

**Evaluations of Paper Proposals for the 1999 WTS Meeting
Southern Nazarene University, March 5-6**

Proposal submitted by: John Stanley and Randy Huber

Topic: "Reclaiming the Holiness Heritage of Women Clergy: A Case Study and Study Guide"

Comments by the evaluator:

_____ This proposal should not be accepted for use in the 1999 program.

_____ This proposal should be discussed during the conference call.

Evaluator's name _____

“Reclaiming the Holiness Heritage of Women Clergy: A Case Study and Study Guide”
The Louisville Institute Christian Faith & Life Teaching Team Grant, 1998-99

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Grant Abstract

This study will use Chapel Hill Church of God, York Springs, Pa as a case study in reversing what Paul Bassett identifies as “fundamentalist leavening” in the holiness movement, especially in regards to women in ministry.¹ A distinctive of most Wesleyan/Holiness denominations is that they have always ordained women as pastors. However, in recent decades as these denominations have assimilated new members, especially from fundamentalist traditions, the willingness to accept women as clergy has diminished. Chapel Hill Church of God fits that pattern because it had women ministers at its inception, and a woman pastor from 1944-1947, only to reject women as leaders in 1982. Pastor Randy Huber preached a series of thirteen sermons on women in the bible in the fall of 1996 and initiated bylaw changes which the congregation approved in November 1997 to allow women to serve as pastoral leaders and members of the Board of Elders. Our project presents a case study of the Chapel Hill transitions, edits and publishes the sermon series, and conducts workshops and classes on how to overcome resistance to women as leaders in Wesleyan/Holiness traditions.

1. We realize that “fundamentalist leavening” originally applied to the doctrine of inerrancy but we will show that opposition to women in ministry is an additional element of what Bassett designated as fundamentalist leavening.