

## **Commission on the Status and Role of Women** **Bonnie McOmber, Chair**

The ministry of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) is the full and equal responsibility and participation of women in the total life of the church and society. The need for the Commission is affirmed in *The Book of Discipline*. The tasks of the Conference Commission are:

- ❖ to be informed about the status and role of women in the total life of the church,
- ❖ to work cooperatively with United Methodist Women to achieve full participation of women in the decision-making structures,
- ❖ to develop ways to inform and sensitize the leadership within the conference on issues that affect women, and
- ❖ to focus on major issues related to women which may include, but is not limited to, sexual harassment policies and procedures.

The Oregon-Idaho Conference Commission is working to fulfill these responsibilities. Annually the Commission monitors the plenary sessions of the Annual Conference to track participation by male and female, clergy and lay designations. The results of the monitoring are reported to the Annual Conference and to the larger church through the conference newsletter.

In addition, the Conference Commission will hold a **women's retreat January 23-25, 2007 at Collins Retreat Center for clergy and lay women**. The retreat is entitled "Shared History, Shared Future." The retreat will be led by Kim Coffing, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. This event will be a spiritual retreat designed to celebrate the ministry of women in the church, in recognition of the fifty years that women have been in ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. It is the goal of the Conference Commission to strengthen the connection between all women in ministry—both clergy and lay.