

Bernice Powell Jackson
Journey for Justice/Lucha por la
Justicia



1. Getting to Know Bernice/Conociendo a Bernice

Name/Nombre: Bernice Powell Jackson

A.B. Recipient/A.B. Honor:
2011

Career/Carrera: Justice Ministry/Ministerio de
Justicia

Birthday/Fecha de nacimiento:
1949

Birthplace/Lugar de nacimiento:
Washington, D.C.

Color of Hair/Color de cabello:
Brown/Marrón

Color of Eyes/Color de ojos:
Brown/Marrón

Siblings/Hermanos o hermanas:
Younger brother/Un hermano
menor

Hobbies/Pasa tiempo:

Reading, sewing/Lectura,
costura

People I Admire/Personas que admiro:

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Harriet Tubman
Howard Thurman
Martin Luther King, Jr.

2. “My career has been all over the map.”

Who are we?

We are a people of compassion.

We are a people of inclusion.

We are a people of liberation.

We are a people of hope.

We are a people of Jesus.

We are a liberal Christian church.

We care for those who are hurting or in need. We are empowered to minister to others. We are a people of hope. We are people filled with joy and unrelenting optimism because we believe God is good. With God, all things are possible. God can use us to transform the world.¹

One look at these website lines about First United Church of Tampa, Florida, and we recognize its pastor, the Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson. That’s you, Bernice. It’s all there. “It is,” she says. “It’s a perfect match.”²

The lines above tell what she has been about for more than three decades as a local, national and international advocate. She has befriended civil and human rights, women’s rights, and peace with justice issues. Her advocacy as Executive Minister of Justice and Witness (UCC-JWM), her World Council of Churches (WCC) just peace work, her work with Archbishop Tutu, Beecher Memorial United Church of Christ in New Orleans and now her book-in-progress on God, religion and politics, her many requests to speak, and her parish ministry at First United -- all interface, all over the map.

“That is true,” Bernice says. “It is a further affirmation of what I already knew.”

Bernice worked for nearly 20 years in New York City and then another 15 in Cleveland. In 2005, she and Dr. Franklyn Jackson, a retired school administrator, relocated to the Tampa area. In November 2009, after an interim at Beecher Memorial UCC (2006-2008) and a nine-month interim at New Port Richey, Florida, she came to First United.

“Each experience has helped me to understand that you can't talk about peace unless you talk about justice,” she says:

When I came to the Justice and Witness Ministry, it became clear that everything I had been doing had been preparing me for that ministry. When I left the national setting, in many ways those things that I learned through the years at JWM and the World Council of Churches helped prepare me to do the next phase of work that God wanted me to do. And now as pastor of First United, I welcome the gift of community, of giving and receiving love -- wonderful at this point in my life.

3. “First United is diverse in a number of ways. We are multi-income, multi-racial, multi-cultural. I love that about it.”

One of the few progressive voices in the Tampa area, First United is the only United Church of Christ in Tampa itself. At least half of its 120 members come from nearby neighborhoods. Others travel long distances.

From its beginning the 126-year-old congregation has been interested in the community, outreach, and justice. One of the first things it did was to start an education program for the children of Cuban cigar makers. One week before Tampa hosted the 28th General Synod, Bernice marched with folk from First United and from ten other UCC congregations in Florida's largest pride festival, the annual St. Pete Pride Parade.³

4. “How could I say no?”⁴

Hurricane Katrina happened in August 2005. Would Bernice consider going to New Orleans for four months to work with the folks at Beecher Memorial UCC? Of the nine area UCC churches, Beecher had received the most flood damage.

National staff needed to know, could it put itself back together again?

Bernice finished her national staff work in September and relocated to Florida. The next summer, she went to New Orleans and, while the new president of the North American region of the World Council of Churches, she stayed in New Orleans for two years (2006-2008):

How could I say no? Like everyone else, I was horrified by the pictures. New Orleans has always had a special place in my heart. Whenever I would go there I sensed something exceptional about it.

New Orleans is the oldest multi-cultural city in the United States. It has tremendous history when it comes to African people but also from Cajun culture and French culture – all these cultures living side by side.

When a delegation from the World Council of Churches visited Beecher Memorial in September 2007, Bernice prepared her WCC colleagues: “New Orleans is the ground zero of every racial, social, and economic injustice in the U.S.”⁵

A member of the WCC team from South Africa, Lebanon, Pakistan, and Brazil said that although they gained much more than they had given, they left behind a presence of support and encouragement.⁶

It was ground zero at that point in time, Bernice said later:

It was clear that the people left behind in the days after the storm were the most vulnerable. I lived it and the most vulnerable people of New Orleans lived it and realized that the racial injustices were playing out again. If you talk about environmental injustice issues, economic, home, health issues -- you could go down the list. It was the worst of the worst, ground zero – all of these things coming together at one point at one time.⁷

A number of people were killed in those first weeks. The people and many churches were committed to end the violence. Bernice was part of an organization that held hearings in New Orleans, in Houston, and in Washington,

D.C. Some were killed by police. People in New Orleans and officials in non-governmental organizations testified about what they had seen or experienced, where the gaps of injustice were. Bernice co-edited the 99-page report.⁸

Telling the stories about the New Orleans women after Katrina, she said in a special COMMON LOT report that “despite all the hardship the women of Katrina have not lost their spirit. They have not lost their faith in a God of justice and mercy. They have made new friends for the journey.”⁹

5. **“I was a Brown vs Board of Education Baby.”¹⁰**

Bernice’s journey for justice began in kindergarten. Here, as told at the 2002 Connecticut Annual Conference, is a taste of her own journey for justice ...

... so that you understand how I have come to hear God still speaking in my own ears. I was born in Washington, DC, and when I was five my parents joined Peoples Congregational Church. I was scheduled to go to the black elementary school but it was the summer of the Brown decision.¹¹ So I attended the first year of integrated schools in Washington.

Yes, even in the nation's capital the schools were segregated, the street cars were segregated, the lunch rooms were segregated, even the cemeteries were segregated.

My first day of kindergarten, learning how to stand in line, the child in front of me asked me, Are you Negro or are you white? Well, I had to go home and ask my parents because all I knew was that I was the daughter of Otis and Bernice ... and a child of God. Thus began my introduction to race relations in America. Age 5. *And God began speaking to me.*

Now, my college years were spent at a small women's college [Wilson College] in Chambersburg Pennsylvania, and I could tell you some stories about culture shock and racism on college campuses, but...I just want to say that during my time there I wrote to my cousin Charles. *And God was speaking to me.*

A couple of years after I graduated from college I found myself in New York City right in the heart of the women's movement. I worked for the governor in the women's division. I became the President of the NY Coalition of 100 Black Women. We designed role modeling programs for young black women... *And God was speaking to me.*

And about the same time I met young black South Africans, brothers and sisters to whom I could relate. Their story was so like my own. I met Father Desmond Tutu... *And God was speaking to me.*

I didn't know it then, but during all that time God was speaking to me in my ear and God was preparing me... to do what I am doing right now.

Each of those experiences, and many others ...each one preparing me to do what I am doing right now... *And just as God was preparing me, God is preparing you.*¹²

6. “You, I, we must actively resist injustice. It doesn't matter which one, pick one.”

At a JubileeUSA prayer breakfast, Bernice said:

We live in a world filled with people beyond poverty, who are in extreme poverty. So we know that we are called by God to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with God and that is not an option.

[Micah 6:8] does not say maybe you should do justice or do justice on Monday but not on Tuesday or do justice when you feel like doing justice.... It is about not only loving kindness but about living kindness. It is a requirement.¹³

When she spoke at the Connecticut Annual Conference, she said:

Each experience helped me to understand that you can't talk about peace unless you talk about justice. You can't talk about racial justice without talking about economic justice. You can't talk about economic

justice without talking about justice for people with disabilities. You can't talk about racism without talking about sexism. You can't talk about sexism without talking about homophobia.

What I am trying to share is my own journey of understanding that all of these pieces of thread are inextricably woven together. The justice threads and the threads of peace woven together into a fabric of harmony and love.¹⁴



7. “I have always felt a calling by God to do the justice work of the church ...”¹⁵

Bernice always worked in administrative positions. Increasingly, she says she found herself called to pastoral functions. So, after working for many years on the national staff of the UCC, she was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 2005.

She has had a particular, early interest in opening up opportunities for African American women and girls. That interest continues today. Listen to the clip referenced below as she mentors African American women in a biennial clergy women’s retreat at the Franklinton Center.¹⁶

In the 1980’s she worked in the Women’s Division of Governor Hugh Carey at a time when the women’s movement was taking off in New York. She also was on the communications staff of the National Urban League.

She began her work with the UCC as project director of a Neighbors in Need program of the Commission for Racial Justice called the Forgotten Woman Project. She worked with incarcerated women.

8. “The power of Archbishop Tutu’s work for justice and reconciliation and healing continues to inspire me.”

Bernice left the Forgotten Woman Project to work with Archbishop Desmond Tutu. During the mid-1980s, she

directed the Bishop Tutu South African Refugee Scholarship Fund for students in the United States. As his representative in America, she worked closely with him in human rights activism.

My own experience of working with Archbishop Tutu taught me that it is only through prayer -- sustained, intentional, regular prayer that we understand what God is calling us each to do not only about ourselves but about our world. What inspired Tutu to challenge people on all sides of the battle was prayer. If we are serious about doing justice, we must be a people of prayer.¹⁷

Bernice had met Desmond and Leah Tutu through her late first husband, Robert Powell. Robert Powell, an Episcopal priest and the Africa Secretary for the National Council of Churches, met and became good friends with Desmond Tutu. During that time before her husband's death in 1981 came opportunity for Bernice also to meet many other African ecumenical leaders.¹⁸

9. “Many of the positions regarding civil rights that our United Church of Christ is so proud of happened because of the Commission for Racial Justice.”

After receiving her Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, Bernice became the first woman executive director of the Commission for Racial Justice [CRJ].

The CRJ was an important church agency, she said. Throughout her years of service (1993-2000), it was a movement type of organization. The CRJ named the words “environmental justice” and “environmental racism.”

“Charles Cobb, the first CRJ executive director, said that the UCC has the proclivity to do right when pushed, Bernice says. “Dr. Cobb saw part of the role of the Commission as doing the pushing when it was necessary for us to do that.”

Bernice put to good use an earlier master's degree from the Columbia University School of Journalism. She continued writing the weekly newspaper column that went to African American newspapers throughout the country.

“It was a great communication tool,” she said. “I was a predated blogger.”

By the time she left, the column reached more than 200 newspapers and went to significant individuals, leaders in churches, retreat centers, people in prison, and people who had never been in churches.

The following column excerpt is from “Where does the madness stop?”:

The children of the world are dying because of the actions of adults.... And no matter how the children die, the mothers feel the same pain and the fathers feel the same revenge. No matter how the children die, the world loses all of the possibilities of each child and all of their potential gifts. Where does the madness end? What will it take for leaders of all faiths to come together to say enough?

How many children will have to die before we speak out and take action? How many children will have to die before we cross lines of faith, lines of political parties, lines of race, lines of geography, lines of economic class? How many children will have to die before we all take responsibility for all the children? Where does the madness end?¹⁹

10. First Woman Executive Minister of Justice and Witness, United Church of Christ

Dr. Jackson was the founding Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and one of the five officers of the denomination.

“Bernice’s contributions to the United Church of Christ are legendary,” said Carol A. Brown, National President of United Black Christians:

Her knowledge and understanding of the subtleties and nuances of justice embody justice for all. A justice advocate by nature, Bernice has the capacity to think creatively, and sometimes quickly, when confronted by the many complexities of injustice.

She is vigorous and enthusiastic about her ministry, as well as resilient and persevering. Her persona reflects a high level of spirituality and a direct connection to God. Bernice stands for what she believes by word and deed. Even under pressure, she remains calm and on an even keel. Her focus is on the situation, not on personalities.²⁰

“Whenever you are the founding anything it is an exciting time. You get to mold something,” Bernice says.

Should all the justice work of the church be put in one place or in multiple places? That was the question in the 2000 administrative restructuring of the denomination. The group that said if it is everywhere then it is really not anywhere won out.

First, leaders had brought together the racial justice work of the UCC in the Commission for Racial Justice. Now, bringing together the Commission, the Office for Church in Society, the Coordinating Center for Women and part of the Board for World Ministries under one organization made an important statement.

“Making justice one of the four Covenanted Ministries of the church is a way of saying to ourselves and to the world that justice is at the core of who we are at the UCC,” Bernice says.²¹

John Thomas commented about Bernice’s work:

In addition to helping shape the justice agenda for the United Church of Christ, Bernice also carried a significant responsibility for our church’s ecumenical vocation during and following my years as General Minister and President.

As a member of the Central Committee of the WCC and then as the WCC North American President, she represented the United Church of Christ and the broader ecumenical movement with her combination of theological intelligence, organizational savvy, and moral passion.

I particularly appreciated the leadership she gave to the commitment of our church and the Council to justice and peace in Israel and Palestine. Acutely

aware of the realities of segregation and apartheid from her own personal experience in the United States and her professional work in South Africa, she helped us see the Separation Barrier and the Occupation as moral affronts rather than simply lamentable political necessities. That moral clarity is emblematic of the vision she has brought to so many places of injustice in the world, and to the uncomfortable reality of our own complicity.²²

11. “We have so much to learn from each other and so much to share with the world.”



The World Council of Churches, based in Geneva, Switzerland, was formed in 1948. “After the Holocaust, many churches asked themselves, ‘Why were we silent?’ It was a time of introspection, especially in Europe,” Bernice says.

The WCC is the largest Christian ecumenical organization with 349 Christian denominations and churches in 110 countries. It is said to represent 560 million Christians throughout the world.²³

When WCC interviewer Alexander Beloposky asked the new WCC North American President about her message to the other member churches, Bernice responded:

My message is the message of Haman to Esther, we are called to work in this broken world "for such a time as this" [Esther 4:14]. The world desperately needs a word of justice and peace, a message of reconciliation, hope and healing, the good news of Jesus Christ.²⁴

In 1998, Bernice was called to be a member of the WCC Central Committee at the Ninth Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe. At that time, the WCC was in the forefront of the Anti-Apartheid Movement.²⁵ Joan Brown Campbell, the first woman to head the WCC New York office, was interested in getting more of the historically black churches actively

involved in the WCC, Bernice says. She also wanted to draw in more women.

“That is how I was invited,” she says. Bernice was on the UCC national staff at that time. “Joan got me involved first in the U.S. churches that were involved in the WCC.”

In 2006, Bernice was elected President of the World Council of Churches from the North American Region. Presidents are traditionally chosen for their widely recognized ecumenical experience and standing. She will serve until 2013.

“As a president in the World Council,” she says, “I act as a spokesperson educating, discussing what we are doing, and promoting an ecumenical spirit.”

As a president, she is also a member of the 150-member Central Committee, the main decision-making body of the WCC between assemblies.

12. “When we stand in for Christ, we stand at the margins at the place where the most inclusion is possible.”²⁶

Throughout the [Decade to Overcome Violence: Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace \(2001-2010\)](#),²⁷ Bernice also participated in several WCC international and ecumenical delegations called Living Letters. The name arose from Paul:

... and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. – 2 Corinthians 3:3 (NRSV)

Like the delegation to New Orleans, a Living Letters team consists of from four to six men and women from around the world who have witnessed violence in its various forms and who are working for just peace.

“A team will be successful,” wrote Jerry Hames, “when those visited can affirm ‘we are not alone!’ –and when team members feel they have received much from those who they visited to encourage.”²⁸

Among her visits, Bernice has gone to Cuba and Haiti. Her first of four trips to the Middle East was in December 2000.

It was to be the big birthday for Jesus; instead it was the Second Infatada. Another time, she went with Jesse Jackson.

Her guest column, “Middle East Nightmares” in FinalCall.com reflects the stamina necessary to persevere in the struggle for justice. In 2002, while she was Executive Director of the UCC Commission for Racial Justice, a delegation went to the Middle East. She found in the turmoil between Israel and Palestine that “university students had stopped using the word ‘tomorrow’ because tomorrow may be meaningless.....

.... There is so much pain on both sides that it is almost unbearable to stand amidst it. Yet, that is what our delegation felt called to do. To try to bring a message of hope and presence to Palestinians who are in despair after months of entire towns being under curfew, sometimes for days on end.... Yet, we also felt the need to try to bring a message of hope to ordinary Israelis as well, people who are trapped by their very real fear of increased terrorism in their midst.

They hoped to bring a message of non-violent resistance to Palestinians—to help them see another form of protest against occupation. However, before they could get to their meeting with the leaders of Hamas, the Jerusalem University bombing occurred.

Yet, even as I write this, President Arafat and Palestinian leaders seem to be continuing the quest for a cease-fire. I see that members of the Israeli defense ministry are continuing talks searching for ways to move Israeli troops out of some of the re-occupied towns.... Perhaps some of the seeds that we planted might have fallen on fertile ground. But then I see that.... And I wonder—will they ever find a way out of the cycle of violence? ²⁹

In January 2011, she returned to Israel-Palestine as part of a delegation visiting a church in Palestine that requested membership in the WCC:

You have those sad stories about the university students; but then we visited a community center in Bethlehem that the Lutheran church in Palestine has built. It is used by Christians and Muslims. It has a big movie theatre, the only one in Bethlehem. It has

college classes, art classes. They just built additional classrooms. In the midst of everything – that is incredible. There is always that hope.

Hope and reports from Living Letters delegations were shared at the recent WCC International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC) in Jamaica, to celebrate the achievements of the Decade to Overcome Violence.³⁰

Bernice told Alexander Beloposky:

We have an opportunity to show the world an alternative vision ... a vision of peace and a world of justice. The opportunities also include finding new ways to involve youth and young adults in the work and the decision-making of the ecumenical movement and to help them to see that their faith is relevant in today's world.³¹

In this last decade, ordinary people of faith, in addition to theologians, have become an important part of the conversation. “We need to understand what we have in common,” Bernice says, “the tenets of faith we share, and how we live together in this world. Though we may call God by different names, we all believe in the same God.”

She told students at the Pacific School of Religion:

Once we are clear about who we are, we do not have to transform someone else into being who we are. A life skill in the 21st century is learning how to be a leader in a multi-racial, multi-cultural, multi-faith world.³²

13. “Hope does not disappoint us.”³³

What else keeps hope going for Bernice Powell Jackson when she visits so much distress? When she spoke at the March 2007, Christian Peace Witness for Iraq service at the National Cathedral, she looked to Paul’s words:

...and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” - Romans 5:5.

She sees his words as an antidote to cynicism:

Hope, for Christians, is anchored in the understanding that with God all things are possible. Hope is that thing that allowed my slave forebears to know, deep down in their souls, despite all that the world told and did to them, that one day they, or their children, or their children's children, would be free. Because this is *God's* world.³⁴

The summer that she received the Antoinette Brown Award, Bernice Powell Jackson reflected further about hope:



I get hope from people. I get hope from recalling. The reality is, I never expected to see a free South African in my lifetime. The apartheid government was so powerful and so entrenched. It had everything except for rights and justice. I lived to see that all fall apart.

When I was young, I never expected to see an African American president in my life time. Few people knew who Barack Obama was ten years ago.

How I continue that hope is I think about what I have seen and experienced and how justice can happen – even in moments when you don't think it is going to happen – out of the blue.

That is part of how I get hope. The other way is when I am involved with people who are struggling for justice, there are always people who are inspirational. They may be people who do not have a lot of education but who have much wisdom.

There was a woman at Beecher Memorial who had been a cook all her life. She had a stroke in the convention center during Katrina. She would stand up on Sunday mornings and give very powerful testimonies. There are always people like that around. That is where I get hope.

14. So What about You?

- Read Matthew 15:21-28.

How is Dr. Powell Jackson like the Canaanite woman?

How are you like the Canaanite woman?

- Bernice's experienced injustice first in kindergarten.

Tell how this experience influenced her work to make this a more just world.

Talk about a life-directing experience that you had and how it gave you a purpose.

- What Bernice learned in each phase of her ministry helped prepare her to do the next phase of work that God wanted her to do.

How did each of her ministries help with the next?

Listen for how God is speaking in your ear, preparing you to do what you are doing right now or for the next phase of your life.

- In her COMMON LOT article about the women of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, Bernice asks these questions. How would you answer them?

Do we have to lose everything to determine what is really important?

How would you maintain your spirit and faith if you were facing the daily injustices that challenge women along the Gulf Coast?

- After many years in national and world ministry, Bernice has chosen to become a local church pastor.

Name some gifts she could give to a church at this time in her life.

Name some gifts her church could give to her.

- Reread 2 Corinthians 3:3 (NRSV).

How would you define Living Letters?

In what ways are you or might you be a “living letter” to others?

- After many years in national and world ministry, Bernice chose to become a local church pastor.

Name some gifts she could give to a church now.

Name some gifts her church could give to her.

Name some ways a local church can be immersed in justice ministry.

15. Church Family Projects

Project Choices:

- View and discuss the World Council of Churches’ video, “Facing the Future – Ecumenical Youth Encounter” <http://wcc-coe.org/wcc/news/videos/facing-the-future.html> or another video from WCC Resources.
- Listen to Bernice’s audio “Standing in For Christ” lecture/discussion at the Pacific School of Religion. <http://www.psr.edu/standing-christ-tolerance-transformation>
- Check out JWM Action Center choices <<http://www.ucc.org/justice/>>.
- Check out volunteer projects: <http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/youth.html> <http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/young-adults.html> <http://www.ucc.org/justice/gulf-coast-initiative/>. ” <http://www.overcomingviolence.org/>. (Check getting involved section.)
- Do a Bible study using one of these online resources <http://www.ucc.org/nin/resources/2002->

overcoming-justice.pdf> or
<http://www.ucc.org/nin/resources/2001-doing-justice.pdf>

16. Still Curious?

- Bradford, Sarah H. *Harriet Tubman – The Moses of her People*. Hesperides Press, 2008.
- Bridges, Ruby. *Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story*. Cartwheel Books, 2009. Ruby Bridges integrated public schools in New Orleans in 1960.
- The Dividing Wall* DVD. Humanitarian, social, and political impact of Israeli-built “security fence.” UCC Resources. 800-537-3394
- Gerber, Hansulrich. “On Overcoming and Preventing Violence” in Report of the Living Letters Team Visit to the U.S. September 2007, pp. 18-21
http://www.overcomingviolence.org/fileadmin/dov/files/living_letters/usa/Living_Letters_US_Reports_2007.pdf
- Hayes, Lori. *Bright Wings: Pictures and Portraits from a Palestinian Garden (BWMBW)*. Art and faces of children at the Rawdat El Zuhur primary school in East Jerusalem. UCC Resources. 800-537-3394
- Jackson, Bernice Powell. “From Nothing to Less Than Nothing” in *Rebuilding Homes, Rebuilding Lives*, a special issue on Katrina. COMMON LOT pp 5ff, Summer #113, p5ff.
- _____. “Standing in for Christ: From Tolerance to Transformation.” Pacific School of Religion, Earl Lecture, January 23, 2007
<http://www.psr.edu/standing-christ-tolerance-transformation>
- Justice and Witness Ministries Resources on CD. UCC Resources. 800-537-3394
- King, Jr. Martin Luther. *The Strength to Love*. Fortress Press, 2010
- Letters from my Sisters: Words of Wisdom and Comfort for Women from Gulf Coast Women Survivors*. UCC Resources. 800-537-3394
- Lischer, Richard. *The Preacher King: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Word that Moved America*. Oxford University Press, 1997
- Thurman, Howard. *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Beacon Press, 1996.
- Tutu, Desmond. *God Is Not a Christian: And Other Provocations*. HarperOne, 2011.

_____ and Mpho Tutu. *Made for Goodness and Why This Makes All the Difference*. HarperOne, 2010. World Council of Churches News Feature Stories. <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news.html>.

¹ First United Church of Tampa website. Go to <http://www.ucctampabay.org/>.

² From phone interview with Brauninger, June 25, 2011

³ 6-25-2011

⁴ Volunteer justice in action? Gulf Coast Justice Initiative <http://www.ucc.org/justice/gulf-coast-initiative/>. Contact Lois M. Powell at powell@ucc.org.

⁵ Hansulrich Gerber. "On Overcoming and Preventing Violence" in Report of the Living Letters Team Visit to the United States" September 2007, pp. 18-21. http://www.overcomingviolence.org/fileadmin/dov/files/living_letters/usa/Living_Letters_US_Reports_2007.pdf

⁶ Jerry Hames. "US Christians encouraged to strive for peace as Living Letters delegation concludes visit: On the streets of New Orleans" <http://www.overcomingviolence.org/en/news-and-events/news/dov-news-english/article/5727/us-christians-encouraged.html>. Read also, <http://www.overcomingviolence.org/en/news-and-events/photos/visit-to-israel-and-palestine.html>.

⁷ Phone Interview

⁸ Iva E. Carruthers and Bernice Powell Jackson, Co-Editors. *The breach: BEARING WITNESS*, Report of the Katrina National Justice Commission Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc. September 2006. www.sdpconference.info. <http://katrinareader.org/sites/katrinareader.org/files/Katrina-II-C-Religion-1.pdf>

⁹ Bernice Powell Jackson "From Nothing to Less Than Nothing" in *Rebuilding Homes, Rebuilding Lives*, special Katrina issue. COMMON LOT, Summer, 2008 #113

¹⁰ From Powell Jackson's First Keynote Address, Connecticut UCC Annual Conference, 2002

¹¹[http://library.thinkquest.org/JO112391/brown v board of education.htm](http://library.thinkquest.org/JO112391/brown_v_board_of_education.htm)

¹² From Powell Jackson's First Keynote Address, Connecticut UCC Annual Conference, 2002

¹³ JubileeUSA Prayer Breakfast. "Rev. Dr. Bernice Power Jackson." November 17, 2007.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CpYN-MMpGxY>

¹⁴ From Powell Jackson's First Keynote Address, Connecticut UCC Annual Conference, 2002

¹⁵ Search 21.09.06 11:12 at <http://www.oikoumene.org> for Dec. Bernice Powell Jackson – World Council of Churches
www.oikoumene.org/gr/.../we-are-called-to-work-in.html

¹⁶ Dr. Yvonne Delk and Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson. "The God Within Us: A Consideration for Women in the Ministry" at African-American Women-in-Ministry Retreat at the Franklinton Center, Whitakers, NC
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWlOY61fbjc>

¹⁷ From Second Keynote Address, Connecticut Annual Conference

¹⁸ Desmond Tutu received the 1984 Nobel peace prize for nonviolent work against apartheid, South African's policy of racial separateness.

¹⁹ Bernice Powell Jackson. "Where does the madness stop?" BLACK AMERICA TODAY. September 13, 2004.
<http://www.blackamericatoday.com/article.cfm?ArticleID=663>

²⁰ Carol A. Brown. Antoinette Brown Award Nominating Letter. United Black Christians (UBC) is an officially recognized special interest group of the UCC, providing voice and vision for more than 70,000 African Americans. Learn more: <http://www.ucc.org/about-us/united-black-christians.html>.

²¹ Second Keynote Address at CT

²² Email to Brauningner from John H. Thomas. Wednesday, 22 Jun 2011 16:55:59-0500

²³ WCC website: www.oikoumene.org.

²⁴ At www.oikoumene.org, search Bernice Powell Jackson then follow this internal link to the Belopsky interview: [Dr Bernice Powell Jackson - World Council of Churches www.oikoumene.org/gr/.../we-are-called-to-work-in.html](http://www.oikoumene.org/gr/.../we-are-called-to-work-in.html)

²⁵ Anti-Apartheid Movement.
<http://www.nelsonmandela.org/index.php/aama/>

²⁶ Earl Lecture at Pacific School of Religion
<http://www.psr.edu/standing-christ-tolerance-transformation>

²⁷ The Rev. Hansulrich Gerber, coordinator of the WCC's Decade to Overcome Violence. Find more at <http://www.overcomingviolence.org/en/peace-convocation/preparatory-process/living-letters-visits.html>.

²⁸ Hames

²⁹http://www.finalcall.com/perspectives/powell_jackson09-03-2002.htm

³⁰ Go to 2011 World Council of Churches 2011 International Ecumenical Peace Convocation: “An Ecumenical Call to Just Peace” <http://www.overcomingviolence.org/>.

³¹ Beloposky Interview

³² Earl Lecture at Pacific School of Religion
<http://www.psr.edu/standing-christ-tolerance-transformation>

³³ “Bernice Powell Jackson: Hope Does Not Disappoint Us” in GOD’S POLITICS: a blog by Jim Wall. March 21, 2007.
<http://blog.beliefnet.com/godspolitics/2007/03/bernice-powell-jackson-hope-does-not.html>

³⁴ “Bernice Powell Jackson: Hope Does Not Disappoint Us”

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