



Women's Network

Heading for the Future

May 2004

Women's Network aims to encourage, enable and equip women to participate fully in the life of the Church and in society.



MAGNET MAGAZINE – NEW LOOK

Magnet magazine now has a new look. We've got new regular features – a Bible study, a Prayer Focus, a topical Debate, a Talking Justice

feature, Things to do, and a World issues feature. We'd love to hear what you think of the new look and regular features. Why not ask for a free introductory copy? This is an ideal opportunity for your house group to use the discussion starters and prayer resources. Telephone 020 7467 5175 for your free copy, or email: magnetmag@methodistchurch.org.uk.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

The task group has followed the lead of government and other agencies in referring to this issue as 'Domestic Abuse', thus removing the implication that abuse can only be recognised if it is physical violence. By using the word 'abuse', we recognise that victims are subjected to all kinds of treatments that diminish them as people, whilst enabling all of us to support those who are subject to mental and emotional as well as physical torture.

The task group will be presenting an interim report to the Methodist Conference this year and hopes to present a full report in 2005. It is finding the work requires much careful attention and rigorous application, so is not yet in a position to offer its full recommendations.

Were are we heading?

The Women's Network of the Methodist Church has been examining the ways in which it works. Following discussions at Connexional Committee and two regional consultation days, we are committed to creating flexibility in the way that we meet and plan, as well as the way in which we structure ourselves. We want to move away from a hierarchical pattern to one that values difference and is inclusive of all of those who wish to pursue their lives of faith in a non-judgemental and open way.

We recognise that we must learn from, and listen to, those who have a different perspective. We must create opportunities to value one another, especially those we don't yet know. To help us do that, we are encouraging one another to engage in gentle self-appraisal to help us all get it right and learn and grow together.

We are looking at the variety of learning styles that people bring, as well as the labels that people perceive we have. We are looking at our own perceptions of ourselves, and the fact that we all need to feel, and sense, a level of security in order to appreciate the learning opportunities offered to us. If you want to learn about this, please see the section marked "Training grants". We offer these to you to assist the development of your working practice.

Resources on the World Wide Web

www.magnetmag.co.uk

The Magnet website has been revised. You can:

- Send an e-card picture and greeting to friends or family members
- Vote online in the current debate
- Download worship material from over 60 issues
- Subscribe online
- Read and print off the current Bible Study, Worship material, Prayer Focus and Resources Reviews
- Access front cover pictures and descriptions of previous themes and content

Why not tell someone else about the website resources using one of our e-cards?

www.methodist.org.uk

The A-Z Index and the Information section of the Methodist Church website lists Women's Network, which has well over 100 pages of information, news and history about the movement, its work, current and past projects, and resources that can be downloaded. No longer do you need to ring the office for a booking form to attend a conference – simply download it from the website. You can see what the projects, prayer concerns and events in every Methodist District are, and access contacts if you are visiting another area in the UK. Why not look up your Area Representative and see what our staff and volunteers look like?



Grants available from Women's Network of the Methodist Church

For more details and application forms call 020 7467 5175 or visit the Women's Network web pages at www.methodist.org.uk.

TRAINING GRANTS

Women's Network is committed to the development of collaborative styles of working, where responsibility and participation is flexible, open and shared. We are able to offer training grants to local women's groups who would like training to help them work in new and different ways. Suggestions are listed on the application form.

RACIAL JUSTICE PROJECT GRANTS

Grants are available for any group that is involved in a project with a racial justice element to it. If your group wants to invite a facilitator to raise awareness of racial justice, or you have a local project on this subject, you could apply for funding to help. It could be well worth doing this in conjunction with a series of studies using the Sangam resource.

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS 2005

In 2005, Social & Community Action Grants will once again be available to local women's groups requiring seed funding to start a new project, or funding to supply materials or volunteer training for an ongoing project. We cannot support buildings, refurbishment or staffing costs, but can fund educational materials or a piece of equipment. Grants do not normally exceed £300-£500, but may do so for a 'groundbreaking' piece of work.

EMPOWERMENT GRANTS

Empowerment Grants for Women focus on a different region of the world each year. This year, we support projects in the Caribbean and, in 2005, we are encouraging local groups in the Pacific to apply. If you know of any projects that need seed funding, please encourage them to complete an application form.

Sangam



SANGAM, a racial justice information pack, accompanies the two-year social action project on racial justice and can be used by anyone.

Sangam is a Hindi word meaning "coming together".

In creating this resource material, the task group responsible for its publication felt that it did just that; it brings together a range of material to enable, encourage and equip us all to come together to eradicate the injustice of racism and help us all recreate "One Race, The Human Race".

The colourful pack contains four booklets: Setting the Scene, Study Material, Orders of Service and Resources, all of which help us to increase our understanding of the issues around racial justice. A poster and a game are included and we would appreciate any feedback you can give on the evaluation card inside. All the material is photocopiable. This resource holds enough material to keep any fellowship or study group occupied for at least several months.

Sangam costs £9.95, plus postage and packing, and is available from: Methodist Publishing House, 4 John Wesley Road, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 6ZP www.mph.org.uk Tel: 01733 325002

"Many who use this manual will no doubt be challenged and transformed by it. Sangam adds value to the challenge to promote racial justice."

Naboth Muchopa, Racial Justice office.

Pilgrimage

The Women's Network social action project encourages us all to go out and encounter difference. *Pathways for Pilgrimage* helps us to create a pilgrimage, either in an interfaith or interdenominational setting, or to set up a pilgrimage in the usual meeting place. *One race, the human race: being committed to others*, enables us to support women caught up in the asylum seeking process. The booklets can be downloaded from the Magnet website (See Social Action Project in the Campaigns section), or ordered from the Women's Network office, 50p for both (Tel: 020 7467 5175).

The overarching aim of this project is to encourage our decision-making bodies to be more representative of the multi ethnic diversity which is the Methodist Church.

Further Information



Please contact Women's Network, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR Tel: 020 7486 5502 Fax: 020 7486 7792 E-mail: womens.network@methodistchurch.org.uk

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Who has also been sent copies direct?

Ministers and Deacons in pastoral charge

Who else in your church might find this useful?

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Please write their names and get them to tick the box when they have seen or received a copy.