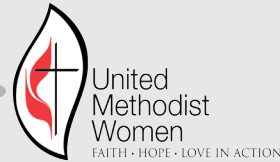


CATCH the VISION



Wisconsin Conference



Volume VIII Number 4

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NOVEMBER 2014

President's Message

Sisters in Christ,

This fall I have been studying Paul's letter to the Philippians and I wish to reflect upon this past year through this lens.

I echo Paul's greeting to his beloved community by wishing you "Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:2). From Mission Action Day to Assembly, through Mission u and Annual Gathering, we have celebrated our calling to "continue to work out [our] salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12b). We continue to grow in our service to others and our shared global missions.

I know you rejoice with me at

the increased participation and engagement of our LEGACY Women at both Mission u and Annual Gathering. Breaking down barriers of age and embracing a whole new generation of young girls and women with a heart for God is to see the beginning of the harvest of faith. We pray that "he who began a good work ... will carry it on to completion" (Phil. 1:6).

Alas, not all plans reach fruition in a straightforward manner. It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that the ministry our Conference United Methodist Women started 6 years ago at Hmong House of Good News will end at the close of this year. Even with the best hearts of love for our Hmong elders, dedicated volunteers and servant-leadership from our director and governing board, the financial reality has made it clear that this ministry is not sustainable in its current incarnation.

We regretfully place this matter into the hands of God to redirect and re-envision some new path to fulfilling mission and ministry through the love of Christ. In all things we seek to "press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has call [us]" (Phil. 3:14). We know God's words and works

continues and ask that you pray for a new birth for the future as the Lord directs and provides.

Looking ahead to 2015, I know that we face challenges as our church conference switches from 8 districts down to 5.

I ask that you pray for your leadership as they work to overcome the challenges this will bring United Methodist Women as we plan and organize in preparation for making our own switch to 5 districts starting in January of 2016.

We are more than lines on a map. I know that our PURPOSE is what makes us "like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose" (Phil. 2:2). Take courage and know that we "can do everything through him who gives [us] strength" (Phil 4:13). May you "rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil 4:4) as I do in you and your faithfulness. May God bless and keep you now and always.

*Laura Pfeffer, President
Wisconsin United Methodist Women
pfeffer.umw@gmail.com*



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A FINAL NOTE FROM THIS EDITOR

Farewell, my sisters! I have very much enjoyed sharing my talents with you over these last four years.

As I write this, I am reminded of our foremothers. They were a courageous, pioneering bunch of women. They saw a need in the world and they found a way to meet that need. That is what I tried to do during these past four years.

When I started as your Wisconsin Conference Communications Coordinator for United Methodist Women, I saw one particular need. It was a leap of faith that all of you embraced my request to create a website on our own. I researched various ways to do this and found one that was easy to administer and fairly easy for all of you to navigate. I think it worked.

We also saw some organizational changes and decided, as a conference, to meet those changes head-on. We put together an event and invited one of the national leaders to speak to us about the changes in an effort to set the record straight. That event was called S.T.O.M.P. (Spirit-fully Transforming Our Mission Purpose). And the national leader who came to our event was Julia Tulloch. I was pleased to help spearhead that event and make it happen right here in Wisconsin.

I was fortunate to have met Lorna Rinck before she passed away. And I was blessed to share her story with all of you, right here in this newsletter. I was also here when Joan Moc, our treasurer, passed away unexpectedly and our team had to do some fancy footwork in or-

der to keep the treasury up and running in her absence.

I've traveled the entire state of Wisconsin as a member of the conference team. Seen some wonderful churches. And shared quite a few photos along the way.

I have met and worked with some amazing women. Developed lasting friendships. And, yes, I know which of you snores in your sleep. No worries. I'm pretty good at keeping those things under my hat.

Oh, speaking of my hat, I still have it. Along with that vest that I wore at both our Annual Gathering and at S.T.O.M.P. They are safely tucked away in my closet.

But, most of all, I will always cherish the work we do as United Methodist Women for women, children and youth in our communities, across the country and around the world. Hearing the stories of missionaries and learning how our mission dollars are at work truly amazes me. And I am ever so grateful that I was able to share my talents and skills on the computer to further our blessed work.

Now, many of you think that I set the bar too high for others to follow. You might be right. But I want you to carefully consider something. Did our pioneering foremothers set the bar too high when they responded to the need to send missionaries to India? Did we set the bar too high when United Methodist Women drafted the Charter for Racial Justice? How high is "the bar," anyway?

United Methodist Women is an organization of women who are pioneers for change. When we see a need, we find a way to fill that need. We certainly did so with the Hmong House of Good News in Milwaukee.

Our church conference is redistricting—again. Redistricting means—yes, that's right, ladies—change. I hope that, as members of United Methodist Women, we embrace the changes ahead. Embrace them and set the bar as high as we can. Be prayerful. Be courageous. Be instruments of change in the world. God bless!

*Stacy Ganzer
Communications 2010-2014*

Catch the Vision

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Wisconsin Conference



Ellen Eastman, 2015 Editor
215 N Lafayette Street
Shawano, WI 54166-2133

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2015 MISSION u IN WISCONSIN

CHANGES!!!

The new date for Mission u in 2015 is **Monday through Thursday, July 20th–23rd, with Friday, July 24th as Overview Day!** This is a week earlier than announced.

The Spiritual Growth Study has also changed—again. It is now called ‘Happiness’.

The early Methodist tradition used the language of happiness often. John Wesley preached about happiness almost as often as he preached about holiness. Indeed, for him, happiness and holiness were together the goal of Christian life. He had much to say about what genuine happiness ought to be, and when it was understood properly, happiness and salvation belonged together. This study will examine the understanding of happiness and how to live the life that God calls us to.

The Geographic Study is ‘Latin America’.

Latin America is a concept created in the economic and political realm. The definition and list of countries that form the region change depending on the intended goal. For example, presently at the United Nations the

Latin America and the Caribbean are considered one region. Many of us have visited Latin America, but all of us are given a chance to learn about this region. This study is an invitation to enter this land, called Latin America, knowing it is a sacred land. We come in with respect to face the dignity of a people and with the love of God for them.

The Issue Study is repeated. ‘The Church and People with Disabilities’.

The text increases awareness of issues around disability awareness by discussing attitudinal and architectural barriers encountered by individuals with disabilities. The book covers ways to enhance full participation of persons with vision and hearing loss, as well as people with mobility loss. The book intends to lead readers to engage in advocacy to help the church become more welcoming and accessible to those of us with disabilities.

Dee Klawitter
Dean of Mission u
deeklaw@centurytel.net

NEW 2015 MISSION u DATES

FOUR-DAY: MONDAY - THURSDAY, JULY 20th-23rd

OVERVIEW DAY: FRIDAY, JULY 24th

MAILING LISTS? SAY WHAT?

Yes, that’s right. It’s that time of year again. Time to dust off those local and district mailing lists, update them and send them to your respective contacts. Why? Because you very much enjoy reading this newsletter, receiving your personal copy of the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women Yearbook and being in the know. Don’t you?

Send your list of district officers and local presidents to Conference Secretary Leah Sailor (her contact information is in the 2014 Yearbook). She needs those before the end of 2014 in order to get the 2015 Yearbook to all of you in a timely fashion. And don’t forget to send your lists of local presidents and secretaries, as well as district officers, to our new Wisconsin Conference UMW Communications Coordinator, Ellen Eastman. Her contact information is as follows: Ellen Eastman, 215 N Lafayette Street, Shawano, WI 54166-2133 • Email: eae@frontier.com • Phone: 715-526-5030.

WHERE SHOULD OUR MONEY GO?

It seems like every time I sit down to write an article for "Catch The Vision" I am amazed at how fast time flies. Wasn't it just summer and we were enjoying Mission u!? I turned around and we are approaching Thanksgiving!

Among other things going on in our local units at this time of year is focus on the World Thank Offering. This offering is part of United Methodist Women's Mission Giving and supports projects working with women, children and youth in the United States and around the world. It is a daily opportunity to spontaneously drop a coin in a box, can, or jar, and say "Thank you, God, for your many blessings." Women have been doing this since 1881.



We have so much to be thankful for. One of the many things I am thankful for are all of you women of Wisconsin Conference. In 2013, our conference collected over \$22,400 dollars for World Thank Offering.

I know many units have money left over at the end of the year and are looking around for places to send the remaining funds. There are organizations out there, too many to name here, who can use this extra funding. However, when your unit looks prayerfully at the places to donate and are in doubt, I would ask you to read the Purpose and then make your decision. Think about all the amazing projects that are supported by your Mission Giving! Open an issue of **response** magazine and read about the places that benefit from the gifts you give to mission projects here and abroad.

I love this organization for all that has been done in the past and for what we will continue to do in the future. Faith, Hope and Love in action! It can't get any better than that.

Blessings,

Mary Rather, Wisconsin UMW treasurer
920-494-9638
gmrather@aol.com

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR NCJ QUADRENNIAL

With the theme, *A Fresh Wind Blowing*, members of the North Central Jurisdiction of United Methodist Women are planning the 2016 Quadrennial Meeting of NCJ in Grand Rapids, Michigan. From June 24-26, 2016, members will gather to meet and elect directors to the National Board of United Methodist Women. At that time the new Jurisdictional Leadership Team, which will serve for the next four years, will also be elected.

In addition to the elections, there will also be interesting and educational workshops, uplifting worship and music. Speakers from the National Board of United Methodist Women will share new and exciting things that are happening in our organization.

Make a point of marking these dates on your long-range calendar.

A graphic for the 2016 NCJ Quadrennial Meeting. It features a blue background with a white wave icon at the top. Below the icon, the text reads: "A Fresh Wind Blowing NCJ United Methodist Women QUADRENNIAL June 24-26, 2016 Grand Rapids, MI Come, Soar With Us!".

A Fresh Wind Blowing
NCJ
United Methodist Women
QUADRENNIAL
June 24-26, 2016
Grand Rapids, MI
Come, Soar With Us!

POVERTY IN WISCONSIN

There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore, I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land. (Deuteronomy 15: 11 NIV)

There was a Greater Madison Poverty Summit in Madison on September 30, 2014. This was one of the summits that the Wisconsin Council of Churches sponsored along with Citizen Action of Wisconsin Education Fund, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, and WISDOM. These Summits were held throughout Wisconsin from June to October 1, 2014. The following information is from the Madison Summit.

One out of 5 children (0-18 years of age) lives in poverty in Wisconsin. Milwaukee has the 4th highest rate of poverty out of the top 50 major cities in the US. There are 16 million individuals living in poverty in the United States. Blacks are 4 times as likely to be living in poverty than white, non-Hispanic individuals. 87% of minimum wage workers are over 20 years of age, 57% are female, and 45% have some college education. There are 587,000 individuals in Wisconsin that make less than \$10.10/ hour.

Wisconsin ranks last in the country in the overall well-being of African-American children based on an index of 12 measures that gauge a child's success from

birth to adulthood according to a Wisconsin Council on Children & Families report.

One way to learn about the daily struggles of a minimum-wage worker is to see if you can live on \$11.00 a day. What would this mean for your daily living? Many low-income workers do not have credit cards or checking accounts, so put away your credit cards and checkbooks. Gas and auto insurance are probably out of reach, so public transportation is the only way to go! What would you need to change?

For more information on the minimum wage challenge go to: <http://wisconsinfaithvoicesforjustice.weebly.com/toolkit-minimum-wage-challenge.html>

Poverty is not a liberal or conservative issue. It is a just vs. unjust issue. To receive the link for the "Faithful Citizenship: A Response to the Scandal of Poverty in Wisconsin" send an email to: faithfulcitizenwi@gmail.com. The link will send you the letter from people of faith to which you may add your name, if you desire.

Blessings in Christ,

Ruby Dow

Mission Coordinator for Social Action

remdow@ymail.com

608-847-2398

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN...LOVE IN ACTION!

The Membership Nurture and Outreach Team of the Immanuel United Methodist Church in Ripon, Wisconsin, challenged church members and friends to make 100 fleece blankets and/or quilts, within seven months, for Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. The congregation "beat" the challenge by donating 101 blankets in six months. The blankets are given to each child when



admitted into the hospital to help comfort them while going through procedures and recovering in their homes.

Deb Kaiser, Member of the Immanuel United Methodist Women, delivered the blankets to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Neenah. Rose Fochs, Community Relations and Volunteer Services Coordinator at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin-Fox Valley, accepts on behalf of the hospital.

KEEPING OUR HISTORY

It has been a very interesting experience to serve as the Conference Historian over the past four and a half years. Reading information from the past gives real insight to how much United Methodist Women has done for mission work for so many years and how the organization has adapted to change.

In 1972, the General Conference adopted the constitution and the new organization to be called "UNITED METHODIST WOMEN." That merged two organizations, the Wisconsin Conference Women's Society of Christian Services and the Wesleyan Service Guild, into one.

The emblem of the cross and flame, which had been used by both organizations, was designated the official emblem of United Methodist Women.

There were eight districts in the Wisconsin Conference.

In 1998, the Wisconsin Conference realigned the eight districts and renamed them, bringing about another transition.

In 2015, the Wisconsin Conference will reduce the eight districts down to five and once again give them new names. This is one reason why it is so important to preserve our history and continue to tell our story.

As I traveled around the state, I am thankful for the work that is being done by the historian/secretaries and presidents working to get materials sorted for historical purposes before the next transition.

As I leave this position, I will continue to serve on the Archives and History Commission to assist with keeping United Methodist Women history.

Velma Hockenberry
Wisconsin UMW Historian

MYSTERIES OF PROGRAM RESOURCES

Part of my job as the Conference Secretary of Program Resources is to try to answer your questions about all things Program Resources. Here are some frequently asked questions that I'd like to share.

Question(s): Why aren't there more books in the Program Resources room? And where are the Reading Program books from past years?

Answer: United Methodist Women Mission Resources limits the number of Reading Program books we can order to 2 copies of each book. (For Mission u and Overview Day I can order up to 4 copies since it counts as two events.) This is understandable when you consider all the districts and conferences that hold their Mission u or Annual Meetings around the same time. Mission Resources needs to fulfill as many requests as possible. Even still, I almost always find that I haven't received my complete requested order. Sometimes I'm missing a book (or books) that's in high demand.

Mission Resources also recently started limiting the Reading Program books I can order to the current year. For Mission u I could only get 2014 books; for our Annual Gathering I could only get 2015. I'm not sure the reason for the change, but I think it's unfortunate.

Question: I don't want to spend that much money for books. How can I read them for the Reading Program?

Answer: Some books are expensive! Remember,

the public library system is your friend. You might find that many of the books are available in the public library. To the District Secretaries of Program Resources reading this, I'd like to suggest that you make a list available of Reading Program books in the public library for the local UMWs in your district. I know there are districts who have someone to do the research to compile these lists.

Question: What are Bonus Books?

Answer: Bonus Books count as two books, either as two books in one category or as one book in two categories. You can identify Bonus Books by the B in a circle symbol you'll see by the book description in the Reading Program catalog. There's usually some indication of the categories somewhere in the catalog. In the 2015 catalog the explanation of the categories for the 5 bonus books is on page 34.

Question: What are Recommended Reading books?

Answer: You won't find these books among the ones pictured in the 2015 catalog. Look for the list on page 31. These books count for credit, but aren't available from United Methodist Women Mission Resources.

Question: With so many great books on the Reading Program list, when will I ever find time to read them all?

Answer: No idea. This is my challenge, too!

Gloria Carter, Program Resources

FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE IN ACTION

Through our Reading Program, we grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ, and put FAITH into action.

Our mission institutions empower women, care for children, and educate youth, giving them HOPE.

Our members give out of their LOVE to provide financial support for national mission institutions, higher education scholarships for international students and 121 programs taking place in 110 countries.

I love this organization for what we do! We are advocates for God's creation—immigrants, victims of domestic violence and others whose voices are not heard. We are a supportive community. We walk with one another through life's difficulties and celebrate life joys.

Since its founding 145 years ago, we have focused on the mission set for us by Jesus, as expressed through our PURPOSE and lived out through our VISION inspired by 1 Thessalonians 1:4. We are

living the VISION by turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world. I invite you to take the "I WILL" challenge:

I—Invite
W—Welcome
I—Include
L—Lead
L—Love

It's another way to turn Faith, Hope, and Love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth.

*In Christ's Love,
Shirley Carpenter*

Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach

*2711 No. Biron Drive, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
715-421-0759; shorenuf35@gmail.com*

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**



Mission Action Day Saturday, April 11, 2015

Peace United Methodist Church
2300 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Kaukauna, WI 54130

Theme: Homelessness



*Featured Speaker:
Chris Lashock, Client Services
Coordinator for
Emergency Shelter of the
Fox Valley*

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PURPOSE

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