

The Woman's Pulpit

July-September
2022

NEWS ABOUT ORDAINED AND LAY WOMEN IN MINISTRY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

First Women Pastors Ordained by Polish Lutherans

By Marian Shearer, from material sent by Christiane Dutton.

Nine women deacons in the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland were ordained as pastors May 7 at Holy Trinity Church in Warsaw. Bishop Jerzy Samiec ordained the nine. They are:

Karina Chwastek-Kameiniorz
Malgorzata Gas
Beata Janota
Katarzyna Kowalska
Wiktoria Matloch
Halina Radacz
Katarzyna Rudkowska
Izabela Sikora
Marta Zachraj-Mikolajczyk

Bishop Samiec told the ordinands, quoting Ecclesiastes 3:1, "There is a time for everything."

"You have all already been ordained to the ministry of deacon—each of you has walked a different path—longer or shorter, but different from that of your fellow male students.

"They often decided for themselves whether they wanted to be ordained and if they met the basic criteria, the way was open to them.

"You were often faced with closed doors. Was it because you did not do well during your studies? No!

"It is because the Church has not recognized that Christ calls regardless of gender." Bishop Samiec suggested that perhaps the ordinands would say, "We have finally achieved what we fought for years." Think rather, he told them, that this is the time God has appointed for our Church for this ordination.

In her sermon, Rev. Halina Radacz recounted the story of Irena Heitze, who completed theological studies in Warsaw in 1937. The bishop assigned her to work among families and children at Holy Trinity in Warsaw, where the ordination service was taking place. Irena was assigned to Masuria after the war, amid a clergy shortage.

Researchers in the 1990s found a woman who remembered Irena's ministry, bathing and medicating the woman's frostbitten legs. Radacz held up Irena as an example of the servant

ministry to which we are called, she said, not lording it over one another. Though women have been ordained deacons since 2006, the Synod of the

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession voted only last fall to ordain women as pastors beginning Jan. 1 of this year.

IAWM Assembly Speaker Will Address Vulnerability as Threat and Resource

The 2022 assembly of the International Association of Women Ministers will meet in Karlsbad, Germany, August 26 to 28, immediately before the World Council of Churches Assembly nearby in Karlsruhe Aug. 31 to Sept. 8.

Our featured speaker on Saturday will be **Dr. Andrea Bieler**, Professor of Practical Theology at the University of Basel, Switzerland. Her theme will be "Vulnerability as A Threat and as A Resource in Light of the Pandemic."

The plan is that Bieler's address, and question-and-answer discussion later, will be live-streamed or available on Zoom. Please check the web site in August, www.womenministers.org, or email Marian Shearer, ucrev77@gmail.com, for the schedule and instructions to log on.

Women from Africa, India, Korea, Europe, Canada and the U.S. have registered for IAWM's assembly, and we anticipate some visitors from the World Council of Church's Just Community of Women and Men.

IAWM has applied for an exhibition space for at least part of the WCC Assembly, to record and share pictures and stories of women in ministry from around the world.

IAWM Vice President Margarethe Galbraith-Cordes and members of the executive committee have been arranging the assembly. It will take place at the Bethanien Bibelhaus in Karlsbad. Friday evening will be welcome, worship and business; Saturday will be Prof. Bieler's presentations and an International Night; Sunday planning for IAWM's next events, and worship.

Several will remain to attend the WCC pre-meetings and assembly.

WCC-IAWM Connections

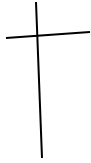
IAWM has been seeking ways to partner with the World Council, greatly through the efforts of the Rev. **J. Dorcas Gordon** of Canada, IAWM president, and longtime member Rev. **Roswitha Golder** of Switzerland. Though the workshop we hoped to lead jointly with the Swiss Reformed Church was turned down, we were invited to send someone to the WCC meeting with observer status. IAWM vice president **Margarethe Galbraith-Cordes** will be that observer.

The **Rev. Nicqui Ashwood**, programme director for the WCC's Just Community of Women and Men, invited Dorcas Gordon to join a gathering of African women church leaders in the WCC's WE WILL project.

The inaugural meeting, in May, of the Ecumenical Women's Initiative for Leadership and Learning, aimed to sharpen the skills of African women church leaders and build community in the ecumenical endeavor.

The women "lamented grave injustices, celebrated women pioneers, and nurtured a spirit of solidarity they hope will blaze a global trail for the future." Gordon composed the **lament which may be found on p. 7** of this issue.

The consultation, hosted by the WCC in partnership with the Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice and the All Africa Council of Churches, also aims to offer similar opportunities in other regions besides Africa.



World Council appoints Nalwamba

The Rev. Dr. Kuzipa Nalwamba will serve as the programme director for Unity and Mission of the World Council of Churches. A professor of Ecumenical Social Ethics, she is currently WCC programme executive for Ecumenical Theological Education. Nalwamba, from Zambia,

holds a doctorate in Systematic Theology from the University of Pretoria. Before joining the WCC, she worked for the Council for World Mission as a project consultant for strategic planning and as mission secretary for communication.

As WCC programme director for Unity and Mission, she will develop strategic directions for the programmatic work in the area of Unity and Mission, and will lead the planning, reporting and evaluation of programmatic work. She will also strengthen relationships with member churches, ecumenical partners and specialized ministries; and lead the implementation of programmatic work in collaborative ways with churches and partners.

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

Vol. 100 July-September 2022 No. 3

Editor Emerita

LaVonne Althouse
 300 St. Mark Avenue, Lititz, PA 17534

Editor

Marian P. Shearer
 305 Pomander Ave, Reading, PA 19606
 uccrev77@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PAST PRESIDENT: Marian P. Shearer

PRESIDENT: J. Dorcas Gordon

dorcagordon1@gmail.com

PAST VICE PRESIDENT: Ofelia Ortega Suarez

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RECORDING SEC.: Cynthia Walton-Leavitt
 cynuff@aya.yale.edu

TREASURER: Carol S. Brown
 csbrown550@hotmail.com

ARCHIVIST: To be announced

NOMINATIONS CHAIR: Kimberly Greway,
 pastorgreway@gmail.com

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 Janice Barker Susan Black

STATUTORY AGENT FOR THE STATE OF
 OHIO: Janice Barker

REGIONAL CONTACTS

CANADA: J. Dorcas Gordon
 jdgonson@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
 pastorgreway@gmail.com

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

Published quarterly.

Althouse elected Editor Emerita

The Rev. LaVonne Althouse, editor of The Woman's Pulpit since 1971, has been elected Editor Emerita by the IAWM Board of Directors.

At their on-line meeting June 21, the board proposed unanimously to recognize Althouse as Emerita for her 50 years of dedication to publishing the news about women in ministry.

"Long before there was the internet or instant electronic communications, LaVonne faithfully gathered the news of women and published it in The Woman's Pulpit," said IAWM president J. Dorcas Gordon. The quarterly newsletter goes not only to IAWM's members, both in paper and electronically, but to seminary and other libraries and archives.

Althouse successfully navigated the transitions from typewriters to computers, and mastered formatting the Pulpit in Microsoft Word. She faithfully reported on IAWM's annual and then biennial assemblies, and wrote and rewrote news adapted from many sources. Her high journalistic standards have contributed much to IAWM's presentation of professionalism.

She is succeeded by the **Rev. Marian P. Shearer** of Reading, PA, retired minister in the United Church of Christ and former journalist at Syracuse University, who has been associate editor.

NOTE: News items, suggestions and referrals for the Pulpit are welcome from all readers! Send to Marian at uccrev77@gmail.com.

Can You Help Us Find New Emails for These Members?

Thea Archinal
 Christina Forestieri
 Louise Crawford
 Liz Hernandez
 Rosemond Opoku Mensah
 Pauline Wanjiri Njiru
 Joy Noble
 Maurine Redenbach

Send to Carol Brown,
 csbrown550@hotmail.com

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Two Women Elected Co-Moderators of PCUSA at Assembly in June

By a tally of 203-151, commissioners to the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church-USA elected the Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace and the Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis as Co-Moderators. Together they'll serve a two-year term, the fourth straight team of Co-Moderators to win election.

The two were immediately installed during a service led by their predecessors, Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart and the Rev. Gregory Bentley, as well as the Rev.

Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Santana-Grace, 69, is executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Starling-Louis, 39, is pastor of Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

During an hour of brief speeches and a question-and-answer session held in the packed conference center at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky, Santana-Grace said if elected, the pair will be "ambassadors of that hope that continues to break through the darkness, which will not overcome it."

Their theme since agreeing earlier this spring to stand together has been "unbound we thrive," Starling-Louis said, promising as Co-Moderators they will "celebrate the places that thrive and places where we are called to do the work, places where we come together around the theology of the table."

Family members surrounded the two Co-Moderators during the installation service following their election, praying for and supporting their loved ones joyfully. The pair were given moderators' crosses and stoles to equip them for the work ahead.

"As you travel across the church and represent the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ... in a time in which we've had to alter the work of faith ... you're called in this moment to walk by faith and not by sight," Nelson told them, "that as you walk by faith, others will gain in faith by what they see."

"Blessings," Nelson said as he placed stoles on each of the Co-Moderators, "for the work that has been done this night. Let the church say, 'Amen.'" And it did, emphatically.

"Welcome to the guild," Bentley said. The Rev. Jim Murphy and Perry Chang of host Mid-Kentucky Presbytery gifted the Co-Moderators with Louisville Slugger bats, which Murphy encouraged them to use "as they step up to the plate" over the next two years.

Santana-Grace's voice has been affected by a diagnosis of vocal dysphonia, "which has not silenced my

voice, but it did take away my ability to sing," she said during a press conference following their installation.

"It's been beautiful watching our two communities come alongside this call," Starling-Louis said. "On paper, it shouldn't have worked."

"To God be the glory," she said, adding the two are "grateful for the love and support and trust of the commissioners."

Starling-Louis said the task immediately ahead is to "moderate the 225th General Assembly as faithfully and lovingly as we can, and to listen to what God is up to and to make sure voices are heard fairly. Getting through General Assembly will dominate the next few weeks."

Asked about what concerns they are hearing from churches, Starling-Louis said "genuinely, it's a sense of deep grief. We're most aware there's fatigue that happens," especially more than two years into the pandemic.

"The exhaustion is real and palpable, but there is hope we'll get through," Santana-Grace said. Starling-Louis said that as "resurrection people, we are unbound by thinking this is the end of the story. We become free to say, 'God, what would you have us do with what you have given us? What are you calling us to create and co-create? There's a buzz of energy that comes forth, an invitation in all churches to shift from 'we don't have' or 'we can't' to 'what is the next faithful response that says, we are available?' There is thriving, joy and celebration that happens authentically from that space."

And don't forget, Santana-Grace said: at Jesus' resurrection, only the linens — which had bound him in death — were left behind. *Presbyterian News Service*

IAWM's New Website Is Live!

www.womenministers.org

Check out photos, history, back issues of the Pulpit, and more.

Cameroonian Pastor Reflects on LWF Scholarship

The Lutheran World Federation's Helene Ralivao Fund (reported on in the April-June 2022 Woman's Pulpit) "goes a long way in making me a better pastor, lecturer, hospital chaplain and future role to be determined," said The Rev. Tientchu Djongue Marie Besong. Besong was among the first recipients of the scholarship named for the Malagasy Lutheran Church theologian, "Mama Helene" as she was affectionately called.

"The last time we met was in 2018, during a seminar in Ethiopia, discussing how churches and religious institutions in Africa address sexual and gender-based violence."

Besong said she was among the second batch of women to be ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon in 2013, and has been a development worker, coordinator of hospital chaplaincies, a pastor in rural and urban congregations, and secretary to the director of the Protestant Hospital in Ngaoundere.

"In September," she said, "I will start my four-year doctoral studies in pastoral care and psychotherapy in Canada. Out of the 12 ordained pastors in the EELC who hold a Ph.D., only one is a woman, and I therefore look forward to increasing that number with my studies."

"In addition to empowering individual women as theologians and leaders, the fund has the potentials to increase skills that lead toward more inclusive, safe, and just communities of women and men."

Besong said she hopes she can help her church and other faith communities to "address the needs of many people who have been robbed of their self-esteem by the crises and tragedy of life."

-From Lutheran World Federation

Remembering—

Rosemary Radford Ruether 1936-2022

By Dirk von der Horst for Religion News Service

(RNS) — How does a force of nature stop? This is the question I find myself wrestling with after the news of the Catholic feminist theologian Rosemary Radford Ruether's passing on Saturday, May 21.

Ruether has been a profound influence on my life since I was 18 or 19, sitting in the office of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador and reading her early book, "Liberation Theology: Human Hope Confronts Christian History and American Power." I remember, as I read, feeling an electrifying relief as a number of my intellectual, political and spiritual questions resolved. The setting is important; Ruether's theology is rooted in activism and she gave me the bridge between the religious and activist sides of my life.

I later had the honor of studying with her while at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and she was a member of my doctoral committee at Claremont Graduate University. Ruether's constant vitality was not only apparent in her prolific output — for stretches of her life she would publish a book or two a year — but in an élan that simply radiated from her personality and made her classes fly by. Her unflagging sense of humor often graced her writings and was apparent in the chuckle that regularly adorned her speech. Everything about her pointed toward the integration of critical thought and lived experience.

Ruether was one of the most important theologians, not just of the 20th century, but of the entire Christian tradition. Her 47 books cover topics ranging from the early church to examinations of Christian antisemitism, the Israel-Palestine conflict, the nature of U.S. history, the environmental crisis, the mental health profession and, of course, the uncovering of women's contributions to religion and her pioneering work in feminist theology. In her books, she wrote with a prose so clear it often masked just how deep the complexity of her thought went.

Ruether entered college to study visual arts, and when I asked her how her training in visual arts had an impact on her theology, she replied that painting trained her to "see things as a whole." Her method would often start with the diagnosis of a present injustice. From there, she would paint a picture that held the sweep of "Western" history from ancient Sumer to the present together in a coherent story.

We Have A Responsibility

She came to history with a profound sense that we have a responsibility to repair the legacies of its horrors, so her histories generally reflected a critical look at the strands she was in a position to do something about and left room for others to add their stories and perspectives to the larger picture. If her histories recapitulate the construct of "the West," they do so in a way that is chastened by her early experiences in the civil rights movement and subsequent activism, as well as a profound dialogue with voices from every part of the globe.

Her arguments would often clinch around the phrase "we need": What she wanted theology to do was to sustain communities and provide tools for moving toward a world in which the promises of equality and justice for *everyone* are realized.

Ruether derived this dialectical methodology in large part from the biblical prophets, drawing the lesson that critique must be above all a communal self-critique. She had a deep ability to hold together a commitment to hold together a commitment to stay with communities, even as she constantly searched for the most acute critical vantage point she could find.

Her concept of "Women-Church" outlined how she understood her work as a Roman Catholic feminist to be a dialectic between a commitment to the reform of a larger community and the creation of counterspaces that allow for independent voices to name experiences on terms not set by the dominant community.

A story shared by a faculty member at an event at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary illustrates what I call the "critical fidelity" that Ruether's life and work modeled. During a faculty boating trip on Lake Michigan, the wind came to a dead halt, leaving the sailboat motionless. While everyone waited for the wind to pick up, Rosemary rowed a little boat in circles around the sailboat. The laughter that greeted this story expressed the recognition of just how apt a metaphor it was — Ruether both refused to abandon flawed religious communities and to play on their terms.

No Once-and-for-all Justice

Ruether's passing is a keen reminder of a primary lesson from her theology: There is no once-and-for-all achievement of justice, but each generation has to figure out for itself how to rebalance relations that fall into distorted and unjust patterns. She modeled a pursuit of justice that was both more rigorous and less moralistic than many efforts I see today.

Ruether was one of the feminist voices who diagnosed the hope for personal immortality as a form of male egoism. Like the Psalmist, who declares that God is among the living not the dead, she provided reminders that our spirituality must renounce the question "what is going to happen to me" and focus on our life together.

(Dirk von der Horst is instructor of religious studies at Mount St. Mary's University, Los Angeles. He is the co-editor of "Voices of Feminist Liberation: Writings in Celebration of Rosemary Radford Ruether." The views expressed in this commentary do not necessarily reflect those of Religion News Service.)

Chilean Lutheran Bishop Isani Bruch appointed to Palacio

From Lutheran World Federation, as published in The Christian Century, June 1, 2022, page 21

On April 21, **Isani Bruch**, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile, was appointed chaplain of the Palacio de La Moneda of Chile, the national headquarters of governmental affairs and ministries.

“As a church we are very happy and we receive it with humility, with fear and trembling, but also with great hope and commitment to make this new Chile, which we are all dreaming of, possible,” Bruch said.

Bruch, a native of Brazil, moved to Chile in 1992 and was ordained as a pastor in 2002. She is known for her participation in the ecumenical movement and human rights advocacy.

A 1999 law granted equal legal status to all churches and religions registered in Chile. As part of the implementation of that law, the government instituted a chaplaincy at the Presidential palace.

As chaplain, Bruch will be responsible for worship services and pastoral care for palace staff and employees, who are members of various denominations, including Lutherans, evangelicals, and Pentecostals.

Bruch is the second Lutheran pastor to be appointed to the position. Gloria Rojas Vargas, a former Lutheran World Federation vice president for Latin America and the Caribbean, was presidential chaplain in 2014

Korean Ecumenist Hyunju Bae Reflects on Prayer Vigil for Peace in Ukraine

The Rev. Dr. Hyunju Bae, who represents the Presbyterian Church of Korea on the World Council of Churches, has also been part of a WCC Assembly Companionship Group at home in Korea. One of the activities they planned as

preparation for the WCC Assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany, this summer, was a prayer vigil for peace in Ukraine. They met on April 29 in the pedestrian zone right in front of Chungdong First Methodist Church, close to the Russian embassy, in Seoul.

Bae reported in an interview with the WCC that the vigil introduced three witnesses: A Ukrainian man who has been living in Korea for more than two decades; the former president of Hanshin University; and a third from the Metropolitan Ambrosios of the Korean Orthodox Church. “Korean, Korean-American, and Korean-German young Christians participated in reading intercessory prayers for peace in Ukraine, Belarus, Myanmar, Philippines, and all corners of the global village.”

The Assembly Companionship Group has been meeting monthly to discuss issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic, peace, climate change, discrimination and hatred, digital revolution, gender justice, hospitality, and inequalities and injustice. “It has become a platform for encounters among grassroots ecumenical communities working for laborers, women, LGBT people, the disabled, illegal immigrants, refugees and other minorities. In the case of gender justice, the discussion process now provides an opportunity to introduce ecumenism to the young people outside the walls of the churches,” she said.

Asked what the World Council global fellowship might pray for the church in Korea, Bae said, “The Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia are not only one of the world’s most militarized regions with risky tensions but also a most dangerously

concentrated nuclear zone.” The Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, she said, means an exodus from division and nuclear threats. And now the pandemic and climate crises situate this exodus in a broader all-embracing paradigm which is a green exodus toward an abundant life for all human and natural communities.

WCC Theme for Prayer

Korean ecumenical Christians, she said, often find themselves to be a minority within the entire Korean Protestant churches. Now they invite the churches to pray together “for Christ’s love to move the world to reconciliation and unity,” the theme of the WCC 11th Assembly. Taking root in the Korean peninsula that remains divided for 77 years, churches have undergone divisions along the way; both the churches and the country need reconciliation and unity.

Another relevance of the theme is a recognition that Christ’s love is the ultimate spiritual source of the ecumenical movement for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. In Korea, Bae said, people suffer from the accumulated historical traumas behind the screen of the rapid economic growth of the society. “The church needs to find concrete ways to transform people’s fear and despair into a source of insight, the courage to create, and the commitment to action in waiting.

“Christ’s love is given as a promise to illuminate the way to open up people’s hearts in mutual trust,” she concluded, “and choose human security based on the ultimate security of God, not the security of the nuclear umbrella.”

Freda Gardner 1929-2020

Freda Gardner, Moderator of the 211th Presbyterian General Assembly in 1999 and the first woman full-time faculty member at [Princeton Theological Seminary](#), was memorialized Saturday, April 23, 2022 during a Service of Witness to the Resurrection at [First Presbyterian Church in Albany, New York](#).

Friends and family remembered Gardner, who died in 2020, for her historic career accomplishments even as they focused on her humility, wit and ready smile — which the Rev. Dr. Glenn Leupold, co-pastor of First Presbyterian Church, described as seeming to invite people “to ask me why I smile and I will tell you about my Lord and his church.”

Gardner contracted COVID-19 before her death on May 9, 2020, at age 91. Ongoing pandemic conditions delayed the service until last week. Gardner had selected the service’s three hymns.

Presbyterian News Service [wrote about Gardner’s life and legacy](#) in May 2020, shortly before she was remembered during a [memorial minute video](#) by the Presbyterian Historical Society at the 224th General Assembly.

In that video Katharine Sakenfeld, a professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, called Gardner “a tireless advocate for social justice, women, church educators” and the “LGBTQ community.”

Barbara Wheeler, former president of Auburn Theological Seminary, also spoke about Gardner in the video. “The memorial service for Freda focused on what she meant to her family, friends and the congregation she belonged to during the last years of her life. But the traits lifted up by

all the speakers — gentleness, honesty, enthusiasm, love of learning, courage, faithfulness and a commitment to wide inclusiveness — were the same ones that illuminated her public accomplishments on behalf of women in theological education, church educators in the denomination and others overlooked or excluded in church and society.”

The Rev. Dr. Miriam Lawrence Leupold welcomed on-site and online worshippers to the service. First Presbyterian Church’s other co-pastor, the Rev. Dr. Glenn Leupold, read Scripture and introduced the first friends and family members who would share personal remembrances.

Gardner’s nephew Bill said that delaying the memorial two years had been difficult, but that he took solace during that time thinking about all Freda meant to him and other members of her family. He said Gardner moved through the world “animated by God’s Spirit in a way few people do,” before telling a story about finding a card with the words “What You Have Is Enough” at Gardner’s house in Princeton, a message she had written as a grounding reminder to herself.

Gardner’s sister-in-law Evelyn spoke about “four treasures” she uses to remember Gardner, including a recipe she plans to make soon in her memory and a list of people to remember in prayer. *Presbyterian News Service*

Roman Catholic Women Priests Note 20th Anniversary of First Ordinations

IAWM salutes the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests on the 20th anniversary this spring of the first ordinations, on the Danube in 2002.

Bishop Bridget Mary Meehan of the Association invited the faithful to “celebrate the gifts of courageous women and inclusive communities who are writing a new chapter of ‘Herstory’ in the history of the Church.”

She noted that Joanna Morehead writing in the British “The Tablet” had compiled a list of 50 remarkable women “. . .who could be running parishes and managing dioceses. They could be leading Vatican departments. . .Women could—and should—be redesigning the landscape in a Church that, in 2022, is in urgent need of fundamental change.”

-from the ARCWP web site

Prayer Calendar Changes

New Addresses:

Ruth Bosch Becker, 338 Norman Dr, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066
Jean Henderson, 346 Norman Dr., Cranberry Twp, PA 16066
Nandi A Chendori Love, 1754A Reed Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46815

New Emails:

Beverly Jo Banyay
bjb098@zoominternet.net
Ute Young
Ute.Young@kirche-oldenburg.de

New Members:

Add to Dec. 24-31
Sunday Ugwuio No 5 Aso Rd Marabara Karu LGA, Nigeria
ugwuik2000@yahoo.com

Wiselande Dorvil 1186 Oakwater Dr, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411
wdorvil@comcast.net CH of GOD

Margaret Ernst 328 Funston Ave Reading, PA 19607
maernst2@gmail.com UCC

LITANY OF LAMENTATION

Composed by IAWM President Dorcas Gordon for the Inaugural Consultation of the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Women's Initiative for Leadership and Learning (WE WILL),

Geneva, Switzerland, 17-19 May, 2020

We cry out, O God, asking why the sins of patriarchy and sexism continue to distort the world you created? We lament the suffering of women and girls perpetrated under the oppressive system of patriarchy upheld by religion and culture.

In our gathering,

We remembered and mourned Tamar raped in the name of love.

We remembered and mourned Gomer, and the continued use of texts of terror, violent metaphors and patriarchal language as a means of expressing divine-human connection.

We remembered and mourned the widow who spoke truth to power and persisted in spite of overwhelming odds.

We remembered and mourned the loss of the stories of women such as Phoebe, Prisca and Junia who served as ministers, apostles, and disciples.

We remembered and mourned that such stories were sacrificed by centuries of theological and doctrinal pronouncements.

For them there was no justice.

What about today?

Where is there justice for women who continue to be barred from exercising their God given gifts in church leadership as ministers, bishops or moderators?

Where is there justice today for women who daily live in fear that they are at risk of being raped by those they trust?

Where is there justice today for widows who lose everything – their homes, their dignity - because of oppressive cultural values?

But God has already shown us what such justice is,

It happens when the church becomes what it is called to be.

It happens when male and female are honored equally as God honored them in the act of creating them in God's image;

It happens when the church lives fully the example of the spirit that does not limit gifts according to gender.

It happens when the church repudiates and works to end all forms of violence against women and girls – civic, religious, economic, political, and cultural.

Hear our cries, O God,

MAY JUSTICE REIGNAND SOON.

****IAWM Opportunities****

As we anticipate our business meeting at the Assembly in Karlsbad Aug. 26-28, the IAWM Board of Directors members invite you to **consider one of these roles:**

-nomination to the board of directors. We meet quarterly on line and once in person at assemblies.

-prayer correspondent for one month of the prayer calendar. Usually one emails the members named that month or week, and thank them for their ministries, and assure them that their sisters in ministry are praying for them. (Carol Brown, csbrown550@hotmail.com)

-manager for our new web site, training provided. Web designer Gordon Atkinson will provide a two-hour training for up to three minders, who can then add and change some content and keep us up to date. Email Marian Shearer, uccrev77@gmail.com.

July-September 2022/7

In the News

The **Rev. Dr. Susan C. Bertollette** received a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in honor of her 42 years of service to the church and the Lansdale community. Rev. Bertollette retired from St. John's United Church of Christ in Lansdale on June 12. The citation was presented by Pennsylvania State Representative Steven R. Malagri (D-53) before the Sunday worship service on May 15.

The **Rev. Nancy Taylor's** retirement from Olde South Church in Boston was noted in the Boston Globe. Old South is well known for its historic Revolutionary role, but also for blessing the runners in the annual Boston Marathon and trying out ministries that stretch traditional church boundaries. Rev. Taylor had also served as executive of the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

Rev. Dr. Bear Ride '75 (M.Div.), '91 (D.Min.) was recognized as a distinguished alumna of San Francisco Theological Seminary. Inaugurated in 1981 on occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Alumni Association, SFTS recognizes graduates for distinctive contributions through their ministries. Ride has served as pastor in a variety of churches in Southern California, was the director of the Women in Ministry Project for the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii, and held the position of dean of students at the Southern California campus of SFTS. She also directed the Peace Center at United University Church, and now serves as chair of the SFTS Alumni Council and on the SFTS Board of Directors at the University of Redlands Graduate School of Theology.

The United Church of Christ has established the Antoinette Brown Society, commemorating the first woman ordained in a recognized church in the US, in 1853. Brown was ordained by the Henrietta Congregational Church in Henrietta, NY, near Rochester, and called to serve the church in South Butler. The UCC claims Brown as a "first," though of course women have been preaching without authorization for a long time. The Antoinette Brown Society, "Supporting and developing UCC Clergy at the intersections of race and gender," is inviting people to join. In 2021 the UCC gave its Antoinette Brown Award, given to outstanding women leaders, to the **Rev. Dr. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, Bishop Yvette Flunder, and Rev. Linda Jaramillo.**

(Sources: Pennsylvania Southeast Conference United Church of Christ news; San Francisco Theological Seminary alumni news; correspondence.)