

**THE RENEW NETWORK TASKFORCE
FORUM FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE WOMEN'S DIVISION**

RENEW Network President and Panel Member

L. Faye Short

Faye Short has served as president of the RENEW Network, a network for evangelical women within the United Methodist Church, since 1989. Prior to coming on staff as RENEW's president, she served on the Good News Board of Directors, and as a member of the Good News Women's Taskforce. Good News is a forum for Scriptural Christianity within the United Methodist Church. RENEW is the women's program arm of Good News.

Faye serves on the advisory committee of UMAction and previously served on the board of the Ecumenical Coalition on Women and Society (ECWS), both affiliated with the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD). She is a member of the Association for Church Renewal, which is comprised of renewal executives from various mainline denominations. Faye is on the advisory board for United Methodists Organized for Renewal and Evangelism (Iowa Conference), and formerly served on the advisory committee of Enterprise Development International.

Faye is a contributor to Thomas Nelson's *Woman's Study Bible*.

A former Gainesville District and North Georgia Conference officer for United Methodist Women, Faye also served as Chairman, and in other leadership capacities, with the Jackson County Christian Women's Club. Faye was a regular, approved speaker for CWC and for Christian Business & Professional Women's Club.

Currently residing in Northeast Georgia, Faye was born in LaGrange, Georgia and raised in Orlando, Florida, attending Southeastern College in Lakeland. She worked in personnel administration in Massachusetts and Atlanta. Following the birth of her daughter, she worked part-time as a church secretary and newspaper employee in Jefferson, Georgia, doing some free-lancing for the Jackson Herald, writing primarily on political/social issues. It was during this time that she served as a UMW officer and in CWC leadership.

Faye is married to Dennis Short who is retired from education administration. Dennis has served as a local pastor for the United Methodist Church in the North Georgia Conference for 20 years. Dennis and Faye have one daughter, Denise, who is married to Wayne Weimer of Somerset, Pennsylvania. They have two daughters, Emily Kate and Abigail Rose.

RENEW Network Panel Member

Ruth Aldana Velazquez

Ruth Aldana Velazquez, born in Chicago, Illinois, is the daughter of immigrant parents. Soon after her acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, Ruth felt a deep commitment to labor within the Latino community in Chicago. While in her teens she was elected to be the vice-president of the interdenominational city-wide youth group, "Juventud Latina para Cristo" (Latin Youth for Christ).

Ruth was the first college graduate in her family. She holds degrees from Moody Bible Institute and Governors State University (Honors). Ruth has had a passion for teaching both as a volunteer in the local church and professionally as an elementary school teacher for 16 years. Her teaching experience spans from the inner-city (with Afro-American, Latino and Anglo communities) in Chicago, Illinois, to the inner city of El Paso, TX.

Ruth, married to a United Methodist pastor, has had a ministry of her own. Her leadership was recognized in the Hispanic ministry within the Northern Illinois Conference. She was the co-director of the only Hispanic Family Camp on the Jurisdictional level (North Central, 1967-1994) in the United Methodist Church. Ruth continues to be active in the UMC, both in the local and national level, including her local United Methodist Women's unit. She and Jose have two sons and four grandchildren.

RENEW Network Panel Member

Janice Shaw Crouse, Ph.D.

Janice Shaw Crouse is a life-long United Methodist from a long line of life-long United Methodists; her father was an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church for 35 years and her mother has been a United Methodist ordained elder for nearly two decades. Janice and her husband are members of the First United Methodist Church in Laurel, MD. She was a member of the RENEW Network Steering Committee for over a decade and currently serves as a consultant to RENEW. Janice has served in numerous capacities at the local church level (board, worship committee, COSROW, youth counselor, Sunday School teacher and on various task forces on violence against women.

Janice Crouse, Senior Fellow, Concerned Women for America (CWA), is a recognized authority on domestic issues, the United Nations, cultural and women's concerns. In May, 2002, she was appointed as a U.S. delegate to the United Nations Children's Summit. Subsequently, she was appointed by the President to the U.S. delegation to the 2003 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The Heritage Foundation nominated her for the 2003 Bradley Prize for her influence on contemporary issues. During the first Bush Administration, she was a Presidential Speech Writer, authoring major presidential policy addresses as well as drafting and editing the Presidential White Paper on Welfare Reform.

She is frequently a guest lecturer on college campuses—including most recently Princeton, Harvard, Tulane, Erskine, Asbury and Georgetown -- and at United Nations related conventions like the World Congress of Families III in Mexico City and the commemoration of the International Year of the Family in Kuala, Lumpur. She is author of "Gaining Ground: A Profile of American Women in the Twentieth Century." The book that she co-authored, "A Different Kind of Strength," was a Conservative Book of the Month selection in 2000 and has been printed in two foreign editions. Her paperback, *The Strength of a Godly Woman*, is one of Harvest House Publishers top-five picks.

Her opinion editorials and columns have appeared in major newspapers across the nation as well as in journals and magazines—including the Washington Post, The Washington Times, Insight, First Things, Touchstone, USA Today, Christianity Today, Marriage Partnership, Family Voice, Citizen. She has been featured in many of those same publications and others, including Congressional Quarterly. She has been interviewed on numerous national radio and television programs including the major television networks as well as C-Span, Fox, MSNBC and CNN. She has authored scholarly and think-tank publications and Congressional Testimony. Prior to the White House, Dr. Crouse wrote for the Honorable Louis W. Sullivan, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) where she coined the phrase, "Healthy Start."

Dr. Crouse was selected to launch CWA's think tank in May 1999 in recognition of the need for a conservative organization solely devoted to conducting quality research on issues of concern to women. Believing in the unity of truth, the Institute recognizes the power of good data and analysis to inform and substantiate policy positions. Before coming to BLI, Dr. Crouse was President of Crouse Communications, a public relations and political analysis firm serving organizations in the United States and throughout the world. Dr. Crouse directed the work of the Ecumenical Coalition on Women and Society, a project of the Institute on Religion and Democracy. Through ECWS, she drafted, edited and produced the Christian Women's Declaration and spearheaded the development and execution of IRD's Washington Summit, a conference for women leaders. Previously she was the Project Director for the ECWS team attending the 1995 Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing. In addition, she produced the Beijing Bulletin, an analysis of the events of the conference that was faxed daily to over 1250 opinion leaders in the United States. In addition to her work in preparation for the conference, analyzing the issues related to the Platform and planning strategy for influencing the conference, Dr. Crouse served as the stateside contact person and spokesperson. She also helped lead team to the 1998 World United Methodist Women's Assembly. Dr. Crouse co-led a six-member team to the World Council of Churches Eighth Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe. She attends and writes daily commentaries on United Nations meetings and national political conventions.

Previously, Dr. Crouse was Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Taylor University where, among other duties, she was responsible for faculty development and academic programs for a 94-member faculty. She was formerly Professor and Debate Coach at Asbury College and at Ball State University where she was selected as a mentor

teacher and her debate team was ranked in the top ten nationally. She received a National Community Leadership Award from the United States Chamber of Commerce. She is a former Woman of the Year and is listed in Who's Who Among American Women. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of Asbury College. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Good News. She serves on four national Task Forces and Coalitions on national and international issues: Against Sexual Trafficking, Against Abuse of Women, Promoting Human Rights and Promoting Religious Freedom. Through her speaking and writing, Dr. Crouse addresses the need to strengthen those cultural institutions that instill values in our nation's citizens—family, church, school and community.

The National Press Club's compendium of experts describes Dr. Crouse as having "brought insight, keen perception and wisdom to domestic, family, political and women's issues since the early 1990s as a Presidential speechwriter for Bush 41, United Nations delegate, think tank fellow, television commentator, speaker, author and columnist. Her common sense, refreshing honesty and intriguing perspective on cultural and political issues expose spin to reveal truth in a way that has earned respect and made her a popular cultural analyst. Known for applying her strong intellect and articulating her solid faith with candor and humor, she is a conservative leader who appeals across ideological and religious barriers."

RENEW Network Panel Member

Carolyn P. Elias

Carolyn Elias, a life-long United Methodist, lives in Hot Springs, Arkansas with her husband, Barney. They are the parents of Kimberly and Kate and the very proud grandparents of Isaac (6) and Jenna Rose (3) who bring great joy to their lives as they now live in Hot Springs with their parents, Kate and Greg. The Elias' attend the First United Methodist Church in Hot Springs.

Education: Little Rock High School (Central); Monticello College Godfrey Illinois (A.A.); University of Arkansas (BA/)

Community: Teacher of Explorer's Bible Study (13 yrs.)
Affiliated with Bible Study Fellowship (40 yrs.)
Brownie/Girl Scout Leader
North Little Rock Junior Service League (now Junior League)
Chairman Mother's March of Dimes, North Little Rock, 2 yrs
Salvation Army Board, 13 yrs.
United Way Board, 12 yrs.

Local Church: Lay Member Annual Conference 30 yrs.
Board of Stewards
Council on Ministries
Chairman Evangelism

Pastor Parish
Sunday School Teacher/Superintendent
Vacation Bible School Teacher/Chairman
UMW offices

Conference Responsibilities:

Older Adult Coordinator
Council on Ministries
Board of Education
Chairman, Episcopacy Committee

General Church Responsibilities

Lay Delegate to General Conference 2000/2004
Jurisdictional Delegate 1992
Episcopacy Committee 2000-2004

Social: Delta Delta Delta Sorority
P.E.O.
Criterion Club

Lifetime Member Good News Board and Member RENEW Network Support Team

RENEW Network Panel Member

Katy Kiser

Katy Kiser is a life-long United Methodist whose roots in the Methodist Church go back at least four generations. Land from her family's original Texas Land Grant was donated to build one of the earliest Methodist Churches in Texas (Salem Methodist Church in Milam County). Katy has served many years in the North Texas Conference as a lay delegate from her church as well as a delegate at large. Currently she serves on the Dallas Denton District Nominating Committee as well as the North Texas Conference Nominating Committee. She serves as her church representative to the Dallas Methodist Hospital Women's Auxiliary.

In her local church, she is a former President of United Methodist Women and former chairperson of the Missions Committee. Currently she serves her local church as a member of the Church Council and Staff Parish Relations Committee. She is chairperson of Christian Social Concerns for the First United Methodist Church of Carrollton.

Katy and her family lived several years overseas in Paris, France and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In Paris, Katy served as a board member for The Evangelical Women's Fellowship which is an ecumenical group of English-speaking churches begun by Honey Rodgers, wife to the Ambassador to France under the Regan administration. In Brazil, Katy worked with an International Baptist Church which served as host to mission teams

from the States as well as providing ministry to street children. In both France and Brazil, Katy and her family had the opportunity to meet and work closely with missionaries. Since returning to the States, she has worked to raise funds for several missionary families through the Mission Society for United Methodists.

In addition to her involvement in the Church, Katy finds time to do free lance writing. Most recently, her pieces have appeared in the Elite News, a Dallas African American Community News Paper. She is a press representative for the RENEW Network and a member of the RENEW Steering Committee.

Katy holds a performance degree in piano pedagogy from the University of Texas and presently teaches classical piano in her private studio. She and her husband Larry have been married 34 years and have two daughters.

RENEW Network Panel Member

Elizabeth (Liza) B. Kittle

Liza Kittle is a life-long member of Trinity on the Hill United Methodist Church in Augusta, Georgia, where she was an active member of UMW for over 15 years holding various offices including that of President. She has previously served as Women's Ministry Coordinator for the present Women of the Vine Women's Ministry at Trinity and as a lay delegate to the North Georgia Annual Conference.

She is currently the North Georgia Representative for the RENEW Network, and is a press representative for RENEW. She served on the taskforce for Inspiring Models for Effective Women's Ministry, and is a workshop leader for "Inspiring Models" events.

Liza graduated from the University of Georgia in pre-med zoology. Prior to starting her family, she worked at the Medical College of Georgia in the Kidney Transplant Program as a clinical and research assistant and in the Reproductive Health, Prenatal Laboratory at MCG. She also worked, in immunogenetic research at the University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine. Liza lives in Augusta with her husband Bill, a local physician, and is a stay-at-home Mom to four children, ages 10-17.

Characterizing herself as a radical feminist in her young adult years, Liza experienced a complete transformation in her heart and life in her early 30s and has a powerful testimony of forgiveness and redemption through a relationship with Jesus Christ. She is a graduate of seven years of Bible Study Fellowship.

RENEW Network Press Coordinator

Rev. Karen Booth

Personal:

Married 16 years to Rev. Randy Booth, Conley's Chapel United Methodist Church
No children
Hobbies/Interests: Travel, Sewing, and Reading

Educational:

High School diploma from Beaver Falls (Pennsylvania) High School - 1968
BA in journalism from University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA - 1973
MDiv (with honors) from Drew Theological School, Madison, New Jersey – 1987

Professional History:

Prior to entering ordained ministry in 1991, worked in social work and industrial sales

Local Church Pastor

1991-2003 - Long Neck United Methodist Church, Long Neck, Delaware;
1987-1991 - Dorchester Charge, Secretary, Maryland

Service Beyond the Local Church

District Level

Mentor for ministerial candidates and new pastors
Past president of Dover District Ministers and Mates
Instructor in Easton and Dover District Lay Speaker Academies
Served on the Board of Church Location and Building

Annual Conference Level

Served on the Commission on Religion and Race, the Commission on the
Status and Role of Women, and the Council on Finance and Administration

Renewal Involvement

Past Convener of the Northeast Jurisdiction Evangelical Connection
Workshop Leader and Bible Study Teacher at Good News, Confessing
Movement RENEW and Aldersgate Renewal Ministries gatherings
RENEW Network for Women – Steering Committee
Sitting member of the Association for Church Renewal

Currently writing and editing a book for Bristol House Books:

Women at the Well: Overcoming Female Sexual Sin

RENEW Network Taskforce Member/Chaplain

Rev. Kris L. Key

Minister of Discipleship, Women's Ministries, Trinity on the Hill United Methodist
Church, Augusta, Georgia

Education: BS in Accounting, Illinois State University

Associate in Christian Education, Board of Higher Education and Ministry of UMC
Deacon in Full Connection, United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio

Youth Minister, Calvary UMC, Normal, IL
Youth Minister, Lakewood UMC, Houston, TX
Youth Minister/Children & Family Minister, First UMC, Houston, TX

Personal: “I grew up in a Christian home in central Illinois with two loving parents and five siblings. We were active members of a rural United Methodist church of about 50 members and my mother and both grandmothers were long-time United Methodist Women. My father always served as an officer of the church and he was the spiritual leader of our home. One of the greatest gifts he gave me was teaching me the importance of prayer. I learned at an early age that we don't have to be good enough or say just the right words when we pray—we just need to be real with Him, spend time with Him, and love Him wherever we are at that moment. Prayer has been an integral part of my family heritage for generations and it is the foundational basis for everything that God calls me to do in ministry.”

Kris served as a sub-district conference officer, as president of her youth group and was a youth delegate to annual conference. She is married to Rev. Daniel J. Key, and is the mother to two sons.

Mission/Vision: “God is looking for women who are totally surrendered to Him, who walk by faith and not by sight. God has given me many experiences and tasks that have required me to walk by faith. I would never have imagined in my wildest dreams that growing up in a small rural church in Illinois I would be sharing my heart and my passion for women's ministry in the United Methodist Church in this forum. I believe God is looking for disciples who put Him first, who desire to live holy lives, who are authentic in their spiritual walk, and who are willing to make the necessary changes to be in line with His will. I believe in the priesthood of all believers and that we are all called to a life of servant ministry. I believe it is a wonderful time for the United Methodist Church to align itself with God's will and seek His vision for our denomination. I believe that women's ministries should exist to encourage, equip and enable women to know and abide in Jesus Christ to bear fruit for His Kingdom and bring honor and glory to God.”

RENEW Network TaskforceMember/Usher

Sharon Lodovic

I am a fourth generation Methodist. I remember my grandmother talking about the Methodist missions group of which she was a member. I was a member of and circle leader of the WSCS at my church in the early 70s in San Antonio, Texas, but our UMC in Carrollton, Texas, where we moved in 1976, didn't have a UMW, so I have only been a member of the UMW here at the First UMC in New Braunfels since 2000.

At the FUMC Carrollton, where we were members for 23 years, my husband and I were chairpersons of the Social Concerns Commission. I served as chairman of a local pro-life seminar, served several years on the Missions Commission—attending five short-term missions trips to Costa Rica, was active in Evangelism Explosion where I served on the committee of a national training event at our church, and was vice-president in charge of programs for our women's ministry. I attended several years of Precept Bible Studies and hosted a Bible Study/prayer group in my home for a couple of years and attended many other studies, retreats and seminars.

Through a program introduced at our church, our family became a "friendship family" with a black mother and her 8 children. We came alongside them in many ways and have remained friends with them. While living in Dallas, from 1976-2000 I volunteered for Texans United for Life in many capacities, including speaking at schools on fetal development.

Since attending FUMC, New Braunfels, Texas, I have been active on the Missions and Evangelism Commissions, attended Disciple Bible Studies where I taught Disciple I for a year before I was asked to start the Alpha Course at our church. My husband and I are now helping with the third Alpha Course. I have also attended several other Bible Studies (Renovare, Intercessory Prayer, C.S. Lewis and Beth Moore). I love to study--especially the Bible! I was a committee member of the 150 year anniversary celebration of our church and served for three years on the Youth Commission. While being active on Missions our church has supported two seminary students from Perkins Seminary and my husband and I have hosted one family three times in our home—a real blessing.

What I consider my greatest accomplishment is the rearing three Christian children and three Christian grandchildren (the other two are too young to have made a decision for Christ). At the present time I thrive on being a grandmother extraordinaire!—loving every minute of it—especially the recent week we all spent at Rockport, on the Texas coast. (A considerable accomplishment, considering our varying schedules and that we live in Colorado, Texas and Kentucky.)