

MN Commission in the Status and Role of Women (COSROW)

May 30, 2018

Kelly Inn Board Room, St. Cloud, MN

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Debra Collum & Faye Christensen, Co-Chairs, COSROW; Rennae Petersen, COSROW liaison to UMW; Sandy Meyer, MN UMW President; Cindy Saufferer; Guy Sedorski; Marion Hansen; Wilma Roberts; Ailsa Odem; Nancy Victorin-Vangerud;

DEVOTIONS: Rennae Petersen – Jeremiah 1:4-10. God doesn't call us to do something without giving us the power to do it. Open minds & hearts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. #MeToo & #ChurchToo Pre-Conference Seminar, including #HerTruth shown at the seminar & the UMW luncheon: Our seminar had 20 in attendance---not bad considering there were 5 other seminars from which to choose. It went very well---skits depicting actual incidents of sexual misconduct in the workplace, several videos about the #MeToo movement; Cindy Gregorson covered the UMC policy on sexual misconduct & investigations; discussion about women's dress, etc. We didn't have an evaluation but comments to us suggested that participants would have liked to have discussion following the skits & their sharing of #MeToo stories
2. COMING EVENTS:
 - Re-Imagining: Oct. 12 – 14, '18: “Wisdom Ways Fall Soul Conference” at the Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality, 1890 Randolph Ave., St. Paul, MN; Nov. 1- 3, '18: Shawn Copland will be the speaker. Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Re-Imagining at Hamline University, 774 Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN. Check them out at re-imaginingcommunity.org.
 - GCSRW's fall seminar “Do No Harm” Oct. 11 – 13, '18, San Antonio, TX: GCSRW recommends that at least 4 participants from each

annual conference attend. Debra is willing to attend, as is Cindy S. It would be good if 2 people from the TC District & the NS District could attend. The purpose of the conference is to train people throughout the conference regarding sexual harassment & misconduct. Debra will contact Bishop Ough about support & money to send others (NSD?) to it for training. Marion Hansen will research if Gold Cross (parish nurse) money could be used for the event & let us know.

- **Follow up: Gold Cross Money was acquired. Rev. Debra Jene Collum will attend on behalf of COSROW-MN. A training event will be led by Debra at the 2019 Annual Conference Pre-conference seminar.**

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Oct. 21, '17 COSROW minutes were approved
2. Budget Report – Debra stated that the conference is working on zero-based budgets.
3. Budget Request – Faye suggested that any COSROW member who attends the COSROW pre-conference seminar and the COSROW meeting the next morning will have their hotel room paid for by COSROW. Approved.
4. UMW Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, May 18 - 20: Rennae, Debra, Cindy & Faye reported that the Assembly was wonderful, inspiring & informative. Cindy had the experience of being *miked up* since she is a national director of UMW & played a role in the skit “The View.” She saw the Assembly from the back of the stage & met some nationally known women.
5. Monitoring Followup with GCSRW: Susan Clark Harris will monitor women at the annual conference by way of the AC Journal.
 1. Article 4, Paragraph 4 was defeated by about 100 votes, worldwide: It had to do with the equality of women. This amendment will be sent back to all of the annual conferences due to an error the first time around---a sentence was left out. Also, COSROW members noted that there were 12 conferences in Africa which had **0** votes for the amendment & **4485** against it. Statistically that is not possible. Debra & Cindy Saufferer discussed the defeat of the amendment Dawn Hare, GCSRW CEO & Harriet Jane Olson, UMW CEO expressed their dismay about the fact that it did not pass; however, we now have a *do-over* this next year. GCSRW responded: *We the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, commit ourselves to continue to advocate for women*

individually and collectively within the UMC; to work to be a catalyst to redress inequities of the past; to prevent future inequities against women in the UMC; to monitor to ensure inclusiveness in the programmatic & administrative functioning of the church by providing resources & support. As mandated by Christ, let us live fully into the gospel promise that "there is no longer male & female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28). Therefore, we call on the people of the UMC to develop & fund programs, resources and ministries within each annual conference to help us be who Christ has called us to be.

6. Resolution #101 from Church & Society: Palestinian children are being detained in Israeli camps. Faye will be speaking at the annual conference of MN UMW's support for this resolution to release the Palestinian children back to their parents. COSROW members agreed to stand with Church & Society and UMW on this important resolution. **UPDATE: the resolution passed the A.C. unanimously.**
7. 2020 General Conference – COSROW possibilities for workshops: Faye talked with Jim Haun at the last annual conference about MN COSROW providing 2 workshops, both of which had been presented at COSROW's pre-conference seminars in the past: 1) Julia Mann, the woman who sang, danced & acted about growing up in a bi-racial family. 2) the musical about inclusive language, written & preformed by Kay Shroeder-Hacklander and group. **UPDATE: Faye spoke with Jim Haun the following day about these possible workshops. Jim said that the General Conference commissions & committees (not Annual Conference commissions & committees) need to present these workshop ideas & possibilities to the 2020 General Conference Committee. Faye will followup with GCSRW.**

EDUCATION/CATALYST:

- 2019 Pre-Conference Seminar: Islam faith & Muslim women: Rennae, Cindy & Faye will coordinate this seminar. Linda Kotschevar will be asked to join.
- Monitoring Discussion: With the new process/format at annual conference, it is difficult to monitor as we have in the past. Susan Clark Harris has offered to monitor the information about women from the MN Annual Conference Journal.
- Women's Clergy Stories: This is a project which began 2 yrs. ago with the 60th celebration of the ordination of clergywomen in the UMC.

Wilma offered to continue this project as other clergywomen submit their stories.

- Doing COSROW work at the local church: Debra met with Peace UMC members who are interested in doing social justice issues within their church & have COSROW involved. Cindy Tidball asked to join MN COSROW. **UPDATE: Cindy's name will be added to the COSROW member list at the annual conference session this year.**
- Ethnic churches & language for humans & God: Debra questioned how we might be able to influence ethnic churches regarding inclusive language for humans & God.

CLOSING PRAYER: Wilma Joan Roberts

NEXT MEETING: Sat., Oct. 20, 2018 - Peace UMC?

Faye Christensen, Recorder

COSROW Purpose

¶ 644. There shall be in each annual conference, including the central conferences, a conference commission on the status and role of women or other structure to provide for these functions and maintain the connectional relationships.

1. The responsibility of this commission shall be in harmony with the responsibility of the general commission (see ¶ 2103), with the following objectives established as guidelines for adaptation to the needs of the respective annual conferences:

- a) To be informed about the status and role of all women in the total life of the conference. Data shall be gathered that relate to all structural levels of the conference, including the local church. Such information will be regularly updated and disseminated.
- b) To initiate cooperation with United Methodist Women at the annual conference level and other levels as appropriate in order to achieve full participation of women in the decision-making structures.
- c) To develop ways to inform and sensitize the leadership within the conference at all levels on issues that affect women, which shall be projected into and through all districts within the conference by the commission.
- d) To focus on major priorities of issues related to women, which may include sexual harassment policies and procedures, and to enlist the support of the bishop, cabinet, and conference staff in policies, plans, and practices related to those priorities.
- e) To advise the general commission about the progress and effectiveness of efforts to achieve full participation of women in the life of the Church.
- f) To participate in connectional programs and plans initiated or recommended by the general commission, and to utilize the resources available from the general commission as needed.

United Methodist Publishing House (2013-01-01). The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012 (Kindle Locations 9540-9554). United Methodist Publishing House. Kindle Edition.

