

Grapevine

PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

Moderator's Mosaic



Pam Deichmann
PW Moderator, Presbytery of
Des Moines

As we begin 2018, I choose to dedicate this mosaic message to the subject of sexual harassment toward women, especially in work place. The topic seems to be in the news daily, and sexual harassment is being reported in every type of workplace and environment. In fact, I recently attended a book-club meeting of women and the topic came up. We began sharing experiences, and turns out every woman in the group had experienced sexual harassment at some point in her life. I sat there and realized what a sad commentary it is of our culture.

I have no doubt that many women across our congregations in Central Iowa have experienced sexual harassment at some point in their life, too; and I know this is not a new topic for women. In the current climate of increase awareness I do see an opportunity to shed light on the prevalence in our culture, and how women can promote prevention and provide support for victims of sexual harassment and abuse. I would assume many of churches are engaging in conversations on the topic. So I ask...how are Presbyterian women preparing to offer help to women who are victims of sexual abuse and harassment in today's climate? Or are we guilty of supporting

a climate of not believing it, not talking about it, or not recognizing the need? So I promote efforts to educate ourselves on the current climate we are in.

The Bible condemns sexual assault and foretold that in the last days many people would have no natural affections and would be "fierce and without self-control." Is this were we are? Or rather, is God Calling us to make changes? As we continue to read about sexual harassment, we find out the sexual assault happens to both genders. In the United States about 10 % of victims are men. Most assaults are carried out by an acquaintance (according to Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network).

So as I begin to prepare myself and invite Presbyterian women across Central Iowa to engage in discussions at your next circle or bible study, I ask:

1. What is sexual assault or harassment?
2. What you should know?
3. What can you do?

I have included the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Fact Sheet on the definition of Sexual Harassment to begin the conversations...

Facts about Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VII applies to employers with 15 or more employees, including state and local governments. It also applies to employment agencies and to labor organizations, as well as to the federal government.

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

Sexual harassment can occur in a variety of circumstances, including but not limited to the following:

The victim as well as the harasser may be a woman or a man. The victim does not have to be of the opposite sex.

The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, an agent of the employer, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, or a non-employee.

The victim does not have to be the person harassed but could be anyone affected by the offensive conduct.

Unlawful sexual harassment may occur without economic injury to or discharge of the victim.

The harasser's conduct must be unwelcome.

It is helpful for the victim to inform the harasser directly that the conduct is unwelcome and must stop. The victim should use any employer complaint mechanism or grievance system available.

When investigating allegations of sexual harassment, EEOC looks at the whole record: the circumstances, such as the nature of the sexual advances, and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. A determination on the allegations is made from the facts on a case-by-case basis.

Prevention is the best tool to eliminate sexual harassment in the workplace. Employers are encouraged to take steps necessary to prevent sexual harassment from occurring. They should clearly communicate to employees that sexual harassment will not be tolerated. They can do so by providing sexual harassment training to

their employees and by establishing an effective complaint or grievance process and taking immediate and appropriate action when an employee complains.

It is also unlawful to retaliate against an individual for opposing employment practices that discriminate based on sex or for filing a discrimination charge, testifying, or participating in any way in an investigation, proceeding, or litigation under Title VII.

Peace,

Pam Deichmann, PW Moderator

2018 Churchwide Gathering



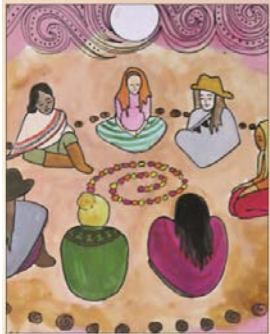
2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held August 2–5, 2018 in Louisville, Kentucky. This is also the year that PW celebrates its 30th anniversary! Join Presbyterian Women from around the country and sisters in faith from around the world for this triennial event.

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/2018-churchwide-gathering-registration-booklet/>

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday

In 2018, Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday focuses on women who have modeled for us what it means to “lead with love.”

When we think of women called to lead with love, there are two characteristics that these



Sisterhood, Cattie Atkinson

women demonstrate: 1) the gift of hospitality and 2) the gift of building consensus as the way to make decisions. Acts 2: 43-47 reveals that the most important of these practices included: 1) continuing worship in the temple and sharing in

prayers – worship, 2) recalling teachings of the apostles – education or kerygma, 3) sharing as any had need – service or diaconia, and 4) meals and fellowship in homes – koinonia. Women certainly were a part of these practices as the early church took shape.

The Celebrate the Gifts of Women resource, written by Judy Record Fletcher, includes a worship service with a call to worship, call to confession, prayer of confession, an assurance of pardon, suggested scripture readings, a sermon starter and program suggestions, and a litany of thanksgiving for loving leaders.

For more information:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2018-Celebrate-the-Gifts-Resource.pdf>

PW Survey Says

Today’s Presbyterian Women came to be in 1988, with the merging of the women’s organizations from the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (UPCUSA) and the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS). PW proudly continues the

rich tradition of our predecessor organizations from the PCUS and UPCUSA and earlier.

In 2018, we, as Presbyterian Women, will celebrate our 30th anniversary. For 30 years, we’ve been an organization that serves our churches, communities and the world. And in so doing, we find we’ve been enriched, too—we’ve learned, laughed, loved and flourished.

It is awe-inspiring to reflect on what our beloved PW organization has accomplished in the past 30 years and what has been made possible in the world. It is also amazing to consider what Presbyterian Women has meant for you as an individual!

A short survey invites you to reflect on the highlights of your participation in Presbyterian Women. Whether you’ve just attended your first circle meeting or remember the excitement of Presbyterian Women forming in 1988, your voice and presence enrich the organization.

Take this short survey at:

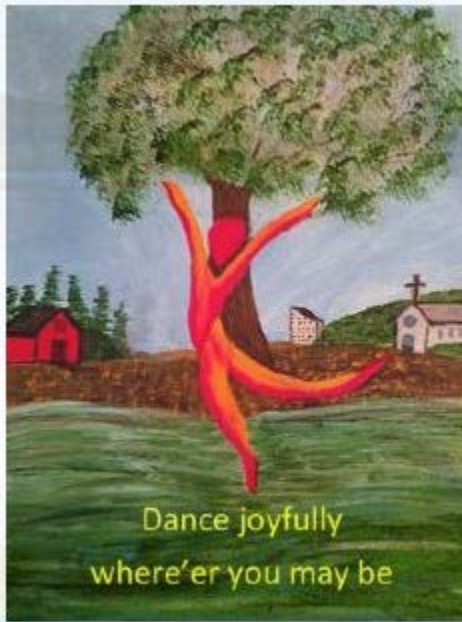
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPVYLRH>

Early results will be reported in the March/April 2018 issue of Horizons, but responses will be collected throughout much of 2018. Watch for the survey findings later in 2018, including at the 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women!

Bible Study

Field testers sought for 2020–2021 Horizons Bible studies. Presbyterian women nominate authors who submit outlines and sample lessons. The Churchwide Bible study committee chooses an author four years out and the first draft is field tested between August and December every year. PW circles, Bible study groups, and coordinating teams have all made excellent field testing groups. It would be great if a group from our Presbytery was part of field testing the 2020–2021 study on lament, to be field tested in late 2018? Apply today! Contact Betsy Ensign-George, 502-569-5366, betsy.ensign-george@pcusa.org

Synod School 2018 —



July 22-27
Buena Vista University
Storm Lake, Iowa

Plans are being made for the annual midsummer ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. In an environment of hospitality, healing and hope, Synod School offers so much.

In 2018 ... 76 classes for adults are planned, running the gamut from fun to serious, from entertaining to informative, and almost always at the same time. There will also be a full program for children and youth.

The full catalog is expected to be available in mid-February.

Convocation Speaker: Jason Santos

Worship Leader: Jana Childers

Music Leader: Hans Peterson, Dakota Road

Artist in Residence: Gina Penn, dancer

More information is available:

<http://www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool>

Mark your calendars:

January 15, 2018 - Registration opens for Churchwide Gathering - Registration cost is \$425. Room rate is (plus tax) \$144 per room or \$159 per suite. Synod lunch is \$32 - \$16 to be reimbursed by PWSLAP.

Apr. 13-15, 2018 - PWSCT meets at First Presbyterian Church in St. Cloud, MN

July 22-27, 2018 - Synod School in Storm Lake, IA

Aug. 1, 2018 - PDA/PW Disaster Preparedness Training – Louisville, KY

Aug. 2-5, 2018 - PW Churchwide Gathering at Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY

Oct. 19-21, 2018 - PWSCT meets at Presbyterian Church of the Master in Omaha, NE

April 5-7, 2019 - PWSCT meets at Ames, IA

June 20-23, 2019 - PW Synod Gathering at Gateway Hotel and Conference Center, Ames, IA

Fall 2019 - USA Mission Experience in the Synod of the Northeast - Cuyuga Syracuse, Geneva and Genesee Valley presbyteries

Presbyterian Women on Social Media

YouTube—<http://www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen>

Facebook—<http://www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenpcusa>

Twitter—<http://www.twitter.com/pwpcusa>

Flickr—<http://www.flickr.com/photos/presbyterianwomen>

Pinterest— www.pinterest.com/pwpcusa/

Blogs—<http://www.pwpcusa.typepad.com>

Church Store—<http://www.pcusa.org/store>

CCT site—<https://sites.google.com/site/>

Spring Connection



Plans are being made for the Spring Connection – April 7, 2018. The theme will be human trafficking. Our featured speaker will be the woman from our Synod who participated in the 2017 Global Exchange to Indonesia. Watch for more information.

2017 Global Exchange

The 2017 Global Exchange took a group of U.S. Presbyterian women to Indonesia, September 12–29, 2017. Participants encouraged and accompanied one another as together as they became more knowledgeable in ways to live respectfully in a multi-faith culture and seek a more peaceful and just world.

This fact-finding, relationship-building trip included one woman from each synod, who, for the two years following the exchange, will share what she experienced with her synod. The January/February 2018 issue of Horizons details the trip and Indonesian women will complete the “exchange” part of the trip by attending the 2018 PW Gathering!



Blazing Star Quilt will be displayed in Newton this spring!

This beautiful quilt was given to us from our sisters and brothers in the Dakota Presbytery. We are hoping to increase donations for the Dakota Presbytery by adorning the sanctuary of our churches with this glorious quilt. Please contact PW Moderator Pam Deichmann if your church session is willing to host and donate to this important link of our brothers and sisters in the Dakota Presbytery.

Fall Connection – Supporting Peacemaking

The Fall Connection on October 14, 2017 in Creston, Iowa highlighted domestic violence efforts local and internationally.

International Peacemaker



Sue Kimball presented Delia Leal, International Peacemaker from Guatemala, with PW life-time membership pin.

The Rev. Delia Leal, an ordained pastor in the Church of the Nazarene, is currently serving as the pastor of a Baptist congregation (Iglesia Bautista “Luz”) in Cobán, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. Delia is also the Regional Coordinator for the Women’s Ministry of the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA). Delia oversees the programs in five Central American countries. She spoke about CEDEPCA efforts to prevent and eradicate violence against women in Guatemala.

United Charitable Association

UCA is a group of compassionate people who see a need in Creston, Iowa, for a Homeless Shelter and will offer assistance for victims of domestic abuse, transient and transitional housing people.



During one of the sessions at the fall connection fleece blankets were made to be used for this program.

PW Awards

What would we do without those dedicated women who have worked for many years to keep our church family organized and focused? There are several in every church. It's time to honor them. Take a look at the PW purpose. Show your appreciation to a woman in your congregation (not necessarily a PW member) who exemplifies what PW works to achieve by presenting them with the PW Purpose Award.

The Honorary Life Membership (HLM) program was established early last century in the Presbyterian Church to honor faithful service to the women's organization and to the church. Recipients become a part of a large group of women (and a few men) who have been presented with an honorary life membership certificate along with a silver or gold pin that symbolizes values held dear by Presbyterian Women.

Cyber Safety

Online fraud and cyber scams have increased 270 percent in the past two years, according to the FBI.

Nonprofits need to start paying attention, because smaller organizations and businesses tend to be targeted by cyber criminals, due to the lack of tech savvy and sophisticated cyber security measures.

Recently the PW Coordinating Team was made aware of a fraud attempt using the email address of one of the team members. Fortunately our treasurer, Stephanie Cornelder, was alert and recognized the deception. The person whose email address was used was not even aware of the scam. Most of us belong to several non-profit organizations. Advice for non-profits to avoid cyber attacks can be found at this address:

https://www.thebalance.com/better-nonprofit-cyber-security-2502537?utm_source=emailshare&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=shareurlbuttons

Here are some suggestions for non-profits from this website:

1. Make cyber security a priority. If you are a small organization, you may be a more desirable target than a larger company.
2. Upgrade your computers and software. Computers running outdated software are much more vulnerable to cyber-attacks and hackers. *(The nonprofit [TechSoup](#) collects and disseminates technology donations to nonprofits, and they offer many software and hardware products at a steep discount. [CCB Technology](#) also provides computers and technology to nonprofits at low-cost.)*
3. Train and inform employees and volunteers. Develop strict policies on what employees can download from the Internet and have restrictions on downloading new applications without the sign-off of an IT person or supervisor. *(Fortunately, there are organizations such as [Cybrary](#) that teach the public about cybersecurity)*
4. Focus on passwords. There are several ways to build a secure password. They include mixing up the types of characters you use (numbers, letters, symbols) and not using words you can find in the dictionary.
5. Stay calm. Do not think that because of the recent rash of cyber attacks that you should panic and shut down all services connecting to the internet. That would not be wise nor practical. Using cloud-based services like Google and storage applications like Dropbox are among the most cost-effective tools for nonprofits.

This is just a short summary of the information at this website. Check it out for more details.

News about Presbyterian Women:

Presbytery of Des Moines – dmpresbytery.org

Synod of Lakes and Prairies -
<http://www.lakesandprairies.org>

Presbyterian Women -
<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org>

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Prayer of the Fellowship of the Least Coin

O Loving Creator, we present ourselves in your divine presence to thank you for all the bountiful gifts of life. We are especially grateful for the Fellowship of the Least Coin, which binds us together in love and forgiveness around the globe. Free us from all doubts and prejudices, we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with humankind, that we may know the joy of giving and receiving.

Dear God, accept this least coin "symbol of love." Make us mindful of the miracles of these coins. Let us honor your creation with love, as shown through the life, death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen