

Mission Anniversary

**WOMAN'S FOREIGN
MISSIONARY SOCIETY**



**NEW ENGLAND
SANCTUARIES**



**VISIBLE UNITY AND
COMMON WITNESS**



**NOTES
JOBS & GRANTS**

CGCM NEWS

Center for Global Christianity & Mission



First Women of Theology

On March 23, 1869, eight women gathered at Tremont Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston and founded the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. To commemorate the event, the School of Theology held a dedication ceremony of the stain-glass windows that came from the Tremont Street church that memorialized the women who started the society. Dana L. Robert gave a lecture about

**While the husbands were
establishing Boston
University, their wives were
founding the Methodist
women's missionary society**

the “First Women of Theology: Wives, Missionaries, Deaconesses” and how they were intertwined with the beginning of Boston University. In fact, she explained, that on the same day Massachusetts Governor William Claflin signed the state charter to found Boston University, he also chaired the first public meeting of the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society in Boston. “It was the same people,” Robert revealed, who founded both institutions. “The publicity, though, of the woman’s meeting got more press coverage.”

The Methodist women’s missionary society sent unmarried women to start the first schools and hospitals for women in India and China. Boston University’s history is interwoven with the hidden history of the women’s missionary society and the deaconess movement. For example, faculty wives in the School of Theology partnered with former women teachers and students from the predecessor schools of Boston University to launch organized outreach abroad. Polly Claflin, wife of BU founder Lee Claflin, was a vice-president of the WFMS; Mehitabel Baker, former teacher at the predecessor school of BU (and wife of its first theologian), was the first president of the missionary society; and Harriet Warren, wife of the first president of Boston University, edited the women’s missionary publications. Returned missionary women launched the deaconess movement in Boston, providing the foundation for Deaconess Hospital, the Boston University School of Social Work, and the first African-American deaconesses—who in retrospect can be considered some of the first African-American women students at Boston University.

The historical connection between BU and the WFMS made it fitting for the commemorative windows to find a new home at the School of Theology. Professor Karen Westerfield-Tucker created a liturgical celebration to dedicate the windows, and Professor Carl Daw, Jr. wrote an original hymn for the occasion.

The importance of the windows dedication became apparent two days later, when women came from across the United States to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the WFMS, the predecessor of today’s United Methodist Women. The official UMW anniversary celebration was held in the Boston University Photonics Center. Participants toured the STH library, enjoyed the archival exhibit dedicated to the founding of the WFMS, and snapped pictures of themselves in front of the newly-dedicated windows. The roots of global Christianity at Boston University go back to the work of the faithful women of the woman’s missionary society, even though many of their names and faces have been lost to history.

Sanctuary in New England

For four years, the CGCM has been conducting research on the Sanctuary Movement of the 1980s and the New Sanctuary Movement that emerged more recently. On April 22nd, the School of Theology and the Jewish Cultural Endowment co-sponsored “The Sanctuary Movement as an Interfaith Response to a Humanitarian Crisis.” Grace Yukich, Associate Professor of Sociology at Quinnipiac University, delivered the keynote address, “A Refuge for Immigrants: The Promise and Challenge of Sanctuary in the United States.” Additional presentations were made by faculty affiliates Rady Roldán-Figueroa, Daryl Ireland, and Jonathan Calvillo. The forum also featured two panels. One was composed of four activists from the first Sanctuary Movement; the other had three speakers involved in the New Sanctuary Movement.

NOTRE DAME CONSULTATION

From 26 to 28 March 2019, the University of Notre Dame (Indiana, USA) hosted representatives of the five Christian world communions formally associated with the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ) to discuss implications of that landmark agreement in the context of growing closeness and collaboration between them. Church leaders came from the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Methodist Council, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, and the Anglican Communion.



The meeting opened with an ecumenical evening prayer service led by local clergy and members of the Notre Dame community. The event concluded with a public panel entitled “From Conflict to Communion: The Future of Christians Together in the World.”

Participants at the consultation recognized the urgency of presenting afresh the core message of the JDDJ that “by grace alone, in faith in Christ’s saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts while equipping and calling us to good works.” They stressed the relevance of this gospel message for our conflicted and wounded world.

The representatives discerned further steps on the journey toward deeper ecclesial communion and a more visible common witness. Challenged with showing the deeper bonds that have been developing over the past two decades, the group welcomed the 2016 “Lund Imperative” to act always from the perspective of unity rather than from the point of view of division. The participants also affirmed the method of differentiating consensus that allows for agreement on

CGCM NEWS NOTES

New Jobs

Jean Luc Enyegue ('18) was appointed Interim Director of the Jesuit Institute in Africa (JHIA), Nairobi, Kenya

Soojin Chung ('18) is an Assistant professor of Intercultural Studies and the Director of the ICS program at California Baptist University

Amos Yong ('99) became Dean of both the School of Theology and the School of Intercultural Studies at Fuller Seminary

Antipas Harris ('08) was named President of T.D. Jakes Divinity School, which will open in 2020

New Grant

The China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies awarded a grant for the digitization of Chinese Roman Catholic posters printed in China before 1950

common convictions while maintaining different confessional expressions.

The purpose of the meeting was not to achieve theological breakthroughs, yet participants were able to discuss key issues of mutual recognition of ministry, highlighting ways of strengthening cooperation in pastoral ministry and social outreach. The group discussed the need for strategies to address the connection between justification and justice, and proposed the production of a range of common resources such as catechetical tools. Together participants encouraged the strengthening of the common bond of baptism in ways appropriate to local contexts.

The participants recognized the need to apply the 1952 Lund Principle, which calls them to act together in all things except when significant differences of conviction compel them to act separately. To continue the conversation, the participants decided to set up a steering committee to carry forward their ongoing work.

The members of the Consultation expressed gratitude for the generous hospitality shown by the University of Notre Dame which enabled them to move forward together on their journey. It was their prayer that the Holy Spirit bring to completion what God has begun.



Karen Westerfield-Tucker writes out the communiqué with Philippa Hitchen, communications officer for the Lutheran World Federation, and Bishop Brian Farrell, L.C., secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity