

Re-imagining Conference

is aware that no one is even mildly disturbed at the way Jesus treated women or strangers. Neither is anyone protesting the metaphors that Jesus used to explain God's concern. What they are shocked to discover is that the Women's Division financially supported a conference in which milk and honey were offered in the name of **Sophia** and no one from the division protested. One trusts that Ms. Craig is not predicting that this Sophia tomfoolery—something that most UM women find shocking—will yet find a home at the Women's Division.

According to the *United Methodist Relay* (New Jersey), the Women's Division made their sponsorship selections for UMW vice presidents attending the "Re-Imagining" Conference by requiring them to "complete a long questionnaire and write an essay."

One UMW vice president who was chosen for the all-expense paid conference said, "They took pains to choose mature Christians." Although she defends the "Re-Imagining" event, she admits that she "walked out on two of the services." According to the paper, the Women's Division chose women "who could hear a broad cross section of ideas and expressions of faith without being overwhelmed by it all." This is most inter-

esting, especially considering that the Women's Division has denied knowing anything about controversial content of the conference prior to the event.

In regard to the recent shake-up at a Southern Baptist theological school, one UMW seminary president told the *United Methodist Reporter* that our theological schools have less controversy concerning academic freedom than Southern Baptists do "because we are less doctrinal." He went on to explain: "It's not a big issue for us. We hold academic freedom very high."

Perhaps that helps explain the recent nocturnal "Moon Howl" held at UM-related Candler School of Theology. The advertisement posted around campus read: "Moon Howl: A ritual of spiritual season and expression of voice. Join us, one and all, for Fire, Circle Dance, Poetry and Howling." (We are not pulling your leg.) The event was sponsored by the Emory Women's Center and the Candler School of Theology's Women's Caucus, which is funded through the seminary's student government association.

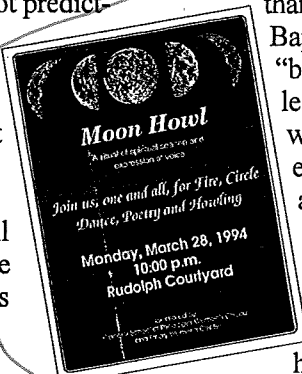
Apparently, some folks are troubled that the Renew Women's Network (ECUMW) claims they are "within" United Methodist Women (UMW) rather than separate from it. To set the record straight, at no

time has Renew stated that they are an official network sanctioned by the Women's Division. From the beginning they have been placed on the Women's Division's "unofficial" list. Nevertheless, the women participating in Renew are "within" the UM Church and "within" the organization of UMW. With few exceptions, the women who choose to network with Renew are very active members of the UMW. Many are local, district, or conference officers. For the record, three district UMW officers and one conference UMW officer serve on the Renew committee.

Perhaps you have seen the recent conclusions of the Jesus Seminar, a clan of liberal and presumptuous "scholars" who vote on which words Jesus actually said and judge the authenticity of the events in his life. The seminar voting is conducted with colored

beads—red, pink, and gray. In the Lord's Prayer, for example, the only words the group agreed that Jesus ever said were "Our Father." Most recently, the group decided that Jesus never interpreted the cup and loaf as his body and blood at the Last Supper, the feeding of the 5,000 was inauthentic, and the betrayal by Judas was fiction. The *UM Newscope* and *Circuit Rider* publish all of the seminar's findings without a whiff of skepticism—gospel truth, you know.

You may be wondering how on earth did such a collection of theologians—many of whom are considered second-string by biblical scholars—gain such wide and uncritical attention? "There was a deliberate decision to play to the media," admits one of their ringleaders to *Newsweek*. "We thought the colors would be more photogenic." Hmmm.



The Good News Mission

Good News is a renewal movement within the United Methodist Church. Founded more than twenty-five years ago, Good News has been a voice to inform and unite evangelicals within our denomination. Our goals are to:

- Encourage evangelicals to witness effectively for Christ within United Methodism.
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- Sound the alarm about unbiblical philosophies.
- Discuss vital issues facing our church.
- Provide much needed fellowship within our church through our Summer Celebration.
- Deepen appreciation for our Wesleyan heritage.

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Here, but in the case of the Good News? Are you saying, once again?

Miss You!

5/9/94

Another happy story for your
Women in the Church files -

My Board of Ordained Ministry Continuation
committee couldn't find anything to assign
me last yr as an "area for growth" -
but this yr, after talking about my senior
pastor being on medical leave for 5 months,
their one mandate for next yr was that

I be more intentional re: self care.

Is that great or what? Serving on my
committee is Del Kieseey of Mt Pleasant - a
strong & great BU alum. (Chris's former senior pastor)

Hope you & Dick are well. I will be spotted
here for another yr. I hope to be in Boston the 1st part
of August - that may be your cabin time, but I'll let you know.
Love, Dori