Women on the move: Women of the month!

1. Rev. Marie Barnett and Ms Brenda Akpan

Caption:

Country of origin: Sierre Leone and Nigeria

Date of Birth: xxx

Church: The Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone and The Lutheran Church in Nigeria

Period of Mandate: 2003-2008 and 1990-2010

Short biography: Rev. Marie Barnett from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone was elected advisor at the LWF Assembly in Winnipeg, 2003. Ms Brenda Akpan has participated at the Hong Kong Assembly and then elected advisor to the Program Committee for Communication Services. Both participated in numerous meeting of the Lutheran World Federation. From LWI, August 2008 one can read:

At its recent meeting in Arusha, Tanzania, the Council of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) appointed Ms Brenda Akpan, Lutheran Church of Nigeria (LCN), as a member of the LWF Council and Executive Committee. Akpan, 53, succeeds Sierra Leonean Rev.
Marie J. Barnett, who recently became Sierra Leone’s ambassador to Liberia. Barnett was appointed to the LWF Council and Executive Committee at the 2003 Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada. She was chairperson of the Program Committee for World Service and, more recently, a member of the LWF Renewal Committee.

Akpan, who has led several women and communication initiatives in the LCN, served as an LWF Council adviser from 1997 to 2003 on the Program Committee for Communication Services. From 2005 to 2007, she was one of the regional mentors of the LWF’s training program for young communicators, jointly coordinated by the Department for Mission and Development and the Office for Communication Services. She currently serves as editor of www.Africa-Lutheran.org, the Web site of the regional communication body Africa Lutheran Communication and Information Network (ALCINET). Since 1995, Akpan has been a lecturer in journalism at the University of Calabar, Nigeria, prior to which she served for five years as general manager of Bivaan Nigeria, a local media consultancy and research firm. She was the principal news editor and head of corporate affairs research at the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), 1987-1992, and NTA news editor, 1978-1986. She began her media career as a reporter, then served as sub-editor at the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, 1974-1978. Akpan holds a master’s degree in journalism studies from the University of Wales, Cardiff, United Kingdom, and is currently pursuing PhD studies in media and gender at the University of Basel, Switzerland.