

# CATCS VISIOS Wisconsin Conference

Volume VII Number 1

#### www.wisconsinumw.org

### President's Message

by Judy Vasby, President

Since some of you were unable to attend S.T.O.M.P., I decided I would write a summary of what happened.....

worship, share ideas, and plan for the future.

On Friday night, participants arrived as their schedules allowed being open to change, and moving forward in faith. Under Julia Tulloch's leadership, as a woman on the national staff of United Meth-

"Spirit-fully Transforming Our Mission Purpose" was the theme of our conference-wide training and visioning event

In this issue:

~ On Saturday, singing and worship led by Laura Pfeffer and Karen Stimeling set the direction for our day of hearing God's voice, being open to change, and moving forward in faith. ~

held at the Mead Inn in Wisconsin Rapids on November 9-10. One hundred thirty-six attended, ages teens through eighties, to learn,

and joined ongoing small group activities in the plenary room. There was a constant buzz as women cut milk strips and counted Moola caps for Hmong House of Good News, shared ideas for fundraising, heard about mission trips, worked on puzzles and prayer shawls, played table games, made refrigerator magnets for Cedar Crest (a United Methodist senior living center in Janesville), and tied fleece blankets for Harbor House, United Methodist Women sharing in creative, supportive fellowship while expanding concepts

On Saturday, singing and worship led by Laura Pfeffer and Karen Stimeling set the direction for our day of hearing God's voice,

of mission was clearly demon-

strated.

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odist Women, we learned about the origins of UMW, the changes in terms and governance structure made by General Confer-

ence, and what our

mission money supports now in light of the changes.

With this in mind, our next task was to decide our goals for the future. The changes at the national level gave us permission to reduce the size of our officer teams and bring in extra women for a short term to work on specific goals or issues—or to keep things the way



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In Memoriam - Lorna Rinck

### President's Message

they currently are.

In order to be able to decide what we might alter, it was important to understand the duties of a full slate of officers, so that we could see what we might eliminate or how we might combine positions. Chippewa District officers each gave a brief report of their duties using a visual symbol for each office. Then everyone present received a written list of job descriptions for each office, compiled by Heartland District's Carol Hornby.

These were useful to officers at all levels—local, district, and conference—because the descriptions showed all the functions that can be covered to provide the richest experience.

Velma Hockenberry, conference UMW historian, also added an explanation of what disd District's Carol Hornby. Then each wrote down h

Enjoying a musical moment at S.T.O.M.P.

tricts and local units need to keep for posterity and how to preserve their collections. She gave each district a set of archival safe containers for their holdings.

Our heads full of all this information, and having sung

a new version of our Purpose, written by Mary Scharinger of Winnebago District to the tune "I Love To Tell The Story," we next had an opportunity to dream. Each participant wrote down what drew her to UMW in the first place and what keeps her involved. These answers provided us insights into what makes UMW appealing to new people and what we can emphasize when inviting women to join.

Then each wrote down her dreams and desires for

UMW in Wisconsin at all levels- conference, district, and local- as well as for Mission u (formerly School Of Christian Mission). First we shared these thoughts with the people sitting at our tables and then, using a traveling microphone, with the entire group. Some women dreamed

that we would become more deeply involved in social issues, others had membership concerns, and others had suggestions for structural and schedule changes. A scribe at each table wrote down their comments for

use by the conference officers in future planning.

Next we broke into separate district groups to share again and to do some goal-setting. Here, each woman spoke what she had written and a scribe put each idea on newsprint pages for all to see. Then the district President led her group through a discussion noting which ideas were most important to the group, and those became the basis for future goals. They were seen as having been formed through the prompting of the Holy Spirit whose guidance we had sought in prayer before writing down our individual dreams.

Following this, the President read

#### Catch the Vision

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Stacy Ganzer, Editor P.O. Box 167 Butte des Morts, WI 54927

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### President's Message

the goal that the district officers had prepared for last summer's School Of Christian Mission to see if it still reflected the values of the current thoughts just spoken. If it fit, great. But if it didn't, the group was to decide if they wanted to reject it or work it into the goals just decided. Then, using the job descriptions that all had been given, the group was to decide how their officers would share in making their goals a reality. Would they need the full slate of officers- or might they use fewer officers and some short-term committees set up for specific tasks?

This was just the start of planning for the future. The process will be ongoing, but this step helped us to begin moving in the same direction with a more focused approach.

Interestingly, the districts did not all have the same goals. That makes sense, because of their different geological locations and interests. The idea was to start with the needs and interests at the local level which, then, could be reflected in the district's goals to help meet those needs. And then the conference level will strive to support the work of the districts.

Because we are connected at the national level, there are some initiatives and mission obligations that we

must support, which means the districts and local organizations will need to incorporate them into their planning, as well. But just this once, since there were changes in place by General Conference, we took advantage of the opportunity to look at all the possibilities in Wisconsin and what we saw as needs and goals.

The day closed with a commitment service in which each participant received an "official" S.T.O.M.P. pin. She pinned it on another person as a sign of covenant to follow through with the ideas and goals that were made that day, in order to Spirit-fully Transform Our Mission Purpose.

I extend a special thank you to the Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) and to the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation for grants that helped underwrite our expenses.

Now, I ask you to start moving. No hesitant steps or tip-toeing, but rather, confidently go forth.

STOMP into the future and make United Methodist Women all it—*WE*—can be!

Judy Vasby
Wisconsin Conference UMW President
608-576-0173
vasby.umw@gmail.com



Taking care of the Moola caps and labels for Hmong House of Good News!

### FROM THE EDITOR

by Stacy Ganzer, Editor and Website Administrator

When enough is enough. This year one of the Social Action focuses is Domestic Violence and Abuse. It is a broad topic with many facets and far-reaching repercussions. Domestic violence doesn't just affect one person. It often leeches into the lives of all who are associated with the victims and their families.

How is your unit planning to address this topic? Will you visit a local shelter and find out what needs are being met in your local community? Maybe invite a guest speaker from a community services organization to give a program for your entire congregation? Volunteer to do laundry, scrub floors and do some painting at your local abuse shelter? There are many more things you can do.

Domestic violence isn't one of those things that happens "out there" in other parts of the nation and world. It happens everywhere, even with members of our own congregations.

My father was a California Highway Patrol Officer for many years. The stress took a toll on our family and eventually my parents divorced. No, my father wasn't an abuser. But he didn't like to open up about things that he experienced at work. Eventually my parents grew apart and they ended their nineteen-year marriage. I understand why now. But as an eighteen year old high school graduate with her entire life ahead of her, the trauma of that time greatly affected the decisions I made. I dropped out of college and went to community college. My self-esteem was at a low and I didn't know what to do with my life.

I was blessed to still have my grandparents there for

support, but things were still really tough. I'm not sure what would have happened if I'd actually stayed in school and followed my dreams. I do know that I married the kindest, sweetest and most supportive person I know. We've been



through tough times, too, but we've always managed to stick together and live our lives in Christ.

Others aren't so blessed.

In the coming year, as we consider our New Year's resolutions, I really want you to think about those "others." Remember them. Pray for them. And find ways to support and nurture those who are caught in the vicious cycle of domestic violence. Educate yourselves and others in your congregation to this very real societal issue. Be the change makers that United Methodist Women teaches us to be.

And remember that we are an organization of women who put Faith, Hope and Love into Action for women, children and youth in our communities, across our nation and around the world. God bless and have a blessed 2013!

Stacy Ganzer
Wisconsin Conference
United Methodist Women Communications
Email: stacyganzer@new.rr.com

#### Money Raising Ideas Compiled from S.T.O.M.P. Ideas Session

- 1. Sale of olive wood craft items from Palestine: Offered on table at cookie walk from Milton Church in the Capital District.
- 2. All Church Bazaar held from 9 until 2. Two thirds of the money for UMW and one third goes to church. Eau Claire Church:
  - Sell cinnamon rolls and coffee
  - Sell donated items including knit mittens, scarves, scrubbies and afghans
  - Handmade candy table
  - Wood working table
  - Home décor table
  - Workdays throughout the year to sew and knit
  - Serve lunch at noon: chicken & rice casserole or sloppy joes for \$6/plate(raised \$900 on lunch)
  - Because all items are donated, everything is profit: raise most of UMW pledge

### I'LL BE THERE

by Karen Stimeling, Spiritual Growth Coordinator



'When two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that <u>I'll</u> be there.' Matthew 18:20

If you attended the November STOMP (Spiritfully Transforming Our Mission Purpose) event, you may agree with me...God

was there. If you did not hear, Julia Tulloch masterfully led us through the United Methodist Women's new structure and possibilities. I hope you will personally seek the information from those in your district who did attend.

It is apparent to me that God continues to bless this great organization at all levels of leadership and membership. He knows United Methodist Women have incredible courage, persevering obedience and sacrificial humility. After STOMP, I felt his encouragement to develop programming requiring mission action, but he wants to be included. He wants strategic planning, but not to the detriment of never getting beyond the talking and planning stage.

I feel we are on the perimeter of the Promised Land. We have a great opportunity to make United Methodist Women's energy move us forward. If we trust God to handle the smaller issues but doubt his ability to take care of the big problems, those tough decisions, those frightening situations (trying new ways to serve Him), we are like the Israelites in Numbers 14. They listened to the negatives and lost sight of the positives. We must never stop trusting God as we reach our goal to fulfill our PURPOSE. He brought us this far and he will not let us down now. We cannot be blinded to God's power to help and his promise to guide.

Sisters in Christ...yes, young and old...rise to the occasion, the call is now, what will be your answer. And Jesus said, 'I'll be there'.

Karen Stimeling,

Wisconsin Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator 715.595.6464

Email: <u>stimeark@centurytel.net</u>

### FEAR NOT-GOOD NEWS

by Kay Putman, Education and Interpretation



This is the title of a song in the Christmas Cantata that was performed at my church. The more I think about these words, they make a lot of sense. Before we know the details of something or understand what is being undertaken, we fear it. Sometimes we miss the good news. What a shame.

S.T.O.M.P. changed my mind about where we in United Methodist Women are headed. Fear not—Good News! When planning your programming for 2013, I encourage you to ask someone on your district or conference team to present a program on our Good News. Several team members will be going to a special training session in January 2013. Please take advantage of the information they will come back with.

My wish for us in 2013 is that we all may be open to learning everything we can about what we in United Methodist Women are about. Remember, Fear not—Good News. Be sure to read **response** magazine, use the Program Book, read from the Reading Program and use your district and conference team.

Kay Putman Wisconsin Conference UMW Education and Interpretation 215 Water Street, Apt 205 Lodi, WI 53555





### IT'S NOT ALWAYS ABOUT THE MONEY

by Mary Rather, Treasurer

Blessings of the New Year!

I am still trying to find my way as the Conference Treasurer and appreciate all the help that is given me. At times, this task seems more than I can handle and then a wonderful person or two come to my rescue. Thank you, you are truly a blessing to me.

The dedication of the women in our local units, large and small, and the amount of money sent to missions continue to amaze me. If one is not involved in this marvelous organization of such dedicated women they have no clue of how much an impact we have in the global ministries of the church.

The women follow the "Purpose" of the organization. The last phrase of this purpose, "to expand concepts of mission" calls us to go, to do, and to be God's hands and feet whenever there is a need to spread God's love and concern.

Mary Rather Wisconsin Conference UMW Treasurer 860 Dousman St Green Bay, WI 54303 gmrather@aol.com



### **NEW OFFICER PROFILES**

#### Meet Shirley Carpenter

The oldest of five girls, I was "Daddy's helper" on our farm near Loyal. Church activities, then and now, have always been a big part of my life.

My love of our great organization started when I was new in town (Wisconsin Rapids) and was invited to a circle meeting. I was warmly welcomed. They too, me under their wing. Supportive Community!

Bill and I have four children, nine grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren (the newest born on November 17, 2012).

I worked in our church office for ten years, then in human resources at JCPenney's for twenty years.

I've been a Certified Lay Speaker/Servant since 1984, which has offered many opportunities to share my faith.

I've served in various UMW offices locally, district and, most recently, on the Wisconsin Conference Committee on Nominations.

I look forward to being part of the Conference Team during this exciting time of change.

Shirley Carpenter Wisconsin Conference UMW Membership Nurture and Outreach

#### Meet Jean Bonney

I became involved with UMW (then WSWS) back in 1959. However, it was not new to me, as both my grandmother and mother had been members.

I was involved in the local unit as a program chairperson and also serving as vicepresident.



In 2002, I became a member of the District Team, serving as treasurer, on the nominating committee and as vice-president.

In 2012, I came onto to the Conference Team as a member of the nomination committee.

I have been elected to serve a two-year term as vice president of Wisconsin United Methodist Women.

The local unit with which I am now affiliated is the Mauston United Methodist Women.

I look forward to working with the Conference Team during 2013-2014.

Jean Bonney Wisconsin Conference UMW Vice President

## GREEN TEAM UPDATE: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: LIVING THE HEART OF GOD

by Laura Pfeffer, National Green Team 2009-2012

The theme for the United Methodist Women's Program book for 2012-2013 is "Living the Heart of God". I have been pondering this theme as I attempt to look forward to what the work of environmental justice

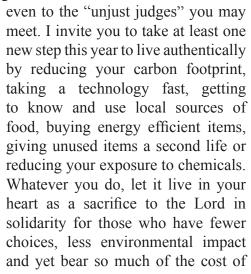
might look like in 2013. Certainly this means putting God at the center of everything. We must seek to know the heart of God through prayer, praise, thanksgiving and study.

One way to do this is to seek the ways God is reflected in his creation and creative acts. The heart of God can be seen in the rainbow and snowflake, the lights of sun, moon and stars, the beauty and diversity of the animal kingdom and the richness of the bounty of the earth – to name just a few. What God gives, he gives and in abundance. What we

have is not ours alone, but ours to share so that we are givers through God's grace who first gives to us. This is indeed a way of "living" and not just in one way, but in all ways.

What will 2013 hold for environmental justice? Issues will likely encompass mining legislation, oil

pipelines, hydraulic fracturing, energy independence and much, much more. I invite you to explore and act on these issues from your base of "living the heart of God". Stay engaged and let the voice of faith be heard



our actions. As the song says, "In all your living, and through your loving, Christ be your Shalom, Christ be your Shalom" (UMH#666").

Laura Pfeffer UMW Green Team <u>lispence@aol.com</u>



### **EVERYTHING'S UP TO DATE (IN WISCONSIN UMW)**

by Laura Pfeffer, Secretary

"Everything's Up To Date (in Wisconsin UMW)." Right? Well, perhaps this won't be as popular as the song from the musical "Oklahoma", but I hope that it can still be an accurate statement.

In order for that to happen, I need you (yes you) to do your part. I made a list (it's called the Conference Yearbook), with the help and hard work of the District Secretaries, and I need you to check it twice!

The Conference Yearbook should list all of our Conference officers, District officers and local presidents along with their contact information and it needs to be as "up to date" as possible for the whole year.

That means if you find a correction, addition or any other change, you need to let me know. You can contact your District Secretary (who will pass that information along to me) or you can send me your latest and greatest information directly.

Communication is so VERY important. Don't leave anyone behind the times – stay up to date!

Laura Pfeffer Wisconsin Conference UMW Secretary W10132 Koltes Rd, Lodi, WI 53555 LJspence@aol.com



### **MAKING 2013 RESOLUTIONS? TRY THIS RESPONSE!**

by Gloria Carter, Program Resources

Back in my (much) younger days, the end of the year was a time of contemplation. I looked back on the past year, reviewed the goals I had set for myself and set new ones. I was very comprehensive in my goal-setting. These days...not so much.

Life, raising kids, work, volunteer activity...all took over my time. But as a new year comes around I am again setting aside time to look back at how I have "journeyed with the Lord." I like that phrase that Vivi Akakpo uses in the Bible study she authored for the December issue of **response** magazine.

One of my goals for 2013 is to spend more time with **response**. Reading of the magazine is part of the Reading Program Plans and I do eagerly skim through each new issue. I stop to digest more thoroughly the articles that jump out at me and hope to return to the magazine later.

Each time I sit down with **response** I am impressed by all it has to offer. It's like a feast that feeds our minds, hearts and souls. Writings from Harriett Jane Olson and others inspire us and prompt us to think. Every issue offers a Bible study that nurtures and may stretch our spirituality.

I love reading "Bright Lights" to see how other United Methodist Women members are living out the Purpose.

Want a better understanding of where our UMW money goes? Read the "Give" section of each issue and

you'll be able to explain how UMW is making a difference for women, children and youth around the world.

As Harriet writes in the December issue, "We are called into God's holy activity in the world..."

Our magazine informs us about issues of social justice and opportunities to act. And when you come to the end of each issue, take a moment to meditate on the prayer on the last page. I often share their powerful words with my own local UMW.

If you aren't already experiencing the rich buffet that **response** offers,

join me in making 2013 the year that you feast on its abundance.

Gloria Carter Conference Secretary of Program Resources <u>carter53597@tds.net</u> 608-849-7589



# 2013 A CALL TO PRAYER AND SELF-DENIAL LIVING STEWARDSHIP: CREATING FINANCIAL LITERACY

#### Planning an Observance

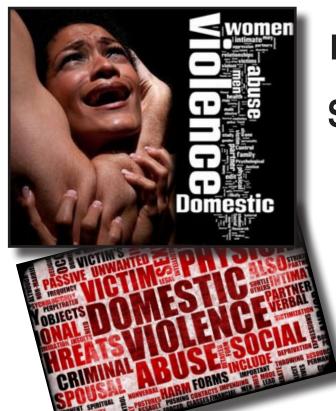
We encourage you to commemorate A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial on one day during the first few months of the year.

Be creative. The following ideas offer some possibilities:

- Plan a quiet day or retreat for all members of your unit and anyone interested. Use the appropriate year's Quiet Day Service in the United Methodist Women Program Book, available through the e-store.
- Plan a prayer vigil for your church or unit using the Prayer Calendar along with the Quiet Day Service.
- Explore with your pastor the possibility of having your United Methodist Women unit lead a Quiet Day Service for a Sunday-morning worship service.
- Prepare a meal as part of a year's observance.
- Distribute the Prayer Card to members who are absent. Order additional cards to give to friends.

#### Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women presents

### 2013 MISSION ACTION DAY



# **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2013

Tomah First United Methodist Church 1055 Butts Avenue, Tomah, WI 54660 608.372.4543

> Registration begins: 9:30 am Program begins: 10:00 am Sending Forth: 2:30 pm

- Updates on Human Trafficking, Immigration and 11X15 WISDOM project.
- Please respect Tomah First UMC's registration deadline below.

#### Deadline for registration is March 29, 2013

Registrations are transferrable, not refundable. **REGISTRATION FORM FOR MISSION ACTION DAY: APRIL 6, 2013** 

### NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

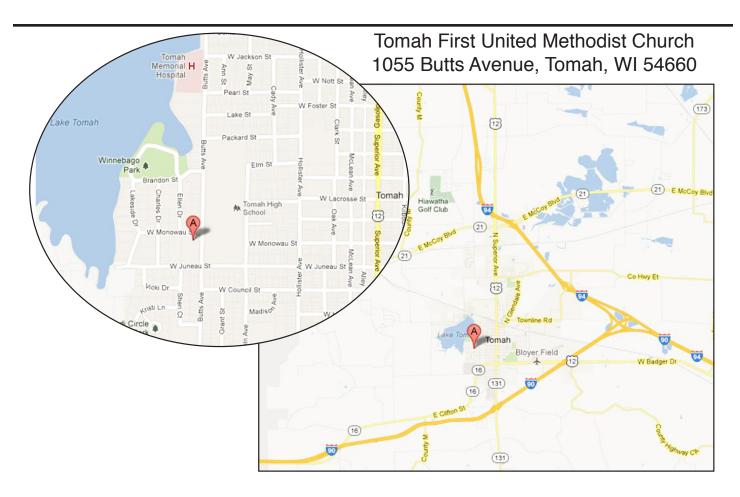




Registration \$11.00 per person, includes lunch. Please make checks payable to: WI Conference UMW.

Mail to: Karen Stimeling, 28719 303rd Ave., Holcombe, WI 54745

715-595-6464, stimeark@centurytel.net.



#### DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO MISSION ACTION DAY AT TOMAH FIRST UMC:

Coming from the north on I-94: Take the Tomah exit, turn right and that will be Hwy 12 or Superior Avenue. Continue on Superior Ave to Jackson Street or follow the hospital signs. Turn right on Jackson and go to the end of the street. You come to the hospital and turn left on Butts Avenue. Continue several blocks and the church is on the right across from the high school. The parking lot and main entrance is in the back of the church.

Coming in on Hwy 21from the east: At the intersection of Hwy 21 and Hwy 12 turn left on Superior Ave and follow the above directions.

**Coming from the south:** Take I-90 where the I divides and take the first Tomah exit which comes in on Hwy 16. Continue to the first set of stoplights and turn right onto Superior Ave. Go to Juneau Street (Band Box Cleaners on the left, also a chuch sign) turn left and continue to 4th stop sign and turn right onto Butts Avenue. The church is on the left and parking lot is in the back. The church is across from the high school.

**Coming from the west:** Take the first Tomah exit, turn left (Hwy 131). Go to the first set of stoplights and continue on Superior Ave. to Juneau Street and follow the above directions.



### **IN MEMORIAM - LORNA RINCK**

by Billie LaBumbard

We are, first and foremost, Sisters in Christ! We have been Lorna's sisters in Christ.

We have followed the purpose of UMW that says, we are an organized community of women whose purpose is to know God and 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.

We have gone to meetings with Lorna (more than we can count). We have planned programs, planned and presented educational studies with her leadership at School of Chirstian Mission (now known as Mission u).

Together we have explored social action—just at the last Conference meeting Lorna spoke up for the issue of health care access, lack of health insurance and the high cost of medications. She urged us to keep this on our agenda for 2013 because it affects so many Americans.

Together we have explored immigration, poverty, human trafficking, and the high infant mortality rates in Wisconsin. Lorna, our sister in Christ, has helped Brenda Clark, our sister that runs the SERVE store at our District events. Lorna helped check us out and encouraged our buying Fair Trade item and even helped us do our early Christmas shopping. She always spoke to encourage reading of our recommended books. And she liked to help us purchase those books.

One thing I will say is Lorna attended required meetings. She was also known for being a little late sometimes, so we would give her an earlier time just to make sure she was there. Lorna showed her fellowship and love in making prayer shawls—all colors and intricate patterns that she gifted to many others that have served.

I just came from a Christmas party with Lorna and our Chippewa District Mission Team in Medford. Lorna was in a bright red sweater—all decked out, you might say. We had no idea that she was going to be with our Lord so soon. We sang hymns together and even played Christmas Bingo, then we took our caroling over to an assisted living facility that houses one of our member's mother and about 20 others.

This week, in my devotions, I was reading from Micah, in the Old Testament, where Micah, in about 750 BC, warns the people of all the bad things they

are doing. He tells them God will punish them. He asks all people to have faith in God's goodness and mercy and he predicts that someone like Jesus Christ (a leader) will come to lead people to God—the prince of peace—and he asks,



what does the Lord require of us?

As our Sister in Christ passes on to her heavenly reward, we all come face to face with our own mortality. And I ask myself, what does the Lord require of me in the days that I have left here on earth? I am committed to follow a path that will allow me to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with God.

I am thankful for the life of my sister in Christ, Lorna Rinck, and her faithfulness and I am thankful for our savior Jesus Chirst.

As I prepare to celebrate His birth this Christmas season, I seek to follow Lorna's example to seek justice, to show love and to walk humbly with God until I too am privileged to meet Him in person.

I am pleased that UMW follows my ideals. It is a path that Lorna took and I have taken also—to do what is required of us.

As we reflect and prepare to celebrate His birth in a humble stable, in Bethlehem. May we do what the Lord requires of us until we are privileged to meet Him in person.

God bless you and be with you, our sister in Christ, Lorna Rinck.

I'd like to share a prayer that is found in our UMW program book:

"Lord, as I rise this morning, remind me that today may be the day that I see your face. And as I go about my work show me opportunities to serve you, and tonight when I finally lay down my head, remind me to thank you for the blessings of the day"

Eulogy written and given by Billie LaBumbard for Lorna Rinck, 2013 Chairperson of Nominations of Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women

### WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

P.O. BOX 167, Butte des Morts, WI 54927

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#### **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

AITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

### **2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Conf. Team Meeting Leadership Develoment	January 18-19 January 25-27	@ Baraboo UMC @ Tempe, AZ
Conf. Mission u Meeting	March 9	@ Wesley Wausau
MISSION ACTION DAY Conf. Team Meeting	April 6 April 26-27	@ Tomah First UMC @ TBD
MISSION U 4-DAY Mission u Overview Day	July 22-25 July 26	@ Wausau, Westwood Conf. Ctr.
Conf. MEGA Meeting	August 23-25	@ Pine Lake
CONF. ANN. GATHERING	October 18-19	@ TBD (Sun Prairie?)
Conf. Team Meeting	November 8-9	@ Chippewa Falls