

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY OF AUSTIN

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Presbyterian Church in the US; United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.; United Church of Christ; United Methodist Church

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR STATE CONFERENCE-- TEXAS 1977

PROPOSAL FOR PARTICIPATION OF A MAJOR PORTION OF TEXAS' POPULATION OF WOMEN

"the unorganized women"

- homemakers
- older women
- rural women
- younger women

Rationale:

It is important for the state and national conferences for International Women's Year to reach and impact as large a segment of the female population as possible. In order to encourage the participation of a representative group of Texas women, it is necessary to provide for strategies which will insure the involvement of the many and diverse groups of women. Some groups seem to be more obscure, less identifiable, because they are not "organized" in any intentional way as are several other constituencies within the women's movement (i.e., black women, Mexican-American women, business and . . . professional women, or the more "radical" women's groups). This more diverse population, which we shall call "unorganized women", consists of homemakers, older women, rural women, and younger women (high school and early college age), and cuts across racial/ethnic and economic lines. We have reason to believe that women who fall into one or more of these "categories" have needs and issues which are not being recognized and/or addressed. While these women may hold membership in clubs, organizations, and churches in their local communities, unless there is a specific design to solicit their participation and input--at the grassroots level--before, during, and after the Texas I.W.Y. Conference, their voices may not be heard. Furthermore, these women might miss out on a rich experience from which they could gather information on a variety of issues to carry back for project implementation in their local communities.

Proposed network for reaching the "unorganized women"

One institution which could provide a contact-point with these women is the Church. A large percentage of church members in Texas are over 50-years-old, and many of these are women over 65. The church in rural communities still provides the hub of the town's life and activity. Younger women, especially high school age and the early college years, can be intercepted through local congregations and through the campus ministry centers in Texas. Such campuses as University of Texas at El Paso, Texas A & I University at Kingsville, and Pan American University at Edinburg, could provide key contact points with young Mexican-American women. Women who are related to the church can also invite women who are not active participants in a church or a campus ministry center, or women of a variety of faith backgrounds (such as Jewish) to participate with them in the involvements and events related to Texas' International Women's Year Conference.

An ecumenical organization--United Campus Ministry of Austin--and an ecumenical movement--Church Women United in Texas--could provide a network through which homemakers, rural women, older and younger women (and any other women who choose to participate) could identify their areas of concern, and lift up the needs and issues which emerge, to be received as input for the planning and the carrying out of the Texas I.W.Y. Conference. Through this proposed network--United Campus Ministry of Austin, and Church Women United in Texas--delegates would be recruited for the State I.W.Y. Conference, to represent needs and concerns of homemakers, rural women, older and younger women.

Church Women United (in Texas):

President: Mrs. John (Carol) Kolsti, Austin, Texas

Church Women United is organized in 78 local communities in Texas. (Approximately 1/4 of these are rural).

There are 11 CWU Vice-Presidents located geographically across the state of Texas. Each of the 78 local CWU Presidents is in close communication with one of these 11 state CWU Vice-Presidents. Each local unit has denominational representatives.

It would be possible for the April issue of The Texas Church Woman to carry major in-

formation about I.W.Y. In addition to this state CWU publication, many of the 78 communities in Texas publish monthly Church Women United newsletters.

A People's Platform for identifying major issues and concerns has been prepared at local and state levels, which includes such areas as: health care delivery, strengthening the family, concern for children, displaced homemakers, the media, human welfare, including unemployment and the welfare system. Contact person: Mrs. Charles Wolfers, Friendswood (near Houston).

At the state and local levels, CWU is totally a volunteer organization. There is no state headquarters or paid staff. There is a very effective network of communication throughout the state of Texas through Church Women United.

United Campus Ministry of Austin:

Director: Rev. Dr. Ginger Brittain Jarman, campus minister for United Campus Ministry of Austin(Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), United Methodist, United Presbyterian, Presbyterian Church of the U.S., and United Church of Christ). Dr. Jarman is presently serving as second-vice-president of Church Women United in Austin, and Co-coordinator of the Texas N.O.W. Task Force on Women and Religion.

The Operating Board of United Campus Ministry of Austin has designated "Women's Concerns" as one of its major priority areas.

UCMA is in ministry throughout the city of Austin, to the University of Texas at Austin, and beyond, and is in cooperative and supportive ministry and services with other community agencies.

UCMA is in close communication with churches in Texas which are related to the five denominations it represents, and also with other similar campus ministry centers throughout Texas.

UCMA could receive, hold, and release funds for utilization in relation to the Texas I.W.Y. Conference. Dr. Jarman and her Operating Board could oversee this project, and if funds are allocated by the I.W.Y. Committee, could provide low-cost office space for special staff to implement the plans and programs for the Texas I.W.Y. Conference.

Proposed Relationships:

Rev. Dr. Ginger Brittain Jarman would serve in an administrative capacity for Texas I.W.Y. plans related to "unorganized women": Homemakers, Rural, Older, Younger Women.

Two part-time staff (women) would be selected by UCMA and CWU, and hired as Co-ordinators for the project. These two co-ordinators would have journalism and public relations skills, and good contacts with churches and campus ministry centers throughout Texas. A part-time secretary/typist would be hired, and all other persons connected with the project would be volunteer, and co-ordinated through the Church Women United and the campus ministry networks.

Proposed Time-line: 1977

- March 1-15 Staff, along with a newly-created Task Force on Texas I.W.Y. from Church Women United in Texas, would utilize existent network for communication to and from Texas Church Women United units (in 78 communities) in order to disseminate information on upcoming I.W.Y. Conference and the need for input from "grassroots" women, especially homemakers, rural, older and younger women. Local convenors will be identified and briefed. Campus ministry centers will be contacted so as to include younger women of varying racial/ethnic, and economic backgrounds.
- March 15-30 Local convenors (acquired through Church Women United units and campus ministry units) will contact and meet with already existent groups of women, especially the aforementioned target groups, for the purpose of identifying local community needs, issues, concerns, to be recorded and reported back to staff through local convenors. Beginning of search for delegates to Texas I.W.Y. Conference.
- April 1-15 Collation of information--major issue areas identified and agenda built for Texas I.W.Y. Conference. Staff, volunteers, and de-

signed delegates (at least six) co-ordinate efforts with other I.W.Y. planning units.

April 15-30 Search for resource persons to deal with identified agenda items at the Texas I.W.Y. Conference.

May 1 + Resource persons/speakers identified and secured for Texas I.W.Y. Conference. Details and information on Conference available and mailed out. Delegates recruited. Those needing financial assistance are identified. Continued preparation for conference.

June Conference. Follow-up in local communities so that local projects can be designed and implemented. Staff assisting local convenors in beginning that process.

July + Aftermath of Texas I.W.Y. Conference continued by volunteers. Some women preparing for National I.W.Y. Conference.

Proposed Budget:

Office space (for 4 months, March 1 - June 30) 100 sq. ft. @ \$.40 per sq. ft.	\$ 160.00
Office supplies (including materials and postage)	300.00
Telephone (including long distance calls)	200.00
Staff: Co-ordinator I (30 hours)	2,400.00
Co-ordinator II (30 hours)	2,400.00
Secretary-typist (part-time)	1,200.00
Travel (for staff)	<u>1,340.00</u>
TOTAL	8,000.00

In-Kind Services to be contributed:

Church Women United

Participation of at least one representative to Texas I.W.Y. Steering Committee

Volunteer hours

Publicity

Resourcing local community projects post-I.W.Y. Conference

United Campus Ministry of Austin

Volunteer hours

Administrative staff time from director (estimate: 1 day per week)

Meeting space at UCMA Headquarters, Methodist Student Center, 2434 Guadalupe, Austin

Resourcing local community projects post-I.W.Y. Conference

Ginger Brittain Jarman
United Campus Ministry
of Austin