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A panui from the Outgoing Convenor

Dr Jenny Plane Te Paa

As I prepare to step aside from the leadership responsibility of convening the Women's Studies Centre, I do so with absolute confidence in the future security of the Centre.

There are so many extraordinarily talented women within our beloved three tikanga church. I am especially indebted to those with whom I have shared the establishment and development journey of Women's Studies over the past years and as we go into General Synod 2010, I pray that many more women will be selected to



take their rightful and deserved place at all of the decision making tables of the Church.

One of the primary objectives of the Centre is now well embedded in the annual planning cycle. Our commitment to advocacy and mentoring of younger women into higher level

theological education and then onward into leadership is already producing fine fruit!

Our determination to model

with gentle grace and easy generosity what it is to be authentically three tikanga colleagues and friends on God's mission journey, is also now so readily visible in the working spirit of the Council together with the Diocesan and Hui Amorangi liaison sisters!

Thanks in abundance are due to General Synod members who have supported and enabled the establishment and now the mutually beneficial flourishing of an important Centre for the whole Church—one which serves as a reminder that God's justice will only be realised when all may know the sweet sense of unconditional belonging and none would ever again seek to dominate.

Challenges & Aspirations of an Ordained Woman in Theological Education

By Revd C. Amy Chambers

Theological Education in Pasefika is still dominated by males, hence for women aspiring to, or holding positions in theological institutions or organizations, it is a daily challenge whether you are ordained or not.

I came into this profession by 'mistake', but that is another story, yet every moment is wonderfully fulfilling in spite of the many challenges. When I became Principal of St John's College, Suva in January 2006, I was the first woman principal in its more than fifty years of existence! This year we have enrolled the first female student. That is a cause for celebration

and can be attributed to the work of leaders such as the late Archbishop Jabez Bryce who was very instrumental in promoting women to leadership positions both in the church and in society at large.

It is my prayer that many more Pacific women can access theological education. I have seen how liberating this is. Such women become mentors and nurturers of other women and the cycle goes on.

As I write this reflection, we have just finished our Diocesan and Electoral Synod. The membership in these meetings was a reflection of the struggle that our women continue to face. Of the 88 people attend-



ing that were nominated by the parishes, only 18 were women. The biggest unit which had 29 members, had only 2 women.

The struggle continues for women in Polynesia, so the importance of having women educators strategically placed to ensure that not only women but also men have quality theological education is very important.

Women in Ministry 2010 Census Update

Earlier in the year a call went out through the Women's Studies Link Representatives on behalf of the General Synod Women's Studies Centre Council, inviting Anglican women to participate in what will be the first comprehensive Census survey of women in ministry

undertaken in this church. The information gathered will be used to establish a comprehensive database. The Council members involved in

the development and ongoing management of this project have in mind the need for us to know more accurately just how many women are currently involved in ministry (lay and ordained) across the church.

We want specifically to know more comprehensively and accurately something of the roles, status, qualifications, positions held and theological education achievements of women in the Church.

As we have begun our work of strategizing best ways of advocating for increasing women's participation in all levels of the churches life we realize we have no current accurate data to which we can refer.

Among members of the broader Women's Studies, we have abun-



dant anecdotal material about the achievements of women in this church some of which is quite impressive but relatively publically unknown. Therefore what we need to establish is an official database from which we can then begin to build much more credible claims for further increasing the numbers of women as participants in all forms of theological education and /or as representatives in all forms of church decision making and leadership.

How often we have heard the claim 'that there are no women suitably qualified'. Our response is two- fold. Firstly, if it is true that there are really are none 'suitably qualified' then our task is to advocate for and mentor women through the process of becoming 'qualified'. While we recognize the fraught nature of subjectifying 'qualifications', nevertheless we want where possible and necessary to be able to see women being prepared for all forms of ministry. That is the task of Women's Studies and is one of the primary reasons for the census. We are hoping to identify where the significant 'real' gaps currently are and to be pro-active in closing these.

Secondly, in the case of the claim that there being none 'suitably qualified' then the establishment of a comprehensive database might just provide evidence to the contrary of this claim.

It's not too late to participate in this census if you have not already done so, just contact Karena de Pont by email on karena@stjohns.auckland.ac.nz or phone on **+64 9 521-2725** with your details and a form will be posted or emailed to you.

Women's Studies Centre Website coming soon

Megan Herles Mooar is currently developing the Women's Studies Centre website.

The website will allow for the wider sharing of information and resources with the wider church nationally and internationally. Links to

International Anglican Women's Studies and Ministries websites will also be established.

It is hoped that this website will become a vital tool in providing the support and inspiration to meet the needs of women in ministry and theological education within this province.

Scholarship information available to Anglican women within this province will also be on the website.

If you have anything you wish to contribute, please forward it to karena@stjohns.auckland.ac.nz who will pass it on to Megan.

National Women's Hui

By Revd Carole Hughes

As we have gathering as women representing tikanga Maori,

listened to one another's stories and supported each other.

today, and now is the time to build on our discussions and explore what our vision and shared journey might look like as we work 'together'. So we have invited the Reverend Canon Jane Shaw to lead our next national hui which has a *provisional* date of Tuesday, 31st August 2010.

Introducing

The Revd Canon Dr Jane Shaw MA, (M.Div Harvard, Ph.D Berkeley)

Fellow, Chaplain and Dean of Divinity— New College, Oxford University



Teaching Profile:

Jane Shaw has been a Fellow of New College since 2001. In her capacity as Dean of Divinity and Chaplain of the college, she runs the chapel, heads up the college welfare and pastoral team with the Home Bursar and works with the New College School. In the University, she is Reader in Church History, lectures on 19th century Christian thought and practice and directs a research project on modern prophecy movements.

Her publications include *Miracles in Enlightenment England* (Yale UP 2006). She is also an Honorary

Canon of Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford and Canon Theologian of Salisbury Cathedral.

Jane will facilitate a day where we will consider how we can support one another collectively, how we implement strategies that ensure that women are presented and empowered at all levels of 'being' church, and reflect on what the 'cautions' for our time are for us. It will be a day to share our dreams, identify issues that are relevant for us as women leaders in the church and society today, and create space for us to feel excited and inspired about making a positive difference for all women in our church!

Polynesia and Pakeha over the past year, it has been a very enriching time for us as we have

As a gathering we have begun to work on our 'identity'; who we are as women in the church

"Toro mai to ringa" Give me your Hand

By Amy Houben

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received"

1 Peter 4:10

I am convinced my hands are ugly. The works I have done over the years have left them permanently dry, wrinkly, leathery and calloused.

Every time a moment calls for 'hand holding', I think how awful it must feel for the one's whose hands must hold mine. Now that you know this, can you then begin to imagine how surprised and delighted I felt when someone, knowing how rough my "hands" were, quite unexpectedly and unhesitantly, reached out and took

them so to guide and encourage me.

My mentor took my hands and led me to experience what it was like to hold the hands of someone whose were much "uglier" than mine ... and I learnt the "ugly" I may see in myself and in others, is crying out to be loved.

To 'reach out', to 'hold' and to 'touch' someone else (no matter how ugly ones "hands" may be), to share the gifts God gives us, is at the heart of what we as sisters and brothers of Christ

are called to do and to offer. The hands of our brother Jesus Christ were splintered, pierced, and torn for us (made ugly for us) and never were a pair of hands more loving, more giving, more accepting, and more beautiful.

Amy Houben is currently a student at The College of St John the Evangelist in Auckland. With support from the Women's Studies Centre, she was able to follow her passion for Peace and Justice issues and represent this Church at the recent Anglican Peace and Justice Network conference in Geneva.



WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTRE

c/- St John's College
Private Bag 28907
Auckland 1541
NEW ZEALAND

Phone: +64 9 521-2725
Fax: +64 9 521-2420

E-mail: womenstudies@stjohns.auckland.ac.nz



The Women's Studies Centre was set up to serve and to advance the interests and needs of the women of this Church particularly those undertaking Theological training.

Website Coming Soon!

The Link Representatives from each Diocese and Hui Amorangi have been chosen for their leadership ability to identify, gather, facilitate, resource and encourage women in their educational preparation for ministry whether lay or ordained. It is hoped that the Women's Studies Centre can continue to enjoy the support of each Diocese and Hui Amorangi in this endeavour.

The issue of increasing numbers of women in representative positions across the councils and committees of the Church is seen as a high priority and the practice of intentional mentoring by those already in national and international representative roles is seen as a good way to expose women of this church to fulfill their potential as leaders.

Ensuring that women's voices and stories are heard now and in the future is also one of our continued aims whether it be by traditional methods of publication or using more contemporary technologies like website publication. We remain optimistic that through continued support the needs of women throughout this Province will be valued and recognized.



Women's Studies Centre Council Members

TIKANGA MAORI -

- Dr Jenny Plane Te Paa (Convener)
jenzat@xtra.co.nz
- Revd Cecilia Rooderkerk
Rooderkerk@xtra.co.nz

TIKANGA POLYNESIA -

- Revd C. Amy Chambers
mumsy@connect.com.fj
- Revd Tai Tuatagaloa-Leota
taimarice03@yahoo.com

TIKANGA PAKEHA

- Revd Jenny Dawson
jenniferdawson@xtra.co.nz
- Revd Carole Hughes
carolesunrise@xtra.co.nz

Women's Studies Centre Diocesan & Hui Amorangi Link Representatives

Diocese of Auckland -

- *No current appointment*

Diocese of Christchurch -

- *No current appointment*

Diocese of Dunedin

- Revd Carol Drury
revcd@xtra.co.nz

Diocese of Waipoua

- Revd Erice Fairbrother
ecfairbrother@xtra.co.nz

Diocese of Waikato

- The Ven Patricia Carter
revtrish@ihug.co.nz

Diocese of Wellington

- Revd Jenny Chalmers
jenny@clear.net.nz

Diocese of Polynesia

- Ema Hala'api'api
diouyouth@connect.com.fj

Hui Amorangi o te Tairāwhiti

- Revd Numia Tomoana
numia_5@hotmail.com

Hui Amorangi o te Tai Tokerau

- Revd Jenny Quince
quincemail@xtra.co.nz

Hui Amorangi o te Manawa o te Wheke

- Revd Beverley Moana Hall-Smith
bmoanasmith@gmail.com

Hui Amorangi o te Upoko o te Ika

- Revd Kura Andrews
kurahapairangi@gmail.com

Hui Amorangi o te Waipouamu

- Revd Canon Mere Wallace
mere.wallace@westcoastdhd.org.nz

Please respect the privacy of the above Councillors and representatives—the publication of their emails is not an invitation for unsolicited mail.