

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES & HISTORY

The Commission is an agency of the Annual Conference. The Commission oversees the Archives, the Museum (at Greenfield Memorial Church in Greenfield WI), and the Wisconsin Historical Society of the United Methodist Church. Lynn Lubkeman is the Conference Archivist. Mary Schroeder is Reference Archivist. Both are Conference Staff. The Archive is now open on Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and other times by appointment. The Commission participates in activities of the North Central Jurisdiction Commission and the General Church Commission on Archives & History.

The space issue has been resolved and the Archives will move to a different location in the Conference headquarters in late 2004. The Archive continues to receive materials and artifacts. (Note: records from closed, merged and discontinued churches must be sent to the Archive).

The Historical Society has been made a sub-committee in the Commission. This was done by consensus of the current membership of the Society. Memberships will continue to fund the publication of *Flashbacks*. All churches are urged to acquire a membership in this worthwhile publication. Lois Olsen is the editor. Contact her at 414.347.1745 for membership information. Historical Society officers are now members of the Commission.

Oral histories of memories from members of the EUB Churches in Wisconsin were gathered and taken to Dayton, Ohio. The Commission was requested to interview people who had been members and was the first to complete the request for these stories and now receives requests on how it was done from other Conferences in the nation.

Seven Commission members traveled to Delaware, Ohio for the Jurisdictional Convocation. The Wisconsin Commission on Archives & History will host the convocation in 2005.

Doug Kintner and Lois Olsen continue to publish history. Both are in the process of writing new books. Doug's, "*Wesley's Women*" was featured at the 2003 Annual Conference. Lois' "*Goodly Tents*" was also featured at the display of the Commission.

Robert Gruetzmacher continues to compile the database of pastoral appointments from the past to the present. Pictures are now available for obituaries of pastors, thanks to his efforts.

The Museum in Greenfield will feature a display on the history of Korean Language Churches in Wisconsin beginning late spring of 2004. The Black Congregations display was well attended. The Museum is open by appointment. Call 414.545.2440 or 414.527.0043.

The Commission continues to urge local church participation. The guidelines for preservation of archival documents and record retention for local churches is available from any Commission member. Districts now have representation on the Commission.

The Commission looks forward to documenting the past and future of districts and sub-districts as the Conference engages in the Circuit Ministries.

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COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS (CCUIC)

The Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns exists to advocate and work toward the full reception of the gift of Christian unity in every aspect of the Church's life and to advocate and work for the establishment and strengthening of relationships with other living faith communities. The Commission is a small group (with a big name!) that seeks within the restrictions of limited resources to pursue our mandate within the Annual Conference.

Work in the past year

The CCUIC took on three projects in 2003: (1) an online dialogue on same sex unions that replaces a conference on homosexuality and the church which was planned for 2002 and subsequently cancelled (2) a compilation of a directory of congregations in Wisconsin of the nine denominations which comprise Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC) and (3) a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue at Annual Conference featuring Abbas Hamdani and Gilead Moragh.

Approximately 100 people agreed to participate in the online dialogue and received reading materials (at Commission expense) in preparation for it; 23 people wrote responses that were posted on the CCUIC Conference Web site. Paper copies of the dialogue responses were sent to the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegations. The CUIC directory has now been duplicated and will be distributed at the 2004 Annual Conference. 55 people attended the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue held during the dinner hour on June 16. We are planning another dialogue dinner for Annual Conference 2004 titled: "Ordaining a Gay Bishop: What Effect on Church Unity?" Featured speakers will be Norman Fehr and Thomas Holzen, both of the Episcopal Church in Wisconsin. Rev. Bruce Robbins, outgoing secretary of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns will serve as responder.

In addition to these three projects, the CCUIC funded a Black History celebration at Albright UMC in Milwaukee on February 15, 2004. The celebration, organized by Rev. Marvin Spence, a Commission member, brought together congregations of the historically African American Methodist denominations (AME, AMEZ, and CME) with African American United Methodists for ecumenical worship and fellowship. We also supported the work of the Wisconsin Council of Churches and the Lutheran/Anglican/Roman Catholic/United Methodist (LARCUM) dialogue with both funds and representation.

Goals for 2005

The CCUIC has three goals for 2005: (1) to promote the use of the CUIC directory by sending Commission members to circuit meetings to describe possible uses of it (2) to sponsor another dinner at Annual Conference on a topic currently affecting Christian unity or interreligious dialogue and (3) to develop an Interreligious Concerns focus for the new quadrennium on either Jewish-Christian or Muslim-Christian relations.

We also intend to continue our support for the Wisconsin Council of Churches and for LARCUM.

Barbara G. Cook Chairperson

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

Purpose and Mission Statement

Our mission is to advocate for racial ethnic and cultural inclusiveness. The purpose of the Commission on Religion and Race as stated in the 2000 book of Discipline “is to challenge the boards, agencies and the institutions of the United Methodist Church conference to a full and equal participation of the racial and ethnic constituency in the total life and mission of the Church through and advocacy and by reviewing and monitoring the practices of the entire Church so as to further ensure racial inclusiveness.”

Highlights

In 2003, leadership changed. We are continuing to work through Anti-Racism Study action guides of the General Commission.

We administer the funding for the various Ethnic Caucuses so they can provide support to their constituencies.

Nine people from the Wisconsin Annual Conference CORR attended the NCJCORR Annual Conference in Johnston, Iowa. October 16-18; the theme was “The gift of cultural diversity”

Caucuses reported having done the following:

Laity and Clergy training

- Mission
- Responding to the call of Discipleship

Retreats

- Spouses
- Spiritual and Family

Camping

- Bible Study
- Children
- Youth

Workshops

- Evangelism
- Preaching
- Understanding the UMC

Christmas Celebrations

- Korean Families come together for 3 days in Wisconsin Dells
- African-American Candlelight Christmas Service

Regional & National

- All Caucuses attend their various regional and national meetings

Joys

Our Caucuses are continuing to grow effectively. This year the Oneida’s celebrated fifty years in their sanctuary. They also had a Consecration Sunday for a new roof, chimney, sidewalk and five Sunday School rooms in the basement. Milwaukee Native American Ministry welcomed a new pastor. Forty-seven people have been trained in leadership through the Hispanic Plan for ministry. Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis was appointed as the new District Superintendent. New Hispanic Church in Green Bay. New Korean pastor are joining our conference, one new elder and two

commissioned this year. Hee-So Jung was endorsed as a candidate for the episcopacy. Hyo-Won Park is revitalizing the Asian caucus. BMCR continues to celebrate Black History month, a Martin Luther King Celebration and they are raising scholarship funds in memory of Alonzo Robinson and Joseph Winston. New Hmong Church in Green Bay. We are excited about the new Hmong Hymnal. The Milwaukee Hmong congregation has found a home at the Church of the Good Hope. All of the caucuses throughout the year find time for worship celebrations and Bible study.

Concerns

Our inability to support and address the needs and concerns of our clergy and their families and cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments.

We are constantly receiving reports regarding how prevalent racism is in our churches.

The lack of compliance to our request for minutes from the boards and agencies of the conference.

Plans for the Coming Years

We will add an Asian Caucus in 2004

Find new ways of monitoring and reporting to the Annual Conference regarding diversity.

We will establish a way in which we can work more closely with pastors and their congregations and cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments.

We will encourage cross-ethnic participation and dialogue

NCJCORR will facilitate regional sessions within the jurisdiction to address the cross-racial/cross-cultural appointment system. 2004 will be a planning year, with session beginning in 2005. We are apart of region B- South Indiana, North Indiana, Illinois Great River and Northern Illinois.

Help the conference claim and live out the mission of diversity.

Continue to support our Caucuses in their mission and ministry.

Offer Unlearn Racism workshops to local churches and the conference when needed and upon request

Encourage ethnic leadership in circuits where possible given the location of the circuit.

Offer Unlearn Racism workshops to circuit

Encourage circuits to participate in community Study circles on Racism

Develop a Bibliography of cross-racial and cross-cultural materials.

Rev. Deborah Thompson, Chairperson

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

Introductory Comments

The purpose of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) is to serve as advocate, catalyst and monitor to empower women and to transform the church so that we as inclusive people of God might be in ministry to a hungry and hurting world.

Highlights and Accomplishments in 2003 - 2004

1. Provided "The Flyer" publication to women in leadership in the Annual Conference
2. Provided a "Bibliography of Resources" for distribution at Annual Conference
3. Presented "Bridge Builders" awards to Odell Thompson and Frank Gaylord
4. Provided to Annual Conference members brief, daily devotional reading and prayer for healing along with stories of women who have experienced domestic abuse.
5. Continued the monitoring process during Annual Conference
6. Advocated for use of inclusive language in worship services
7. Provided information, resources, and litany for worship to local churches for use during Domestic Violence Awareness month

Plans for 2004 - 2005

1. Present "Bridge Builder" awards
2. Continue to work toward the elimination of racism. Our scheduled plans to be further educated about the on-going attitude and effects of racism in hope of strengthening our advocacy for ethnic minority women were unfilled this past year due to circumstances beyond our control.
3. Celebrate the anniversary of women's ordination
4. Continue to monitor women's participation in all levels of the church
5. Provide "The Flyer"

C.Sue Bryce and Brenda Smith White, Co-Chairpersons