



# Wisconsin Conference



# CATCH the VISION

Volume IV, Number 3

[www.wisconsinumw.org](http://www.wisconsinumw.org)

July 2016

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## President's Message

Laura Pfeiffer

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I attended the North Central Jurisdiction quadrennial meeting in Grand Rapids, MI at the end of June. The theme of the event, "A Fresh Wind Blowing", was based on John 3:8 "The wind blows as 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."

Because I work in meteorology, I have been thinking about the power and versatility of winds. There are zephyrs and breezes which feel wonderful on hot days, there are tailwinds and trade winds which can help move you to your destination quickly, but there can also be headwinds or crosswinds which slow you down or even typhoons or tornados which bring danger and destruction. Knowing how to read the winds and being prepared to react to them is a difficult task and the Word of God tells us that we may have a difficult time predicting the Spirit of God, so we must be willing to go to new and unexpected places – Thank God for the gift of flexibility!

Sometimes mighty winds come from small beginnings. Yvette Richards, National President of United Methodist Women, challenged the attendees at the North Central Jurisdiction meeting to each contribute \$18.69 towards the LEGACY endowment fund since 1869 was the year our predecessor organization first began. Her original

goal was to see if we could raise \$7,500. Eventually Yvette asked everyone to stop giving her money as our final total climbed to \$13,500. This was in addition to the more than \$4,000 given in offering to support the United Methodist Community House, the local National Mission Institution in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The winds of generous mission giving were blowing strongly!

The winds of leadership were also stirring as directors were elected to represent the North Central Jurisdiction. Although no nominee from Wisconsin was elected, it was a blessing to see so many (20 nominees) well qualified and willing volunteers stepping forward at the Spirit's urging to be considered. Ruby Anderson (Detroit Conference), Jane Benner (West Ohio Conference), Shannon Priddy (Indiana Conference) and Cindy Saufferer (Minnesota Conference) were elected to serve for the next four years on the National Board and will certainly be depending upon the guidance of God in all places and in all ways as they do the work of overseeing our organization. May the breath of God be at their backs as they work.

Keynote speaker, Harriet Olsen, CEO of United Methodist Women spoke on the theme of being guided by all the various winds of God. The Spirit of God may speak in a whisper or empower us in our

journey, but if we are not careful we may also find that we are unprepared for the storms of life and the need to turn in a new direction. Are you open to the new stirrings of the Spirit of God at work around you? Are there new ideas, new people, new places of service that God may be pushing you towards? What about your unit or your congregation? Are there new ways of knowing God, being supportive or being in mission which are being blown open for you? Or are there fresh ways of reenergizing yourself, being excited about United Methodist Women and engaging in mission? We rely not on our own power, but on the power of the Spirit and we know that it can do mighty things. Are you ready to go where this wind will take you? The wind is fresh and blowing!

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WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ANNUAL GATHERING

Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22, 2016  
Lake Street United Methodist Church, 337 Lake Street, Eau Claire WI

Register by September 27 for only \$25. Register late by October 4 for \$35.

Our speakers will be Reverend Barbara Certa-Werner and Reverend Mary Kathryn Pierce.

Hotel registrations for the Hampton Inn, 2622 Craig Road, Eau Claire must be made before September 23 to get the group rate of \$129 per room. Following are the instructions that were sent to me from Hampton Inn as to how you may register.

*“Your group is in our system and ready to go. You may go online to [www.hamptoninn3.hilton.com](http://www.hamptoninn3.hilton.com) and make your reservations or call our hotel at 715-833-0003 and talk to one of our Guest Service Representatives. The online route is the fastest way to go. If you choose the online route: enter Eau Claire, WI as your destination, select the correct dates; (make sure to use the dates your group is set for, or your group rate will not appear), then select "Add Special Rate Code". In the "Group Code" space you should enter MWG. The rest should be self explanatory. **Be sure to make your reservations before 9/23/2016.**”*

More information and the registration form will be at Mission u and in the next issue of *Catch the Vision*, which will be the special issue about the Conference Annual Gathering.

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Nominations

Julie Mieke, Chair of Nominations

155 Shato Ln, Monona WI 53716 608-221-3061 [julie.mieke@gmail.com](mailto:julie.mieke@gmail.com)

In the current political climate, it is tough to discuss elections. But the UMW Nominating Committee is working hard to fill offices on the conference team. I Timothy 4:9-10 states *“Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”* Coming from the Good Book is a set of instructions for fulfilling the great commandment to love one another and also to make disciples for the transformation of the world. United Methodist Women offer many opportunities for these instructions to be fulfilled.

A part of my job is to do evaluations of officers currently serving on the conference team. I would like to share a few comments that were shared by the team. Hopefully they may encourage you to choose to serve.

- God’s love shining through the team members has inspired me
- It had confirmed over and over again that our God embraces diversity and that we are all working towards perfection as John Wesley says
- My faith has grown through “faith, hope, and love in action” with UMW members
- A part of my personality is to hold back, but in this position I feel it is time to “step up”. God has given me abilities to use and the confidence that if there are problems down the road, there will be people to team with
- God loves diversity of gifts and talents and each person is needed to make the whole stronger. I have seen God grace me with new gifts and have the gifts of others shine as we work together
- I see the feet and hands of God in many of our members

As Mission u approaches, may these thoughts be seeds of inspiration to respond to God’s call to serve through faith hope, and love in action. We are hoping to plant seeds that will grow into fruitful service fo the conference team and missions around the world.

This morning as I started my run, I prayed that God would give me a topic for this article. Half way into the run it came. My husband and I are in California to see family and also attend my aunt's funeral, which took place on Saturday. I affirmed my husband on how well he did with my family. His response was, "It wasn't about me." I thought, "Wow". That is it. So much of our world says the opposite; "It is all about me". Yet, his perspective on the weekend with all of the relatives was right on.

It was funny that the day after the funeral there was a baby shower for a second cousin and it was just for the women. I dropped Steve off at a cute little town nearby to hang for two hours only to call later and say it would be another thirty minutes. He had to entertain himself while I played and ate great food. Afterward, we were with my mom the whole time who is aging and requires certain things. I could go on about needing to stop at a store to buy a banana, etc. But if I am thinking like this, something is wrong. I should not keep track of all of those little things that I have to do. It isn't about me. It should be about my momma and others.

My aunt Peggy, who is now with Jesus, shared her faith with whomever she came across. I do believe that one of her spiritual gifts was evangelism. I think all who knew her knew of her love for Jesus. Peggy pretty much made sure of that. In the view of some, that was not always a positive thing. One neighbor received from Peggy a protein drink daily for almost two years. Aunt Peggy would walk over every day and deliver it to Beverly. Of course, Peggy would share her faith too. Well, Beverly did not make it to the funeral, which surprised me. But then I heard from my cousin that there had been an "incident." It makes me realize that not all are open and receptive to this Jesus we love and serve. Peggy would be the first to say, "It isn't about me".

Peggy's love for Jesus sometimes made her look like a fool and be written off. Jesus shook off the dust from his feet when he left his hometown of Nazareth. Our world doesn't always embrace goodness/love/sacrifice. I am still shocked at some of our politicians who are so anti-immigrant or (fill in the blank). The life we choose to live isn't always the easiest though it certainly is the right one. When one lives a life that "isn't about them" it could be called sacrifice. Sacrifice is hard work. A friend who got married a while back would not allow me to use that "s" word (sacrifice) because she did not want to do it. I recall a saying that my pastor used a number of years back: "The only problem with a living sacrifice is that it keeps crawling off the altar." I hope that you do not tire of sacrificing for others. This shouldn't be the martyr type of sacrifice either, as if "having" to help someone makes us feel sorry for ourselves (like I have done a bit on this trip). It should be the kind of sacrifice that Jesus did and that we read about in Philippians 2.

*5 Have this attitude in yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men, 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2: 5-11).*

Did you know that these words were actually part of a hymn that the early Christians would sing? The thought of seizing equality with God never entered Jesus' mind. In other words, Paul is comparing Jesus to Adam who *did* try to seize equality with God, something Jesus chose not to do. We are taught that Jesus humbled himself (another word for sacrifice). Paul uses this theologically rich hymn for practical, ethical purposes. He uses the example of Jesus to exhort people to act with humility toward each other. Christians at Philippi were not getting along, and whatever the conflict was, it is clear that they were not saying, "it isn't about me."

Remember that we do not get this message as we go about our daily lives. People believe that it is all about them. We have to remember that we are dual citizens - we are citizens of this earth while also being citizens of the Kingdom. So, the next time, we are asked to do something for someone, we need to remember, "It isn't about me".

## 2016 Mission Action Day

On a snowy Saturday in April more than 100 United Methodist Women attended Mission Action Day at Columbus United Methodist Church. 118 individuals were registered for this day. The scripture: *"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with your God."* Micah 6:8 was used as the foundation for Mission Action Day.

Linda J. Whitelock lead us in a short worship service to center us for the day. An excellent panel discussion was led by Martha Cranley, United Way of Dane County's Director of Community Impact and Strategic Communications; Wendy Schneider, Director of Housing, Renewal Unlimited of Columbia County; and Judith Wilcox, retired Section Chief, Special Needs Housing in the Division of Housing and Community Development, State of Wisconsin Department of Commerce.

The discussion centered around housing first initiatives, waiting lists for Section 8 housing and what continuum of care is. For individuals interested in investing in affordable housing throughout the state of Wisconsin, one example is Forward Community Investments. Forward Community Investments (FCI) is an investor, connector, and advisor for organizations and initiatives that reduce social, racial, and economic disparities across Wisconsin. FCI builds stronger, healthier communities by working with other organizations to understand the root causes of social issues and by encouraging and supporting initiatives that make positive change possible. For more information, go to: <http://www.forwardci.org/>

The Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care (WIBOSCOC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving all the counties in Wisconsin, except Dane, Milwaukee, and Racine. Our membership is comprised of agencies who serve, support and care about those experiencing homelessness. We commit to housing 147 individuals by December 31, 2016. For more information, go to: <http://www.wiboscoc.org/>.

In the afternoon, Jerome Dillard, former incarcerated citizen, gave his personal story of being a formerly incarcerated citizen. Jerome was recently the Re-Entry Coordinator for Dane County. He was the 2008 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dane County Humanitarian award winner for his work in re-entry. On April 1, 2016 he became WISDOM's first EXPO's (EX-Prisoners Organizing) statewide lead organizer. WISDOM's campaign to end mass incarceration is now ROC Wisconsin: Restoring Our Communities Beyond 11x15. For more information, go to: [www.rocwisconsin.org](http://www.rocwisconsin.org). Books from the UMW Reading program on mass incarceration are: **The New Jim Crow** by Michelle Alexander (2012 Reading Program) and **Just Mercy** by Bryan Stevenson (2016 Reading Program). Jerome is available to speak to church groups. His contact information is: email- [jerome.expo1@gmail.com](mailto:jerome.expo1@gmail.com); phone- 414-459-9989.

Updates were given by: Holly Helton-Anishaabeqwa on what she has been doing as the UMW Native American Coordinator. Donna Veatch gave an immigration and refugee update with highlights on the Day Without Latinos Rally at the Capitol. Updates were also given on Mission u in July and Bishop's Jung Interfaith Bus Tour and Retreat August 13-14, 2016.

This Mission Action Day discussed sensitive subjects which is necessary when social action issues are being discussed. It is not appropriate to put others down. We as members of the faith community must treat one another with respect especially when we disagree.

The next Mission Action Day will be on April 1, 2017. (No Fooling) This will be the last year addressing homelessness. Please let me know what is being done in your community to address homelessness.

# 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

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 8½" 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](mailto: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



## Native American Liaison

W76578 Lone Ranch Rd, Spooner WI 715-635-7045 [missionbillie@gmail.com](mailto:missionbillie@gmail.com)

Billie LaBumbard

Red Cliff Reservation has been my home for the last week. I participated in a Volunteer-In-Mission work camp there. We repaired and built ramps, built tool sheds, etc. Hospitality of Native elders was evident. We were treated to lake trout, white fish, wild rice soup and fry bread. We were serenaded with poems, stories, flute and guitar. Long term relationships, trust and love were evident.

We were the hands and feet of Jesus.

## Secretary

Cherrie Graham  
PO Box 496, Sturgeon Bay WI 54235 920-559-7009

Calling All District Secretaries. . .

Please send any corrections to the current yearbook to me, Cherrie Graham, at [cherrie@comm-mins.com](mailto:cherrie@comm-mins.com) This email address was incorrect in the Annual Gathering information, so be sure to revise it in your email contact list if you took it from that material. Any changes, additions or corrections, should be sent as soon as possible. We want to keep our mailing list as accurate as we can. . . and that starts with you!

Please watch for me at Mission u this month. . . there is a special something in my bag of goodies for each of you!

## Treasurer

Mary Rather  
860 Dousman St, Green Bay WI 54303 920-494-9638 [gmrather@aol.com](mailto:gmrather@aol.com)

Gasp! It cannot be! We are halfway through the year 2016. How did that happen again?

Two of our five districts have sent in 50% of their yearly pledge. The remaining three are just about there. That proves how busy our local units have been the past six months. What a blessing to belong to an organization with such dedicated members!

A big reason for me to celebrate is that ALL FIVE district treasurer are on-line at long last. That makes the job of Conference treasurer much easier. Life is good, we are blessed.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you later this month at Mission u in Wisconsin Rapids.

## Education and Interpretation

Betty Henderson, E&I Coordinator  
300 Jennifer Ln, Brookfield WI 53045 262-391-8868 [bettydhenderson@gmail.com](mailto:bettydhenderson@gmail.com)

Listen!, LISTEN!!, LISTEN!!! Do you hear it? Feel it? Smell it?

That Fresh Wind Blowing through United Methodist Women is in Wisconsin. Check it out in John 3:8. No one has seen it, no one knows where it came from or where it's going, but it is blowing around this state and in every district. When fewer than three hundred women and six Bishops at Jurisdictional Quadrennial can raise \$13,500.00 in 48 hours, something is happening and the Legacy Fund took a giant leap of faith. That wind is blowing in each of our Districts. Do not try to keep it out or seek a sheltered place. The Spirit of Lord is moving and Wisconsin is part of it.

I will be doing a Choice Time session at Mission u on the United Methodist Seminar Program. "United Methodist Seminars on National and International Affairs, or the Seminar Program, provides custom-designed, interactive educational seminars throughout the year for groups to study complex social issues from a perspective of faith. Custom-designed seminars provide an opportunity to:

- Explore issues through interactive exercises, Bible study and discussion.
- Engage with human rights activists, grassroots organizations and religious leaders.
- Learn about the work of the United Nations and government policies.
- Visit local community organizations.
- Act during the seminar and develop actions to take upon returning home."

During this time, we can choose a topic for our own seminar. We will also talk about expenses and fund raising to make it happen. I hope to have representation from each of the districts. How can you interpret Mission if you don't know how United Methodist Women is in Mission? Don't miss this opportunity!

What's on your night stand? I've finished the *Anastazi*, *Get Off your Donkey*, and *Just Mercy* and can recommend them all. Naturally, I loved the poems *On the Wind*, and *Get off My Donkey*, (the good Samaritan could not have helped anyone unless he did), and I alternated between anger and tears when reading Brian Stevenson's *Just Mercy*.

Don't forget to send me your District Newsletters. I am so encouraged when I read them and see how you share your Love in Action.

I hope to see you at Mission U and the Choice Time/Seminar. Call me if you need me.

Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women  
Ellen Eastman, Editor  
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Shawano WI 54166

Address Service Requested



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.

**Save the Date**

**ANNUAL GATHERING  
OCTOBER 21 AND 22, 2016**

**LAKE STREET UMC  
EAU CLAIRE WI**

Complete information and registration forms will be in the next *Catch the Vision*.