

A few hours ago (16 May 84), the Craigville Theological Colloquy ended with a glorious experience of Holy Communion after having produced what will probably be called, in the documentary history of the United Church of Christ, "The Craigville Declaration." The occasion of this thinksheet is the one ugly incident during that three-day conclave: there was vigorous and almost unanimous applause when this was defeated: the substitution of "the triune God" for "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

Language has been largely a boys' game--as can be seen simply and directly by easy documentation from its written text and common usage: virtually everywhere and always, language tilts toward the masculine. WHAT TO DO?

1. Admit this fact as fact even though you may want to, or do, grind your teeth against it. But--given the rising cost of professional dental attention, and the psycho-spiritual blahs from teeth-grinding--struggle against teeth-grinding.
2. In your own oral and written language-use, struggle against male-tilted expressions. Nudge new language-use toward 90°, the zenith of androgyny, unisex, sexual equality-neutrality. Example: The above-mentioned "The Craigville Declaration."
3. Avoid pathetic, Canute-like efforts against old language-use. What was (biblically and extrabiblically), was and--as the timeless present of literature--is and will be. Revisionism (such as practiced in the archives of Communist countries) is an offense against truth and so a blasphemy against God, the Lord of truth. The NCC's inclusive-language lectionary is worse than a joke and an absurdity.
4. Fellow-suffer with those who feel pain at the new and/or old sexist use of language.
5. Be prepared to let life modify language, without (a) expecting language to reshape life or (b) imagining life's inertia to be too powerful to permit significant language-change.
6. Pray that God, Maker of male and female, will guide toward a clearer realization of the Divine Image in life and language.