



Womaen's Caucus Highlights

- Call for Steering Committee Members (see page 2)
- Beacon Heights CoB to have a Womaen's Caucus Sunday, Nov. 10th 2013 Daisy Schmidt to speak
- Progressive Gathering Nov. 15th—17th at Beacon Heights, Fort Wayne, IN register at <http://progressivebrethren.eventbrite.com/>
- Women's Clergy Retreat Jan. 13th—16th at Sierra Retreat Center in Malibu, CA sign up for a Mary Blocher Smeltzer scholarship <http://www.progressivebrethren.org/womaenscaucus/mary-blocher-smeltzer-scholarship/>

Womaen's Caucus
Steering Committee

Daisy Schmidt, Convener
Mary Kay Ogden
Sara Davis

2013 Mother of Caucus: Dr. Pamela Brubaker

Dr. Pamela Brubaker, our 2013 Mother of Caucus honoree, attended the Nelle Morton session for spouses wives at the Florida AC where the seeds were planted for the founding of Womaen's Caucus in 1973. At the time she was five months pregnant with her first son. Along with earlier consciousness raising events, she credits this session as helping her give birth to herself as a feminist. Pamela Brubaker has devoted her career to equity for women. Christian social ethics, the Bible and ethics, and Women and Religion are her areas of concentration and expertise.



During her career, she devoted time to establishing Womaen's Caucus, helping to create a firm foundation for encouraging women and seeking equity for women in both paid and volunteer leadership roles in the church. She served on the steering committee for five years from 1973-1978, the last two years as coordinator with Naoma Root Dean, and worked with Mary Cline Detrick, who really wanted to be here to recognize Pamela. Mary has many positive memories of Pam who hosted her in New York providing a safe place for many discussions about theology, rearing children, and dealing with divorce. After serving with Caucus, Pam organized a feminist theological consultation in 1979/80 and served on the 100th anniversary committee. As part of that celebration, a request was made to share stories of women in the church. The project was called "She Will Be Remembered for This".

Dr. Brubaker earned her BA at Roosevelt University in Chicago. her MA at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, and her PhD at Union Theological Seminary in New York. She is Professor Emeritus of Religion at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California.

As a Christian social ethicist, Dr. Brubaker researches and publishes on topics of economic ethics, and feminist studies in religion. She taught courses in Christian and religious ethics. she has participated in several World Council of Churches

consultations on economic globalization.

Pam's first project was a multi media presentation "Journey of the Sisters Among the Brethren" - a slide show alternating between photos of women, and dramatic reenactments of AC debates about women's roles. It was presented first at a conference in Manchester, IN and then by request for the 1979 AC In Seattle. Her book She Hath Done What She Could: A History of Women's Participation in the Church of the Brethren was published in time for the 1985 AC. Followed by an Empowered by our Birthright conference later that summer. The editor appointed by Brethren Press expressed concern that her proposals in the epilogue of the book were too radical. He was shocked when told Pam was seen as a moderate on the WCSC.

Since Pam is not near a COB she calls herself an ecumenical Christian. The titles of subsequent publications are: Women Don't Count: the Challenge of Women's Impoverishment to Christian Ethics (1994), Globalization at What Price: Economic Change and Daily Life (2001, 2007). This is a thumb nail sketch of Pam's work. On behalf of WC, I want you to know we will claim you as one of us any time. We rejoice that in retirement/refirement, you continue to advocate for women in our world.

Today we present this Mother of Caucus Award to you, Dr. Pamela Brubaker, in appreciation for all you have contributed to advancing equity for women in the church and in the world, and particularly for your contributions to Womaen's Caucus. Thank You!

Annual Conference Report

Annual Conference this year had a different feel; there was an effort to listen to each other and engage with each other. This was apparent in the way the booths were laid out in the Exhibition Hall and the attentiveness to "building the body" instead of making conference all about business. The business that was noted in the Progressive Guide, specifically the item on Biblical Authority was returned and a spirit of openness felt in the conference.

This year in our booth we not only had rainbow handcrafts but also were working on three stoles for the women who par-



ticipated in our Women in Ministry panel at our luncheon. With basic looms we wove and had many conversations with young and old who wanted to take part in the activity of weaving.



At our luncheon this year we honored Pamela Brubaker, had our annual silent auction which raised over \$1,000, remembered Mary Blocher Smeltzer and had a panel of women in ministry. On the panel were Erin Matteson, Belita Mitchell and Bonnie Kline Smeltzer. They spoke of their calls and how they navigate ministry as women.

Call for Steering Committee

Do you know of anyone who is passionate about women in the Church?

This could be advocating for women in ministry, interest in women's rights, anyone who has a strong interest in continuing the work of Womaen's Caucus. We are asking for people to submit the names of those they think would be an asset to the steering committee. This could be yourself. We need all kinds of people, age is not a factor and neither is gender, just a passion for Womaen's Caucus.

Please email your submissions to
womaenscaucuscob@gmail.com Thank you!