



Wisconsin Conference



CATCH the VISION

Volume IV Number 1

Ellen Eastman, Editor eeae@frontier.com

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President's Report

Laura Pfeiffer
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As we begin 2016 in our new configuration with five districts, I know that we will experience some confusion, uncertainty and challenges. As a part of a district which is being split in half in this new division, I too feel a certain sense of loss as I recognize that I will no longer look forward to seeing some of the familiar and faithful leaders and members at District events. Yet, I entrust their mission and ministry to the care of God who I know will be at work powerfully in their lives, work and community. Moreover, I am looking forward to the new opportunities to be found in my new district. Here are new churches to see, new sisters in Christ to meet, new avenues of mission to explore and new leaders with which to grow and fellowship. Yes, I may be driving more miles to events (I recommend carpooling – the time seems to fly when you are able to be in car fellowship) but I always know that any event I do attend it is worth every minute and effort made to reach it. I hope you will make a special effort to go or send someone from your unit to a district event this year. Help us create as many new wonderful memories for the future as we have enjoyed with our sisters in previous years.

I am very excited to continue our discussion on homelessness at our Conference Mission Action Day on April 2nd. The issue of housing and

especially the legacy and impact of race upon housing policy, mortgage lending and neighborhood segregation was one of the most contentious racial issues faced in Northern states in the fight for Civil Rights. I have been reading a book (not a book on our reading list, but a very informative book nonetheless) “The Selma of the North: Civil Rights Insurgency in Milwaukee” by Patrick Jones which devotes a chapter to the work and resistance to open housing policies in the city. Discriminatory housing policies continued to be legal at the Federal and state levels well into the 1970s and the rhetoric against “forced housing” shows how the use of arguments about private property were used to justify both the refusal to integrate neighborhoods and also the exploitation of minorities. One particularly cruel practice was called “block busting” in which one house in an inner city block would be sold at an inflated price to one minority family allowing the other white owners on that block to also sell their homes at over inflated prices while the white owners were able to move out into the white dominated suburban areas. Once these inflated prices were corrected, minority families would find their personal wealth reduced and the minority community would then be “blamed” for a fall in housing values thus further justifying discriminatory policies and attitudes. This seems a

foreshadowing of the recent housing mortgage lending practices which specifically targeted minorities for balloon mortgages, ARM loans or other predatory practices and, in the case of the company Countrywide, completely illegal loan applications created by company employees. The housing bubble has, for this reason, disproportionately meant high rates of foreclosures and ruined credit for minority families which will have lasting effects upon families and their communities for decades to come. I hope that as women of faith and compassion you will engage this year with the topic of homelessness in your community, in our public policy and in our call to act justly on behalf of all of God’s beloved children.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Mary Rather

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Here we are jumping into a new year! Is it just me or do the years go by fast for everyone?

I am still recovering from all the end of the year business so all the wonderful giving is still fresh in my mind. Our Conference gave over \$9,000 in Special Mission Recognition; Over \$19,000 to World Thank Offering; and nearly \$10,000 to Call to Prayer & Self Denial. Many Units made generous donations to Harbor House, Northcott, Red Bird and Paul Webster's Mission.

Thank you for supporting the total mission of United Methodist Women. Your generous giving makes all this possible. The auditor who does the annual audit comments how amazed he is at the amount of donations that happen here in our Wisconsin Conference. I think the women who started this organization

nearly 150 years ago would be extremely proud of us.

I am so excited to begin this year working with our five fabulous District Treasurers. Linda Whitelock (South West), Andrea Hatcher (South East), Robin Peterson (North West) did the job last year in their former districts. Joan Burk-Miller (North Central) and Val Caldwell (North East) are new to the job. They have all received the great Leadership Development Training offered by the National office UMW so it should be a wonderful year. Thank you all for saying "Yes"!

While I am sending out "Thanks", I want to lift up last year's devoted District Treasurers. Dottie Unbehaun (Nicolet) and Bev Kimble (Winnebago) are two of the greatest women I have had the privilege of working with the past few years. Sue

Claflin (Heartland) took over the job when Penny was ill. Sue & I had been District Treasurers many years ago (when it was all done on paper). She was able to wade through it all & will be celebrating the finish. Dodie Smith (Metro North) also got the job dumped on her with the untimely death of Diana. Dodie had never been a treasurer but she managed to step up to the plate and did a fine job, I imagine she is celebrating too. Then there is sweet Stephanie Weber (Coulee). She told me when she dropped her last Remittance to me in the mail she heard "Angels sing". Could she be celebrating with Dodie and Sue? If you have an opportunity to see these women be sure to give them a big hug and say THANK YOU!

Peace, Love, Health and happiness to you all.

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Betty Henderson

300 Jennifer Lane, Brookfield WI 54045

bettydhenderson@gmail.com

Since this is my first communication with you all on a Conference-wide basis, let me introduce myself. I have been a UMW (WSCS and WSWS) for six decades, have seen many changes, have served at local, conference, and national offices with UMW and UMC General agencies (GBGM and GBCS). (*Girl, I am old!*) Teaching, business administration, and management were all part of those decades. I hope to put those experiences to good use as I seek (with your help) to learn more about mission and share that learning (interpretation). I will depend upon your inquiries to further my education and will share with you what I find useful. You and I will have to talk with each other, and learn from each other if E & I is to be meaningful and helpful as we travel the UMW path.

As Step #1: Make a note of my email: bettydhenderson@gmail.com my phone numbers: 262-599-8876 (home) and 262-391-8868 (cell).

Step #2: Education. We can't interpret what we don't know we don't know. (This is not a typo.) Attending Mission u is a most enjoyable trip to mission education. So are our magazines: *response*, *New World Outlook*, our Prayer Calendar, conference-wide events and the seminar program.

Not all UMW's receive and read *response* magazine. If a *response* reporter is part of every circle and/or unit and gives a brief overview of that issue's contents, we will all be a little knowledgeable than we were before. If a few go to Mission u and prepare a panel for reporting back, then even more will know more than they did before, and if even one of us goes to NYC or D.C. for an

intergenerational Seminar Program with LIMITLESSS and shares our experiences, then we will all be more knowledgeable.

Step #3: Interpretation: These are the goals of E&I: to continue to educate about our mission program through the use of and/or attendance at conference events: the Prayer Calendar; the five avenues of giving; attendance at Mission u; Mission Action Day, (this year focusing on HOMELESSNESS); and the Seminar Program.

The Seminar Program on National and International Affairs allows a group to study complex social issues from a faith perspective. Learn more at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/learn/seminars

See you at Mission Action Day and bring a few friends.

2016 WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OFFICERS

President Term expires 2017	Laura Pfeffer W10132 Koltres Rd, Lodi WI 53555	608-592-5228 pfeffer.umw@gmail.com
Vice President Term expires 2016	Jean Bonney N7196 Three Rivers Blvd, New Lisbon WI 53950	608-847-9020 r.bonney@mchsi.com
Secretary Term expires 2017	Cherrie Graham PO Box 496, Sturgeon Bay WI 54235	920-559-7009 cherrie@comm-mins.com
Treasurer Term expires 2016	Mary Rather 860 Dousman St, Green Bay WI 54303	920-494-9638 gmrather@aol.com
MISSION COORDINATORS		
Spiritual Growth Term expires 2017	Deb Pattee W18821 N River Rd, Whitehall WI 54773	715-538-2060 patteedk@uwec.edu
Education and Interpretation Term expires 2017	Betty Henderson 300 Jennifer Lane, Brookfield WI 53045	262-599-8876 (home) 262-391-8868 (cell) bettyhenderson@gmail.com
Membership Nurture and Outreach Term expires 2016	Shirley Carpenter 2711 N Biron Dr, Wisconsin Rapids WI 54994	715-421-0759 shorenuf35@gmail.com
Social Action Term expires 2016	Ruby Dow W3008 49 th St, Mauston WI 53948	608-847-2398 remdow@ymail.com
Secretary of Program Resources Term expires 2017	Nancy Zabel 1602 Augusta, Rice Lake WI 54868	715-234-2932 nkzabel@hotmail.com
Communications Coordinator Term Expires 2016	Ellen Eastman 215 N Lafayette St, Shawano WI 54166	715-526-5030 eae@frontier.com
Nominations (Chr.) Term expires 2017	Julie Mieke 155 Shato Lane, Monona WI 537216	608-221-3061 julie.mieke9@gmail.com
Nominations Member Term expires 2018	Shirley Jackson 4527 W Bradley Rd #117, Brown Deer WI 53223	414-354-5258 mrsshirleyjackson79@gmail.com
Nominations Member Term expires 2019	Rachel Benton 1731 White Swan Dr, Oshkosh WI 54901	920-231-7724 bentonr@wosh.edu
Nominations Member Term expires 2019	Jeanette Retzlaff W9113 Red Feathers Dr, Cambridge WI 53523	608-423-3360 jeterzlaff@yahoo.com
Nominations Member Term expires 2019	Kay Waugh 3396 Libby Lane, Green Bay WI 54313	920-434-7101 kdwau@new.rr.com
Limitless Coordinator Term expires 2017	Chelsey Ganzer 267 Weis Ave, Fond du Lac WI 54935	920-573-0999 ganzerchelsey@gmail.com
Limitless Mentor Term expires 2017	Gloria Carter 7224 Springfield Circle, Waunakee WI 53597	608-849-7589 carter53597@tds.net
Historian	Open	
Hmong Language Coord. Term Expires 2016	Kady Herr-Yang 1809 W Ramsey Ave, Milwaukee WI 53221	414-817-8120 receivegrace@wi.rr.com

Hispanic Language Coord. Term expires 2016	Martha Boyer 4639 Cty Hwy Z, Dodgeville WI 53533	608-935-5790 marta@mhtc.net
Native American Co-Coord. And Mentor Term expires 2016	Billie LaBumbard W6578 Lone Ranch Rd, Spooner WI 54801	715-635-7045 missionbillie@gmail.com
Native American Coordinator Term expires 2017	Holly Helton-Anishinaabegwa 13355 Park Ave #107, Columbus WI 53597	262-443-1551 h0llyhelt0n@gmail.com
Vice-President North Central Jurisdiction Term expires 2016	Carol Holt Lahey 721 N Buchanan St, Green Bay WI 54303	920-393-4554 carollahey421@gmail.com

MISSION U

Mission u Dean Term expires 2017	Gail Burgess 6510 203 rd Ave, Bristol WI 54104	262-857-2224 hb53104@aol.com
Mission u Ass't Dean Term expires 2017	Karen Mayeshiba 1702 Lynndale Rd, Madison WI 53711	608-277-1883 kamayeshiba@yahoo.com
Business Manager Term expires 2017	Bernice Kohlman 1537 Summit Dr, Wausau WI 54401	715-675-3165 No email
Registrar/Secretary Term expires 2017	Arlene Trull 305 Becker St, Rothschild WI 54474	715-359-7756 aetrull@gmail.com
Camping Coordinator Term expires 2016	Chris Draxler 2139 Walnut Ridge Dr, Eau Claire WI 54701	715-225-2983 fdraxler@charter.net

Members at Large

Term expires 2017	Lucy Silvester 373 15 th Ave, Nekoosa WI 54457	715-325-2841 loosesilv45@gmail.com
Term expires 2017	Mary Baker N4237 Hickory Dr, Columbus WI 53925	920-623-3880 (home) 920-210-4048 (cell) marycyc@cbusumc.net
Term expires 2017	Kay Putman 215 Water St, Apt 205, Lodi WI 53555	608-592-2294 No email
Term expires 2017	Kristina Hermanson 13456 Grace St, Merrimac WI 53561	608-963-5237 hbos_06@yahoo.com
Communications	Open	
Camping Coordinator	Chris Draxler 2139 Walnut Ridge Dr, Eau Claire WI 54701	715-225-2983 fdraxler@charter.net

Vice President - 2016 Annual Gathering *Jean Bonney*
N7196 Three Rivers Blvd, New Lisbon WI 53950 r.bonney@mchsi.com

Preliminary plans are being made for the Annual Gathering which will be held at Eau Claire Lake Street United Methodist Church on October 21st and 22nd. The Keynote speaker will be Reverend Mary Kathryn Pierce. One of the workshops will be led by Reverend Barbara Certa-Werner.

More Details will follow as plans are finalized. For now: **Save the Date!**



Mission Action Day

Saturday, April 2, 2016

Columbus United Methodist Church
222 S. Dickason Blvd.
Columbus, WI 53925

Homelessness

- Affordable Housing Panel- Martha Cranley, United Way Dane County; Judy Wilcox, former Dane County Supervisor; Wendy Schneider, Columbia County Renewal Unlimited
- Jerome Dillard, formerly incarcerated citizen- racial justice issues related to homelessness including the criminal justice system

Donations for Northcott Neighborhood House will be collected. Items needed are: Basketballs, footballs, copy paper, pens, staplers and staples, cleaning supplies such as Mr. Clean, toilet bowl cleaner, gloves

Registration: 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Sending forth: 2:30 p.m.

Registration is transferrable, not refundable.

2016 MISSION ACTION DAY REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline for Registration: Friday, March 11, 2016- \$12 registration fee

Late registration-\$15- March 12-18, after March 18- fee remains \$15 lunch on your own

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP Code _____

District _____ Church _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Child Care needed for _____ child(ren), Age(s) _____ (I also understand that I am responsible for providing a sack lunch for each child or paying the registration fee of \$12.00 for each child in order to cover their lunch.)

Dietary or other considerations _____

Send form and registration fee to:

Shirley Carpenter, 2711 North Biron Drive, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-8804

Make checks payable to: Wisconsin Conference UMW

Driving Directions to Columbus UMC, Columbus

For Mission Action Day, Saturday, April 2, 2016

- **FROM STEVENS POINT/WAUSAU AREA (NORTHWEST):** Take 39/51 south to Hwy 16 east to Columbus. Hwy 16/60 is James St. Turn right on Dickason. Columbus UMC is on the corner of Harrison and Dickason Blvd.
- **FROM MADISON AREA (SOUTHWEST):** Take 151 north to Hwy 16 east. Hwy 16/60 is James St. Turn right on Dickason Blvd. Columbus UMC is on the corner of Harrison and Dickason Blvd.
- **FROM MILWAUKEE AREA (SOUTH):** Take Hwy 41 north to Hwy. 60 west Hwy 60 to Columbus. Hwy. 60/16 is James St. Turn left on Dickason Blvd. Columbus UMC is on the corner of Harrison and Dickason Blvd.
- **FROM GREEN BAY AREA (NORTH):** Take Hwy 41 south to Hwy 151. Hwy 151 to Columbus. Take Hwy 16 east. Hwy 16/60 is James St. Turn right on Dickason Blvd. Columbus UMC is on the corner of Harrison and Dickason Blvd.
- **FROM LA CROSSE AREA (WEST):** Take 90 east to Hwy 60 east. Hwy 60 to Columbus. Hwy 60/16 becomes James St. in Columbus. Turn right on Dickason Blvd. Columbus UMC is on the corner of Harrison and Dickason Blvd.

Hwy 16/60 connects to Dickason Blvd. at corner where Library /City Hall & F & M Bank is located

For precise directions and map, go to <https://maps.google.com> and type in 222 S. Dickason Blvd., Columbus, WI or <https://www.google.com/maps/place/United+Methodist+Church/@43.3383654,-89.0176519,17z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0xcbd73a5faa8d36a0> visit <http://www.cbsumc.com>

If there is not a funeral, individuals may park in the funeral home parking lot across the street from Columbus UMC.

Wishing you a Happy New Year. I am looking forward to Mission Action Day on April 2nd at the Columbus UMC. The program this year is on homelessness. There will be a panel on affordable housing in the morning. Members of the panel are: Martha Cranley, United Way Dane County; Wendy Schneider, Columbia County Renewal Unlimited; and Judy Wilcox, former Dane County Supervisor. The afternoon speaker is Jerome Dillard, former incarcerated citizen. He will be speaking on the criminal justice system and homelessness.

Donations will be collected for Northcott Neighborhood House. Please send questions for the panel on affordable housing by 3/1/16 to remdow@ymail.com. The registration form is available on page 5 of this newsletter or on www.wisconsinumw.org

I just finished reading the book "Americanah" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. It is on the 2015

Reading List for Social Action. This book is about a Nigerian immigrant in the United States. She comes to the United States under a student visa. She is struck by the fact that in her homeland of Nigeria that she does not have to think about being a black person. Here in the United States she is confronted by cultural shock, hardships, and racism. This book contains provocative language and content. This book brings to light the plight of immigrants and undocumented immigrants. Through Ifemeleu's blog, "Racial Disorder Syndrome," she explores the maze of racial structures that confront her. I recommend this book to challenge us to think about the institutionalization of racism in the United States.

There are so many social action concerns right now. We need to pray for all refugees that are fleeing ISIS. May they find a safe place to live. Let's affirm that every person

is a person of sacred worth. The following is a quote from Susan Henry-Crowe, General Board of Church and Society.

"As Christians, we must not be persuaded by hate-filled rhetoric borne out of fear and ignorance. We must not fall prey to desperation, fear and anxiety. With the exception of Native Peoples and tribal nations inside the United States who had a prior claim, most of us are the children and grandchildren of immigrants who sought freedom, education, jobs, and a life that was better than our forebears had known. We can do better than to stigmatize, shame, and fear our neighbors. We are one human family created in the image of God to love our neighbors as compassionately and lovingly as God loves us."

Blessings in Christ

This is an update on the Quilted Finger Labyrinth article from November *Catch the Vision*. The pattern and instructions were included in that issue. They are also in www.wisconsinumw.org

United Methodist Women's engagement in the prayer ministry for General Conference 2016 is in full swing with the arrival of the first quilted finger labyrinths following the appeal distributed in October. As a reminder, one of our UMW prayer ministry activities planned is to offer quilted finger prayer labyrinths for delegates and guests.

We are actively seeking UMW members that enjoy quilting to assist us by making the finger labyrinths. Do you have women in your conference, district or local units who would like to help by volunteering to quilt finger prayer labyrinth squares for the delegates and guests? We need 2,000 and the variety of labyrinths made by women from all over the country will bless the recipients and lend to the support and outreach we hope to extend. Attached is a pattern and picture for the finger labyrinths. Each labyrinth will be tagged with a card identifying that the labyrinth is "handmade with love and prayer by United Methodist Women".

Please circulate this request and the attached pattern among the UMW with whom you have contact. Share that anyone interested in quilting the finger prayer labyrinth squares should email GCprayer@unitedmethodistwomen.org with an estimate of how many they might be able to make. **To allow for the full participation of UMW interested in this ministry, the deadline for submitting the quilted finger prayer labyrinths is being extended until February 29, 2016.** to:

Brooks Howell Home
Attn: GC Prayer Ministry
266 Merrimon Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801

If there are questions, send an email to Gcprayer@unitedmethodistwomen.org

Nominations

155 Shato Lane, Monona WI 53716

Julie Mieke, Chair

julie.mieke9@gmail.com

“Yes” is described as the most important word in any language by writers around the world. A short list of yes in other languages: *Si, Oui, Ja, Sim, Jes, Sea, Ken, Hai, Ndiyo, Gee and H'aan*. God also asks us to say *yes* to the love of Jesus and to spread the good news of the resurrection and forgiveness of sins.

As our nomination committee members call on you this year won't you consider saying 'yes' to a wonderful opportunity to be in mission as a Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women officer. Ask any of the current or past officers about the wonderful opportunities serving has brought to them.

Mission u

6510 203rd Ave, Bristol WI 54104

Gail Burgess, Dean

hb53104@aol.com

In about six months we will be making last minute preparations for Mission u at the Hotel Mead and Conference Center in Wisconsin Rapids. The dates are Monday, July 25, through Thursday, July 28, with Friday, July 29, as our Overview Day. Please mark your new 2016 calendar now and plan on attending!

We now have all our Study Leaders. They are: Laura Pfeffer and Reverend Dawn Jeffers-Ramstad, *Climate Justice - A Call to Hope and Action*; Awilda Nolla, *Latin America: People and Faith*; and Reverend Heather Brewer, Reverend Amanda Stein, and Reverend Rebecca Niese, *The Bible and Human Sexuality - Claiming God's Good Gift*.

I was notified that the study books are now available, so if you want to get a head start on your reading, go to www.umwmissionresources.org; each book costs \$10. Or, you can order the Annual Sampler for \$10 by April 1 and get two books this spring plus the 2016-2017 Program Book, the 2017 Prayer Calendar, and the 2017 Date Book next fall.

We anticipate several changes this year in our new location; hopefully you will view them all as positive changes! The most obvious difference is that everything will be under one roof: housing, meals, plenaries, and classes. We hope this means it will provide easy access to your rooms throughout the day and there will be more opportunities for sharing with old and new friends. The Mead has an outdoor courtyard and gazebo as well as an indoor pool and several cozy conversation areas.

Ironically, we are planning to leave the building at least once during the week! Everyone will be invited to participate in the Tuesday Evening program at Wisconsin Rapids UMC. It is just a few blocks away, so most folks will be able to enjoy the July weather as they walk the distance. We will also be sure that those wanting to drive/ride also have that option. For those who enjoy walking - or running - we plan to have some neighborhood maps available. If anyone needs to run to a store while at mission u, we are only 15 minutes (walking) from the Rapids Mall or a few shops on 8th Avenue South.

If you have any questions about the upcoming Mission u, please feel free to contact me at hb53104@aol.com or 262-945-8578.

Janesville Cargill United Methodist Women are getting ready to intercept human traffickers!

To join in the program, see the December 2015 Action Alert “*Open Your Umbrellas and Intercept the Traffickers.*”



The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

— John 3:8

A Fresh Wind Blowing

United Methodist Women North Central Jurisdiction 2016 Quadrennial June 24— 26 Grand Rapids, MI

Watch the process as National Directors are elected. There will be guest speakers, creative worship, choice of six workshops, optional bus tour of museum and national UMW Mission site.

Online registration now open, go to: ncjumc.org
Early registration fee of \$150. (After May 13, registration will be \$185.)
Fee covers costs of program Friday through Sunday, all meals from Friday supper through Sunday breakfast including gratuities, and packet.
All meetings held at Double Tree by Hilton.
A special room price has been negotiated with Hilton.
Hotel reservation is your responsibility.

Come, Soar With Us!



Catch the Vision is published five times a year. It is sent free of charge to Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women officers and teams, all District officers, and presidents and secretaries of local organizations, as well as various Conference officials.

When possible, rather than mailing a copy of the newsletter, a notice is sent when it is available for viewing on the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women website

www.wisconsinumw.org. For those without email access, a copy is sent through the mail.

If you move or change your email address, please notify me so that I can assure that you will continue to receive the newsletter or be notified when it is available on the website.

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Catch the Vision Wisconsin Conference



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