

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ANTOINETTE BROWN AWARD NOMINATION**

**General Synod XXVIII
Tampa, Florida
July 1-5, 2011**

*Celebrating the life and ministry of Antoinette Brown and all women in ordained ministry.
(Please Print)*

Name of woman nominated:

Full address of woman nominated:

Year ordained:

Present position:

Briefly share the nominee's major accomplishments and the history of her ministry:

Other honors or awards received by the nominee:

Add any further comment you wish to make about the nominee.

PERSON SUBMITTING NOMINATION

Name

Position

Address

Telephone

Please, e-mail not later than **February 1, 2011** to:

velezd@ucc.org

Toll free: 866-822-8224, Ext. 3876



ANTOINETTE BROWN

Antoinette L. Brown (1825-1921) was the first regularly ordained woman minister in America, and probably in the world. She was 28 at the time of her ordination in the Congregational Church of South Butler, N.Y., September 15, 1853. The Rev. Luther Lee preached from Gal. 3:28, and The Rev. Gerrit Smith discoursed on "Woman's Right to Preach the Gospel."

Antoinette was born in a log cabin at Henrietta, N.Y. She attended Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, where she was a class mate of the well known woman suffragist Lucy Stone; she graduated with the class of 1847. When she returned to the college a year later to take a three year course in theology, there was consternation among the faculty, for no woman had ever studied theology at Oberlin. She was allowed to study, but not to speak in class and it would be 50 years before Oberlin would allow her a degree in Theology.

For several years before her ordination she traveled about lecturing and preaching. In spite of her experience, she considered herself too much a novice for a metropolitan pulpit and accepted a call from the struggling little church in South Butler. Her salary was \$300 per year.

Antoinette married Samuel Charles Blackwell, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and had a large family. She wrote ten books, including The Sexes Throughout Nature, and continued to preach after her marriage. In 1902 she delivered the funeral oration of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, at whose home the first Women's Rights Convention had been held.

In 1908 Oberlin College conferred the Doctor of Divinity degree on Antoinette. At 90 she preached her last sermon in the Unitarian Church Elizabeth, N.Y., which she had pastored for fifteen years.

Note: For further biographical information on Antoinette Brown see Lady in the Pulpit by Laura Kerr, Women's Press (New York), 1951; or Great Women of the Christian Faith by Edith Deen, Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1959; Antoinette Brown Blackwell, a Biography, by Elizabeth Cazden, Feminist Press, 1983; and Soul Mates, The Oberlin Correspondence of Lucy Stone and Antoinette Brown, 1846-1850, edited by Carol Lasser and Marlene Merrill, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, 1983.

Antoinette Brown Award past recipients

- 1975 Reverends Joan Forsberg and Rhoda Jane Dickinson (deceased)
- 1977 Reverends Davida Foy Crabtree and Annie Campbell (deceased)
- 1979 Reverends Dr. Yvonne Delk and Alice Snow (deceased)
- 1981 Reverends Ansley Coe Throckmorton and Leila Waite Anderson (deceased)
- 1983 Reverends Bernice Buehler (deceased) and Dosia Carlson
- 1985 Reverends Gretchen DeVries (deceased) and Beatrice Weaver McConnell
- 1987 Reverends Marie Fortune and Barbara Warren McCall (deceased)
- 1989 Reverends Joyce Myers-Brown and Anne Pearse Smith (deceased)
- 1991 Reverends Eleanor Shelton Morrison and Marilyn Adams Moore (deceased)
- 1993 Reverends Laurie Whinnem Etter and Peggy Brainerd Way
- 1995 Reverends Mary Ann Neevel and Henrietta Stith-Andrews
- 1997 Reverends Barbara de Souza and Rosemary McCombs Maxey
- 1999 Reverends Marilyn Stavenger and Jan Griesinger
- 2001 Reverends Maria Teresa Unger Palmer and Betty Jane Bailey
- 2003 Reverends Ruth C. Duck and LaVerne McCain Gill
- 2005 Reverends Ruth M. Brandon and Barbara B. Zikmund
- 2007 Reverends Virginia Kreyer and Talitha J. Arnold
- 2009 Reverends Candita Bauzá-Mattos and Julie Peeples