

THE UNITER

Church Women United in Iowa

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World Community Day, Nov. 1

What Is the Aspiring Majority

On November 1, 1974, World Community Day will be celebrated by Church Women United. The theme for this day is "Discover the Aspiring Majority".

This theme leads into the subject matter of the United Nations International Women's year which will be observed in 1975. As women, who are now a majority in the world, examine their values and goals, they will discover the aspirations that bind them together.

Finding that we have more in common than we have differences, we unite to face our future with expectations.

The origin of World community Day can be traced to the week of Pearl Harbor when the constituting convention of the United Council of Church Women met in Atlantic City. One of the first acts of this Council was to inaugurate a day of peace in 1942.

The next year this observance became known as World Community Day. Every year since then, World Community Day has been celebrated on the first Friday in November

and each year a specific issue is chosen to emphasize corporate action for justice and peace.

On World Community Day, Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox women will unite in worship services to manifest the hopes, concerns and joy they share with women everywhere. Participation in a nationwide offering, which goes into a fund called "Intercontinental Mission," will help Church Women United fulfill its goals of justice and peace.

The following are a few of the concrete examples of witness and service rendered through this fund: Delivery of vocational training and

health services in Lebanon; support of programs for international students in urban areas in the U.S.A.; funding for a canning project to help American Indian Women combat malnutrition; community and water development projects in Kenya, Ghana, Brazil, Zambia and Costa Rica; rebuilding of the Women's training center in Nigeria destroyed during the Biafran War; and continuing educational scholarships for overseas women.

Throughout the year, but especially on World Community Day, church women give tangible expression to their concerns by purchasing \$3 Gift Certificates for aid in four categories: Rehabilitation projects for reconciliation in war-torn areas; seed money and training to assist women through self-help projects; disaster relief through immediate help with blankets, food, shelter, health and other services; timely help "where most needed" in response to emerging opportunities.

—Lois Coons



Capt. Mrs. L.E. Greer
Story on page 5.

From The President's Desk

"Am I my brother's keeper?" The themes for Ecumenical Assembly and World Community Day keep haunting me with the age-old reminder that each of us is responsible for our thoughts, feelings, attitudes, and responses toward our fellowman and those reveal how Christian we are.

praying and caring community?

At the Ecumenical Assembly, we will be delving into the many situations that have been obstacles for various people. We will be meeting in small communities to think, plan and pray together about our task when we return home.

The time has come for each of us to be willing to risk being involved in eliminating those conditions which have kept others from being able to be whole people. This is our Christian responsibility.

The purpose is so that we can undertake changes in our communities that will permit each person to be able to live fully. The challenge is exciting! The change will only be as effective as each local unit becomes committed to change.

What could happen if Church Women United were to become a genuine

We will have a splen-



id opportunity to discover each other's aspirations on World Community Day when we

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Open Board Meeting November 8

A Midsummer Report of Program

Using 1 Corinthians 16:9 as our thought for the day, "There is a wide open door for me to preach and teach here", the Open Board meeting of Church Women United in Iowa will convene November 8, in Newton.

We will meet at the First Christian Church, 314 East 2nd St. North, with registration beginning at 9:30.

The excitement and enthusiasm of those who attended the Ecumenical Assembly in Memphis, Tennessee will be first hand. Much knowledge and clearer understanding will be given concerning the opportunities and problems of the goals for United Church Women in the days ahead.

Registration fee is one dollar, and lunch

ticket is two dollars. Mail your reservations to:

Mrs. Arthur Wallace
 713 South 2nd Ave. West
 Newton, Iowa 50208

Deadline for reservations is November 4.

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Make checks payable to Churchwomen United in Iowa.

From: Margaret Shannon
 (Excerpts from her report as follows:)

Somehow I should like to be writing an essay on "This Moment and This Movement," but there are not enough moments and too much movement around this national office this summer to write down all that needs to be said.

As a movement CWU handles the critical moments at the place where we can best give account for the hope that is within us. For hope and joy and laughter and integrity and love for all the ways of describing the courageous honor which surrounds those of us who claim to be "at home in the daylight."

. . . .Aspects of on-going programs are:

(Cont'd. on page 4)

Will the 1974 1975 Iowa Legislature Pass a Land Use Bill?

August 6th, the League of Women Voters of Iowa invited several other organizations to cooperate in promoting effective land use legislation for Iowa. Organizations represented at the exploratory meeting in Des Moines included the American Association of University Women, Church Women United, the Iowa Farm Bureau, the Iowa League of Municipalities, the Farmers' Union, Isaac Walton League, Girl Scouts, YM-CA, Sierra Club, Iowa Association of Counties, Iowa Student Public Interest Research Group (ISPIRG) and CURE.

Concerning coordinated action, Mrs. Jean Lloyd Jones, the League state president, said, "The hour is already late, the competition among those who want the land for different purposes increases rapidly. We therefore urge you to join those who want to develop means for orderly, objective decisions about the future of Iowa land."

Those present at the meeting agreed on the necessity for state policy and guidelines with a maximum of local planning and enforcement. They strongly endorsed the preservation of prime agricultural land for Iowa's land use planning.

The organization agreed to work together, while retaining individual autonomy, to share information and work to educate our statewide memberships through our publications and programs. The next meeting will be held in October to assess the directions taken by the new Legislature Interim Committee.

Following is the Iowa Land Use Consensus Statement released to

MIDSUMMER REPORT (Cont'd. from page 3)

Upon the recommendation of the Committee of combined Concerns, a statement in support of the renewal of funds for the Drug Educational bill which had not been funded this year, was made. This Committee was able to get some congressmen to read it into the record and since our name appears we want you to know that this effort was made.

A conference on the Ministry of Women urged us to add an encouraging word to that of others in the step which some bishops are making in the Episcopal Church for the ordination of women.

The International Year of Women has a task force working on it and

the public by the League of Women Voters of Iowa: "The League of Women Voters of Iowa supports a land use policy which provides for the preservation of agricultural land as first priority. A statewide land capability inventory should be completed as soon as possible. A diversified transportation system should be fostered, with special assistance to

(Cont'd. on page 6)

they are using for the present our office at United Nations.

Two beautiful new projects have worked out in relationship to our Intercontinental Mission Fund. One is the work of Julia Campos of the Montevideo Seminary who was able to spend the summer in this country and work among the Spanish-speaking churches in New York.

A small grant was given to a traveling theater group from a Roman Catholic Spanish center in California.

C.W.U. is concerned about the hungry, the imprisoned and those who are naked. If the dawning of the new day means the return of Christ to establish His kingdom on earth, then we must look for Him among those in prison and those who are hungry.

DATES TO REMEMBER for all of us!

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY
November 1, 1974
"Discover the Aspiring Majority"

OPEN BOARD MEETING
November 8, 1974
First Christian Church
Newton, Iowa

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
March 7, 1975
"Become Perfectly One"

EXECUTIVE BOARD CWU
Meeting 1:00 p.m.
November 7, 1974
First Christian Church
Newton, Iowa

Mrs. Brigadier L.E. Geer

The new State Assembly Chairman for C.W.U. is Ethel Geer, of Des Moines. She entered the School for Officer's training of the Salvation Army in Chicago in 1940 and was ordained in 1941.

Ethel is married and she is the mother of three children. She and her husband have served in the Salvation Army community centers in Kansas, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Missouri, Wisconsin, Nebraska and now in Iowa.

PRESIDENT'S DESK

(Cont'd. from page 2)

analyze our values and realize that some of us have drifted into a system of values that is not likely to bring dignity nor fulfillment.

Let us be honest with ourselves as we rank our values. Then let us be honest with ourselves in determining how our values affect the lives of those around us. Do our values help or hinder someone else? Are we selfish? Are we loving? Do we think more of worldly, material or spiritual possessions?

Rank the following 18 values in order from one to 18 until you have ranked the least important value to you as number 18:

- ___ Acclaim (recognition for accomplishments)
- ___ Affluence (personal wealth for comfort and luxuries)
- ___ Beauty (world environment; arts)
- ___ Education (academic achievement)
- ___ Eternal life (salvation)
- ___ Excitement (challenging, active life)
- ___ Freedom (to make choices)
- ___ Friendship (sense of belonging and companionship)
- ___ Good Government (officials and system of integrity)
- ___ Happiness (freedom from cares and worries)
- ___ Health (sense of well-being)
- ___ Love (mature sexual and spiritual love)
- ___ National Security (safety from attack)
- ___ Peace (a world free of conflict)
- ___ Power (to have impact and influence)
- ___ Self-fulfillment (freedom to be and to express oneself)
- ___ Serenity (inner peace and mature understanding of life)
- ___ Status (success and admiration in the community)

On November 8 at the Open Board Meeting, we will be continuing the thinking and learning which took place at the Ecumenical Assembly. This will be the time and place when the local units can prepare to go into action at home.

In the small groups we will be looking at the situations at home and finding where we can open the way for persons to live fully in a just society. As we go out the door to action, may we go with a committed spirit to be fully Christian and with the prayer on our lips asking God to guide us and to give us the courage and will to do His will.

In 1 Corinthians 16:9 we read, "There is a wide open door for me to preach and teach here. So much is happening, but there are many enemies." Even though written centuries ago, this is very true today. "God grant us wisdom, God grant us courage for the living of these days, that we fail not man nor Thee."

—Florence (Mrs. George W.) Campbell

ATTENTION TREASURERS
AND PRESIDENTS!

Letters have been mailed to you from the finance Committee.

Please read all the information very carefully. We hope you will give this prayerful consideration as you plan for your 1975 budgets.

We would appreciate your mailing your Growth Factor cards as soon as possible to National and State Treasurer, Mary DeWitt, Winterset, Iowa.

—Mary Bea Collins
Finance Committee Chm.

LAND USE BILL

(Cont'd. from page 4)

the railroads. The League recommends state-wide distribution of wilderness areas, open spaces and public recreation lands. State-wide land use planning should be required, including state guidelines for zoning decisions. Planned and controlled industrial growth should be a part of the land use planning.

"To implement this policy the Iowa LWV believes that a state agency should provide policy and guidelines for local and regional planning bodies to utilize. For those jurisdictions which cannot afford their own planners, help should be available from a pool of state office planners. The cost of land use planning and enforcement should be met by a com-

bination of state funds, fees, local taxation and federal funds, if available. The state agency should also have the power to initiate action and levy fines against violators if local jurisdictions fail to do so. The state agency should have the power to hear appeals from local decisions.

"Land use impact statements should be required for cases involving state funds, large

developments above a designated size, land acquisitions by other government agencies, transportation and utility sites, and extractive industries. Citizens should have the right to sue the pre right to sue to prevent the granting of variances. Public input at all levels of decision making is essential to sound land use planning."

Gwen Faber
Citizen Action Chm.

WHAT BASIS FOR RELIGIOUS SUPPORT OF ERA?

Equality of men and women is affirmed at the beginning of the Old Testament: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

The New Testament further develops the concept of equality and mutuality of men and women. Jesus repeatedly acknowledged women as human beings in his relationships.

One theologian has stated: "Jesus was a feminist, that is, a person who promoted the

equality of women with men, who treats women primarily as human persons and willingly contravenes social customs in so acting." (Leonard Swidler, "Jesus Was a Feminist")

The above excerpt was taken from the leaflet entitled, "The Church, Religion, and the Equal Rights Amendment", and may be obtained from: ERA Support Project, 100 Maryland Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20002. Attention: Svc. Dept.

Contributions to cover printing and mailing costs would be welcome.

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