

Women and Religion Annual Report 2005-2006

Women and religion continues to serve the women of JPD in a variety of ways, working to fulfill our mission of “working for gender equity and providing an opportunity for connection, support and growth.”

This year our annual retreat focused on the new UU adult curriculum *Unraveling the Gender Knot*. 32 women were, led in weekend of exploration and sharing by the author of the curriculum Barbara Schornbourne. Barbara challenged us to examine our beliefs about gender and explore avenues for change. We looked at sex discrimination and how we learn about our gender. One of the unique points of view in this curriculum is that gender discrimination limits men as well as women by locking them into role expectations. At the retreat we had plenty of time for fun and relaxation including a lively coffee hour on Saturday. Women from the UU Congregation of York led our closing ritual and organized a lively icebreaker for registrants as they arrived.

We continue to urge congregations to offer this stimulating curriculum as part of their adult RE programs. A copy of the curriculum can be borrowed from the W&R lending library by contacting Sandy Eckert, jabuda@paonline.com.

Women and Religion also sponsored a workshop at JPD spring conference ‘The Spiritual Life’ where Rev Sandra Fees, minister of the First UU Church of Berks County, explored how spiritual practices interwoven into our lives help us move towards wholeness. This year for the first time JPD women and religion sponsored a travel opportunity. 7 women were led on an 8 day journey in New Mexico where they had a vacation with meaning, exploring the ancient native civilizations, the paintings and home of Georgia O’Keefe, the legends of the area and much more.

Sandy Eckert continues to run our lending library. Available are a variety of materials including, books, videos, curricula, and sample worship services. Some titles include: *By Herself*, *The Partnership Way*, *Cakes for Queens of Heaven* and *The Burning Times*. A full list of materials can be obtained from Sandy Eckert, jabuda@verizon.net or 717-533-5331. Consider borrowing an item to use for the next meeting of your women’s group. We have new editor for our JPD W& R Newsletter, Barbara Vaughn. The newsletter is sent to the Woman Link in each congregation and also posted on the JPD Website. The Woman Links then share the newsletter with their congregations. This has enabled us to widely distribute the newsletter without incurring great expense

Our Facilitator’s Circle has grown, this year we were delighted to welcome Barbara Vaughn, Anne Slater, Alix Berenzy, Kay Woods and Pat Hopper as new members.

Nuala Carpenter and Randa Todd co-conveners.