

# RELIGION

## First Woman Leads Episcopal Church

Leader became minister in Oregon

Nevada Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori became the first woman picked to lead an Anglican province Sunday when she was elected presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church.

Standing before cheering delegates to the Episcopal General Convention, Jefferts Schori, who became a minister while working at Oregon State University in Corvallis, said she was "awed and honored and deeply privileged to be elected."

The appointment was a groundbreaking and potentially divisive step because some Anglican provinces believe women should not even be priests.

Outgoing Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold was at Jefferts Schori's side as she was introduced after closed-door balloting.

"I will bend over backward to build relationships with people who disagree with me," she pledged at a news conference.



The newly-elected presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, Katharine Jefferts Schori, speaks to the House of Deputies after her confirmation vote Sunday.

Whether that will be enough will play out in the months ahead. The Rev. Canon Chris Sugden, a leader of the Anglican Mainstream, a Church of England conservative group, said Jefferts Schori's election "shows that the Episcopal leadership is going to do what they want to do regardless of what it means to the rest of the communion."

Gasps could be heard throughout the vast convention hall when Jefferts Schori's name was announced. The Rev. Jennifer Adams from Western Michigan, speaking from the floor, called Jefferts Schori "a woman of integrity, consistency and faith. I have no doubt her election as presiding bishop will be a gift to our church."

The new leader will inherit a shrinking and fractured church.

Membership in the Episcopal Church, as in other mainline Protestant groups, has been declining for years and has remained predominantly white. More than a quarter of the 2.3 million parishioners are age 65 or older.

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## Deliverance Campaign Launched

Witnesses set convention dates

Local members of the Jehovah's Witnesses are extending a personal invitation to everyone in Portland to attend a series of summer "Deliverance at Hand!" district conventions.

The first of four three-day weekend events at Memorial Coliseum begins Friday, June 30 at 9:30 a.m. Admission is free and no collec-

tions will be taken. Conventions are also scheduled at the Coliseum on July 21-23, Aug. 4-6 and Aug. 25-27

Witness congregations around the world have embarked on global efforts to advertise convention programs, believing mankind sorely needs deliverance from the effects of inherited sin and its consequence, death; feeling that only God can bring salvation.

Program parts will examine Jesus' role in delivering mankind and will review various Bible accounts of deliverance. There will also

be special focus on passages describing the hope of survival during God's fast-approaching day of reckoning.

The Witnesses in Portland expect a record turnout for the conventions, which are among over 260 to be presented by Jehovah's Witnesses throughout the United States. Additionally, the campaign will advertise international conventions in Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland during July and August.

For information on the Portland gatherings, contact Mel Robertson at 503-330-7996.

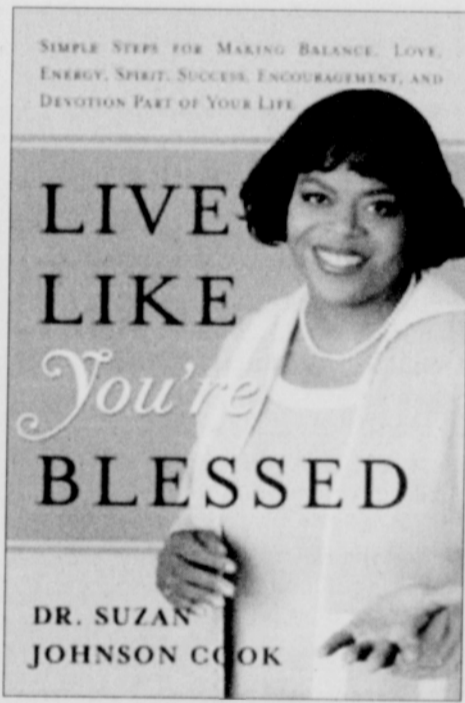
## Promoting Blessed Lives for Everyone

Author describes a winning formula

What does it mean to have a blessed life? Are blessings reserved only for the lucky, the wealthy, or the pious? No, blessings are for everyone, writes Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook, a senior pastor and founder of Believers Christian Fellowship Church in Harlem.

In her new book, "Live Like You're Blessed: Simple Steps for Making Balance, Love, Energy, Spirit, Success, Encouragement and Devotion Part of Your Life," Cook describes a winning formula for how all people can, with God's help, make a profound change in the way they live.

Described by the New York Times as "Billy Graham and Oprah rolled into one," Dr. Cook is an inspiring pastor and



a dynamic woman. Her personal journey is one of fateful twists and turns, all of which have led her closer to God, introduced her to the power of serving others, and taught her to appreciate the blessings of family and community. She draws from her lifetime of experience in creating this practical and realistic plan for living life to the fullest.

Dr. Cook illustrates spiritual concepts through storytelling - a

technique she has mastered through her participation with other African American women from all walks of life in a group named Isis. Founded in 1998, the women of Isis gather throughout the year to share stories from their lives, experience God's grace, and come

away spiritually healed. The editor of "Sister to Sister" and author of "Too Blessed to be Stressed," Dr. Cook served as a domestic policy advisor under President Clinton. She lives in New York City with her husband, Ronald, and their two sons.

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