

April 2006, letter sent

Dear Colleague in Ministry of The United Church Of Canada;

This letter comes to you as a student of the Centre for Christian studies and associated colleges who graduated prior to 1965. We are using this list to contact as wide a group of women as possible concerning the intention of the General Council Executive to enact a service of apology to women affected by the 'disjoining rule'.

The 38th General Council adopted a petition calling for a process of apology to deaconesses and ordained women who were required to relinquish their rights to practice ministry if and when they married. We also wish to include women who chose not to be married out of a desire to maintain their professional employment. We also recognize that many of the women affected by the rule have died, and we wish to gather names as well, so that they may be named in the service of apology.

Attached to this letter you will find an historical article and the recent actions of the Executive.

The first service of apology will be held at the meeting of the General Council Executive on Sunday April 30th at 11 a.m. at the Marriot Airport Hotel, 901 Dixon Rd. Toronto. Through the next year, Conferences will also hold similar services of apology in each region of the country.

We wish to ask for your help in contacting women who were affected by the rule. If you were affected or if you know someone who was, would you please call the closest Conference Office to your home. You will find attached to this letter a list of contacts.

If you would be able to attend the General Council Executive service on April 30th in Toronto please contact my office and we will assist you in coming.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Bruce Gregersen
General Council Minister,
Programs for Mission and Ministry

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