



RELIGION

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Religion Editor, Portland Observer
P.O. Box 3137
Portland OR 97208

Methodist News Briefs New Curriculum for UM Church

A new Black church ministries curriculum launched by United Theological Seminary here in Dayton, Ohio, is an attempt to teach future United Methodist pastors how to make cross-racial ministries and community action work and foster related understanding and Christian commitment.

Beginning in fall 1988, students working for master of divinity degrees at United — one of 13 United Methodist-related seminaries — will be required to take at least one course in the Black church ministries program. Offerings include preaching, Black church history, social ethics and Black theology.

Although the courses are required for M. Div. candidates, they are open to any United students. Of the 298 students in degree programs in United, 21 percent are people of color, and most of those are Black.

Rev. Weidman Named "Communicator of Year"

The Rev. Judith L. Weidman of New York, editor and director of the interfaith Religious News Service, was named "Communicator of the Year" by the United Methodist Association of Communicators.

Ms. Weidman was also one of seven denominational communicators who received top media citations at the association's annual awards dinner.

In selecting Dr. Weidman for the honor, the judging panel noted her significant contributions to Religious News Service (RNS) since becoming its head three years ago. Facing financial collapse, RNS had been taken over by the United Methodist Reporter organization based in Dallas.

Florida Memorial College Press Publishes History of the Black Baptists of Florida

"History of the Black Baptists of Florida, 1850-1985," just published by the Florida Memorial College Press, Miami, FL, is an engaging and inspiring account of the "Negro" movement and black Baptists in the State of Florida, and the unfolding of Florida Memorial College. This work chronicles the important events and personalities which have played a significant role in Florida black Baptist history since the ordination of the first black preacher in the State, Elder James Page.

The book, which contains many photographs and illustrations, includes highlights of the Missionary, Primitive and Free Will Baptists in the State, the story of the development of Florida Memorial College, the socio-economic milieu within which the denomination has moved forward, the interracial organization relationships, and accounts of current movements and leading men and women involved.

The book began with the late Rev. Dr. George P. McKinney, Sr., president of the Baptist General State Convention of Florida and of Florida Memorial College (Like Oak), and was continued by his son, the Rev. Dr. Richard I. McKinney, professor of Philosophy Emeritus, Morgan State University, who completed his high school education at the Florida Institute, now Florida Memorial College. He received his bachelors degree at Morehouse College, the B.D. degree at Andover Newton Theological School and the Ph.D. at Yale University.

Other publications authored by Rev. Richard I. McKinney include "Religion in Higher Education Among Negroes" and the "History of the First Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Virginia 1863-1980."

Commenting on the book, Florida Memorial College President Willie C. Robinson said, "this fills a vital gap in the history of the Baptists in the State of Florida and fastens the College to a rare brand of courage and faith."

The Rev. Dr. Lester T. Whitelocke, Florida Memorial College's Howard Thurman Professor of Religion, said, "the 'History of the Black Baptists of Florida' is one of the most scholarly and informative books of its kind. The author has gone to great length to research original sources and has documented factual and non-controversial information regarding the Baptists roots." Dr. Whitelocke gives the book a high rating as a seminar and theological resource on the founding of the black Baptists of Florida.

Twi-Light Tea

The Mt. Olive Grand Chapter, O.E.S. of Oregon, Past Matrons' Council will hold their Twi-Light Tea Sunday, November 22, 1987, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Sylvester, 3143 N.E. 14th Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

P.G.M. Julia M. Ganter is Chairman of the council and P.M. Luella Jackmon is Chairman of the event.

Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration

St. Andrew Church is hosting its 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner and all are invited. It will be held at the St. Andrew Community Center, 4940 N.E. 8th (off Alberta), from 1:00-3:00 on Nov. 26, Thanks-

giving Day. Families and friends, come together to celebrate in a community setting — at no cost! If you would like to volunteer to help serve or to donate food, please contact Jerry Nihill at 281-1005.

Black Press and Church Urged to Unite in War on Drugs

"It is not enough for the Black press to print the news that drugs are bad," says Dr. W.C. Gordon of Pasadena, speaking at a "War on Drugs" panel at the West Coast Black Publishers Association Convention in San Francisco.

Dr. Gordon is Chairman of the American Gospel Arts Fund, which sponsors the "Free Yourself..." Youth Drug Abuse Prevention Program, and is an evangelist and pastor of the Divinity Baptist Church of Pasadena.

"The Black media can actually organize a 'War on Drugs' if it is willing to work with the Community's historic, cornerstone institution, the Black church," says Gordon. "The Church is the only place the Black press can find the ready and willing pool of workers needed to enter the battle against the evils of drug and alcohol abuse that are plaguing our young."

"I know what I'm talking about. We've tested it in Pasadena and it works."

Dr. Gordon was referring to the "Free Yourself..." concert in Pasadena year before last presented by Pasadena's Black churches in cooperation with the City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Gazette. Featuring Natalie Cole, Billy Davis, Jr. and Marilyn McCoo and Chuck Jackson, it was attended by about 1,500, of which 61 came forward for counseling and referral by church members who had been trained for the occasion.

"Our Community newspapers can be the catalyst everywhere, putting the 'Free Yourself...' Blueprint into action," says Gordon. "Where else but the Church can we find such a willing cadre of workers, committed to combat the moral evil of drugs? Like you, the publishers, they want to do something about it. But the Church is skirted by government-funded drug abuse programs because they do not understand the central, cultural role the Church occupies in our Communities."

"By re-kindling the historic reliance upon one another of the Black press and the Church, we can take a giant step in this 'war' together. And I am willing to share the 'Free Yourself...' Blueprint with anyone who wants to use it."

125th Church Anniversary

The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Portland, Oregon, celebrates their 125th Church Anniversary. Rev. Willie B. Smith is the present Pastor. The celebration will take place November 18-22, 1987, at their present location 4304 N. Vancouver Avenue. Theme: "Jesus the Light of the World."

The Rt. Rev. Herman L. Anderson, Presiding Bishop, Ninth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, will be the guest speaker of this honorable milestone on Sunday, November 22, at the 11:00 a.m. morning worship service.

This historic Church formed in Portland, Oregon, in the year 1862 in the home of Mary Carr, would graciously like to invite past members and community of the Greater Portland area to join them during this prestigious event. Worship programs are planned Wednesday through Friday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m. On Saturday, November 21, in the social hall of this great church, a banquet honoring present members with Thirty years or more of faithful service will be held at 6:00 p.m.

For further information, you may contact the Church Office at 287-1969.

We Want to Help

Parent Child Services, Inc. is a 5013C agency that serves low-income families in Multnomah County with children aged 0-3 years.

"Parent Child Services will be serving USDA reimbursed meals twice per day commencing 10/6/87. The benefits of this program are available to all enrolled children without regard to race, color, sex, handicap, age or national origin."

Parent Child Services, Inc. is located at 909 N.E. 52nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97213. Contact them at (503) 284-6267.

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Evangelistic Worship 6:30 p.m.
Evangelistic Worship 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday Friday Noon Day Prayer

Friday "The Pastor Speaks" 7:30 p.m.
Saturday Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.
"Showers of Blessings" broadcast Sunday morning, 10:00 A.M. Sponsors KAAR 148AM Dal

Portland Black Catholic Lay Caucus 11th Annual Meeting

The Portland Black Catholic Lay Caucus will hold its 11th Annual Meeting, Saturday, November 21, 1987, at Holy Redeemer Church, located at N. Portland Blvd. & Williams Ave. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Paul Waldschmidt at 5:30 p.m. followed by the meeting to be held in the Small Hall at 6:30 p.m.

The agenda will include: Video of Pope John Paul II's visit, presentation and discussion of Black Catholic Pastoral Plan, and election of officers for 1988.

The Caucus' purpose is to plan and coordinate activities for Black Catholics in the church environment, train and sensitize white clergy and religious providers, provide advice and guidance for the Bishops on programs and strategies that affect the Black community.

Everyone is welcome to attend both the Mass and the meeting.

Scholarship Deadline

High school students who are interested in applying for \$1,000 college scholarships should request applications by December 1, 1987 from Educational Communications Scholarship Foundation, 721 N. McKinley Road, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045. To receive an application, students should send a note stating their name, address, city, state and zip code, approximate grade point average and year of graduation.

"Bethel Bakers" Sale

The "Bethel Bakers" of Bethel Lutheran Church will hold their annual Bake Sale from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, November 21, 1987, at the church, 5658 N. Denver & Jessup.

Baked goods, lefse and Scandinavian pastries will be for sale. There will be demonstrations of lefse-baking and Krumkake-making.

Lunch of homemade soup and sandwiches, pie, coffee or tea will be served. Everyone is welcome.

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