

# The Woman's Pulpit

July-  
September  
2019

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN MINISTERS

## Iceland Lutherans Promote Women & Young People in Leadership

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland takes gender justice seriously. During recent elections for its highest authority, the General Synod of Kirkjubing, which includes 12 clergy and 17 lay people, a majority of women were elected in each category.

Bishop Solveig Lára Guðmundsdóttir of Hólar diocese says the church has been "encouraging congregations to have quotas of 40 percent women and 40 percent men" since 1984 when the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) set those goals.

When the General Synod met in 2017 she stressed the need to take those goals seriously, adding possibly including a goal of 20 percent young people.

Reminded of these goals the General Synod, for the first time, elected a majority of women. The Synod also elects the church's highest Executive Authority, the Church Council or Kirkjuráð, which also has two female and two male delegates now, alongside the Bishop of Iceland, who is currently a woman, serving as Council president.

Ordained in 1983, Bishop Guðmundsdóttir recalls there were only five other women priests then. "But now women make up almost 40 percent of clergy in Iceland, so it has changed dramatically. Also in congregations and on boards all over the country we have equal quotas of men and women."

Targets of 20 percent young people have not yet been reached. Many think they have "no experience." The bishop replies, "I think the church needs the opinions of young people so we can relate to what is happening in society."

The Rev. Judith VanOsdol, LWF's program executive for Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment, said, "How exciting to witness that vision for inclusive leadership lived out in the Church of Iceland!"

(Lutheran World Information)

## Archbishop of Canterbury Celebrates 25 Years C of E Has Ordained Women

A service on March 2 in the chapel of Lambeth Palace—the official London residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury—celebrated 25 years of the ordination of women in the Church of England. Then-bishop of Bristol Barry Rogerson ordained 32 women in Bristol Cathedral on March 12, 1994 in the first of many ordinations that year. A message from Bishop Barry was read to the more than 80 women priests who were invited to the celebration.

Dr. Isabelle Hamley, the Archbishop of Canterbury's chaplain, preached. Guests included many women who were among those first ordained in 1994, some lay people who actively campaigned for women's ordination, Prebendary Angela Berners-Wilson, first woman ordained, and the five current female bishops including Bishop of Derby Libby Lane, the first woman bishop who now, as head of a diocese, will be the next woman bishop seated in the House of Lords when a bishop's seat becomes available.

In his message Bishop Barry commented at length on "what an innovative and positive contribution women priests have made."

At the service Archbishop Justin said, "Many here today have been pioneers as they worked out what it means to be an ordained woman in the Church of England. Today let us bear witness to those who paved the way in 1994 as well as uphold those whose way into ministry has opened up since." (Anglican News Service)

## Merged Church Named For African American

A U.S. Episcopal congregation in California merged on March 24, taking the name of the only African American woman to have served as a deaconess in that communion. Newly combined St. George's, Antioch, and St. Alban's, Brentwood, are now known as St. Anna Alexander's Episcopal Church.

Born in the U.S. state of Georgia in 1865 to recently emancipated slaves on St. Simon's Island, Alexander became the first black deaconess in the Episcopal Church. She concentrated on the education of poor black children at Good Shepherd, Pennick, and its parochial school, and helped run Darien's St. Cyprian Church's school.

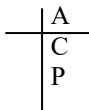
In 1907, during the Convention of Colored Episcopalians, Bishop C. K. Nelson set her aside as a deaconess. He wrote, "Admitted as Deaconess Anna E. B. Alexander, a devout, godly and respected colored woman to serve as teacher and helper in the Mission of the Good Shepherd, Pennick." She would become the only African American to serve as an Episcopal deaconess. That order, begun in 1889, was eliminated by the church in 1970 to include women in Episcopal canons governing deacons.

Walter Holmes, senior warden for Good Shepherd Church in Georgia where St. Anna is buried, told Episcopal News Service that as a student he "got to experience firsthand her dedication to people and the impact she had on so many in South Georgia. So it's a beautiful testimony to see her legacy reach to the other side of the country."

Interim pastor Jill Honodel said the new St. Anna's parish was inspired by her pouring out her life for the sake of those formerly enslaved; despite having few resources she managed over time to build a school as well as a church to help people in need succeed through literacy.

Educational segregation exists in this

(Continued on page 6)



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 (1877-1967)

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# Non-Parochial Ministries

## LIRS Calls Former Refugee as President

The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service announced the appointment of Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, former Policy Director to First Lady Michele Obama, as President and Chief Executive Officer effective February 13.

"In an era of family separation and animus towards immigrants seeking a better life (in the U.S.) Kirsh Vignarajah is the perfect person to lead LIRS—one of our nation's foremost immigration organizations. At nine months old she was brought to the U.S. by parents who fled a civil war. They became teachers in Baltimore, Maryland.

"Having served in the (U.S.) State Department, Obama White House and across Maryland, Krish uniquely understands the challenges and opportunities facing refugees and asylum seekers. She will be a tireless champion for all who seek a better life," said Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland.

Most recently Krish served as Policy Director for Michele Obama and led the President's and First Lady's signature Let Girls Learn initiative. Before that she served as Senior Adviser at the State Department under Secretaries of State Hillary Clinton and John Kerry, where she coordinated development and implementation of multiple programs including those concerning refugees and migration, engagement with religious communities, the legal dimensions of U.S. foreign policy and regional issues relating to Africa and the Middle East.

Founded in 1939, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is one of the largest immigration and refugee resettlement agencies in the United States and only one of two agencies that helped reunite children with parents after family separations. LIRS is recognized throughout the U.S. for its leadership working with and advocating for refugees, asylum services, unaccompanied children, immigrants in detention, families fractured by immigration and other populations. Across 80 years of service and advocacy LIRS has helped over 500,000 refugees and immigrants rebuild their lives in the United States.

*(LIRS News Release)*

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## N.Y. Mayor Names Partnerships Leader

Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York City has appointed Bronx native the Rev. Dominique C. Atchison as executive director of the Mayor's Center for Faith and Community Partnerships. She will work closely with the Mayor's Clergy Advisory Council (CAC) to maintain strong relationships between faith leaders and city government.

"I am humbled and grateful to Mayor de Blasio for granting me the opportunity to work with New York City's diverse faith communities," said Atchison. "I understand the importance in cultivating strong partnerships between city government and faith leaders. My overarching goal as executive director is to give the center longevity and establish it as a model for faith based civic engagement."

De Blasio said Atchison works alongside senior program manager Theresa Doherty and the center's staff to engage and maintain the partnership between faith leaders and city government.

Atchison, a United Church of Christ minister, is a graduate of Oberlin College in Ohio and Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. She was raised at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City and has worked at Judson Memorial Church there. She also has a background in school administration, most recently at Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy.

*(From Caribbean Life)*

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## Vatican Magazine Editor, Board Quit, Cite ‘Climate of Distrust’

A Vatican women’s magazine founded in 2012 which drew international attention for exposing the abuse of nuns came under a “climate of distrust and progressive delegitimization” of their work said its founder and editor late in March. She and the entire editorial board resigned from Women Church World, said Lucetta Scaraffia, because the women felt that in the preceding few months a hierarchy dominated by men was marginalizing them and did not value their work.

The monthly magazine, at first an insert published by the Vatican newspaper L’Ossevatore Romano, which quickly became a separate magazine, has focused on women’s issues and on the role of women within the Roman Catholic Church. Recently it became a forum for revealing and discussing hardships faced by some nuns around the world, including the exploitation of their labor and sexual abuse by priests.

Created when Benedict XVI was pope, the magazine had editorial independence and papal support from both him and Francis—who, as a result of the report of the abuse of nuns, acknowledged it for the first time. However, Scaraffia said, recently, when Andrea Monda became the new director of

L’Ossevatore in December 2018, things changed.

Monda denied interference, saying he limited “my contribution (suggesting topics and persons to report them) to be freely evaluated by Prof. Scaraffia and the editorial staff.” He also denied the former editor’s statement that he added women contributors to L’Ossevatore whose reports had a different editorial slant. The juxtaposition had the effect of “pitting women against each other,” said Scaraffia.

“They were trying to delegitimize us in every way they could. They wanted to sabotage the magazine, so we decided to leave before they took us out.” she said.

*(From reports supplied by the New York Times and CNN.)*

## Women from Sudan, South Sudan Living in Australia Meet, Discuss Hopes and Issues

On March 29 and 30, after the announcement of the independence of South Sudan, 20 women from the two countries who are now living in Australia met in a Sudanese and South Sudanese National Consultation in Canberra. It was the first time Christian women from the two countries had gathered across tribal, geographical and denominational lines said the Rev. Amel Manyon, the first South Sudanese woman ordained as a minister in the Uniting Church in Australia.

Organized by the National Council of Churches Australia, the gathering of 20 women from around Australia and the Australian Capital Territory conferred under the theme, “Truth, Unity, Reconciliation.”

Five denominations were present: Roman Catholic, Anglican, Uniting Church, Salvation Army and Baptist. There were also representatives of the police and health departments.

The meeting helped participants to develop connections and relationships across denominations and the Sudanese and South Sudanese communities across the country.

It also gave women an opportunity to share their stories, experiences, challenge and hopes for the Sudanese and South Sudanese communities living in

Australia.

The women took the opportunity to identify some issues that face the entire community in Australia:

- Youth – they addressed parenting; building trust; communication and engaging youth in different activities in church and community; mentoring and leadership programs.
- Women in ministry - how women are affected by culture and tradition of the church and the society they live in.

Rev. Manyon thanked the Uniting Church for sending five of its members to be among the 20 participants.

*(Uniting Church in Australia Assembly)*



Rev. Dr. Angela D. Sims

## CRCDS Appoints 1st Woman President

When Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, New York, appointed the Rev. Angela D. Sims its president in early April, she became the first woman and first African American to head that U.S. divinity school.

The 13th president of CRCDS spoke about the meaning of this move for her and also about the forthcoming change in the divinity school’s future.

Of the opportunity, she said: “I am heartened by the fact that in every generation there are individuals whose life experiences remind me that God continues to call us to live in a manner that points to the divine’s ability to use us as agents to renew the church and transform the world.”

She looks forward to the move the divinity school will make to a new location at 320 North Goodman Street in Rochester later this year. “It will be a campus relocation which offers opportunities to imagine living laboratories and experiential learning, and the use of technology to build community.”

She replaces former president Marvin McMickle who retires on July 1. Her installation will take place sometime in the Fall.

Sims comes to her new work from St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas and Oklahoma where she was a professor of church history, ethics and Black church studies. She is a renowned Womanist scholar and a member of the National Baptist denomination.

*(From news releases)*

# Mexico Lutherans Celebrate 10 Years Ordaining Women

Celebration of ten years of women's ordination in the Mexican Lutheran Church (ILM) on April 6 was also a time to reaffirm the church's commitment to empower and encourage women and men to invest their gifts in pastoral ministry in equal ways.

"In Genesis (1:27) we read that God creates humanity in God's image and likeness, and in equal circumstances. The capacities, gifts and opportunities to serve others are granted by the Lord to men as well as women," said ILM President the Rev. Roberto

Trejo during the worship service that day at the Gracia Lutheran Church in Mexico City. "In the ILM we needed the pastoral ministry of women because both men and women reflect the image of God."

A member of the Lutheran World Federation, the ILM has 1,500 members in 11 congregations led by nine ordained pastors—three women and six men.

## 3 Women Ordained in 2009

Rev. Sofia Tenorio was the first woman from the church to study theology at the Augsburg Lutheran Seminary in Mexico City (SEMLA). She was joined by the Rev. Maria Elena Ortega and the Rev. Angela Trejo Haagar. Motivated by their lecturers and pastors, they asked the church to accept them as candidates for pastoral ministry and all three were ordained in 2009.

For Angela Trejo Haagar, who serves as a Member-at-Large on the Executive Board of the International Association of Women Ministers, the pastoral task goes hand in hand with teaching at both the Lutheran Seminary and the Theological Community of Mexico. As coordinator of SEMLA she describes her work as "a constant walk where we have been accompanied by love and solidarity by fellow pastors who believe in gender equality."

Trejo Haagar, who will soon begin her doctoral studies in gender at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, with LWF support, said the celebration of women's ordination was important in making visible an ongoing process. "Our desire to serve the church and support the process of biblical reflection has grown," she said.

Sofia Tenorio, a pastor in the Gracia congregation in the capital city, spoke of the joys and challenges of being a female pastor in the context of Mexico's Machismo society. Many men and women do not accept a woman as some-

one whom God has also called "to evangelize the people, identify training and development opportunities, lead in preaching, singing, directing, teaching and organizing," she said.

Ordained in 2015, another female pastor, the Rev. Karina Garcia Carmona, currently leads one of the Mexico City congregations while also teaching at SEMLA. She noted that women's ordination has also promoted lay female leadership in the diaconal work of congregations. "Lutheran pastors continue to advocate a gender perspective in institutional policies and congregational practices which in our Mexican context contributes to reconstruction of the social fabric and to the concrete lives of women in our communities of faith," she said.

## Women Essential to Ministry

Former ILM president the Rev. Daniel Trejo Coria expressed gratitude for the "good dialogues" in the church that made it possible to achieve women's ordination in a meaningful way. "The inspiring attitude of Jesus to the women, commissioning them to share the message about his resurrection, is central to the gospel, and is no less than that to the (male) disciples of the Lord," he added.

In a letter to ILM the LWF secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean the Rev. Dr. Patricia Cuyatti congratulated the church for its commitment to an inclusive pastoral ministry. "I celebrate with the Mexican church for its inclusive pastoral ministry. I pray that the ILM continues to bear fruit in the commitment to affirm the full participation of men and women on an equal basis."

She thanked the women pastors for "putting their gifts and talents into practice and inspiring many people to embrace this honorable service to God."

(Lutheran World Information)

# IAWN Drafts Study On Gender Justice

An international working group drawing members from the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN) across the Anglican Communion met in Limuru, Kenya, in mid-March to develop a new educational resource to help Anglican theological colleges, seminaries and training programs teach about just relationships between males and females. The study materials will be known as "God's Justice: Just relationships between women and men, girls and boys."

The group was convened by IAWN "when it was recognized that the training, formation and equipping of church leaders and ministers in aspects of gender justice are essential as they prepare to show and tell the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Sacrament and Word and in the lives they live," said IAWN in a communiqué following the meeting.

The materials will be offered "as a component or module which can 'stand alone' or be incorporated into existing curricula and training schemes for women and men who are preparing for ministry, lay or ordained, or who are continuing to develop their ministerial education," the communiqué said. "Contributions to the study materials have been made by theologians from different contexts in the Communion. Their reflections invite critique and conversation in the context of engaged and respectful theological communities."

Members of the theological working group preparing this educational resource include Kwok Pui Lan and Paula Nesbitt, United States; Dorothy Lee, Australia (absent from the meeting); Stephen Spencer, Director for Theological Education in the Anglican Communion, Anglican Communion office; Paulo Ueti, Anglican Alliance Theological Advisor, Anglican Communion office; Moumita Biswas, India; Carole Hughes, New Zealand; Esther Mombo, Kenya; Gloria Mapangdol, Philippines; Gerand West, South Africa; and the Rev. Canon Terrie Robinson, Director for Women in Church & Society, Anglican Communion office, who facilitated the working group.

(Anglican News Service)

# Proposed IAWM Constitution Changes

At an electronic meeting of the Executive Board on April 5 the Board received the following proposed changes to the IAWM Constitution and recommends them to be voted on by the 2019 Assembly of the International Association of Women Ministers. All wording in italics is recommended to be removed. Items in bold face are additions. The changes printed here can be made by vote at the Assembly business meeting on July 24.

## Article II Purpose

The International Association of Women Ministers urges women to *educate* **present** themselves for Christian ministry, promotes international and ecumenical advocacy for women's ordination, and encourages women to grow professionally in ministry.

## Article III Membership

**Active Members** (active and retired) shall be ordained, licensed, certified and/or rostered women ministers, professional lay women in ministry, and women who meet the requirements for ordination but whose denominations do not authorize women to serve as ministers.

*Fraternal members shall be clergymen who subscribe to the purpose and goals of the association.*

**Sustaining members** shall be others who support the purposes and goals of the Association.

**Student Members** shall be women currently enrolled in college or theological school intending to enter professional Christian ministry.

*Retired members shall be women who are retired and request to be so designated.*

**A Life Membership** is open to all categories.

## Article IV. Officers

The officers shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer, *recording* and Secretary. *Corresponding Secretary, Membership Director, International Director and the Assembly Chairperson.* *The president ad vice President shall be elected at the Assembly to hold office for two years. The vice president will assist the president and will succeed the president as next president. The Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, Membership Director and International Director shall be elected at Assembly to hold office for one year or until their successors are elected. The Assembly chair shall serve until her duties are completed.*

## Article VI. Executive Board

The Executive Board shall be constituted of the officers, members at large, trustees and regional association representatives, Woman's Pulpit editors and committee *chairs*. The *retiring Immediate Past* President shall be a member of the Executive Board.

## Article IV VII. Meetings

The regular meetings of the Association shall be an Assembly *held annually or* at the call of the Executive Board. *Officers shall meet at least twice a year, electronically or in person. Executive board shall met at least once a year electronically or in person.*

**The final two articles of the Constitution will be renumbered VIII. Headquarters and IX. Amendments.**

**Any questions members have about these proposed changes should be directed to Constitution and By Laws Committee chair Jean Henderson at [jhhh21942@aol.com](mailto:jhhh21942@aol.com) or in writing to 611 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066.**

## Make These Changes in Your Prayer Calendar

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July-September 2019/5

Remembering\_\_

## The Rev. Robina M. Winbush

(1957-2019)

The Rev. Robina M. Winbush, director of Ecumenical Relations in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Office of the General Assembly, died on March 12 as she was returning from a 10-day visit to the Middle East. She was deplaning in New York when she collapsed at the airport. She was 61.

At the time of her passing, Winbush was part of a PC(USA) delegation that had just completed a visit to Israel-Palestine. The visit was in response to the Commissioners

Resolution approved by the 223rd General Assembly held in 2018 in St. Louis to recognize the suffering of the people in Palestine, especially those who have been dying in Gaza.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Winbush received her education from Kent State and Harvard Universities as well as Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She began her ministry in the PC(USA) more than 30 years ago when the church opened its offices in Louisville, Kentucky. She served in an ecumenical role in Global Missions before taking a pastorate in Queens, New York.

In addition to her ecumenical work, Winbush served churches in Harlem and the Bronx in New York City, Long Island and Louisville.

The Rev. Cliff Kirkpatrick, who originally served as head of Global Missions, hired Winbush to lead ecumenical relations in the OGA while she was pastor in Queens. "She told me she'd come back under one condition. I would have to go before the congregation in Queens and tell them why it was important for their

minister to come here," he said. No one has had more ecumenical passion than Robina. She was a leader in the ecumenical movement in (the U.S.) and the World Council of Churches. It feels like the wrong time to lose her, but her spirit will stay with us and will continue to empower us."

Winbush served on several national and international denominational and ecumenical committees and organizations. Among them: the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., the World Council of Churches, the World Communion of Reformed Churches and the national staff of Church Women United.

"This was very sad and shocking news. It seems unthinkable that she is no longer with us," said the Rev. Dr. Lisa Vander Wal, vice president of the World Communion of Reformed Churches. "Robina leaves a legacy of passion for ecumenism and justice, particularly gender and racial justice."

(PC[USA] General Assembly News)

## Praise Service Marks 200th Anniversary of Irish Hymn Writer Cecil Frances Alexander

On March 10 the 200th anniversary of the birth of Anglican hymn writer Cecil Frances Alexander was marked in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, by an exhibit and Praise Service. Her more than 400 hymns included All Things Bright and Beautiful, There Is a Green Hill Far Away, Once in Royal David's City and I bind unto myself

this day (St. Patrick's Breastplate).

Born in April 1818 in Dublin, she married Anglican priest William Alexander. An exhibit covering her life until her death in Derry in October 1895 featured letters, manuscripts and photographs of family members and places where the Alexanders lived and served the Anglican Church of Ireland.

The praise evening included narration of Mrs. Alexander's life story interspersed with the singing of almost a dozen of her well-known hymns. Dur-

ing one section of the story, Rebekah Cllingan, dressed as Mrs. Alexander, walked along the aisle to show people how the hymn writer would have dressed in the 1800s.

Taking part in the service were members of St. Martin's Cathedral Choir as well as the GFS (Girl's Friendly Society,) and Clogher Diocesan Choir that included its president, Alison Jackson.

(Anglican News Service)

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## Episcopal Congregation—

(Continued from page 1)

neighborhood, according to Honodel. For example, she said, the majority of African American males struggle to pass their math classes in high school. "We are inspired by St. Anna to do our part so that as many people as possible have a chance to succeed and the opportunity for a good future."

Alexander's faith and her championing of literacy and education exemplifies "what I feel is true Christianity," said Michelle Price, the new senior warden of St. Anna's.

"I see her being a saint as something I could emulate in my own life," Price added. "Some of the saints do things that are so huge and so dynamic and here's this humble, small woman in Pennick, that just quietly changed people's lives one student at a time."

Alexander brought new life to children who otherwise would have been left behind, Price said. "Hopefully our church will model the same through our resource center by hosting literacy programs, after-school programs and math programs."

Georgia Episcopalians worked for more than 20 years to have Alexander recognized as a saint by the church. In 1998 Bishop Henry Loutitt named her a south Georgia saint with a feast day of September 24. In 2011 and 2014 the diocese passed resolutions calling on the General Convention to include her on the church's calendar. General Convention began the process of doing so in 2012. The 2018 meeting of the General Convention acted to add Alexander to the church's calendar of saints when it approved a revision of "Lesser Feasts and Fasts" for that use—four months after a congregation had affirmed her sainthood in its parish name.

## Ordination

### Roman Catholic Woman Priest

Morristown, New Jersey, U.S.A.

On April 27 bishop Andrea Johnson, presided at the ordination of **Leslie Frances Handy** of Baltimore, Maryland and **Celie Katovich** of Rochester, New York, to the priesthood.

# PC(USA) Promotes WCC's Witness Re Violence Against Women

On February 14, 2019 in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of the General Assembly the color to wear was not red but black. Staff members were taking part in the Thursdays in Black Campaign organized by the World Council of Churches to raise awareness about violence against women and children. The campaign grew out of the World Council of Churches' Decade in Solidarity with Women after hearing countless

stories of abuse around the world from the battlefield to homes and businesses.

The Rev. Robina Winbush, Associate Stated Clerk and director of Ecumenical Relations for the Office of the General Assembly, had recently written an article for the WCC noting that Jesus commanded the disciples to "love God with everything you have."

"Yet in the name of this God who is love, people have captured, enslaved, trafficked, raped, sold, beat others who have been deemed 'less than' or 'other than' and subjugated people to selfish economic and sadistic desires," she wrote. "In the name of love, people have done unspeakable violence to the very ones they are called to care for and protect. This brokenness in relationships with each other and with creation becomes a betrayal of the very essence of God whom we claim to love, worship and follow."

According to the World Health Organization:

- One in three (35 percent) of women worldwide experience either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.
- Approximately one third of women who have been in a relationship report they have experienced some

form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner in their lifetime.

- An estimated one billion children ages two to 17 years have experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence of neglect in the past year.

Winbush says I Corinthians 13:4-7, a reading heard often at weddings, in its original context is for a community to heal the brokenness and wounds we intentionally and unintentionally inflict on one another. "When relationships (both interpersonal and collective) are abusive, controlling, narcissistic and sadistic, they are not relationships marked by the very essence of God—LOVE," she said. "These relationships hurt and wound—they kill and destroy. They are a distortion and perversion of God's intention for us."

The WCC advocates for the rights and well-being of vulnerable communities globally, particularly women and girls. The Thursdays in Black campaign is designed to bring attention to the experience of women who are abused and violated and develop healthy relationships that value each person as made in the image of God.

*(From a Presbyterian Church (USA) News report)*

## Make These Changes in Your Prayer Calendar

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## Building a Movement To End Mass Detention, Incarceration

Michelle Alexander, Visiting Professor of Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary in New York City is one of three speakers who will address a symposium on mass incarceration and mass detention at that U. S. theological seminary on September 6 and 7.

Called "Exodus: Building a Movement to End Mass Incarceration and Mass Detention in the United States," the symposium will be co-hosted by Rashad Robinson from Color of Change. Jose Antonio Vargas of Define American, and Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*.

Rashad Robinson founded and is executive director of Color of Change, an organization to design campaigns powerful enough to end practices that unfairly hold Black people back and champion solutions that move all Americans forward together until justice is real.

Pulitzer prize winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas founded Define American, a non-profit media and culture organization that uses the power of story to transcend politics and shift the conversation about immigrants, identity and citizenship. It has been called "one of the world's most innovative companies." A leading voice for the rights of U.S. immigrants, he wrote *Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*.

All three speakers will deliver keynote addresses. They will describe how the issues of mass incarceration and mass detention have been treated as if they were wholly distinct when, in fact, the system that seeks to criminalize and disenfranchise communities of color is the same as that which otherizes and dehumanizes migrants. It's time for faith leaders, journalists and politicians to reject these lies, say the planners, and the white supremacist ideology that undergirds them.

Activists, interfaith leaders, experts and directly impacted people will join together for a two-day interactive training on how to dismantle these unjust systems. Attendees will understand mass incarceration and mass detention more deeply, learn concrete skills to confront them, and begin to envision what a just society would look like.

Watch for information about costs and registration to attend the symposium. At the Union Seminary website look for information about the Exodus symposium on September 6 and 7.

## In the News

### Brunei

A new Sharia law that took effect on April 4 punishing gay sex and adultery by stoning offenders to death has triggered an outcry from countries, rights groups and celebrities far beyond the tiny Southeast Asian nation's shores.

### Cuba

IAWM past president **Rev. Dr. Ofelia Ortega Suárez** received her D. Min. degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary on May 30 in a ceremony held at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas where, at age 83, she continues to teach and where she is a past president.

At the ceremony reintegrating the Episcopal Church of Cuba with the U.S. based Episcopal Church in February Archbishop Fred Hiltz of the Anglican Church of Canada praised **Cuba Bishop Griselda Delgado del Carpio** as "a visionary, a hard worker and willing to do anything to support the ministry of this church." After 50 years of isolation, the Cuba diocese, under her skillful leadership, agreed to rejoin Province II of the U.S. church. Hiltz chairs the Metropolitan Council of Cuba which has overseen the Cuban diocese since its separation from the U.S. church in the late 1960s.

### Germany

On February 4 a group of prominent

German priests and theologians made their demands in an open letter to Cardinal Reinhard Marx in the German newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. Signatories demanded a new assessment of the church's teaching on homosexuality, permission for the ordination of women and a reordering of church structure to help the church respond to charges of sexual abuse.

### India

Although in September 2018 a judgment of the Supreme Court ruled that all pilgrims, regardless of gender, including women in the menstruating age group (traditionally deemed unclean), should be allowed to enter the Hindu temple Sabarimala in Kerala, when two women from the traditionally barred group did so on January 2, the temple was closed until a "purification ritual" was completed.

### United States

On February 4 the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego elected **the Rev. Canon Susan Brown Snook** its bishop.

The West California Diocese elected **the Rev. Megan M Traqueir** its eighth bishop on February 9.

**The Rev. Cathleen Bascon** was consecrated the tenth bishop of Kansas Diocese on March 2.

The March issue of PHS, monthly

newsletter of the Presbyterian Historical Society, reported having finished processing the papers of **the Rev. Eunice Blanchard Poethig** "which illuminate her advocacy work expanding the number of women and people of other marginalized communities serving as leaders in ministry and civic life." Eunice, a past president and longtime member of IAWM, died in 2018.

**Lori Bentsch** was appointed in April as team director for Eastern Mennonite Mission to provide leadership to 111 global workers in 33 countries.

After five years **the Rev. Heidi J. Kim** left the post of Episcopal Church staff officer for racial reconciliation to be Director of the Melrose Center for Servant Leadership at the Breck School, part of the Episcopal Church of Minnesota.

### Vatican City

Pope Francis asked activist **Consolata Missionary Sister Eugenia Bonetti**, 80, whose life work has been dedicated to rescuing women from human trafficking and sex slavery and with migrants and others who are exploited, to write the reflections for his Good Friday Way of the Cross. He wanted to show the world ways in which Christ still suffers today.

(From Anglican News Service, *Correspondence*, Bridget Mary's Blog (2), Wikipedia,, Episcopal News Service (6), PHS & LNP [daily newspaper in PA].