



“Revive us again”—
from ‘inside out’

General Commission on the
Status and Role of Women

gcsr.org

umsexualethics.org



From Romans 12

- “Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering ... Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.

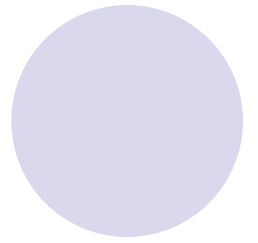
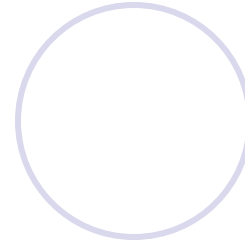
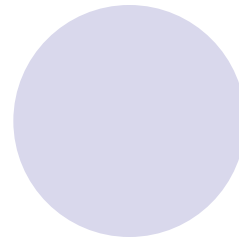
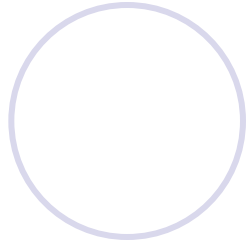
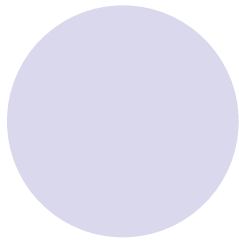
“Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed **from the inside out.**”

—*The Message* (Peterson)



GCSRW's central area of focus:

*Developing, nurturing
and challenging principled,
world-transforming Christian leaders*



Raising up 21st-century principled leaders means the church embraces as **core *global* values:**

- Full, equal inclusion of women and girls in every aspect of discipleship and church life;
- Notion that sexual misconduct against anyone in congregations and UM-related entities is antithetical and to our call to transform the world in Jesus' name.



The **General Commission on the Status and Role of Women** is in partnership with annual conferences, bishops & cabinets, laity in leadership, seminaries and agencies to nurture leading women—and authentic and mutual partnerships among men and women—to reflect our oneness in Christ Jesus in **four (4) key areas:**

1. Helping AC leaders establish baselines and goals for full inclusion of women at all levels.

- Training 80 U.S. AC leaders to assess and advocate their own contexts.
- Supporting development of a women's advocacy ministry in Mozambique, under the leadership of Bishop Nhanala.
- Working with GBHEM & GCORR to study impact of race/gender on clergy career trajectory.



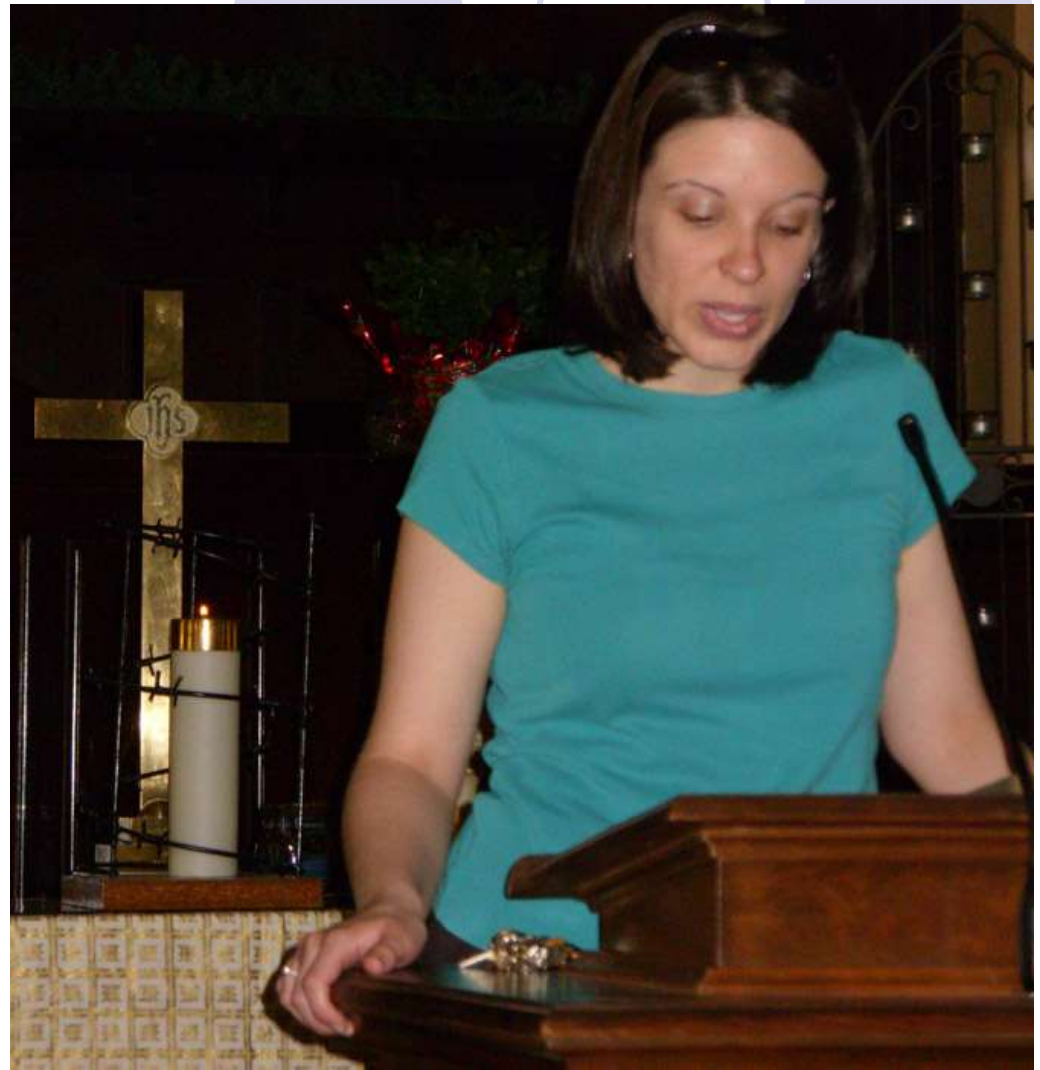
2. Resourcing seminaries, bishops, conferences and congregations in training, prevention, intervention re: sexual misconduct.

- Pilot course on healthy living and sexual ethics in cooperation with four (4) U.S. seminaries.
- Local church leaders' curriculum on prevention of sexual misconduct (including Internet safety/ethics), with four (4) agencies and team of AC representatives.
- Development of multi-level training, resources for pastors and laity.



3. Claiming new lay and clergy women called to ministry

- Study of U.S. clergy spouses, needs & concerns, with recommendations to GC and Council of Bishops. Plan to adapt study for Philippines.
- Focus groups with racial-ethnic women, **young** women and Central Conference women.
- Annual internship to engage young seminary woman in church work of advocacy and justice.



4. Collaborative work with other agencies and annual conferences to:

- Support AC Crisis Response Teams to minister to victims & congregations in the way of sexual misconduct crises.
- Create baseline standards and goals for assessing and improving gender-inclusiveness in seminaries, conferences and other church entities (collaboration with GCORR).
- Advocate full acceptance of women internationally as lay and clergy leaders, including **“first women”** pastors, etc.



Stewardship of Church's resources

- Originally budgeted at 85%, now projecting 80%.
- Have cut our original budget of \$3.9 million for 2009-12 quadrennium to about \$3.3 million. Considering a salary cut for our 5-member staff.
- Moved print resources, including newsletter, to Internet, which receives about 1 million hits per month, for a savings of about \$30,000 per year. Allows more nimble resourcing of global church community.
- Partnering with GCORR and GBHEM especially to share research, inclusiveness assessments, agency/AC/seminary reviews mandated by *Discipline*.
- Inviting the Central Conference members of our boards to be key presenters on women's concerns in their areas.

Answering God's call for leaders who

...dedicate every aspect of our "everyday lives" to justice, learning, engaging, claiming, witnessing to full inclusion and transforming the world as disciples of our barrier-busting Savior Jesus Christ.

