



Wisconsin Conference



CATCH the VISION

Volume V Number I

www.wisconsinumw.org

January 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Judy Vasby, President



New Year's greetings, dear sisters in Christ!

Let's talk about

getting a **new** start in the **new** year. Our officer teams have some **new** people—or, at least, some “old” officers have taken on **new** jobs. That changes the way we are used to functioning, so we will have to work on building **new** ‘community’ and teamwork.

We have reviewed our local, district, and conference Standing Rules and perhaps have changed some policies (several at the conference level). Now we will have to get used to some **new** rules.

We have reviewed our goals statements and either made **new**

goals to replace those already achieved or made **new** plans for reaching those we have not yet achieved.

We have emptied our treasuries and spent all, except for a little start-up money, on our UMW Pledge to Mission and other special mission causes. So now, we have to begin again to raise **new** funds to support mission.

It seems that in 2011, we are aiming to make all things **new**. (In fact, our School of Christian Mission theme will be “All Things Made New.”)

Then, as I was reviewing the First Epistle of John from our “For the Love of God” 2010 spiritual growth study, I came across these words:

I John 2:7—*Dear friends, I am not writing you a **new** commandment, but an old one which you had from the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Verse 8—Yet, I am writing you a **new** command; its truth is seen in Him and you, because the*

darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. 1John 3:23—And this is His command: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He commanded.

What a beautiful way to summarize the Christian life—to believe in Jesus and to love the way He loved. The old, old story with continually **new** actions. In following Jesus and seeking **new** ways to show love, we are reflecting His light to a world filled with much darkness.

What a beautiful way to summarize our UMW Purpose: 1) to know God and experience freedom through Jesus Christ, and 2) to love through supportive “sister-ship” and by offering prayers and financial gifts for ministries all over the world.

This is exciting! This is energizing! This is Good News! I challenge you to move forward in 2011, finding **NEW** ways to follow our Purpose while sharing the old story of God's love locally and around the world.

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What to Wear?

by Karen Stimeling, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in per-

fect unity.” Colossians 3:12-14. What better outfit for 2011?

You can even wear it while snuggled up reading this great 2011 Reading Program book, *If You Know Who You Are...You'll Know What to Do: Living with Integrity* by Ronald J. Greer.

Happy New Year, dear sisters in Christ!



ACTION



Urge your congressional representative to support and co-sponsor H.R. 5268, the Global Maternal and Newborn Health Outcomes while Maximizing Successes (MOMS) Act. Sponsored by Representative Lois Capps (D-Calif.), the Global MOMS Act amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize the president to furnish assistance to reduce mortality and improve maternal health.

There are numerous volunteer organizations that are striving to achieve MDG 5. The following is a brief list of organizations which could benefit from additional volunteers:

Doctors Without Borders: www.doctorswithoutborders.org

Health Volunteers Overseas: www.hvousa.org/

International Medical Corps: www.internationalmedicalcorps.org

AMIGOS: www.amigoslink.org/Amigos

To find additional volunteer organizations search World Volunteer Web: www.worldvolunteerweb.org

Read “The United Methodist Church, Justice and World Hunger” (¶ 4051, p. 557), and “Globalization and its Impact on Human Dignity and Human Rights” (¶ 6025, p. 738) from the *Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church* (Nashville, Tenn.: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2008).



Women, Health, and Safety

Reducing Maternal Mortality – Empowering Women and Girls

In June 2000, 1,400 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society representatives from around the world answered the invitation of the United

Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to develop a set of general goals to be recommended to their governments. The result of their efforts was realized in September 2000 in the form of eight measurable

goals to be reached by 2015. These are known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

These MDGs are as follows:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV, malaria and other diseases.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability.
8. Create a global partnership for development.

The goal we are highlighting is MDG 5, improving maternal health. This goal aims to reduce by three-quarters the worldwide maternal mortality rate. In September of this year, the United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly recommitted to reach
(continued top of page 3)

Catch the Vision

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Wisconsin Conference



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Women, Health, and Safety *(continued from page 2)*

ing these goals by 2015.

According to UNICEF, major medical causes of maternal deaths include “hemorrhage, eclampsia, unsafe abortion, infection and obstructed labor.” UNICEF also points out that “more subtle factors influence a woman’s chance of survival.”¹ The U.N. Department of Public Information states that “more than 350,000 women die annually from complications during pregnancy or childbirth, almost all of them—99 percent—in developing countries,” and “every year, more than 1 million children are left motherless. Children who have lost their mothers are up to 10 times more likely to die prematurely than those who have not.”²

“Gender discrimination and lack of education can be just as deadly as medical complications. A woman who is informed about her medical and family planning options, and who has the ability to make her own decisions, is better able to protect her own health, and that of her family.”³

A number of NGOs are striving to reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three-quarters by 2015. Some of these include United States Agency for International Development (USAID) <http://www.usaid.gov/>; Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health <http://www.who.int/pmnch/en/>; and CARE International <http://www.care.org/>.

USAID is working with NGOs to reduce pregnancy-related deaths in developing countries and is receiving mixed results.

“This approach has proven successful in reducing maternal mortality in a number of USAID-assisted

countries. In Egypt, for example, maternal mortality has declined by 52 percent since the late 1980s. Honduras (41 percent) and Guatemala (30 percent) have also experienced substantial decreases in maternal mortality. Sub-Saharan Africa is not sharing in such successes, however. Most countries in the region have had little or no reduction in maternal mortality in the past decade, and recent demographic and health surveys indicate that maternal mortality has increased in Zimbabwe and Malawi. The HIV/AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa likely contributes to these trends.”⁴

In Pakistan, the mortality rate for children under age 5 has dropped from 130 per 1,000 infants to 89 per 1,000 in 2008 as a result of the work of UNICEF and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.⁵

CARE International, a British-based aid organization, boasts: “In Tanzania, Rwanda and Ethiopia, CARE increased access to emergency obstetric care and cut fatality rates in emergency obstetric care facilities by 30 percent to 50 percent.”⁶

In Peru, CARE strengthened community capacity to address maternal health risks, resulting in a 50 percent reduction in maternal mortality in the remote project area and a doubling of women accessing health services and treatment for obstetric complications in health centers. The Peruvian minister of health established new national clinical guidelines for obstetrical emergencies based on those developed through CARE’s project.

In India, CARE advanced a 10-year program in nine states, one of

the largest NGO public health programs in the world, to strengthen the quality and coverage of maternal and child health services and to improve maternal and child survival in more than 90,000 villages.⁷

Three U.S. programs that fund global maternal health programs are USAID, the Global Health and Child Survival Initiative (GHCS) and the Global Health Initiative (GHI). USAID spent \$443 million on child survival and maternal health projects in 2007, five times the amount received in 2001. GHCS received \$8.24 billion in commitment through fiscal year 2011. And GHI was introduced in 2010, designating a six-year budget of \$63 billion to “improve maternal and child health in developing countries as well as to implement family planning and nutrition programs.” Overall, the child survival and maternal health portion of the U.S. government budget for fiscal year 2010 was \$555 million.

For additional information, contact Esmeralda Brown, Executive Secretary for U.N. Affairs, Women’s Division, General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church at (212) 682-3114 or by e-mail at ebrown@unit-methodistwomen.org.

¹www.unicef.org/health/files/PreventingmaternaldeathsQandA.doc

²http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG_FS_5_EN_new.pdf

³http://www.unicef.org/maternalhealth/index_588.htm

⁴http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/mch/mh/results.html

⁵ <http://www.countdown2015mnch.org/documents/2010report/Profile-Pakistan.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.careinternational.org.uk/news-and-press/latest-news-features/1525-spotlight-on-mdg-5-improve-maternal-health>

⁷ <http://www.careinternational.org.uk/news-and-press/latest-news-features/1525-spotlight-on-mdg-5-improve-maternal-health>



United Methodist Women North Central Jurisdiction

The North Central Jurisdiction consists of 9 states and 11 Conferences: Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, Illinois Great Rivers, West Michigan, Detroit, East Ohio, West Ohio and Indiana. There are 9 United Methodist Women who serve on the Jurisdiction Leadership Team and 1 staff advisor from Women's Division.

Our goals for the quadrennial event include: being open to all members of United Methodist Women; electing directors to the Women's Division (nominated by each Conference); electing the Jurisdiction Leadership Team and the Jurisdiction Committee on Nominations; educating for mission; providing skill building and most importantly: celebrating our

PURPOSE!



Fill my Cup, Lord

North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting

June 19-20, 2012 • Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa
For More Information: www.gbgm-umc.org/ncjumw



L to R: Robin McBride, Jeanne Long, Judy Thompson, Phyllis Jackson, Rita Vallery, Vickie Newkirk, Diana Miller.
In front: Lois Travillion and Rosetta Schaffner

We always give thanks to God for each of you!

Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.

—Vesta M. Kelly

Want to make your UMW life easier? Then here's just the thing for you:



United Methodist

Women Sampler. What is it, you ask? For an annual subscription fee of only \$35.00, you will receive various UMW publications from Women's Division, delivered right to your door, including personal copies of the following:

- The Prayer Calendar
- The Spiritual Growth study book,
- The Program Book
- a Date Book; plus, additional new resources at intervals during the year.

Contact **Mission Resource Center:**

- cs@missionresourcecenter.org (email)
- 1-800-305-9857 (phone)
- or find them on the Web: www.missionresourcecenter.org/estore

For a NEW subscription, order item #6011
To renew your subscription, order item #6012

Hours: 8am - 5pm CST; Mailing/shipping address: 1221 Profit Dr., Dallas, TX 75247

SOCM Update

It's time for Wisconsin to become a winter wonderland, but here's a thought to warm your hearts on a chilly winter day: It's never too soon to think about **School of Christian Mission**. Can you just feel that summer sun as you think about spending August 2 – 5 with friends, old and new...

- ❖ growing spiritually,
- ❖ expanding your understanding of mission,
- ❖ and exercising your brain with new learning and interesting discussions?

School of Christian Mission is all about mission education, and we've got great mission studies coming this summer:

- **Spiritual Growth**—"Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Forgiveness & Reconciliation"
- **Issues Study**—"Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity"
- **Geographical Study**—"Haiti"

Remember that this year Drive-in Day will be on Saturday, August 6, for those who can't make the four-day school.

Put School of Christian Mission on your calendar now—it will warm your heart and soul!

2011 SOCM Logo Design Form

2011 THEME: All Things Made New

As Followers of Christ, we hold fast to God's intention to bring hope and wholeness to the world through Jesus Christ. Grace-filled, we long for a world that moves from brokenness to wholeness, from suffering to healing, from injustice to justice, from scarcity to abundance, from estrangement to reconciliation and from despair to hope. As partners in God's mission, the transformation we seek today is that of taking what is broken and restoring it to fullness in the light of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Faith-filled, we believe that out of the rubble and ashes of devastation will come new life- a life of hope, a life of abundance, a life of joy for the journey.

Spiritual Growth Study: Coming out on the side of Grace: Forgiveness and Reconciliation

The theme deals with how individuals, families, and communities are called to a life-long journey of practicing forgiveness, justice, and reconciliation in our relational lives. The study explores the real-life journey of Jacob, the key imperative of the Great Commandment and the call to the ministry of reconciliation. Using stories and instances from history, contemporary and ancient, the study employs transformational, educational, and liturgical methods and means to apply the biblical stories for today's context.

Geographic Study: Haiti

This study offers an overview of the cultures that shaped Haiti's past and the ongoing legacy of colonialism, along with glimpses into the heart and soul of Haiti's people through pictures and Creole adages. The mission study also includes the impact of the devastating January 12th earthquake in 2010.

Current Issue Study: JOY TO THE WORLD: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity

This study explores the theology of mission and evangelism in the twenty-first century context of Christianity as a world-wide religion. The study invites us to look at why we are involved in mission and how we proclaim the Good News in Jesus Christ. What are the biblical mandates for mission? Does Christ call each of us to be his evangelist?

Detail descriptions/objectives available on request.

- The logo design is to illustrate the artist's conception of the theme and include the three studies.
- The logo must be submitted on 8 ½" X 11" white paper, copy ready.
- Logos may be black/white or color, but should be reproducible in black/white.
- A brief statement, 50 words or less, explaining the drawing must accompany the submitted art. Back of form may be used to write statement.
- Do not include any copyrighted graphics or design.

The form below must be completed by the artist and submitted along with the logo design. Designs and forms are to be sent to the Representative by January 15, 2011 for consideration by the Regional School Planning Team.

Name of artist(s): _____

E-mail address: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Conference: _____ Church: _____

Permission to use artwork is given with the signature of the artist below.

Artist(s) signature: _____

Return artwork and form to:

Julie Prouty S 7304 Sandusky Rd., Hillpoint, WI 53937 or email: prouty.julie@gmail.com

11/29/10

Green Team Update:

Building Peace in Creation

by Laura Pfeffer, Green Team Representative

The title of our United Methodist Women 2011 Program Book is *Finding Peace*. One of the greatest challenges we face in building peace relates to the way in which we treat the earth and God's gifts in creation. Prayerfully consider using the study "Making Peace With Mother Earth" found in the program book as a 15 minute reflection, an hour program, a longer retreat or a worship service. If your schedule is full, consider using one of the follow-up ideas, such as the low carbon footprint potluck listed at the end of the section as a part of another event or program. Take a step in peaceful living by reducing destruction and waste of creation.

There are many special events which highlight care for creation. You may wish to hold a carbon fast for the Lenten season, a bike/walk/car pool to church Sunday, lead any or all of the

six-part studies from the booklet *God's Renewed Creation: call to hope and action* (available from Cokesbury) written by our Council of Bishops. Or hold a special service or prayer time for World Water Day (March 22), Earth Day (April 22) or Earth Hour (March 26, 8:30 PM). Plan to buy eco-palms for Palm Sunday as a statement of faithful stewardship. Or create a fun night with an environmental video or play the game "Cool-It" from the Union of Concerned Scientists. Build community by sharing new opportunities to go green.

Involve your church in being better stewards of creation by planning to buy efficient appliances and lights (or light bulbs), using non-VOC (volatile organic compound) paints when redecorating, improving insulation or windows, planting native plants, building a

rain garden or even a community garden. When churches become more healthful and efficient places to gather, they improve both the health of their members as well as save on their utility costs. Invite members to take a stand by signing petitions such as "Christian Principles for a Healthy Body and Spirit", "Cosmetics Letter to Congress from Women of Faith" or "56 Religious Groups to US Senate: Save the Clean Air Act" on the National Council of Churches Eco-justice Website (www.ncecojustice.org).

We can be love in action by being witnesses of holy living, creating peace for ourselves and our neighbors.

Laura Pfeffer
Women's Division Green Team
email: ljspence@aol.com



Reading Goals

by Arlene Trull, Secretary Program Resources

Greetings!

Another year is history! What are your hopes and goals for 2011? United Methodist Women offers such wonderful opportunities for goals!

One goal might be to use *The Prayer Calendar* as part of your daily devotions. Another goal might be to choose one of the four reading program plans, reading an increased number of books in 2011 than those read from The Reading Program in 2010. Of course, that means regular reading of **response** magazine for all plans and *New World Outlook* magazine for Plans II-IV.

I just finishing reading *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* (2011 list). What an interest-

ing and insightful book! I also read *Cecilia's Year* (a Youth book on the 2010 list) shortly before that. Both books look at life in a different culture than mine. Reading these and many other books gives us the chance to learn and better understand the world we live in and the people around us.

There are many opportunities for growth through United Methodist Women. Do grab those opportunities in 2011!

Arlene Trull
Secretary of Program Resources
305 Becker St; Rothschild, WI 54474
(715) 359-7756
email: aetrull@gmail.com



Mark the dates for 2011 Annual Gathering October 21 and 22 Black River Falls

Plans are underway for a stimulating weekend. Your comments from our last Gathering are appreciated and some suggestions will be implemented.

We are working on a system to provide more adequate translation of the presentations into Spanish.

Robert Harman, retired chief administrative officer for the World Mission Program of UMC's General Board of Global Ministries, has agreed to be our keynote speaker. He is also an author, historian, and visionary for global Christianity. His retirement homes are in Danbury, WI and Chicago.

Continue to check back with us for further updates. This year's gathering promises to be fantastic!

Hmong House of Good News

by Judy Vasby

Hmong House of Good News has been experiencing financial distress for the past couple of months, as most of you have heard, by now. There have been times we have closed for lack of funds. Messages were sent by email to the units, and thank you so much for your responses. They have been a great help.

We also sent letters to the mission coordinators of local churches and asked if they could arrange for an offering to be sent during a month of their choice in 2011. This would help us guarantee a more steady income, which is necessary to cover basic operating expenses.

We are excited to report that we received a \$2500 grant from our Wisconsin UM Foundation to be used for transportation in 2011. As you may have heard, most of our clients do not have a way to get to

Hmong House, so we have to provide rides. It costs \$3.25 one way on a Transit Plus van, for seniors who qualify.

We held our Annual Meeting on Tuesday evening, November 16th. Julie Mieke, our Board Chairperson, conducted the meeting.

Rev. Deborah Thompson, Conference UMC Missions Coordinator, gave a brief devotional message and installed our 2011 Board. Salud Rodeman demonstrated the chair exercises that she leads for the Hmong participants.

Tabatha Yang, Program Director, gave a report on the variety of activities happening at Hmong House weekly. She used the new laptop and projector we received from last year's Call To Prayer and Self-Denial grant.

With Tabatha translating, two participants gave testimonies about

what Hmong House has meant in their lives.

A group of teen girls wearing traditional Hmong "costumes" presented Hmong Dances. Trudy Yang is their teacher/director.

Julie Mieke presented certificates of appreciation to volunteers. A freewill offering was taken. And Hmong elders displayed and sold their craft projects.

The evening ended with refreshments served in the dining area of Central UMC, Milwaukee, site of Hmong House of Good News.

If you would like to visit Hmong House or hold an egg roll fundraiser, please contact:

Tabatha Yang, Director
(414) 342-4380 - Office
(262) 412-3744 - Cell
639 N 25th St
Milwaukee, WI 53233
hhgn@att.net

A Fresh New Look

Greetings sisters!

Change is in the air. So in the spirit of taking on this new role as your Wisconsin Conference Communications Coordinator and Editor of "Catch the Vision", I've decided to tweak our newsletter just a bit here and there. Incorporating the new logo for United Methodist Women with a touch of Wisconsin, our header has a slimmer and trimmer look to it. I'm also trying to keep things more uniform to make it easier to read. I hope you enjoy these changes and share the newsletter with all the women of your churches.

As you well know, change isn't easy. When I decided to take on this position, I admit that I was a little nervous. After all, Julie Prouty has done such a great job as Communications Coordinator and it's hard to follow in her illustrious footsteps. But I'm also not new to the world of print media and the internet.

I was managing editor for two aviation magazines, while holding the position as president of Winnebago District. I was also the Communications Coordinator for Winnebago District for four years, before I became Winnebago District Vice President.

Although I've been around some, this is my first position on the Conference Executive Mission Team. I just completed Leadership Training in St. Louis and learned many wonderful new ideas that I hope to share in the coming months.

I am diligently working on a new and improved Web site for Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women. In the meantime, we have a Facebook page (Wisconsin Conference UMW) and a group page on UMWOnline (umwonline.net).

I'm also hoping to see more of you jump on the electronic bandwago. In this age of *Going Green*, it would be

ideal if we could eliminate the paper version of our newsletter and go strictly to email and the Web. Not only would it save the trees, but it would also allow more of your mission dollars to go to mission projects for women, children and youth. Reading your newsletter in an email or on the Web also allows you the flexibility of enlarging the page so you can see it easier. Not to mention there's no waste going into the landfills from all those printed pages. And did I mention that email and the Web cost far less of your mission dollars than printing and mailing?

We have so much to offer as we work together for women, children and youth in our local communities, across this great nation and around the world.

I look forward to seeing all of you in the coming year. God bless!

Email your comments to the editor:
stacyganzer@charter.net

Web site: www.wisconsinumw.org

by Stacy Ganzer, Editor

NEW INITIATIVES for 2011

by Judy Vasby

Here are some new things to consider for 2011:

1.) **National Seminar** will be held in August (2011) at Scarritt Bennet Center, in Nashville, TN. We are to send two women—one conference officer and one from the district or local level. One must be a racial/ethnic woman and at least one must be under the age of 40. They should have a passion for Social Action, at least one year of tenure left in office and agree to share what they learn with others. There are also 25 others to be chosen by Women's Division from applicants-at-large across the country. Find out more from your district or conference Social Action Coordinator.

2.) We are to promote the study of **domestic violence**, especially as it relates to

church women. Where possible, we are to work with UM Men on jointly offering the study. Materials are available from your Conference Vice President (Lucy Sylvester) and Social Action Coordinator (Dodie Smith).

3.) We are invited to join the Annual Conference in their partnership with the **UM Church in East Angola**. We will make contacts with the church women in East Angola and learn about their lives and possible needs. The partnership committee is working on bringing some Angolan women to our conference later this year.

4.) We are seeking a **Korean Language Coordinator**. She will work with the women of our Korean churches in Wisconsin to promote United Methodist

Women and gain joint participation in district and conference UMW events.

5.) Bishop Lee would like UMW to become involved in **Prison Ministry**. We are in the process of finding out which churches and units already are involved in outreach to prisons near them. If your unit/church is involved, please let me know (vasby.umw@gmail.com).

6.) Watch for a prepared program that you can do in your unit or circle regarding **Racial Justice in Wisconsin**. A conference committee is working on creating a short program, relevant to Wisconsin, that you can use to satisfy requirement #7 of the Mission Today **Criteria, which says, "the unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice Policies** in at least one way during the year."

Love in Action

by Bev Maser, E&I

It is always a challenge to begin a new start in our lives, Now 2011 offers that opportunity for all of us!!

What "gifts" did you bring to the Christmas Season as you shared God's message of *love in action*???

That is what we strive to do as we look anew at the goals set within the Purpose of UMW and with the guidelines of our Mission Today challenges.

Look at what your unit can do during this new year to "rethink" our Mission work and how we respond to God's call for us.

Keep the children and youth in your church, and in the community, in mind as you interpret the work of United Methodist Women.

Nurture those young people as you also nurture the women who strive to guide them. Our young people will not know God unless we each share our love and witness with them!

I challenge you to set a goal for your unit to do ONE new way of sharing in this New Year!!

God Bless,
Bev Maser
Education Interpretation Coordinator

2010 Financial Report

by Joan Moc, Treasurer

There really isn't much I can say about our financial report because it is close to the end of the year and I have no final numbers yet. We are all grateful for the response our members have shown us this past year. However, I do hope all of you have had a Wonderful Thanksgiving and a Merry Merry Christmas Season. This has been a special time of the year for our celebrations of our Savior's birth. I hope we are prepared for an exciting new year of mission work and that we as a conference have a good year in every way.

In our current economy financial aspects are tight and I am going to assume they will be that way for a longer period of time. We all need to remember that our actions must meet the requirements that this makes for us. Let's remember our goal is MISSION and be wise stewards with the financial end of our programs.

Granted we all do our best to encourage MISSION with the programming we do, I only recommend that we con-

sider the expense end of those programs, let's be doing it in a practical way.

By our next newsletter I plan to have some numbers for you. I wish for all of you a very Happy and Successful New Year.

Joan Moc
Conference Treasurer

GIVING MAKES MISSION POSSIBLE



Explore five ways you can donate to the ministry and mission of United Methodist Women.

- Pledge to Mission
- World Thank Offering
- Special Mission Recognition
- Gift to Mission
- Gift in Memory

Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women
presents

LOVE IN ACTION

EXPLORING INFANT MORTALITY

Guest Speaker: Angela Rohan
Wisconsin Division of Public Health

March 26, 2011

Franksville United Methodist Church
10402 Northwestern Avenue
Franksville, WI 53126

Registration begins 8:30 am
Program begins 8:50 am
Sending Forth 2:30 pm

- Explore the current trends for infant mortality in the State of Wisconsin.
- Information includes the Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families.
- Learn new ideas to get your local unit involved in promoting healthy babies and decreasing infant mortality.

Deadline for registration is March 16, 2011

REGISTRATION FORM FOR LOVE IN ACTION EVENT: March 26, 2011

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

DISTRICT: _____ LOCAL CHURCH: _____

Check all that apply: Female Male Clergy Visitor

UMW Member UMW District Officer UMW Conference Officer Missionary

Child care needed for _____ children, ages _____
(Please bring a lunch with you for each child)

Special needs _____

Registration \$10.00 per person, includes lunch.

Please make checks payable to: **WI Conference UMW.**

Mail to: **Dodie Smith, 1927 17th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53140.**

Or register online at www.wisconsinumw.org/communications.html
and pay at the door.

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Seeking General Conference Delegates Supportive of United Methodist Women



“What does the General Conference have to do with me?”

Good question. Delegates to be sent to 2012 General Conference will be elected at the 2011 Church Annual Conference. We, as members of United Methodist Women, want to elect delegates who support United Methodist Women and our mission focus.

“How can I help?”

- Offer to be a member to Annual Conference from your church. If that position is filled, then be sure to talk to your voting member about their views and express yours.
- Call your district office and volunteer to be an equalization member. Many times the districts are looking for members to fill those positions.
- **PRAY!!!**



A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2011

The Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering in 2011 will support the Retirement Benefits Fund. This fund provides pensions and health care for retired United Methodist Women deaconesses and missionaries. For materials visit Mission Resource Center: www.missionresourcecenter.org/estore

SOCIAL ACTION

by *Dodie Smith, Social Action*

Here it is—2011! A new year, a new position as your Conference Social Action Coordinator. I am looking forward to working with all of you. At the last Executive Committee Meeting, we accepted three areas of concentration for 2011. They are as follows:

1. **Support of Northcott Neighborhood House, Hmong House of Good News and Harbor House.** Share their ministry stories, pray, collect items they need and support financially.

2. **Explore Health Issues.** Learn about specific health issues: Healthy Babies, Health Care, etc.

3. **Domestic Violence.** The topic of Human Trafficking was also suggested as a theme of interest.

Please be sure you fill out the surveys sent to local units asking for the Social Action Goals you plan to implement this year. They should be sent to your District Social Action Coordinator. Thank you for your cooperation!

Please mark your calendar for our Love in Action Event on March 26th. A flyer is enclosed to share with everyone, and we also have online registration at www.wisconsinumw.org! Hope to see you there!

Don't hesitate to let your elected officials know what you think about the current legislation before them.

Let us walk forward in the love of Christ and make a difference in our world.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MISSION TODAY UNIT CRITERIA

To become a Mission Today Unit a unit must meet eight of the following criteria, including four of those marked with an asterisk (*):

1. Use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting to pray for mission workers and projects.*
2. The unit will make and meet its Pledge to Mission.*
3. The unit will add at least two members to its roll.*
4. The unit will have at least two members subscribe to Response magazine.*
5. The unit will use two programs from the Program Book for United Methodist Women each year.*
6. The unit or circle will conduct at least one mission study a year.*
7. The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice Policies in at least one way during the year.*
 - Some suggested plans of action: Plan a joint unit meeting with a unit of a different racial/ethnic background, using programs from the Program Book; develop bi-racial/cultural or multi-racial/cultural Koinonia groups; hold a joint Vacation Bible School; hold pulpit exchanges; share joint worship services on special occasions; encourage the church to sponsor a refugee family; etc.
8. At least one member of the unit (other than a Conference or District officer) will attend the Conference School of Christian Mission.
9. At least two members (other than a Conference or District officer) will attend the District or Conference Annual Gathering/Meeting.
10. The unit will have at least one person join the United Methodist Women's Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information.
11. Members will write to five persons listed in the Prayer Calendar each year
12. The unit will participate in the Campaign for Children in at least two ways.
 - Possibilities for action: Help sponsor a church or community program related to children and youth needs; sponsor a Children's Sabbath, promoted by the Children's Defense Fund; get involved with children in mentoring, tutoring and "Big Sisters" programs; write letters, email or call congressional representatives and/or others in Government regarding children's issues; Visit your local schools; attend a school board meeting; learn how our schools are funded; etc.
13. The unit will be a Five Star Unit, contributing to all five channels of Mission Giving.
14. Each unit or circle will include a Response moment where an item from the magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.
15. Have at least two people from the unit, circle or subgroup complete one of the Reading Program Plans and report on one of the books read; encourage all members to complete Plan One, have a book review program.
16. The unit will invite a District or Conference officer, other than that of a member of the unit, to one of the unit meetings during the year.
17. Make a pledge to care for God's creation and become a "Green" United Methodist Women unit—information on How to Become a Green Unit is available at www.umwonline.org/environment or by contacting Women's Division Community Action.
18. Hold a mini-Spiritual Growth retreat; watch the video "Resurrection Road" and get the accompanying study guide "Resurrection Women".
19. The unit will contribute at least \$25.00 to Wisconsin Conference School of Christian Mission.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
P.O. Box 167, Butte des Morts, WI 54927

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Oshkosh, WI 54901

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PURPOSE

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose Purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

2011 DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday and Saturday
January 14-15

Conference meeting @ Wisconsin Rapids

Saturday, March 6

Social Action Event: Love in Action - Healthy Babies @ TBA

Saturday, March 12
10:00 - 3:00

School of Christian Mission meeting @ Portage

Friday - Saturday
April 15-16

Conference meeting @ Black River Falls

Thurs. - Sunday

Midwest Regional School

**Tuesday - Friday
August 2-5**

**School of Christian Mission (SOCM)
Ramada Stevens Point, WI**

Saturday, August 6

SOCM Drive-in Day (9:00 - 3:15)

Saturday - Wednesday
August 13-17

National Seminar in Birmingham, Alabama

Friday - Sunday
August 26-28

Conference Mega meeting @ Pine Lake

**Friday - Saturday
October 21-22**

**Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering
@ Black River Falls UMC**