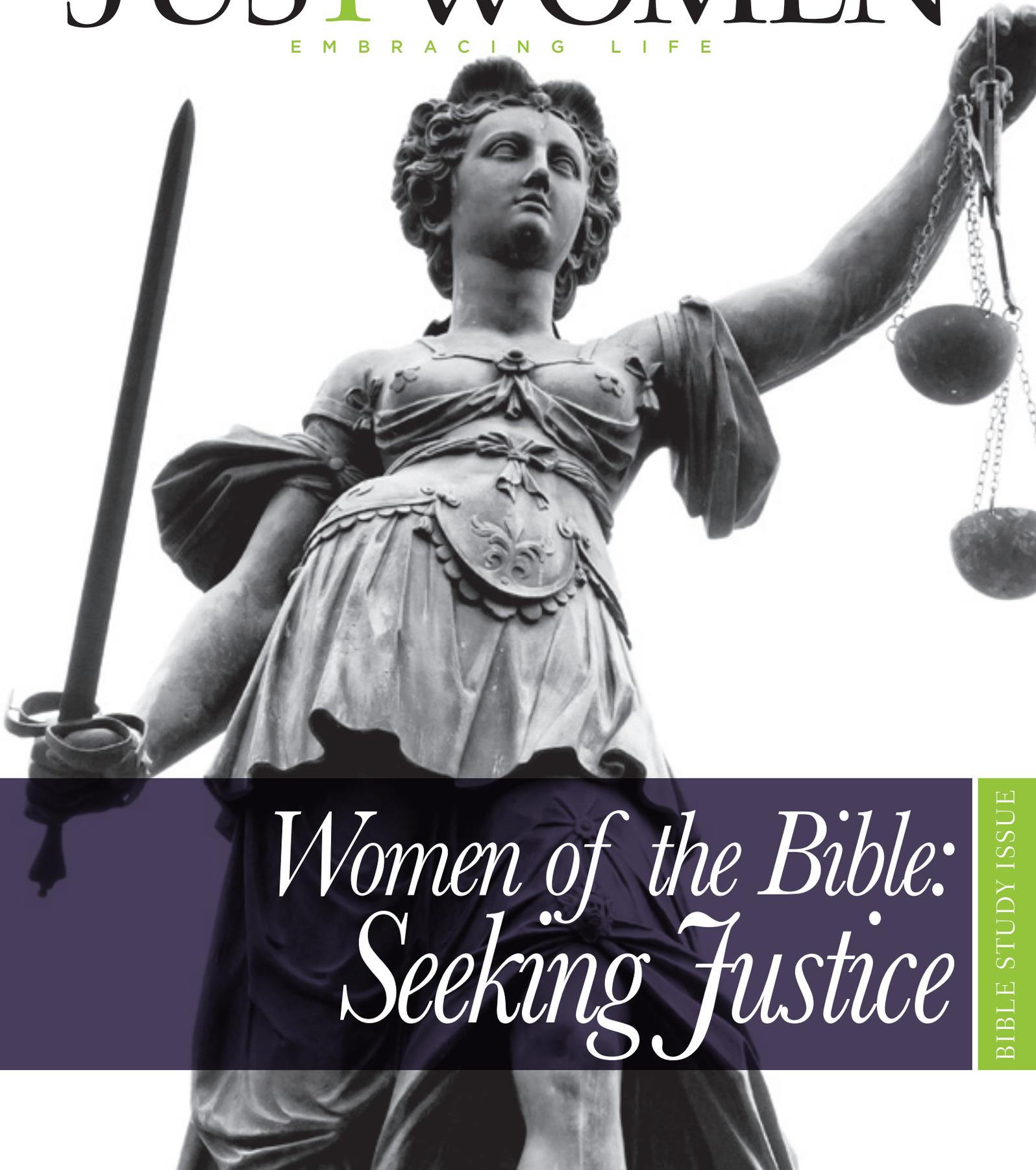


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JUST+WOMEN

EMBRACING LIFE



*Women of the Bible:
Seeking Justice*

BIBLE STUDY ISSUE

About the Introduction writer

Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins serves as general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. She has an extensive background of service both in the United States and abroad. She is a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches and serves on the WCC's Permanent Committee for Consensus and Collaboration. She serves on the National Council of Church's governing board and is a board member of Sojourners, a Washington, D.C.-based group that seeks to build a movement that puts faith to work for justice.



She served for two years as a missionary in the Congo early in her career and she is former pastor of Disciples Christian Church in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where she served for eight years. In the academic world, she held positions as director of

student services at Phillips Theological Seminary in Oklahoma and associate vice-president for university relations at Phillips University.

Sharon has been engaged in a number of ecumenical discussions and conversations on stewardship, and has made presentations on worship, Bible study, and women in the ministry. She also has served as an adjunct professor at Phillips Theological Seminary, teaching about pastoral vocation, history, theology and practices of worship as well as spiritual dimensions.

She holds a doctor of ministry degree from Phillips Theological Seminary, a master of divinity from the Yale Divinity School, and a bachelor's degree in French and economics from Butler University.

About the Study writers



Rev. Dr. Lisa W. Davison is the Johnnie Eargle Cadieux Professor of Hebrew Bible at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A native of Radford, Virginia, she has a bachelor's degree in religion and Spanish from Lynchburg College; an master of divinity from Brite Divinity School (TCU), and an master of arts from Vanderbilt University. She received her Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Vanderbilt. She is ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has served congregations in Texas and Kentucky.

Lisa's first book, *Preaching the Women of the Bible*, was published in June 2006. Her other publications include the commentary on the book of Job for *The New Interpreter's Study Bible*, essays on the major prophets for *The College Study Bible*, an essay in *Tabletalk*, entries for the *Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement*, a sermon in *Those Preaching Women: A Multicultural Collection*, and commentaries for the *New Proclamation Series, Year C*.

Prior to joining the faculty of Phillips Theological Seminary, she was professor of First Testament at Lexington Theological Seminary and professor of religious studies at Lynchburg College.

Lisa is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and the Association of Disciples for Theological Discussion. She is often invited to speak to local congregations and retreats on books in the Hebrew Bible, women in the Bible, sexuality and the Bible, and Christian use and misuse of the Hebrew Bible. She is married to the Rev. Michael Davison, and the two of them enjoy traveling (especially to tropical climates) and gourmet dining.



Rev. Dr. Irie Lynne Session is the pastor of The AVENUE, the wonderful Warren Avenue Christian Church in Dallas, Texas.

Raised in public housing in New York City, she developed a value for education, a passion for social justice, and a love of God's word. She holds an undergraduate degree in social work, a master of divinity with concentration in Black church studies from Brite Divinity School (TCU), and a doctor of ministry from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, New York.

From 2006 to 2012, she served as the associate minister for the North Texas Area of the Christian Church in the Southwest, the first African-American to hold that position. She is the first female

senior pastor of Warren Avenue Christian Church.

A bi-ministerial pastor, Irie also serves as the spiritual support coordinator for New Friends New Life (NFNL), a faith-based organization in Dallas whose mission is to restore and empower trafficked teen girls and sexually exploited women and their children. With more than 27 years in the field of social work, she has spent the last 11 with NFNL. By providing access to education, job training, interim financial assistance, mental health, and spiritual support, she has helped hundreds of exploited women and their children overcome backgrounds of abuse, addiction, poverty, and limited opportunities.

Irie is the proud single mother to 20-year-old India Liana Session, a college sophomore, gifted vocalist, and womanist activist in the making.



Rev. Dr. Nohemí Pagán is a Puerto Rican-born ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), married to Dr. Samuel Pagán, mother of two sons, and grandmother to three grandsons and one granddaughter. Along with her husband, she has served congregations in Puerto Rico and the United States, and also as a missionary in the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Middle East.

She holds a master of divinity from the Florida Center for Theological Studies and a doctoral degree in ministry

from the McCormick Theological Seminary. She has also studied biblical geography and archaeology in Israel and Palestine.

Nohemí has worked in the preparation of more than 40 books dealing with theological and educational themes; served in the publishing, reviewing, and editing processes of several study editions of the Bible; and worked as executive editor of *El Discipulo*, a Christian education journal in Spanish, widely read and used in Puerto Rico and the Hispanic U.S. She has also written two children's books.

Nohemí has worked with indigenous groups in several Latin American countries. In Panamá she made important contributions in the health, education, and transforming process of the Wounaam community. She serves at the Dar al-Kalima College in Bethlehem as a Spanish teacher to future tour guides.



Rev. Sandhya Jha serves as director at the Oakland Peace Center, a collective of 40 nonprofit agencies working to create justice and peace in the city of Oakland and the Bay Area. The Oakland Peace Center is the legacy project of First Christian Church of Oakland, where Sandhya pastored for seven years. The church has handed over its large building to the community of people who can carry out First Christian's dream of a peace-filled city.

Ordained in 2005 at National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C., Sandhya's passion is liberation ethics as an academic field and as a lived experience in urban communities. She has published *Room at the Table: The Struggle for Dignity and Unity in Disciples History* (Chalice Press, 2009), and is about to publish a book on race and Christianity in the United States through Chalice Press. She is also an anti-racism/anti-oppression trainer with the Disciples of Christ, a regular public speaker and preacher, and a consultant for Hope Partnership's New Beginnings program.

Sandhya earned her master of divinity and a master of public policy from the University of Chicago. She serves as director of interfaith programs at East Bay Housing Organizations, a membership organization that works to preserve, protect, and expand affordable housing opportunities through education, advocacy, and coalition-building in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. She holds a master of divinity and a master of public policy from the University of Chicago, and cares much more about public policy than a normal person should.

About the Suggestions for leaders writer



Rev. Kathryn McDowell is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who served for 10 years as pastor and associate pastor of two Georgia congregations. In addition to her congregational experience, she has enjoyed a career in nonprofit public relations, as well as time as a stay-at-home mom. Her educational background includes a master of divinity from Emory University's Candler School of Theology, and a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Nebraska. This combination of education and experience, plus a lifelong love of the church

and of words, has most recently led her in new directions as a freelance writer.

In addition to writing, Kathy enjoys teaching and has taught many workshops and classes, including healthy boundaries for clergy in Georgia, Christian spirituality and spiritual formation for the Christian College in Georgia, as well as Bible studies and other classes in congregational and retreat settings. She also has served on numerous advisory boards, including the General Board of the Christian Church, the Regional Board of the Christian Church in Georgia, and the Executive Committee for Disciples Women.

She is a native of Nebraska, but has called Georgia home for the past 30 years. She and her husband, Dave, a professor at Georgia Institute of Technology, are the proud parents of three young adult sons. When she's not writing or teaching, you can find her enjoying time with her family, quilting, reading, traveling, backpacking, and hiking.