



CATCH the VISION

April 2020

email information to: dgrbmm@gmail.com

President's Message:

"Be still and know that I am GOD". Psalm 46:10.

These words keep running through my mind every morning as I give thanks to God that I can set my feet on the floor and begin a new day. BUT, before I am fully dressed, that same mind is going through the list of things I have to do. I have to remind myself constantly to Be Still and talk with God.

The "Safer at Home" order has kept me AT home for almost 4 weeks. First came the announcement that Bill's Assisted Living was closed to all visitors. Hmm, I am NOT a visitor I thought, I am his wife. No I am sorry but you can only come in if there is a medical emergency. From that moment on, I have been living in a new reality. Now more than ever, I need to be still and know that God is in control. I have to follow the orders of those that are looking to protect me from COVID-19 due to my "advanced" age.

I am adjusting to change from our way of "in person" meetings to other media, so we can still do God's work. Using the internet to "see" each other, when that is possible. I still prefer telephone conferences because I can visualize each of you as we talk without thinking of how I look on the screen. We must continue to exchange ideas and keep each other informed. Reach out to your local units, to encourage them and to find out what needs they may have. If you don't have an answer, be honest and let them know you will call them back. Keep our District Presidents informed of new developments on our schedules.

Stacy Ganzer, our Dean of Mission u, just called last night to let me know that, per communication from National, **Mission u 2020 will be cancelled.** That means that each of us in a leadership position need to read the study books, consult with one another and when the time is ready for us to meet in person again, be willing to teach a class, speak to a Unit that wants a visit from you and be the "teacher" of **THE WAY OF PEACE** material that is available to all of us. This is an opportunity to respond for **"Our Longing for Community"**. Reach out to Stacy, she is a wealth of information and dedication to her position as Dean. Thanks be to God.

We will continue to pray for the time when we can be together again in person. In the meantime, continue to plan for your Annual Gatherings in the trust that God is teaching us new things and we must follow where he leads us.

"For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "do not fear" I will help you". Isaiah 41:13.

Martha Boyer —WI Conference UMW President

Census

I certainly appreciate all of your efforts to get our units recorded. Several of our districts are ahead of last year. Way to go Wisconsin Women! Our New York Office has extended our deadline for completing the 2019 Census until **April 30** due to the Coronavirus COVID 19. The database will remain open until then. Let me know if you need help.

Sue Plasterer, WI Conference UMW Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator

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Secretary

We are in truly unbelievable times. As everyone else I suppose, we have had to reorient our lives to spend time at home and do most of our communications by technology. It has been a real adjustment and at this point there is no real end in sight. I do really appreciate all the work of those in the medical field who are risking their lives every day. And it is truly inspiring to see how the churches have reached out in many ways – including livestreaming services, calls to the elderly, meal deliveries and inspiring messages online.

I pray that everyone has what they need at this time and that we can all be together again soon.

Josie Gobel, WI Conference UMW Secretary



Save the Date: Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering

Oct. 16-17 at First UMC Baraboo

Theme: Walking in the Light: United for Justice

Saturday morning keynote speaker: Judy Slaba—Justice for Our Neighbors—Immigration

Breakout sessions are being planned for Saturday afternoon. Stay tune!

Registration form will be available in July.

Ruby Dow WI Conf UMW VP

Vice President

Mission Action Day UPDATE



We hope all is going well with everyone in this time of uncertainty. Most of you know that Mission Action Day has been cancelled this year due to this coronavirus outbreak. We will plan for Mission Action Day to happen next year. We are always trying to keep all the women safe, and even though this was a tough decision we knew we were doing the right thing. We are very sorry to everyone and hope that you all stay safe and pray for anyone who has been affected through this difficult time. Thank you all for your support and consideration. If you have any questions regarding this event please contact Chelsey Henry at ganzerchelsey@gmail.com and she will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you might have.

Chelsey Henry, WI Conference UMW Social Action

Mission u 2020 Cancelled

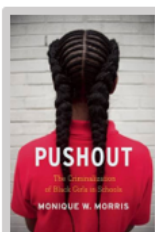
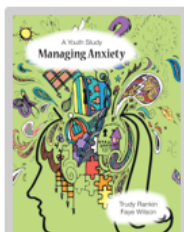
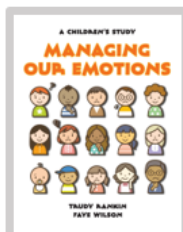
Dear United Methodist Women in Wisconsin,

I have received word from National Mission u that all training events, which were to be online in late April and May, are now cancelled. They are also urging all conferences to **cancel** our Mission u events for this year. So, it is with a heavy heart that I have made the decision to **cancel all three of our Mission u events in Wisconsin**. I hope that all of us can come through this difficult time with patience, love and hope for a brighter future. May God be with you and with all of us. In Christ,

Stacy Ganzer, Dean of Mission u, Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women

BOOKS FOR LEARNING AND DISCUSSION

- Finding Peace in an Anxious World* edited by Erin James-Brown
- Managing Our Emotions: A Children's Study* by Trudy Rankin and Faye Wilson
- Managing Anxiety: A Youth Study* by Trudy Rankin and Faye Wilson
- Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission* by Ellen Blue
- Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* by Monique W. Morris



Education and Interpretation

TWO THINGS I LOVE ABOUT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

I love United Methodist Women for many reasons. Here are two of them. United Methodist Women has a program called Mission u and, in the summer, I could attend this program, fellowship with other women, and learn about issues that I was not aware of, and so expand my knowledge. I also get the opportunity to enrich my spiritual life. Another reason is the Reading program that is offered. The Reading program has introduced me to a variety of books which are informative, challenging, motivational and just plain great reads. Let me tell you about two books to which I was introduced through the Reading program.

JUST MERCY is a story of Justice and Redemption. When the author, Bryan Stevenson, first met Rosa Parks, she asked him who he was and what he was doing. He replied: "Well, I have a law project called the Equal Justice Initiative, and we're trying to help people on death row. We're trying to stop the death penalty, actually. We're trying to do something about prison conditions and excessive punishment. We want to free people who've been wrongly convicted. We want to end unfair sentences in criminal cases and stop racial bias in criminal justice. We're trying to help the poor and do something about indigent defense and the fact that people don't get the legal help they need. We're trying to help people who are mentally ill. We're trying to stop them from putting children in adult jails and prisons. We're trying to do something about poverty and the hopelessness that dominates poor communities. We want to see more diversity in decision-making roles in the justice system. We're trying to educate people about racial history and the need for racial justice. We're trying to confront abuse of power by police and prosecutors." Rosa Parks told him that all that work would make him 'tired, tired, tired' and he would have to be 'brave, brave, brave'.

Just Mercy is Stevenson's inspiring and compelling memoir. He grew up poor in a rural, racially segregated area in Delaware, surrounded by strong and determined but marginalized and excluded black people. He attended what is now Eastern University and then Harvard law school. The book details his involvement and work with the Equal Justice Initiative. He explores numerous devastating cases, many of them relating to children as young as fourteen years who faced life imprisonment. Other cases involved people, mostly poor and black, who had been unfairly convicted and sent to death row. The outrageous case of Walter McMillian, a black man sentenced to death for the murder of an eighteen-year-old white woman, is really the central focus of the book. McMillian did not commit this murder, but he was arrested, and the court convicted him and gave him the death sentence. Bryan spent years working to get McMillian off death-row and to have his conviction overturned. The case is a fascinating one that involves perjury, police corruption, a racist judge, and prosecutor's intent on protecting their political positions. Over the years he worked on the case, Bryan got to know McMillian and his family quite well. The two men became friends and remained connected throughout the remainder of McMillian's life. The McMillian case was a major factor in Stevenson's work and life. McMillian's eventual exoneration solidified his reputation. He attracted more support, won a MacArthur "genius" grant, Sweden's Olof Palme prize and other awards and distinctions. Furthermore, he attracted more federal support and was able to increase his staff. Just Mercy has now been made into a movie with the focus on McMillian's arrest, trial and conviction, and also on Stevenson's work with some other prisoners. It is highly recommended film.

This is a book that is horrifying yet awe-inspiring, haunting and heart breaking but unforgettable. Stevenson believes that "ultimately, you judge the character of a society...by how they treat

the poor, the condemned, and the incarcerated." He insists that "the opposite of poverty is not wealth: the opposite of poverty is justice." Do read this book. Bryan Stevenson has shown great courage and conviction in his struggle to guarantee justice for all. He has certainly been very brave, brave, and brave.

The second book is called PUSHOUT the Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools by Monique W. Morris. The central argument of this book is that 'too many Black girls are being criminalized (and physically and mentality harmed) by beliefs, policies, and actions that degrade and marginalize both their learning and their humanity, leading to conditions that push them out of schools and render them vulnerable to even more harm'. African American girls are the fastest growing population in the criminal justice system and the only group of girls' disproportionately experiencing criminalization and harsh discipline at every educational level. People see black girls as more adult than their white peers. They see them as 'grown'. Left to navigate school by themselves because they are seen as 'grown' these girls are easily manipulated by men. Education is key for these young people but Morris illustrates using many examples, and the research shows, that teachers and administrators don't give black girls the care and protection they need. They are mislabeled and mischaracterized because of how they look, dress, speak and act. Ultimately they are diverted away from the educational process and directed towards the criminal justice system. Here is one example of how Black girls are treated, as documented in Pushout. "In May 2013, Ashlynn Avery, a sixteen-year-old diabetic girl in Alabama, fell asleep while reading Huckleberry Finn during her in-school suspension. When she did not respond, the suspension supervisor allegedly threw a book at her and ordered her to leave the classroom. As she was leaving the room, a police officer allegedly slammed her face into a file cabinet and then arrested her." For girls, education is a critical protective factor against involvement with the juvenile and criminal legal systems. When students are frustrated it is easy for them to drop out of school and the consequences could be detrimental to the girl. Our first priority should be keeping them in schools, not finding new ways to render them "delinquent."

Here are some interesting facts that Morris shares: African American students are three times more likely than white students to be suspended and expelled; 31% of students experiencing school-based arrests are African American even though they make up only 16% of total school enrollment; children and youth of color do not misbehave more frequently but they are treated more harshly for similar or less offenses. The neglect and abuse that Black women and girls experience cannot be excused. Excessive expulsions and suspensions hurt students. They miss out on much needed classroom instruction. Furthermore, every time you suspend a child from school the risk of that child ending up in Juvenile hall increases. We need to focus on programs to help black females. Policies and practices often unite to "save" black boys and boys of color while black girls seldom generate public concern. In 2014, President Obama created a task force for black young men but it took months to get a similar program for young women. Unfortunately, the task force for the girls was not on par with that of the boys as it lacked funding and attention. United Methodist Women are committed to women, children and youth. They have been doing this for 150 years now. This summer, we will study Pushout at Mission u and, like the women before us who saw a need and went to India to alleviate a problem, we will, in faith, hope and love do our part by starting conversations about the effects that school discipline policies are having on girls, and by educating ourselves to be able to come up with solutions for these problems which are brought to our attention.

Cherrie Hartley, WI Conference UMW Education & Interpretation



YoMiCa 2020

Grades 4-6 | Grades 6-9 | Pine Lake

YoMiCa is a week filled with your favorite camp activities that has had a strong legacy of deep impact in the lives of campers that attend each year. Learn about missionaries and the difference they are making in countries and communities around the globe!

July 19-24 | Pine Lake | Leaders: Caitlyn Fischer, Danny Flinn & the UMW

Register online: <https://wiumcamps.campbrainregistration.com/>

Judy has been in touch with Pine Lake and as of now, all camps are scheduled to occur as planned...

Historian

MAKING HISTORY!

We have just celebrated 150 years of "Methodist" women active in mission. Units have had parties, learned about famous women of faith in our collective past, and enjoyed remembering local leaders. We have been amazed at seeing how God has worked in our midst - from Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies, to Ladies' Aid groups, through WSCS and Wesleyan Service Guild, and on to United Methodist Women. But don't take a break now! Our denomination is facing an unsettling time as we discern God's will for our future. This is not the first time our historic connection has struggled with differences in theology and even split over them. But the women continued to do mission work in spite of that. That is the intention of our national UMW leaders and an inspiration for local units.

And now we have the coronavirus prohibiting gatherings of 10 or more as a strategy for slowing its spread and causing us to be isolated physically. But that does not mean we have to stop our mission work. We can meet by phone calls, group emails, or video sessions. We can keep on knitting prayer shawls and packing UMCOR kits (using careful shopping measures). We can send encouragement cards to mission personnel listed in the Prayer Calendar and to UMW members and leaders. We can read Response Magazine, Reading Program books and Mission u texts to keep informed about our mission emphases. And we can mail offerings to our local treasurers, even when we don't meet in person. And a very exciting thing can be to document how we are coping as mission groups during this unusual time in history. It will be so rewarding- and encouraging- to look back and see how we endured and even thrived as God worked through us. No matter what we do, great or small, we still will be making history. Let us strive to make it a legacy pleasing to God that will encourage future generations!

Judy Vasby —Wisconsin Conference UMW Historian

MABEL HEIL SCHOLARSHIP

The Mabel Heil Scholarships are a result of funds from the will of Sarah Mabel Heil, a woman from Cuba City, Wisconsin. The first scholarships were granted in 1981. Since then more than 240 women have received help with their education.

Requirements and Instructions

Instructions:

1. Be a female member of Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women.
2. Submit a written answer to the question, "In what way do I consider myself a worthy student?"
3. Send the completed application form to the contact person by May 1 for the Fall semester or October 1 for the Spring semester.
4. Request that a letter of recommendation be sent to the contact person by the president of the local United Methodist Women or the pastor of the church.
5. Request that a letter of recommendation be sent to the contact person by a church member who is not a member of your household and is not a relative.

Rules:

Any member of Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women working to improve her education may apply.

Please have all letters written (preferably typed) on one side of 8 1/2 by 11 sheet of white paper using black ink.

All applications are photocopied for the committee members.

Scholarships are awarded one semester at a time. To be considered again DURING a one-year period, you must send a letter asking to be considered. AFTER one year, you will need to fill out another form and secure new recommendations.

If in any given year there is an increase of applications, these priorities will be followed: Women responsible for others will be favored. Women preparing to return to the employment field will be favored.

Application and two (2) letters of recommendation must be postmarked no later than May 1 and October 1 to be considered.

Schedule:

1st Semester: Apply by May 1; notified by June 1; check sent by August 15.

2nd Semester: Apply by October 1; notified by November 1; check sent by December 1.

Contact Person:

Helen Robinson
N2101 Cleghorn Road
Waupaca, WI 54981 715-
258-0973 email:
pottshe@yahoo.com

**MABEL HEIL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Please Print

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____ Birth Date _____

1. Local Church:

Name & City _____

Pastor _____

Are you a member of United Methodist Women? _____

2. Activities:

In United Methodist Women _____

In your local church _____

In the community _____

3. Education: (Give year of graduation) High School _____ College _____ Other _____

School you will be attending _____

Have you been accepted as a student? yes _____ no _____

Present (post high school) status:

Freshman _____ Sophomore _____ Junior _____ Senior _____ Graduate _____ Other _____

Course of study _____

4. Family Status _____

5. Please answer the following question using an additional sheet:

IN WHAT WAY DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A WORTHY STUDENT?

Mail to: Helen Robinson
N2101 Cleghorn Road
Waupaca, WI 54981

Phone: 715-258-0973
Email: pottshe@yahoo.com

Wisconsin Conference
United Methodist Women
317 W Merrimac Street
Dodgeville WI 53533

June	12-13	Mission u— CANCELED
June	26-28	North Central Jurisdiction, Sioux Falls, ND
July	10	Catch the Vision due Date
July	20-21	Mission u -- Hotel Mead -- CANCELED
August	14-15	Mission u -- CANCELED
August	20	Catch the Vision due Date
August	21-23	Mission u / Mega Executive Team Meeting Pine Lake, Westfield
October	16-17	Annual Gathering -- Baraboo First, Baraboo, WI
October	23	Catch the Vision due Date
November	06-07	Executive Team Meeting / Mission u West Bend UMC
December	11	Catch the Vision due Date (2021 CTV)