Accountability"

**WCC's 20th anniversary fete
Of the Ecumenical Decade of
Churches in Solidarity
with Women**

at

**Comunidad Teologica de Mexico
Ciudad de Mexico 1-6 October**

**Check the WCC Website for
a registration form.**

In the News

Canada

Four women were among the six Executive Ministers of regions of the United Church of Canada named in March: **The Rev. Shannon MacCarthy** leads Regions 2, 4 and 5; **The Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampe**, Regions 7 to 9, **the Rev. Rosemary Lambie**, Regions 11 to 13 and **the Rev. Faith Marsh-MacCuish**, Region 14

England

The Rev. Joanna Udal, former Secretary for Anglican Communion Affairs for two Archbishops of Canterbury, has been awarded the Cross of St. Augustine for services to the Anglican Communion by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby. Udal served with both Welby and Archbishop Rowan Williams before stepping down in 2014. The award was in recognition of “unparalleled service to the Anglican Communion.”

Germany

The Rev. Inken Wölbrand will become director of the Lutheran World Federation Center in Wittenberg on October 1. The center runs seminars on Lutheran theology for participants from all over the world and hosts conferences and international visitors in Wittenberg.

New Zealand

In mid-March **Bishop Victoria Mat-**

thews of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch announced she would step down from that office on May 1 to pursue other options. The first woman ordained a bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada in 1994, she has served the Christchurch diocese since 2008.

Scotland

In late February the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC), Bishop Mark Strange, consecrated the Anglican province’s first woman bishop in a service at St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Aberdeen. Worshipers battled through extreme snow to see **Bishop Anne Dyer** installed as Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, one of six SEC dioceses. The door was opened to women bishops in that church in 2002; Dyer was chosen for this office late in 2017.

Uganda

Replying in his Easter message to a member of Uganda’s Parliament who said in a TV interview that “as a man you must discipline your wife (and). . . .beat her somehow to streamline her,” **Archbishop Stanley Ntagali**, primate of the Anglican Church of Uganda used his Easter message to stress that “domestic violence is always wrong. . . .I want to state categorically that the Church of Uganda does not support his views.”

United States

Dr. Julia Faith Parker becomes the associate professor of Biblical Theology at General Theological Seminary in New York City on July 1.

On her birthday, October 20. at a luncheon in White Plains, New York, IAWM member and former president **the Rev. Margaret E. “Peggy” Howland** will be honored by the Presbyterian (Church [USA]) Peace Fellowship with the Barlow/Driver Award for peacemaking in retirement. In July tickets to this lunch will be available online from *emily @presbypeace fellowship.org/barlowdriveraward*. Peggy will mark her 60th anniversary of ordination on October 19 and has served 50 years with the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship; she retired in 1998.

IAWM member and former co-president **the Rev. Linda B. Brebner** is recovering at home from illness which began last December.

One of two candidates for Moderator of the Church of the Brethren at its July Annual Conference will be **The Rev. Pam Reist**, pastor of the Church of the Brethren in Elizabethtown, PA.

(From United Church of Canada News, Lutheran World Information, Anglican Church News, Episcopal News Service LNP (Lancaster, Pa., newspaper) and correspondence.)