



## MINUTE FOR MISSION

December 1, 2004

### Wiera Jelinek Ordained: The First Female Pastor in the Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland

The Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland recently ordained Wiera Jelinek, the first female pastor in Poland's Reformed Church and the first among the country's Protestant minority. Following graduation from Warsaw's Christian Theological Academy, Pastor Jelinek now co-pastors the parish in Zelow with her husband, Miroslaw. Reflecting on her ordination, she stated, "Perhaps what's happening with me now will mean that, in a few years, no one pays attention to the gender of God's servants."



Pastor Wiera Jelinek

The Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland has deep and historic roots. Founded in 1551, the Church was deeply influenced by the teachings of Jan Hus, Ulrich Zwingli, and John Calvin. Through the partitions of Poland, devastating wars and occupations in the twentieth century, and decades of communist rule, the Church survived. Today, the denomination is seeking to renew itself and its 4,000 members across nine parishes and eight other places of worship.

Gary Payton  
PC(USA) Mission Worker,  
Regional facilitator for Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Poland

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*For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or [Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org).*