

Kennedy, Nuessle to lead classes at Christian Missions Event

Ruth Dietrich, Dean of Christian Mission Event (formerly School of Christian Mission) has announced that the Reverend Dr. John Edward Nuessle and Judy Kennedy will each lead a class on the topic: "I Believe in Jesus Christ".

"To believe in Jesus is to love as God loved and live as Christ lived, valuing all creation. To believe in Jesus is to live in the way of Christ, freeing the oppressed, healing the sick and wounded, clothing the naked, welcoming all. To believe in Jesus is to follow the sacred commandment to love as God loved. To believe in Jesus is to embrace the sacredness of life." (Quote from the Women's Division website)

John Edward Nuessle is an Assistant General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, serving within the cooperating program areas of Evangelization and Church Growth, Mission Contexts and Relationships, and Mission Education. John is a member of the Management Staff Team for these wide-ranging missional areas with specific responsibilities for leading the staff teams on Mission Education, Mission Initiatives, and the Academy of Mission Renewal.

Through these GBGM staffing arenas John works to promote the engagement of the whole church in the United Methodist theology of mission, and also seeks to advance the international pioneer mission evangelism efforts of the denomination. Engaging the church in the study of United Methodist understandings of the theology of mission is a



John Nuessle

particular emphasis of his work through the Academy of Mission Renewal. For this program he has authored the book, *Faithful Witnesses*, a church-wide study on missiology from the United Methodist perspective.

A native of New York State, John is a graduate of the former Eisenhower College in Seneca Falls, N.Y. and The Theological School of Drew University at Madison, N.J., and is an ordained elder of the North Central New York Annual Conference. Prior to his current work at Global Ministries, John held a variety of local church pastoral appointments as well as serving as the District



Judy Kennedy

Superintendent of the Mohawk District in the North Central New York Annual Conference.

John has been a study leader for many years at United Methodist Schools of Christian Mission, at both the conference and regional schools across the United States, and an adjunct faculty member of Queens Theological College in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, in the area of Methodist Studies. He has held a number of church leadership positions, particularly in the area of Global Ministries, and was a member of the World Methodist Council for 1986-91. John is a resident of New York City with his

wife, Ginena Dullely Wills, who is a former staff person of the General Board of Global Ministries, and of United Methodist Communications, who has also held numerous regional and national offices within the United Methodist Women.

Judy Kennedy is from the Central PA Conference, where she has served as president of her Conference United Methodist Women and Dean of Schools of Christian Mission. She is a former director of Women's Division and the General Board of Global Ministries. Judy is the immediate past president of the Northeast Jurisdiction Core Planning Group, and has taught in several Conference schools. Professionally she serves low-income families as a Family Development Specialist and owns her own business, JK Financial Care.

The Christian Mission Event, known for many years as School of Christian Mission is part of a training program supported by United Methodist Women, teaching approximately 20,000 men, women, clergy, youth and children in locations all over the United States. You do not have to be a United Methodist to attend.

The event will be held July 19-21 on the campus of Cazenovia College. In addition to the "I Believe in Jesus" study, the other topics include "Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival" with study leaders Rev. Thom Fassett and Rev. Sharon Schmit; and "Israel/Palestine", taught again this year by Leah Mae Carlisle.

Native American Ministries NEJ task force formulates plans

Those of Native American heritage are recognized as one of five racial/ethnic groups within the polity of the UMC, along with African-American, Hispanic-Latino, Korean and Asian-American. Ministry plans that meet the needs of Native Americans, recognize the strength of their diversity, and encourage church growth to build God's Kingdom, resulted in the development of a Native American Comprehensive Plan (NACP) by the North East Jurisdiction Native American Ministries Task Force (NEJNAMTF) in 2000. The Advance Special, Native American Comprehensive Plan 982615, strengthens United Methodist rural and reservation ministries across the Church.

You might ask, what does the NE Jurisdiction Native American Ministries Task Force plan on doing? Their

mission statement, goal, and objectives give us the answer! Mission Statement: "With God's Grace and guidance, the NORTH EAST JURISDICTION NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES TASK FORCE will serve as the body that helps to guide Native Americans in the North East Jurisdiction to develop and maintain a relationship through the United Methodist Church."

Goal: "To unite Native Americans residing within the bounds of the North East Jurisdiction in order to show strength and solidarity in ministry with God and to make our presence known throughout the jurisdiction and the Church".

Objectives, established by the Native American Ministries Task Force (NAMTF), have strategies, responsible person/s, timeline, assessment tools and comments appropriate for their achieve-

ment. They expand the scope of NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY, explore funding resources and fiscal responsibility, state a commitment to continuous communication with other Native American ministries, identify Native Americans using an inclusive definition which goes beyond "Tribal Recognition", actively support Annual Conference Committees on Native American Ministries (ACCONAM), and promote Native American individuals interested in Christian service as a life's work by supporting their educational efforts.

The United Methodist Church's Council of Bishops appointed Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr. to serve on the Native American Comprehensive Plan Task Force (NACP Task Force). He is the resident bishop for the Oklahoma Area

that consists of the Oklahoma Conference and the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, and is working with the NACP Task Force to design a project for studying effective evangelism in Native communities. This project includes ways to develop new leadership, address poverty, and provide new faith resources for the changing Native community and world.

Your Conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) invites you to join with them in support of the mission and ministries of the Hogsburg and Onondaga Nation UMC's in our NCNY Conference. Visit their display table at Annual Conference to learn more about our local and jurisdictional plans!