

# Twenty-five Years of Presbyterian Women

## Mission Pledge

1989–2012—Gifts total more than \$70,000,000 to support programs and ministries of PW, as well as provide support for the PC(USA)

## Birthday Offering

1989–2012—Gifts total more than \$20,000,000; major grants made to 91 projects, national and international

## Thank Offering

1989–2012—Gifts total nearly \$24,000,000; grants made to nearly 2,000 projects, national and international

## USA Mission Experience

2008—U.S./Mexico border  
2010—South Dakota  
2013—Tennessee, North Carolina

## PW-sponsored development projects

Roma Development Project, Eastern Europe —2009–2015  
Palm Development Project, Democratic Republic of Congo—2006–2012  
Women's Development Project, Presbyterian Church of India—2012–2018

## Global Exchange

1990 – Australia  
1993 – Central and Eastern Europe  
1996 – Southeast Asia  
1999 – Middle East  
2002 – Africa  
2005 – Brazil  
2008 – Central and Eastern Europe  
2011 – India  
2014 – Caribbean

## Key Acronyms

WOC—Women of the Church, PCUS  
UPW—United Presbyterian Women, UPCUSA  
UPCUSA—United Presbyterian Church in the USA  
PCUS—Presbyterian Church in the United States



Cleda Locey



Sara Cordery



Hazel Fuhrmeister



Diana Lim



Karen Fritsch



Kristen Gerling



Catreia Hunter



Marta Rodríguez



Mary Jorgenson

1983

1988

1991

1994

1997

2000

2003

2006

2009

2012

2015 +

1983 – The UPCUSA position on women in ministry became the policy of the reunited PC(USA).

1983–1987 – The Women of the Church/United Presbyterian Women Working Team worked on a design for the new women's organization.

1985 – WOC attended the National Meeting of UPW as conferees.

1986 – UPW and WOC approved a design for PW.

1987 – Joining for the Journey event in St. Louis to prepare for merging WOC and UPW into one organization, Presbyterian Women.

1987 – The General Assembly created a Women's Ministry Unit (WMU) that came into being in 1988 with Mary Ann Lundy as its director.

Presbyterian Women (PW) staff were housed in this unit, which also included three women's constituency groups: the Committee of Women of Color, Justice for Women and Women Employed by the Church.

1987 – First Native American woman ordained minister of Word and Sacrament, Holly Haile Smith, UPC.

1988 – First Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, July 13–18. Theme: Drawn by the Waters of Life. Cleda Locey was elected the first moderator of PW, and the initial PW Enabler training was held. Jeanne

Marshall of UPW and Cathy Vaughan of WOC presided.

1988 – *Horizons* magazine was launched.

1989 – PW's international exchanges were formalized with the creation of PW's Global Exchange program.

1989 – The General Assembly Council recommended that PW's moderator have advisory status on the Council and serve as a permanent voting member of the Finance Committee.

1990 – PW Enabler Training, Ames, Iowa

1990 – PW Global Exchange to Australia

1991 – PW Churchwide Gathering, Ames, Iowa. Cleda Locey presided.

Theme: Whose World Is It? Sara Cordery, first African American churchwide moderator, elected

1991 – Conversations began leading to formation of the National Network of Presbyterian College Women (NNPCW).

1993 – The GAC formed the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns; its interim membership came from the three former constituency groups of the Women's Ministry Unit, PW's Churchwide Coordinating Team and members at large.

1993 – Global Exchange to Central and Eastern Europe

1994 – PW Churchwide Gathering, Ames, Iowa. Sara Cordery presiding. Theme: You Are My Beloved

1996 – General Assembly approved an

overture to grant the moderator of PW full voting membership on the General Assembly Council.

1996 – Global Exchange to Southeast Asia

1997 – PW Churchwide Gathering, Louisville, Kentucky. Hazel Fuhrmeister presiding. Theme: A Cloud of Witnesses

1997 – Diana Lim was elected the first Asian American PW churchwide moderator. She had previously served on the National Executive Committee of UPW's Joining for the Journey committee.

1997 – PW made a commitment to strive to eradicate racism.

1997 – PW helped launch the Nets to End Malaria pilot project.

International Health Ministries (PC(USA)) went on to establish the Networkers Malaria Prevention Project.

1998 – Racial Ethnic Dialog grew out of discussions in response to concerns raised by National Asian Presbyterian Women and National Black Presbyterian Women.

1999 – Global Exchange to Middle East

2000 – PW Churchwide Gathering, Louisville, Kentucky. Diana Lim presiding. Theme: Sound the Trumpets: Proclaim Jubilee!

2000 – PW declared itself an antiracist organization.

2000 – Roula Alkhoury, of Syria, was the first Middle Eastern American woman ordained as minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA)

2001 – PW initiated Widening the Circle, a fund for new program initiatives at the national level on behalf of women.

2001 – Women of Color Consultation proposed by PW's Racial Ethnic Dialog.

2001–2003 – A task group reviewed PW's organizational structure, programs and resources from an antiracist perspective. Its report and recommendations guide PW's antiracism efforts to this day.

2002 – Global Exchange to Africa

2002 – PW began training antiracism facilitators.

2003 – Churchwide Gathering, Louisville, Kentucky. Karen Fritsch presided. Theme: God's Vision: Our Calling

2004 – Women of Color Consultation held in Atlanta, Georgia. Theme: Come, Be Refreshed by the Waters.

2005 – Global Exchange to Brazil

2005 – Regional Tending the Flame events began around the country, celebrating 100 years of women ordained as deacons (2006), 75 years of women ordained as elders (2005), and 50 years of women ordained as ministers of Word and Sacrament (2006).

2005 – *Horizons* magazine published a joint issue on peace, with *Lutheran Women Today*, *Response* magazine (United Methodist Women) and *Glad Tidings* (Women's Mission Society of Canada).

2006 – Women's ordination anniversary celebrations part of the 217th General Assembly in Birmingham, Alabama. The GA approved a task force to monitor progress on recommendations from the 2005 Women of Color Consultation.

2006 – Presbyterian Women began attending the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

2006 – PW Churchwide Gathering, Louisville, Kentucky. Kris Gerling presided. Theme: Creation!

Celebration! God's Word—Light for the Journey

2006 – PW began a series of trips to assist with Hurricane Katrina recovery.

2008 – The first PW USA Mission Experience trip; U.S./Mexico border.

2008 – Global Exchange to Eastern Europe

2008 – Presbyterian Women launched its Facebook page, beginning its use of social media to reach constituents and grow the PW community.

2009 – PW Churchwide Gathering, Louisville, Kentucky. Catreia Hunter presided. Theme: God Will Do Wonders Among You; Marta

Rodríguez, the first Hispanic American to be elected as PW churchwide moderator, assumed office.

2009 – Yodogawa Christian Hospital returned PW Birthday Offering seed money for PC(USA) world mission.

2009 – PW incorporated at the national level, becoming Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc.

2010 – PW USA Mission Experience trip visited Native American sisters in South Dakota.

2011 – Global Exchange to India

2012 – *Horizons* launched its digital edition with the January/February issue.

2012 – PW Churchwide Gathering, Orlando, Florida. Marta Rodríguez presided. Theme: River of Hope

2012 – The 220th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) commended Presbyterian Women's *Horizons* Bible study *Confessing the Beatitudes* by Margaret Aymer to the entire church.

2013 – USA Mission Experience trip to the Appalachian regions of eastern Tennessee/western North Carolina.

2013 – PW celebrated its 25th anniversary, and looked ahead to its next 25 (and the next!).

2014 – Global Exchange to the Caribbean