

## Report from Women-Church Working groups on Feminist Theology

Weaver: Susan A. Farrell

Group I --- Leaders: Rosemary Radford Ruether & Theresa Yugar

### Challenges

- Working within the pedagogical kyriarchal structure/ or not
- Education/persuasion of course offerings
- Finding a location for teaching
- No advocacy or resources within the institutions
- Institutions claim neutrality
- Gap between theory and practice
- Using the word “feminist”
- Resistance
- The idea that feminism is shallow
- Hard to get respect
- The discipline and its topics are marginalized
- Feminist theology is considered an add-on that can be dropped in “scarce times”
- Possibility of losing your job

### Connections

- With theory and praxis
- Theology emerges from our personal experience
- Recognize interconnectedness of all social justice issues, e.g. ecological
- All movements affirm women as equal citizens
- Be studied in a class context with connections to race, sex, etc as well
- Feminist theologians as resource people in partnership
- Interest in relationships

### Commitments

- To lobby for feminist theology
- To keep the transmission of feminism going
- Being mindful of generational work
- Address feminist theological work to the grassroots
- Pedagogies and writing books accessible to all people
- Commitment to alternative methods in the classroom
- Allowing for different voices
- Have a parish book club
- To get this info into the pews

- To have mini/regional forums

Group II --- Leaders: Nicole Sotelo & Veronica Dunne

#### Challenges

- The technological divide that often falls along the lines of gender, class, race, abilities, etc.
- Financial limitations
- Inability to use various technologies accommodating different learning styles
- Difficulty of making authentic connections using technology

#### Connections

- Can made using blogs, YouTube, social networking sites, listservs, podcasts, web links, etc.

#### Commitments

- Educate ourselves about technologies
- Use the technologies available
- Share our experiences with media, books, and technology  
e.g. check out the Faith & Feminism conference that's archived at Harvard to hear feminists of faith speak

#### Recommendations

- If we had funding what would we want it for?
  1. Fund coordinators to help us connect over technology in circles of reflection /education
  2. To coordinate more frequent conferences

Group III --- Leaders: Victoria Rue & Mary Southard

The conclusions of this group can be seen in the artwork that they produced. Photo will be posted on website.

#### Challenges

- Arts are not seen as transformative (only two people attended workshop perhaps indicative of priority of arts)
- We are grieving the loss of the church
- We are in a death and resurrection time
- Widen our vision beyond church to the ongoing unfolding universe

#### Commitments

- To imagination

- The future is already within us
- Our heart is the roots and the roots are the heart
- Commitment to the rhythm of the seasons and the cosmos

#### Connections

- Artistic life is our fuel and vision
- Although we “otherize” the world and its people, we are connected in our oneness