

# DO NO HARM: Racism, Sexism & Cultural Shame are Contributors to Risk

Submitted by Rev. Sally Dolch

**T**he July 2006 DO NO HARM conference featured three nationally recognized presenters: "Addressing Sexual Misconduct in Racial Ethnic Contexts." I had the privilege of introducing the panelists: **Traci West, PhD**, an African American born in Connecticut, faculty member at Drew Theological School, driven by & much published in the area of women's stories; **Rev. Luis Carriere**, a native of Puerto Rico, activist with the Faith Trust Institute, psychotherapist, and father of four; and **Andre Sung Park, PhD**, a native of Korea, faculty member at United Theological Seminary, and passionate about understanding those who have been sinned against.

"Race and ethnicity are at the heart of all we do. Keep it complicated!" says Traci West, the author of *Wounds of the Spirit, Black Women, Violence and Resistance Ethics* (ISBN 0-8147-9335-5). Or, we risk contributing to the offense by inhibiting healing. "Racism is in our culture, in our heads, it is embedded in our practices." Implied, is the wisdom that when we deny that we live in a world marked by racial diversity, its widely varied impacts on how we think, and the way we perceive others, we are not only behaving in a racist manner, but may compound the offense.

Indifference or want of understanding can be as offensive as intentional choices. Seeking cultural insights can help us move beyond stereotypical thinking. Studying the ethnic specific social dynamics and emotional issues of boundary crossing and intervention strategies is essential. Then incorporating that knowledge into training and interventions may begin to build bridges in spite of socially inherent racial dynamics.

Luis Carriere offered many frank and realistic strategies for addressing the dynamic differences between Hispanics of many cultures and the majori-

ty culture. He suggested that if you want to understand how difficult it is to be any minority culture in a majority cultural environment, "let the expert be the person in front of you. Training or interventions should be offered in the language of those trained. "I need to know I will be respected and not condescended or taken advantage of." Recent immigrants are grieving the loss of their culture, weather, clothing, food, language. Church is one place they are respected. Yet, there is a phenomenon of shame and "blaming the victim" in the Latino-American culture which could impede interventions. Carriere says that though there "may be difficulties that seem too difficult, let's keep talking and see what happens... we can educate through confusion, allowing it to be something good."

Han is "a psychic and spiritual hurt caused by unjust oppression and suffering." Han impedes healing and hope. Andrew Park, author of *From Hurt to Healing, A Theology of the Wounded* (ISBN0-687-03881-2), says this Korean religious concept of inwardly directed rage can be a "powerful tool" in boundary violation interventions. Past-focused retributive justice aims at guilt and blame. Future-oriented restorative justice targets the needs and obligations of victims and offenders. Incorporating han our understanding of victim needs and offender obligations may increase response team healing impact and resolve the han of all involved. "A problem caused by han is not a mere occasion of its cure, but a God given opportunity to improve a regrettable condition in which we find ourselves and expand the reign of God around us."

The Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference CARE Team Boundaries Training is scheduled for February 8th in Salisbury. Safe Sanctuaries training will be offered at District Lay Speaking Academies this winter. To learn more, go to [www.pen-del.org](http://www.pen-del.org) and watch for monthly articles in the Communicator under the heading DO NO HARM.

## Notice To Treasurers – Financial Secretaries

### Substantiation of Contributions:

**R**emember to provide statements for donor substantiation for 2006. The rules effect single contributions totaling \$250 or more. A written acknowledgement of the contribution must be provided by the church. The donors canceled check will no longer be sufficient to substantiate a contribution of this size.

The acknowledgement must include:

1. The donor's name.
2. A listing of each individual contribution of \$250 or more.
3. A description of any non-cash property contributed.

A statement that no goods or services were provided to the donor in exchange for the contribution. It is suggested that all church statements reflecting money contributions, such as quarterly giving reports, contain the following disclaimer: "Pursuant to Internal Revenue Code requirements

for substantiation of charitable contributions, United Methodist Church provided no goods or services in return for these contributions."

The written acknowledgement must be provided to the donor **prior to** the date on which the donor's tax return is filed or **prior to** the due date for filing, **whichever is earlier**.

**Also note that beginning in 2007 ALL cash contributions must be supported by a written acknowledgement of the gift from the receiving organization in order to qualify as a charitable deduction. Unidentified loose plate giving will no longer allow the donors to claim a charitable deduction for the amounts contributed in this manner.**

### Mileage Rate for 2007

The IRS has set the 2007 mileage rate at 48.5 cents a mile. When requesting reimbursement for travel in 2007, please use this figure to calculate your mileage.

## From Your Wesley College Chaplain

**I** was not used to winning football teams when I was in college. We were supposed to sing the fight song when the University of Virginia scored back in the early '70's, but they scored so little I could never remember the words. So it was a great feeling as the Wesley College Wolverines steamrolled almost all their opponents to the Division III semi-finals. It was a very tough loss but as President Scott Miller said: "I'm proud of the kids and coaches even with the loss...it was a terrific season by any measure..."

There is a spiritual story going on in the background of this sports story. One way to illustrate this story is to introduce you to Mike Clarke. Mike is a wide receiver who has run up 1300 yards and scored 14 touchdowns in the past season. He also has been named to the Associated Press and American Football Coaches Association All-American teams. Through fellow player Marcus Morris, he got involved with Wesley's Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). With the encouragement and mentoring of FCA's regional director, Randy Chambers, he went to one of the organization's summer camps which was a life-changing experience for him. Mike has been instrumental in the life of FCA here on campus and has led by example. After a tough win over Salisbury University, it was Mike who was called upon to lead the prayer as both teams met in mid-field. It was Mike who was given the grace to pray with his team and some members



Rev. Mark Pruett-Barnett

of the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater team after the very painful semi-final loss.

Mike knows the value of Christian fellowship. I think he understands Hebrews 10: 24, 25: "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (NRSV) He keeps in regular touch with two friends. As an FCA "huddle" leader, he has seen the huddle grow to 25 people, men and women, from different sports. Together, they help each other through the "many dangers, toils and snares" that face them. The Spirit works in different ways on campus, some more visible than others, and through all sorts of people. God encounters us in all sorts of ways here at Wesley.

Your Brother in Christ

**Mark**

Mark Pruett-Barnett  
Chaplain of Wesley College  
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## PUMH Welcomes New Members to its Delaware Board

PUMH, Inc. (Peninsula United Methodist Homes) recently welcomed five members to its Class of 2009 Board of Trustees. The members include Reverend Dale L. Brown, pastor of Union United Methodist Church in Bridgeville; Charles C. Emery, P.E., a certified electrical engineer, business owner and former board member; William D. Johnston, partner in the Delaware-based law firm of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor; Glenn Kocher, Senior Vice President of WSFS Bank; and Latanya R. Savage, Senior Equity Analyst for DuPont Capital Management. Members serve a three-year term and are eligible to serve two consecutive terms.

These board members join a team of about two dozen who are engaged in the oversight, management and strategic planning for PUMH. Nominated and selected because of the depth of experience, business acumen, and community commitment they each demonstrate, these board members represent a variety of businesses and a geographic

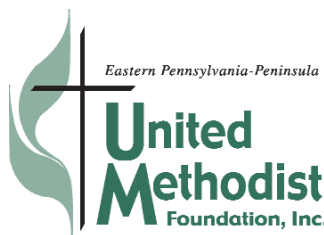
reach that includes all four PUMH retirement communities. These trustees, together with their partners on the board and staff within the PUMH family, are engaged in providing outstanding retirement living experiences for today's older adults and planning for the changing needs of the next generation.

PUMH is a not-for-profit corporation that owns three retirement communities in Delaware—Country House in Greenville, Manor House in Seaford, and Cokesbury Village in Hockessin—and manages Heron Point of Chestertown in Maryland. (Heron Point is owned by PUMH of Maryland with oversight by the PUMH of Maryland Board of Directors.) All four offer equal housing opportunity and are fully accredited continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs), an achievement held by only 10% of CCRCs nationwide. PUMH employs approximately 1,000 people in a variety of technical, professional and front-line positions; its four communities are home to more than 1,200 older adults.

## Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat (for clergy & spouses)

The Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel  
Ocean City, Maryland  
January 16-18, 2007

(Hope your reservations are made and pack your bags for a time of fellowship and renewal)



## Endowments – Cons, Pros and Pride in Future and Mission of Your Church

**T**he negatives to starting and administering an endowment ring clearer in our minds when this topic is discussed than the advantages. Here is a list of those you may have heard, and few others to consider: a healthy church must live on the current giving of its members; endowments are for large churches because they alone have people who can give bequests; they change the focus from ministry to accumulating; they stifle giving by current members; people will begin to rely on the endowment's earnings therefore diminishing current giving; administration, investment and education of the fund may be beyond the skill set of the congregation; it's another committee to establish and staff; income may not keep up with inflation; there is uncertainty in the markets. All these concerns are real and have been realized by congregations.

It is easy to cling to these negatives. It is easy to resist change. But God has provided all we have, and I believe He has confronted us with the challenge to how we respond.

What then are some of the advantages to a church that has an endowment and why should a church spend the time and resources to establish and care for an endowment? Here is the list of

reasons that have also been realized by churches: aging church buildings that require greater maintenance costs than the congregation is willing to fund on an annual basis; funds are available for new ministries and missions starts to extend the church's ministries; vehicle for church members to donate accumulated wealth; annual givers are more likely to respond to a request for a bequest; more efficient to administer than an annual giving campaign; attract larger gifts, particularly through bequests, than annual giving appeals, and finally, (my personal favorite) we all part from this world and need to know our time and our assets have made a difference.

The preceding are some of the tangible results. The intangible benefits alone are worth the effort and can be achieved by establishing a fund with strong leadership and a clear purpose. One of the benefits is that an endowment strengthens your church's economic situation and will be more attractive to new members and donors. Further, it is an opportunity to help your fellow members along the path of faith. By providing a vehicle for church members to learn to be good stewards of God's gifts to them, donors can express their support for future generations, and more importantly, the many ministries and future of the church.

Please note that only churches have negative views of endowments. Other institutions, like colleges and universities, view endow-



Stacy Martin

ments with healthy pride. The endowment is considered a key component to their long-range goals and financial responsibility to those goals. The endowments typically serve as a source of benevolent funds for those less able to pay the price of education today. The parallel to our Wesleyan stewardship principles could not be closer.

What greater form of stewardship can we practice than knowing our gifts can realize benefits today and in the future? I believe we can practice our Wesleyan heritage with pride knowing that our giving will make a difference.

*Please contact the Foundation office for information regarding creation, funding and investing of endowment funds.*

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## Cokesbury Connection

**A**s you read this I hope you and yours have had a blessed Christmas . . . and are now on the way to **Youth Rally in Ocean City!** While there, please stop into the Cokesbury Book Display and say hello!

**VBS Showcase Days Are Here Again!** (Jan. 26-Feb. 10th) During this time Cokesbury offers 20% OFF all VBS items. Come to any of these overview workshops and make an early decision about your church's VBS . . . and save 20%. These workshops are done in partnership with Paula Hartzell of the Interfaith Resource Center. Please call the IRC to make your reservation: .302.477.0910  
Jan. 20th – Wesley UMC, Dover, DE  
Jan. 21st – Union UMC, Federalsburg, MD  
Jan. 27th – St. Albans Episcopal Church (site of the Interfaith Resource Center)

Some Exciting New Resources From Cokesbury:

**Zion Still Sings!** (Publication Date: May 2007) If you loved Songs of Zion (pub. 1981) you'll love **Zion Still Sings**. This is a collection of over 200 songs and hymns, including African American spirituals, Gospel, Contemporary, Rap and Hip Hop as well as Traditional hymns presented the way they are sung in many churches. This new resource is great for any church that desires cultural variety in worship planning.

**Youth Resources:** Many new ones coming in 2007 between May and July. The new products are The Amazing Bible Race, Claim the Life, Veracity Videos, and E/Merge. This family of products is designed to guide youth through their Christian journey. Watch for them.

**Adult Resources:** Please see your Cokesbury Adult Resources catalog for a complete listing...but let me recommend **The Jesus Collection** for short-term studies on Jesus' life, ministry and teachings. Cover such topics as **At Table With Jesus, Jesus and Prayer, The Kingdom Sayings of Jesus and The Resurrected Jesus**.



Madeline Beall

New Books for United Methodists:

**United Methodist Beliefs, A Brief Introduction** by William H. Willimon, (May 2007).

**United Methodist Question, United Methodist Answers: Exploring Christian Faith**, F. Belton Joyner, Jr. (March 2007)

**Wesley for Armchair Theologians** by William J. Abraham (Available now)

New From Church of the Resurrection and Cokesbury:

**Ministry Guide: Children's Ministry** by Judy Comstock

**The January Monthly Cokesbury Catalog:** Take a look for help in planning worship for Lent and Easter. There are some great savings on children's Easter books and dramas.

**NEWS! NEWS! NEWS! BIG NEWS!** The General Board of Global Ministries, the general global mission agency of the United Methodist Church, organized into eight program areas, has just formed a new partnership with Cokesbury also under the umbrella of the United Methodist Church. As of now, Cokesbury will handle sales and distribution of mission related resources, except for products from the Women's Division.

**WEB-EMPOWER YOUR CHURCH:** A new book from Abingdon Press by Mark M. Stephenson. Book with CD-Rom. This book offers step-by-step guidance to web implementers and other church leaders who are on the exciting journey to building an effective web ministry!

New . . . in the New Year!

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## Conference Calendar of Events

January 2007

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|-----|---|-------|---|
| 5-7 | <b>20th Annual Youth Rally</b> , Ocean City, MD: Roland E. Powell Convention Center | 13    | <b>Spiritual Formation Task Force Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m.               |
| 8   | <b>Board of Ordained Ministry-Full Board</b> , Centreville, (MD) UMC, 9:30 a.m.     |       | <b>Leadership Training-Salisbury District</b> , Salisbury: Christ UMC, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |
| 9   | <b>Black United Methodist Preachers Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.  | 15    | <b>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium</b> , Hurlock UMC, Hurlock, MD, 3:00 p.m.            |
|     | <b>Disaster Response Task Force Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.      | 15    | <b>Martin Luther King Birthday Observed</b>   |
|     | <b>Credit Union Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.                       | 16-18 | <b>BFEM Resource Center Closed</b>  |
|     | <b>Conference Board of Lay Ministries Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. | 16-18 | <b>Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat</b> , Ocean City, MD: Clarion Resort Hotel                     |
| 10  | <b>CARE Team Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.                         | 22    | <b>Embracing The Black Church Sub-team</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 1:30 p.m.                  |
| 11  | <b>Health Fair Committee Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 1:00 p.m.              | 25    | <b>Committee On Native American Ministries Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 10:00 a.m.     |
|     |   |       | <b>Communications Commission Meeting</b> , BFEM Resource Center, 6:30 p.m.                    |

## VIM Team Leader Training/Disaster Relief Training



The Peninsula-Delaware Conference Volunteers-In-Mission Committee will sponsor a training event on January 20, 2007 at Whatcoat UMC in Camden, DE. The training session will run from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If you plan to lead a VIM Team to any area, national or international, this training is for you. Team Leadership training will be the main focus of the work sessions. A registration fee of \$10.00 includes continental breakfast and printed materials.

The church address is 16 North Main Street, Camden, DE, 19934. For registration and other information, please contact Rev. Don and Mrs. Mildred Hamilton at 302.838.7733 or visit the conference website ([www.pen-del.org](http://www.pen-del.org)), Ministries, Missions, UMVIM.



## MLK Observance

January 13, 2007  
3:00 p.m.

Hurlock United Methodist Church  
Hurlock, Maryland