



CATCH the VISION



Wisconsin Conference

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April 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Judy Vasby, President



Dear Friends,
Let us love one another, for love comes from

God....Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

This greeting comes from I John 4:7-8 (NIV), a part of our current spiritual growth study, For the Love of God. I have been thinking about what this scripture might mean when applied to United Methodist Women.

First, it tells me to love the other women in my unit. I need to meet with them, listen to their concerns, pray for them, and help to supply their needs. That might include giving them rides to meetings, changing meeting times so they can attend more easily, offering childcare, or

providing programming that covers their interests (within the Purpose of UMW).

Second, it tells me to love the other women in my church who aren't members of UMW. I need to share with them the benefits of joining. Not only will they find a "creative, supportive fellowship," but also, an opportunity to learn about the needs of women, children, and youth, both locally and around the world, and then, how to help them. Love compels me to be sure that the women in my church have an opportunity to learn about the Purpose of our organization, so that they can join UMW and show God's love in outreach to others, as well.

Philippians 2:4 always reminds me that my needs are not the only ones that count. It says, "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Therefore, I might need to help start a circle that meets evenings or Saturday mornings for women who work, or I might need to go out of my way to attend evening gatherings or to take some-

one to a district or conference event. This also nudges me to consider non-judgmentally the viewpoints of others.

Loving others also means I will do my best to meet my personal and my unit's Pledge to Mission in order to provide money to support mission work that shows God's love to a hurting world. When our pledges combine with those of units across the country, we financially support about 1/3 of the mission outreach of the entire United Methodist Church! Love makes me "expand concepts of mission" beyond my local community.

I John 4:12 says, "No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us." This is a wonderful picture of all that UMW can be-- "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love." Sisters, let us do all we can to live a life of love.

Hugs—Judy Vasby
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In this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Spiritual Growth</i>	1
<i>Editor's Letter</i>	2
<i>Program Resources</i>	2
<i>Green Team Update</i>	3
<i>BGM Update</i>	3
<i>Vice President's Message</i>	4
<i>Education Interpretation</i>	5
<i>Financial Report</i>	5
<i>Loving Others Program Ideas</i>	5
<i>Hispanic Coordinator</i>	6
<i>Social Action</i>	7
<i>Nominations</i>	7
<i>Hmong House</i>	7
<i>Deaconess Update</i>	8
<i>Northcott Announcement</i>	9

WHERE OUR FEARS GO TO DIE

by Karen Stimeling, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

During this month of "Wisconsin foment", I have been reading *FEARLESS* by Max Lucado*. While praying at church yesterday, I concurred with the author. "A healthy church is where our fears go to die." We are surrounded by so many fears—financial, relational, professional and the list goes on. Hebrews 5:7 NIV: "During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he

offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and **he was heard because of his reverent submission.**" Let's go to our worship services, our United Methodist Women meetings and events, and our Bible studies (whether at home or with other God-seekers) to 'gaze at God, not our dreads'*

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

by Arlene Trull, Secretary Program Resources

So much is happening in our world. Reading and educating ourselves is a fundamental way of staying in touch. It can completely change our minds and give us a different perspective. We need to keep our minds open to new thoughts and ideas.

Have you been reading books from our UMW Reading Program? We offer many books that help us with our education. As you know, we're never too old to learn!

Don't forget to use the *Prayer Calendar*. Use it for your meditations and incorporate it in your meetings. Keep praying for those working in God's mission throughout the world.

I've already received the study books for the 2011 School of Christian Mission. They were sent as part of the Mission Sampler subscription (#6011 for a new subscription and #6012 to

renew a subscription from Mission Resource Center for \$35).



The Spiritual Growth book, *The Journey: Forgiveness, Restorative Justice and Reconciliation* (M3110 - \$7), and the Geographical Study book, *Haiti Challenges and Hope* (M3107 - \$10), are both already available. The second year Issues Study book, *Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity* is also available (M3074 - \$10). Get a head start on your reading for School of Christian Mission.

If I can be of assistance, please contact me.

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SPRING GREEN

by Stacy Ganzer, Editor

Happy Spring!

With spring comes GREEN! Yes, I'm still on the green kick as I look forward to the beauty that is God's creation to return in full bloom. I recently purchased a new camera and have been out taking pictures of wildlife around my home. It is great fun!

It is also great fun to learn new things. Have you delved into the great opportunities that United Methodist Women bring to your community, our nation and the world? You can find some wonderful information in **response**, the magazine of United Methodist Women.

You can also learn how to use Facebook and "like" the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women page. It is one valuable way to stay up to date on happenings here in Wisconsin.

Have you checked out our new website (www.wisconsinumw.org)? I created it to be more user friendly and easier to navigate. You can find your district's newsletter with a few clicks of your mouse. You can also get the latest color version of *Catch the Vision* right at your fingertips.

If you are reading this newsletter in its printed form and received it through the U.S. mail, you might prefer receiving an email notification, so you can read it on your computer, instead. You can even adjust the size of the font for easier reading.

Reading newsletters online is one way for United Methodist Women to GO GREEN and set more funds aside for Missions.

If you received multiple copies (or none at all) of the newsletter that was sent in March, no worries. I've gone back to the mailing and emailing lists and made changes. If, however, there is still a glitch and you need me to make a change (I am human, after all and make mistakes), please let me know. I appreciate hearing how we're doing with the newsletters and the website.

God bless all of you sisters in Christ! Email your comments to the editor: stacyganzer@charter.net
Web site: www.wisconsinumw.org

Catch the Vision

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Wisconsin Conference



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Or email stacyganzer@charter.net and get a link sent by email **FREE!!!**

GREEN TEAM UPDATE:

The Fruit of Peace is GREEN by Laura Pfeffer, *Green Team Representative*

“By their fruit you will recognize them.” (Matt. 7:16a)

Recently, I was flipping through the March/April issue of *Midwest Living* magazine. One of the articles was on “Real World Ways to Go Green.” Of their list of ten ways to go green, Wisconsin was specifically cited in two of them: recycling and green travel (www.travelgreenwisconsin.com).

Did you know Wisconsin has a Travel Green certification for hotels, attractions, public gardens and more?

What if our church had such a reputation/certification? Could your congregation list ten ways they are active in being faithful stewards of God’s creation?

As we study ways of peace this year, prayerfully consider the role control and use/misuse of resources contributes to instability, injustice and inequity.

In the Bishop’s pastoral letter “God’s New Creation: Call to Hope and Action,” the interaction between environmental degradation, pandemic poverty and disease and proliferation of weapons of violence is explained and goals for reversing these trends are endorsed.

In our journey from brokenness to reconciliation, from division to wholeness, and from violence to peace, our path is clearly one of healing for ourselves, our planet and our neighbors and that path must be green.

Consider using one of the following resources as you work to grow good fruits: “Making Peace with Mother Earth” from *Finding Peace*, the 2011 UMW program book; “A Call of the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church to Hope and Action for God’s Good Creation” (Cokesbury); *Burst: Green Church or Seven Simple Steps to Green Your Church* (Abington Press – great for youth groups); *Claiming Earth as Common Ground: The Ecological Crisis Through the Lens of Faith* (UMW Reading Program 2011) and updates from the Women’s Division website www.umwmission.org.

MISSION EVENTS ARE COMING IN OCTOBER!

Submitted by Wisconsin Conference Board of Global Ministries

Have you heard of **VIM (Volunteers in Missions)**? In Wisconsin we have both National and International VIM committees that plan and conduct mission trips. Do you know where they will be volunteering in 2011? Perhaps you could join one of these trips! They are celebrating 25 years of Wisconsin VIM trips in 2011!

Can you name the 14 ministries that are members of our Wisconsin Conference **Health and Welfare Committee**? You have likely heard of Northcott Neighborhood House, which is celebrating 50 years of service in 2011, and United Methodist Children Services in Milwaukee and Harbor House in Superior. But what do you know about the services they provide? What (and where) are the other eleven ministries?

What about the **Disaster Response Team**? Who are they? Where do they serve? How can you help? Perhaps you have already been

trained for Child Care; have you been called on to use that training yet?

What about the **East Angola and Native American Partnerships**? Where can you get more information about them? What are the Community Ministries in Wisconsin? Again, you probably have heard of Hmong House of Good News—but did you know it will receive funding as a Community Ministry in 2011?

Who is your **District Mission Secretary**? Do you have one? What does she do? Who sets up visiting missionary itinerations in Wisconsin Conference?

All of these ministries are a part of The Wisconsin Conference Board of Global Ministries (BGM). To help you be better informed about these, and many more outreach activities, Wisconsin BGM is sponsoring a series of **Mission Events** in late October of 2011. No matter where you live in the state of Wisconsin, you will have the opportunity to learn

something new about the many ways we support missions throughout Wisconsin and throughout the world.

Thomas Kemper, Deputy Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, will be the keynote speaker for each of the four events scheduled throughout Wisconsin. In addition each of the ministries and agencies will be represented at these events. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend a Mission Event near you!

- **Sunday, October 23**—Eau Claire Chapel Hghts UMC 4:00 p.m.
- **Monday, October 24** Appleton St. James UMC 5:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, October 25** Elm Grove Community UMC 5:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, October 26** Madison Asbury UMC 5:00 p.m.

FROM MISSIONS TO MISSION—FROM KNOWING TO DOING

by *Lucy Silvester*
Conference Vice President

Right now, everyone's mission is to mark your calendars: **OCTOBER 21-22—BLACK RIVER FALLS** for our 2011 Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering of United Methodist Women.

Here's a sneak preview of what's in store for you at this year's event.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER—this year we have Reverend Robert J. Harman. He is a distinguished leader in the United Methodist Church and an author, historian, and visionary for global Christianity. In his early ministry, while serving an inner-city Chicago church, he marched with Martin Luther King Jr. and witnessed King's attempts to improve open housing laws.

As an ordained elder of the Northern Illinois Conference, he served several churches. Focusing his faith and passion on global missions, he served as the chief administrative officer for the world mission program of the UMC's General Board of Global Ministries. In that role, he supervised mission workers in 70 countries and a \$21million dollar budget. He is a strong advocate for United Methodist Women.

Robert's book *From Missions to Mission* traces the development of the mission movement in our denomination. It is one of the sources listed in our School of Christian Mission text, *Joy to the World*.

Robert is a graduate of North Central College, Naperville, IL. He retired in 2000 and now lives in Danbury, WI and the Edgewater neighborhood, in Chicago.

MISSION BOWL PARADE—Now for something completely different! On Saturday afternoon we will be celebrating success stories of UMW in Wisconsin. We will be highlighting

certain local units, as well as conference mission events. Expect our parade to be inspiring, exciting, and fun!

SPANISH TRANSLATION—Thanks to Pastor Raphael Cubliete and La Follette High School, in Madison, we are able to obtain translation equipment with 35 headphones. Translation of the entire event from English to Spanish is now possible.

Additionally, our plan is to have a number of program booklets printed in Spanish. We are still in the process of attempting to get more equipment to allow for translation to Hmong and Korean.

SCHOLARSHIPS—25 scholarships will again be awarded on a first come, first serve basis. They will

cover registration costs for the entire event.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT—will take place Friday evening and is open to anyone who wishes to attend. District officers are expected to be there. Local members may choose to attend or choose from other opportunities that are still being developed.

PROGRAM RESOURCES—Get the latest books and brochures to keep your unit current on issues and spiritual development.

DISPLAYS—Learn about the work of our UMW in the world!

MEET NEW FRIENDS—Visiting, sharing, and good chatter is valuable to making the quality of our organization even better!

WHAT'S NEW AT SOCM IN 2011?

Pages 5-8 of this issue of *Catch the Vision* contain the study information and registration forms for School of Christian Mission. Please take a look and plan now to join us.

This year the theme is "All Things Made New." And there are many *new* things at 2011 SOCM:

- * A new month—**SOCM is in August (Aug. 2-5)**.
- * A new day for **Drive-in Day—Saturday, Aug. 6**.
- * **Orientation for first-timers**—If this is your first time at the 4-day School, learn where everything is and what SOCM is all about. Come to an orientation session at 9:30 on Tuesday morning or during Choice Time, Tuesday afternoon.
- * New evening activities—Northcott Neighborhood House turns 50 this year, so we're celebrating with a **Birthday Party** on Wednesday evening at SOCM. Bring "birthday gifts" of canned tuna, children's underwear (ages 3-5), and children's books. There will also be a talent show as part of the celebration. More details to come.
- * New friends and new experiences waiting for you at School of Christian Mission!

MAKE MISSION HAPPEN

by *Bev Maser,*
Mission Coordinator
for Education & Interpretation

WE...work for MISSIONS!!

So many units are working hard to **Make Mission Happen** and are using the Mission Today criteria guidelines, of which there are 19, to learn and do more for our great **mission work!**

Although there are many caring and sharing smaller units out there with BIG hearts, we encourage EVERY UNIT to become a MISSION TODAY UNIT!

It CAN happen! Contact your district Education and Interpretation coordinator for more information. She can help you find ways to become a Mission Today Unit!

As we educate the women, children, youth and men in our congregations in the importance of MISSION GIVING, we continue to “make a difference” in our nation and the world!!

School of Christian Mission is coming in August. This is a new time. Drive-in Day is also on Saturday, to give more working folks (MEN and WOMEN) the chance to experience this very meaningful, informative day!

October also offers special MISSION EVENTS in our conference, sponsored by the Church Mission Motivation Committee and supported by Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Women.

Plan to attend the event in your district area! The dates for the mission events are listed on page 3 (“MISSION EVENTS ARE COMING SOON”) of this newsletter.

2010 FINANCIAL REPORT

by *Joan Moc, Treasurer*

I hope everyone is looking forward to spring as much as I am. I will be quite glad to see the green grass and the bulbs sprouting in the garden.

I just want to tell you a little about how the year 2010 ended and pass some joy and some concerns on to you.

To begin with, we paid 86.41% of our pledge to Woman’s Division. This consisted of \$238,707.18 for Pledge to Mission, \$11,277.15 for Special Mission Recognition, \$7,611.05 for Gift to Mission, \$12,687.77 for Gift in Memory, and \$32,139.59 for World Thank Offering.

My concern with being near 86% for two years in a row is that Women’s Division depends on our pledge when they do their planning. When we come up short, they come up short.

I have asked our district treasurers to look at the pledges they are making and make them more realistic. I feel we, as conference officers, have to follow through with that, too.

I would like to see our districts look at new and innovative ways of en-

couraging our local units. I know some of those units are facing the same economic and membership challenges we are all experiencing. We just need to take the time to look for new ways to tackle these challenges. Don’t be afraid to try something new.

You are all so special and I wish all of you God’s Blessings.

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

LOVING OTHERS—2 New Programs

1. Reach out to younger women by using the “Get the Scoop” idea developed by your conference officers. It suggests having an ice cream social, where more than ice cream is dished up. Guests will also get the scoop on UMW, its Purpose, and its activities locally, in the district and conference, and around the world. There are suggestions for small group discussion, hands-on crafts, and informational pamphlets.

This program is so much fun that ALL women will want to come. However, a major part of this plan is that current unit members may not attend unless they bring someone new.

Find out more by going to our website: www.wisconsinumc.org.

2. “Let’s Talk About Race”—a program to implement our Charter for Racial Justice.

This is a program developed by your conference officers to help you meet #7 on the Mission Today list of activities (The unit will implement the Charter For Racial Justice Policies in at least one way during the year).

Included are brief worship material, discussion questions, and facts about ethnic groups in Wisconsin.

The program takes about 30 minutes, including a reading of the children’s book, *Let’s Talk About Race*, from the 2007 Reading Program list.

The program is suitable for both unit and circle meetings.

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INNER HEALING

by Iris Hernandez, Hispanic Language Coordinator

I have been visiting the Spanish churches and promoting the School of Missions. I have seen great interest and have a long list of women interested in attending. My goal is to have at least 25 Hispanic women support SOCM this year. Hoping that in the future we can have classes in Spanish, as well. I'm praying for that.

I am also working with Hispanic women on "Inner Healing." I found many women with the need to heal the wounds of violence in situations they live. I have a support group that I started on Thursday, in two weeks, and I have 35 women attending this reunion, and for the Glory of the Lord we have reached many of them. Some have come with the intention of committing suicide, and we were able to help. More details of this support group will follow later.

En español:

He estado visitando las iglesias españolas y la promoción de la Escuela de Misiones. He visto un gran interés y tiene una larga lista de mujeres interesadas en asistir. Mi objetivo es tener al menos el 25 apoyar a las mujeres hispanas SOCM este año. Con la esperanza de que en el futuro podemos tener clases en español, también. Estoy orando por eso.

También estoy trabajando con las mujeres hispanas sobre "Sanidad Interior." Encontré muchas mujeres con la necesidad de sanar las heridas de la violencia en situaciones en que viven. Tengo un grupo de apoyo que comenzó el jueves, en dos semanas, y tengo 35 mujeres que asisten a esta reunión, y para la Gloria del Señor, hemos llegado a muchos de ellos. Algunos han llegado con la intención de cometer suicidio, y hemos sido capaces de ayudar. Más detalles de este grupo de apoyo seguirá adelante.

THANK YOU!!!

THANK YOU to both the Nancy Rivers and the Gilpin scholarships for supporting the women that attend the annual School of Christian Women.

Recently, I connected with a young woman and asked her if she was planning to attend this year. Her answer was, "It depends on how much it is."

These scholarships are so important to get the young women involved.

Often, they attend the first time, but are unable to afford it after that.

Please consider sponsoring a woman or giving a donation to support this worthwhile project.

Julie Prouty, Laurie Osborne—Youth Advisors

SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

by *Dodie Smith*
Mission Coordinator
for Social Action

Greetings!

As I write this article, at the end of February, the times in Wisconsin are unsettling, to say the least.

While we gather information and try to make sense of conflicting stories and motives, let us PRAY for God's help in discerning what is best for the people of Wisconsin.

I am thankful for the lead of Bishop Linda Lee, who wrote to Governor Walker and stated the position of the United Methodist Church, which affirms the right of public and private employees and employers to organize for collective bargaining into unions and other groups of their own choosing. She also asked him to reconsider his initiative to limit the collective bargaining process.

Did you take the opportunity to write, e-mail or call the governor and elected legislators to express your views on the Budget Repair Bill?

I also want to let you know that I have a 20-minute DVD available, entitled *Domestic Violence: What Churches Can Do*.

This program presents basic information on domestic violence. It suggests that you arrange for a skilled facilitator to conduct the program. The facilitator could be someone from your community who specializes in domestic violence. There are also brochures available.

The entire program takes about an hour. Call me and I will send it to you to preview, if you are interested (262-551-8669).

THANK YOU to the local units that have returned the 2011 ISSUE PRIORITY FORMS!

Hartland and Coulee Districts get a "gold star" for returning the largest number. I hope to receive the rest that have yet to be sent.

Finally, pray for a just and peaceful resolution to the many political disturbances in our world.

ANSWER THE CALL TO SERVE

by *Diane Quade*
Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations

As I write this article, my heart is heavy. I'm hearing so much, "I can't do it," "I don't have time," and "Who? Me?" I'm beginning to wonder what our foremothers would think of us.

They didn't have washers and dryers, fast food, microwaves and other modern conveniences, yet they found time to write letters, pickett and whatever else it took to get the right to vote for women.

Later, they got full clergy rights for women and pushed for them to be delegates to general conference. They helped end the lynching of our Black brothers and sisters...I could go on and on.

Remember, JESUS knows our name and he calls us—sometimes to do things that we don't think we can do. If we pray, he is with us to help us do things that we think are impossible. It takes work to get our job done. We need to overcome our empty busy-ness to become fully productive for God.

We have to understand our call and purpose for life by prioritizing our activities.

It isn't long after we say "Yes, Lord, I will do it with your help!" that we wonder why we were hes-

itant in the first place.

I didn't drive when I served in my first conference office. I did, however, meet many wonderful men and women that I never would have met if I didn't say YES.

We need to remember the leadership that is required to fill all the positions on the district and conference levels of United Methodist Women. How else can we carry out the mission work of this wonderful organization?

There is training available to help you in whichever position you accept. But first you have to prayerfully say YES!

The next time someone from the Committee on Nominations calls you, please pray and ask God if He is calling you to expand your horizons. You will have a new and exciting relationship with God and with a wonderful group of women who have answered the call to serve.

Remember, your car can't run with only three tires and no steering wheel.

We need each and every one of you to keep United Methodist Women running. Won't you answer the call to serve, too?

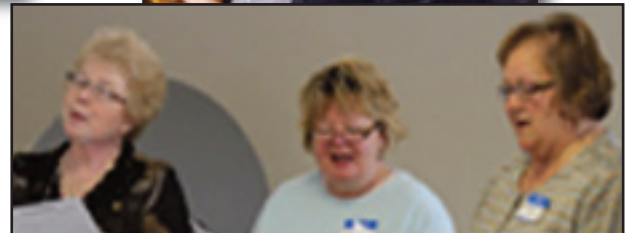
Hmong House of Good News Needs YOU!

- We are still relying on you for financial contributions to maintain our program serving Hmong elders.
- We are applying to become a member of the Wisconsin Conference Health and Welfare ministries group.
- Watch for details about a new fundraiser that involves collecting Kwik Trip (gas station chain) milk and juice bottle caps and Glazer (donut) price ovals.

WHERE DID THEY GO???

Looking for the 2011 School of Christian Mission registration forms and information? They're not here. You can find them under the [Communications](#) tab of our website (www.wisconsinumw.org).

You can also get a paper version of the SOCM flyer from your district president. Don't remember who your district president is? She's in the 2011 Wisconsin Conference UMW Yearbook under the Forms tab of the website. Just download that and check the table of contents for your district's officer information page.



DEACONESS UPDATE

by Judy Vasby

Many of you know that I applied to become a deaconess several years ago. Some have been asking what happened to that call. First, a deaconess is a lay woman who devotes her life to full-time ministries of love, justice and service.

Because I do not have a specific "vocation," but am a volunteer, it took time to determine a description of my service activities that can be quantified and measured by work hours. It was finally agreed that, under our Conference (church) Board of Global Ministries, I will be considered a "Volunteer Mission Extension Worker," and will be supervised by the mission personnel committee. This gives me the flexibility to change mission focuses as needs arise, while still maintaining my overall job title.

I am delighted to report that I have been invited to move on in the process and will be taking intense classes this year at Brooks-Howell Home for retired missionaries and deaconesses in Asheville, North Carolina. The first will be "Old and New Testament," July 17-30. The next will be "Church History and Polity," October 1-15. I greatly value your prayers on my behalf!



HAPPY 50TH NORTHCOTT!!!

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee, we are asking you to bring the following donation items to be collected at this year's School of Christian Mission, at the Ramada Inn in Stevens Point, WI, during the week of August 2-6, 2011:

- ◆ Cans or packages of **TUNA**.
- ◆ New **UNDERWEAR** (boy and girl) for children ages 3-5.
- ◆ New or gently used children's **BOOKS**.

The items will go into a **TUB** that will be delivered to Northcott Neighborhood House in honor of this special celebration. And don't forget that all United Methodist Women are invited to attend this wonderful celebration on May 1, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Milwaukee. For more information, call 414-372-3770 or contact Dorothy Schmidt (262-242-4555).



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 - Saturday
April 15-16

Conference meeting @ Black River Falls

Thurs. - Sunday
June 16-19

Midwest Regional School

**Tuesday - Friday
August 2-5**

**School of Chrisitan 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**