

Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women: Annual Conference
February 4-6, 2005, Houston, TX: Saturday February 5, Session 1, 10:15-11:45
Uncovering UU Women of the Southwest: Honoring Our Heritage
facilitator: Dr. Barbara Coeyman, Austin, TX

Theorizing History

What is History

- the facts, the events of the past
- the interpretation of those events

How Do We Uncover History

- preserving, locating, researching
- organizing, interpreting
- producing, presenting
- learning, applying

Why Does History Matter

- creates connections: past informs present and influences future
- focuses identity & self-consciousness
- reveals patterns
- distinguishes myths from realities
- defines lines of power & influence

How Is Written History Influenced by Gender

- gender influences the life stories people live
- gender influences interpretations: previously the 'universal' defined by white, male, western, monied
- gender influences power and politics, important themes in writing history

Why Does History From the Women's View Matter?

- makes history more complete, accurate
- feminist viewpoints make interpretations fairer
- more egalitarian: not only the famous (also for other marginalized groups)
- empowerment to see oneself in history

Why Does History Matter in Church Life

- connections through history are spiritual: parallels pastoral care
- enhance institutional development

Why Does Congregational History Matter

- identity: collective, individuals
- spiritual base
- measure of growth
- recruit and inform new members and new ministries

Who Does Congregational History

- any and all clergy and lay members

How Does Gender Matter in Congregational History

- the facts: some roles in churches are gender-related
- the interpretations: some roles in presenting history are gender related.
- explains power structures

