

# News and Information About Presbyterian Women and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



## Union before Reunion



In 1979, Mary Ediger was the president of the newly formed “Women of Missouri Union Presbytery.” The organization was neither Women of the Church (WOC) from the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) nor United Presbyterian Women (UPW) from the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (UPCUSA), but a blended women’s organization in a union presbytery. The union presbytery (located in the northern half of Missouri) was created by combining the resources and staff of the separate UPCUSA and PCUS presbyteries serving scattered Presbyterian congregations in the area.

“The first thing that happened was that I lost the list that told me which churches were

PCUS and which churches were UPCUSA,” Mary reports.

So, women’s organizations in the presbytery were presented with sewing assignments for both WOC’s White Cross and UPCUSA’s Mission Sewing programs. Information was distributed on the Birthday Offering, Summer Medical Offering and Thank Offering. Fees to support the presbyterial and synodical organizations (later PW in the Presbytery and PW in the Synod) would be determined at a rate of one half the membership of the congregation—a method which combined the best of both organizations’ systems. All the associations were asked to make a mission pledge.

“When a congregation would call to report that they were sent information in error, I would simply tell them that I didn’t know which churches were part of which denomination and so they would have to support the work and mission of both.”

Within the next decade, the work of association boards in union presbyteries and synods would prove invaluable for creating the blueprint of Presbyterian Women. Strong traditions from the WOC such as the Birthday Offering, would be celebrated alongside the Thank Offering (with Health Ministries), a merger of the Thank Offering and Summer Medical Offering (from the UPW tradition). The positive results of women working together in a shared spirit of community, mission and faith in the union presbyteries are seen today in the work of Presbyterian Women.

“To this day, I won’t tell anyone whether I lost that list on purpose!” confesses Mary Ediger, current moderator for PW in the Synod of Mid America.

## Moving? Don’t forget to inform *Horizons!*



You’ve alerted your friends, family, church and electric company. But did you remember to inform your favorite magazine? Please keep *Horizons* in the know about your address change. That way, you will be sure to not miss a single issue. And your good deed also will mean *Horizons* spends less in postal returns, penalties, and duplicate magazines and Bible studies. Did you know that when we receive a magazine or Bible study back from the post office, the cover is torn off—so we have to send out another copy—this all adds up. Keeping us informed helps keep the cost of your subscription down.

If you anticipate a move by the end of this year or early next year, let us know that, too. Why? Because the Bible study mailing list is closed on December 31 and we want to make sure that your March 15 mailing address is the one we have on file.

It’s simple! Call 800/524-2612, or write *Horizons*, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202. Please mark the outside of the envelope with “address change.”



## An Event for Young Women

August 6–10, 2008, join a diverse gathering of young women from across the country in an exploration of *The Power of Poverty*. Participants will develop lifelong friendships, engage in hands-on service with a San Francisco ministry, explore the causes and effects of poverty, and learn from keynote speaker Katie G. Cannon.

For more information and to register, visit [www.pcsusa.org/nmpcw](http://www.pcsusa.org/nmpcw) or call Noelle Tennis Gulden, 888/728-7228, ext. 5848.

## Commission on the Status of Women



Thirty-two Presbyterians representing Presbyterian Women (PW), the National Network of Presbyterian College Women, Racial Ethnic Young Women Together, and Presbyterian Men attended the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The delegation was part of the crowd of 5,000 people gathered to influence the language of the agreed-upon conclusions of the CSW. The theme of this year's meeting is Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

PW has worked with the United States' and ecumenical women's caucuses in this effort. Representatives of regional and thematic caucuses have met with the United States delegation to lobby for language to which nations will commit to advance the empowerment of women across the world.

Presbyterians in synods and presbyteries are invited to consider participating in the 2009 CSW, when the theme will be the Shared Responsibility of Women and Men as Caretakers, particularly of those with HIV/AIDS. The 2009 Commission will also address ending violence against women, climate change and gender.

## Women of Color Consultation Update



Four years after the 2004 Women of Color Consultation and two years after the Women of Color Consultation Task Force was created by the action of the 217th General Assembly, the 218th General Assembly (2008) will receive a report with recommendations from the task force. Titled "Hearing and Singing New Songs to God: Shunning Old Discords and Sharing New Harmonies," the report calls on the church to take a number of actions in response to the voices that rang out at the Women of Color Consultation. In its report, the task force contends that this is only appropriate for us who confess that our faith compels us to "unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace" (A Brief Statement of Faith, *The Book of Confessions*, 10:4, lines 69–71). Read the full report at [www.pcusa.org/acrec](http://www.pcusa.org/acrec).

The 2004 Women of Color Consultation was initiated by Presbyterian Women's Racial Ethnic Dialog and supported is by PW. The six-member task force includes two women representing Presbyterian Women, Grace Atkinson and Janet Ying. The task force seeks prayerful support from sisters in PW!

## Corrections

In the March/April 2008 issue of *Horizons*, "Supporting Mission" included incorrect information on where to send donations for the Net-Workers Mother's Day Project. Checks should be made payable to PC(USA) and note "ECO 048013—Mother's Day" in the memo line.

**Individuals should send checks to**  
PC(USA) Individual Remittance Processing  
PO Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

**Churches should send checks to**  
PC(USA) Church Remittance Processing  
PO Box 643678  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3678

Also in the March/April 2008 issue, the article "God Has a Task for Me to Finish" stated that Magdalene Kaitei received a grant to attend Daystar University. Her scholarship was actually funded by Presbyterian Women at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

## Celebrating Women of Faith

Three remarkable women will be honored at the Women of Faith Breakfast, June 22, during the 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in San José, California. The Women of Faith Awards were established to honor female members of the PC(USA) whose lives exemplify their Christian commitment through witness, service and leadership. "These are amazing women following God's call, transforming society and the church through their work," said Cynthia Joe, chair of the awards selection committee.

### The 2008 Women of Faith recipients are



**Magdalena I. García**, pastor of Ravenswood Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Illinois, a multicultural and bilingual congregation,

and author and translator for many denominational resources



**Ann L. Hayman**, founder of the Mary Magdalene Project, Los Angeles, California, a program that

provides alternatives to women involved in street prostitution



**Theodora (Thea) Jackson**, founder of the Jamaica Service Project, Queens, New York, a national model for developing comprehensive and coordinated systems of services for the aging