Church of the Covenant Celebrates Women’s History Month with Women Ministry Pioneers including Ecumenical Living Legend Mrs. Bernice Cosey-Pulley B.D.

On Sunday, March 30, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. Church of the Covenant at 310 East 42nd Street in New York City will conclude its commemoration of Women’s History Month with a special worship service themed, “Women Matter,” celebrated by women who have served as regional, national and global pioneers in ministry.

“Ecumenical Living Legend,” Mrs. Bernice Cosey-Pulley B.D. ‘55, the second African American woman to be graduated from Yale Divinity School will preach. Mrs. Cosey-Pulley was a former student leader member of the YWCA National Board; former YWCA World Representative to the United Nations (UN), founder of Church Women United, Waterside-United Nations Unit; Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute Board Member; and name sake for the Arthur and Bernice Cosey-Pulley Research Prize for the Advancement of Peace and Social Justice in the Americas and Africa. Born in 1927, Mrs. Cosey-Pulley has been honored for her support of the YWCA and the United Nations, but is best known for her dedication to principles of non-violence and the global civil rights struggle, particularly for women.

Amongst the service participants will be: Harriet Sandmeier a Commissioned Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the first installed Ruling Elder to the ministry of Stated Clerk in the history of the PC (U.S.A.), retired Stated Clerk for the Hudson River Presbytery, former president of the Association of Stated Clerks, board member of Rural and Migrant Ministry. Although retired, Elder Sandmeier continues to pursue lifetime learning through theological study. Mildred McGee is a Ruling Elder and Certified Lay Pastor in the PC (U.S.A.), a member of the Featherbed Lane Presbyterian Church in the Bronx, a former Moderator of the Presbytery of New York City, a retired educator, who is a board member of the Harriet Tubman Charter School in the Bronx. Rev. Margaret Orr Thomas, Parish Associate for West End Presbyterian Church and former Moderator of the Presbytery of New York City, retired after a missionary ministry, leaving Iran during the tumultuous days of the “hostage crisis.” Rev. Orr Thomas has been a steadfast contributor to inter-religious dialogue programs supporting peace Middle East efforts and was among New York City Presbytery clergy marching for peace during the Iraq war. Barbara Flythe is a Ruling Elder in the PCUSA and former moderator of the Presbytery of New Brunswick. She is a retired educator and educational consultant in Multicultural-Education and Parent Involvement. She has been active in national efforts by the PC (U.S.A.) to end racism and is currently the chair of the “Campaign to End the New Jim Crow.” Although retired, Elder Flythe is an energetic advocate for issues involving education, equality, social justice and peacemaking.
Music for the worship service will be coordinated by Elizabeth Birkby. Church of the Covenant’s session members Elders Nicole Goette, Gregory Reid, Lawrence Rindone, and April Sandmeyer, along with Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Cornell A. Edmonds, are leading the Church’s resurgence and efforts to reach out beyond the Tudor City community. Family friendly Covenant is located around the corner from the United Nations at 310 East 42nd Street, near Second Avenue. It is a welcoming church community attracting members from the many neighborhoods in New York, plus friends, visitors and tourists from across the globe.